

Area 40 Spring Assembly Minutes

Great Falls & Hybrid Assembly via Zoom

April 5-7, 2024

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Appendix 1: Area 40 Fall 2024 Financial Highlights

Appendix 2: Literature Plain Language Presentation

Friday, April 5, 2023

Assembly Welcome, Friday Evening- Kacie N- Transcript not available at the time of this release.

Area Standing Committee Meeting: Transcript not available at the time of this release.

Saturday, April 6, 2024

12 Traditions: Brandi W

12 Concepts: Judy

➤ **Assembly Welcome, Saturday Morning- Kacie N**

Good morning, everyone! My name is Kacie and I'm an alcoholic. I have the privilege of serving as your Area 40 Montana Delegate. Thank you all so much for being here today.

Would all of you who are attending Assembly for the first time, please stand? Those of you online attending for the first time, please raise your virtual hand.

Welcome! We are so glad to have you here. Look around at the people who are still seated or whose hands are not raised. At one point it was also their first assembly ever. They've been where you are and would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Those of you still seated or without your hand raised, please take time during the weekend to reach out, welcome, and offer your experience to any of our first-time attendees. Please have a seat and lower your hands.

Will all DCMs stand, please? Thank you for your service and for taking on such an important leadership and communication role in the service triangle. I am so grateful you are there to help me communicate from the General Service Office, Board, and Conference at the bottom of the triangle back up to the GSRs and groups at the top of the triangle. After our secretary, Lynne does roll call, we will ask DCMs to complete the sign-in sheet for their districts. Those voting members who are attending virtually should let Alex M know that they are voting members. GSRs and DCMs are the only voting members of the district. Alternate GSRs will only have a vote if their GSR is not present virtually or in person. Alternate DCMs will only have a vote if their DCM is not present virtually or in person. DCMs, please identify your District Reps who have been appointed to be a member of one of the Area Standing Committees. These appointed District Reps are voting members of the Area Standing Committee only and do not have a vote on the floor of the general assembly unless they are also a GSR.

The DCMs will return their sign-in sheets to Lynne by the first break. The information necessary to establish a quorum, which is two-thirds of the eligible voters, is gathered from these sign-in sheets. With very few exceptions, votes taken this weekend are decided by "substantial unanimity." What that means is that as long as we have a quorum (two-thirds of the registered voters) any item we vote on must receive two-thirds of the counted vote in order to pass. Lisa will explain this in more detail as it comes up.

Will all Past Delegates stand, please? Will all past Trustees please stand?

Thank you for taking your turn in each service position you've held. Thank you for the sacrifice and service you've given to Area 40 and the AA fellowship as a Delegate and as a Trustee.

Thank you for being present and leading by example.

Our responsibility this weekend is to establish and gather the informed group conscience of Area 40 regarding the items on our agenda. Lisa, our Area Chair and Alternate Delegate, will be facilitating the assembly according to a loose interpretation of Robert's Rule of Order, an interpretation that she will explain as she goes, and of which, she has the final say. In other words, when it comes time to decide if we're done talking about something, "Lisa makes the call."

Lisa has prepared this weekend's agenda and has decided the order in which we will conduct our business. Soon we will start to hear reports from our Area Officers, Area Chairs, and DCMs. At 9:15 we will stop the reports, take a short break, and convene Standing Committee meetings in their respective breakout rooms. Anyone can attend the committee meetings, but remember, only the Committee Chair, appointed DCMs, and District Reps are eligible to vote in committee. If you choose not to attend a committee meeting, Past Delegates Mark S. and Andrew W. will be conducting workshops here in this main room. After the committee breakouts and workshop conclude, we will break for lunch.

We have a lot of Area 40 business to discuss and vote on this weekend. If during their discussions, a committee decides to bring an item to the floor to be voted on by the entire Assembly, it will come to the floor in the form of a Recommendation, which is considered a made and seconded motion. Lisa will facilitate discussion on all items. There will be 3 microphones: two here on the assembly floor and the 3rd for virtual comments. If you wish to speak, please get in line behind the mic or raise your hand. You will have 3 minutes to express your opinion. Once your 3 minutes have been reached Lynne will notify us by the clang of the cowbell. (Ask Lynne to ring it.) If Lisa feels that the comments are becoming repetitive, she may stop the discussion. Votes taken on Area 40 items will require that we have a quorum of eligible voters. Remember that for an item to pass it must have a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

When we are discussing General Service Conference Agenda items, no votes are cast to take action on those items. Instead, a sense of the Area will be requested. This will allow me to see by a show of hands whether our Area is in favor of or opposed to an item. When a sense of the Area is requested, ALL attendees are invited to participate – voting member or not.

At 9:00 tonight, there will be two breakout sessions. One for GSRs here in the Mansfield Room and one for DCMs across the hall in the Russel Room. There are Ask-It Baskets online and in the back of the room. If you have a question you'd like addressed during one of these breakout sessions, please put it in the basket. These sessions are an excellent opportunity to bring any questions, concerns, or shared experiences regarding general service, the assembly, your home group, district, or other related items.

And what better way to conclude a packed day of AA business than with some fun and

fellowship! Anyone who's still awake and wants to hang out can meet in the Trigg room next door.

In closing, I'd like to just encourage each of you to really be an active participant this weekend. Join in the discussion, ask questions, listen to one another, and don't be afraid of the mic. People are suffering and dying from alcoholism right now. The work that we do this weekend is to ensure that what we've found in AA remains available and accessible to all. "When ANYONE, ANYWHERE reaches out, I want the hand of AA to always be there." For that we are responsible.

In Love and Service,
Kacie N, A40, P73 Delegate

A Preview for Fall Elections

Nomination Procedure:

Our Service Manual explains that a Regional Trustee is selected for their service experience and familiarity with A.A. principles. While no trustee can be said to "represent" a geographical section – because all trustees represent only the Fellowship as a whole – regional trustees bring to the General Service Board's discussions a regional A.A. point of view and experience that is invaluable. The West Central Regional Trustee acts as the point of contact for the eight West Central Regional Delegates and provides them with frequent updates on Board activities.

All eligible and willing candidates will be posted on the screen

All voting members will cast a written ballot, one choice per ballot

The tally is posted on the board screen

The first candidate with two-thirds wins

--If a candidate does not win on the first ballot I will continue to explain the Third Legacy procedure as we proceed.

If no candidate has two-thirds after the 2nd ballot then the candidates with less than one-fifth of the total vote will be withdrawn, except the top two candidates must remain (all tied runners-up remain as candidates)

If no candidate has two-thirds after the 3rd ballot then the candidates with less than one-third of the total vote will be withdrawn, except the top two candidates must remain (all tied runners-up remain as candidates)

If after the 4th ballot no candidate has two-thirds of the total vote the top two candidates remain and the chairperson asks for a motion (with a second and simple majority by show of hands) to conduct a fifth and final ballot

If this motion does not occur or is defeated then the balloting is over and the choice is made by lot —"going to the hat"— immediately

If there is a 5th ballot and no candidate has two-thirds of the total vote the choice is made by lot —"going to the hat"— immediately

➤ **Roll Call**

ROLL CALL (Vote Count)				
Name	Service Position	Present		
Kacie N	Area 40 Delegate	X		
Lisa C-D	Area 40 Chair/Alt. Delegate	X		
Jake L	Treasurer	X		
Lynne W	Secretary	X		
Jody T	Archives Chair	X		
Ty K	CPC Chair	X		
Mark H	Corrections Chair	X		
Martin N	Grapevine Chair	X		
Bruizer 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		
Mike D	Co-Technology	X		
Jack W	Co-Technology	X		
Alex M	Webmaster	X	Voting Members	Non-Voting Members
Dianne W	D 11 DCM	X	10	
Greg T (Alt)	D 12 DCM	X	4	
	D 21 DCM			
	D 23 DCM			
Kathy B (online)	D 31 DCM		1	
Lance W	D 41 DCM	X	6	
Darrel H	D 42 DCM	X	5	
Ryan M	D 51 DCM	X	4	
Nate (alternate)	D 61 DCM	X	11	
Brandi D	D 71 DCM	X	5	
Betty M	D 72 DCM	X	8	
Daniel S	D 81 DCM	X	7	
Steve S	D 91 DCM	X	6	
Libba C	D 93 DCM	X	11	
	Totals:	29	78	
	Online Voting Members	11		
	Voting Members Present		118	
	Quorum (2/3)		79	

➤ **Secretary Report, Lynne W**

Hi ya'll, I'm Lynne and I'm an alcoholic. I have the privilege to serve as your Area 40 Secretary and Registrar. I have laid out the dashboard information, district # cheat sheets, and a

new, redesigned, some would say “correct” map of the Area. Please throw away any old versions of the map you might have. They were, well, wrong is a good word for it. This updated map has Malta in District 51, where it belongs. People have asked why this map isn’t on the website and this is the reason why, right there—it is not an official map, it is one I created to help know where everyone was from. I hope you find it useful, but it may be flawed so please let me know if I have any of your district lines wrong on this map.

I will be focusing on my duties as Registrar this year, so DCMs, if you would prefer I email you the printed spreadsheet in your folder, let me know. Everyone: DCMs, GSRs, Committee Members and interested parties, please allow me a moment to explain the project. GSO is trying to keep records of the homegroups in our anonymous organization. They keep records of people through email. If you want to be the GSR on file with GSO, we need your email. We don’t even need your name, I can list your homegroup meeting place for your address, but please understand that as a GSR the basic thing GSO needs from you is your email. There are duplicate records created for individuals, but no duplicate emails so they are attempting to consolidate all their records using email address as identifiers. It is my job to help them, and to do that I need to help y’all make sure the records are accurate so please look over the spreadsheets I’ve printed out and handed your DCMs. Look it over this weekend, I can email if that is easier for you. You can work on it over the next couple weeks, it doesn’t have to be done all this weekend, but now is a great time to start. Please help me on this project, and expect to hear from me on it over the next year. As you Secretary, I am also interested in which Districts have closed (or open for that matter) Facebook pages, so please if you are aware of one in your district, please let me know.

Also, 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 & Election from Fall 2023 Assembly West Central Regional Trustee Election—3rd Legacy Procedure

Nominated: Earl F, Gerry R, Libbie L

Voting Members: 84

Goal Vote: 55

Candidate	1 st Round	2 nd Round	3 rd Round	4 th Round
Earl F	31	27	32	29
Libbie L	19	11	out	out
Gerry R	34	47	52	54

After the 4th round, Earl F withdrew from running and suggested Gerry R be elected by acclamation.

Archives/Structure and Policy

Motion: Item C. The committee recommends whether to make permanent the reassignment of Report And Charter General Service Conference from the Public Information Committee to the Hotline Committee.

It was discussed, motion to approve and passed unanimously.

Vote-- Approved: 78 Opposed: 1 motion **PASSED**, no minority opinion

Item D. Consider revising the Area Advisor job description to make the Venue Liaison duties applicable for the four assemblies of the Advisor's rotation (currently, the Venue Liaison duties are for the last two Area Assemblies of the Advisor's rotation and the first two Area Assemblies of the following rotation).

Motion: Recommendations Passed by simple majority, the change is as follows:

G15.4 Will serve as Venue Liaison. In this position they are provided the authority to represent Area 40 in the process of evaluating, negotiating, selecting and making commitments for the sites during the four Area Assemblies of their rotation. The outgoing Area Advisor will set the dates for the following year and communicate with the incoming Area Advisor.

Vote-- Approved: 72 Opposed: 0 Abstention: 1, motion **PASSED**

Treatment

Item D. The committee recommends submitting the following agenda item to the 74th General Service Conference: The committee unanimously recommends a two-year (2) moratorium on all new agenda items at the General Service Conference (GSC) starting in 2025. The exception would be the filling of General Service Board and Corporate positions.

Vote-- Approved: 27 Opposed: 50 Abstain: 5 **FAILED** Minority Opinion heard, motion to reconsider with a 2nd

Motion to Reconsider: In favor: 30 Opposed: 36 Abstain:7 **FAILED**

Finance

MOTION: Budget Proposal

- Proposed 2024 budget of \$46,750
- 5% increase from 2023
- Suggested contribution for delegate expense be increased from \$1800 to \$2200
- Motion by Kacie N that the finance committee recommends to approve the 2024 budget of \$46,750. Second by Ryan Partain. Motion passed 4-0.

Vote-- Approved: 74 Opposed: 1 Abstain: 1 **PASSED** no minority opinion

Literature

Rewrite Item C as follows: Consider Submitting the following agenda item to the 74th General Service Conference: Consider developing a pamphlet on *AA and the Unhoused Person* that specifically addresses alcoholism, what AA is and is not; and includes personal stories from AA members who have experienced homelessness.

Vote-- Approved: 64 Opposed: 5 Abstained: 6 **PASSED** minority opinion heard, motion to reconsider with a 2nd

Motion to Reconsider: Favor: 8 Opposed: 60 Abstain: 9 **FAILED**

Item D: Consider submitting the following agenda item to the 74th General Service Conference: Consider writing a new meditation book for the fellowship. This would be in addition to the current Daily Reflections.

Vote—Approved: 30 Opposed: 40 Abstained: 7 **FAILED** minority opinion heard, no motion to reconsider

Motion to Extend the Assembly: Aryel M, Jessica SK 2nd In Favor: 68, Opposed: 8

Floor Action: Reimburse Jack W \$250 Point of Order: the motion was submitted after business was closed so it wasn't voted on

➤ **Motions from This Assembly**

Structure and Policy Item 3: Consider a proposal that Area 40 read "Why Do We Need a Conference?" at its assemblies.

In Favor: 79

Against: 8

Abstain:3

no minority opinion

➤ **Financial Highlights, Jake L**

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

Area 40 finances – it's like playing a game of financial Tetris, but with fewer blocks and more serenity.

It was my honor to present some Area 40 financial highlights yesterday morning. Picture this: me, standing at the front, armed with reports and coffee, ready to conquer the day. Because let's face it, nothing screams "excitement" like a good ol' financial report.

As we approach the home stretch of this rotation, it's important to keep our minds and hearts open. But remember, in AA, you can't fix what you can't change.

Since the Fall Assembly, my life's been a whirlwind of balancing accounts, depositing contributions, and sending out monthly finance reports. And while I don't send out thank-you notes for every contribution (because let's be real, my handwriting is atrocious), I'm more than happy to look up any contributions if you're feeling curious. I've even got a real-time report that's got more action than a hyped up dog on linoleum – it'll give you insights into groups, cities, and the types of contributions we received dating back to 2010.

The current Area 40 Inc. address remains the following:

PO Box 155

Bozeman, MT

59771-0155

Please continue to keep your areas informed. The current address will always be on the Area 40 website.

As the Area 40 Treasurer, my role often feels like that of a silent guardian, quietly ensuring the financial stability of our Area finances. While I may not always be at the forefront like Lisa or Kacie, the responsibilities are nonetheless vital. Maintaining the financial health of Area 40 demands a blend of technical proficiency, meticulous attention to detail, loosely organized organizational skills, and a little bit of time. It's a role that requires a deep appreciation for the gifts of sobriety and a willingness to step up and serve whenever the need arises. And let's face it, if there's one thing alcoholics excel at, it's thriving in the face of adversity. So if you've been waiting your whole life for this opportunity, consider this your chance to shine.

Now, onto the nitty-gritty: I trust everyone has had a chance to review the latest financial reports,

posted on our website each month. While we've managed to steer clear of the dreaded deficit territory thus far, impending expenses such as the Assembly, Archives rent, and our Delegate's attendance at the Conference will soon come knocking at our door.

Speaking of rent, our annual archives storage fee is due next month, following its predictable 13-month rotation. Fear not, though, for our expenses remain within budget year-to-date, thanks in no small part to the unwavering generosity of our groups. And just to put any anxious minds at ease, let me assure you that we have a healthy cushion of cash on hand – no need to sound the alarm bells despite the latest rumblings from GSO.

In the spirit of progress, I've implemented a few changes to our financial procedures this year. Contributions are now reported more accurately to reflect when they hit our books, and I've migrated our accounting software to the cloud for added flexibility and ease of transition between Treasurers. In addition, our recurring expenses are now on autopay, ensuring timely payments and sparing us the headache of lost emails or checks in the mail.

So, rest assured that behind the scenes, I'm working diligently to keep our financial ship sailing smoothly. And hey, if you look closely enough, you might just find a hidden joke in the balance sheets – after all, laughter is the best medicine, even in the world of finance.

So, let's break this down: If a dollar in the basket today is only worth 61 cents compared to 20 years ago and a measly 48 cents compared to 30 years ago, we might as well start searching for loose change in the couch cushions of meetings.

This is the perplexing dilemma of inflation! – turning dollars into mere pocket lint. It's like the universe's way of saying, "Hey, remember when you could buy a whole meal with pocket change?" And speaking of times gone by, remember when a dollar in the basket could cleanse you of the guilt of am I contributing enough? Ah, nostalgia.

But wait, there's more! Back when I sobered up, a dollar was practically flexing its muscles, worth a whopping 45% more than today's dollar. And on top of that, people were casually puffing away in meetings like it was the norm. Those were the good old days, when secondhand smoke was just typical meeting ambiance.

But hey, let's not get too caught up in the value of dollars past and present. Instead, let's ponder the truly deep questions in life, like: What's the going rate for sobriety these days? Is it a buy-one-get-one-free deal, or more of a 'limited time offer' situation? Let's not forget the noble art of 12th-Step work. Sure, we're deadly serious about our recovery, but let's not forget the levity. After all, laughter is the best medicine, even if it's not covered by insurance. Keep in the forefront of the work we do that our primary purpose remains to carry the message to the still sick and suffering alcoholic.

I participate actively in my home group both because of my ability as a member to influence how that money is used and because it is a vital part of how AA functions. As I can afford to, I do put in a little extra for those who are unable or for the times I am without. If we want A.A. to be here for the next generation, we need to keep supporting our 12th-Step work at all levels of service. GSO very recently was fully self-supporting and we are now in a crunch. We'll get through this but we need to stick together. We got this.

So, if you're thinking of stepping up to serve, remember: We offer on-the-job training, a supportive community, and the occasional chuckle. Because in the end, we're all just trying to navigate this crazy

journey of sobriety with a little grace and dignity. We need the best possible option at all levels of service. Please reach out if you are interested, I am always open to sharing my experience.

In conclusion, if anyone figures out the exact monetary value of sobriety, please let us know. Until then, we'll be over here trying to find the balance between our wallets and hearts.

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

➤ **Area Chair Report, Lisa C-D**

Good morning Area 40! I'm Lisa, an alcoholic, and your Area Chair and Alternate Delegate.

I'm amazed to find that we're more than halfway through this service rotation, with less than nine months to go before Area 40 will have a new panel of trusted servants. It has made me reflect on what I still hope to accomplish in my position before December. My first goal is to hold another online workshop for How to Write Agenda Items in June. When Area 40 meets for its fall assemblies, we don't have a GSC agenda before us full of items to discuss and review, making fall an ideal time to focus instead on unmet needs within Area 40, ideas for improving how we reach out to the still suffering, and any items Area 40 might want the 75th GSC to consider next spring. At an Agenda Item Workshop last June, a member of District 41 suggested that AA create a pamphlet specifically addressing the unhoused alcoholic. We used our workshop time to develop that item into a proposal, which was then presented to a group, a district, and to Area 40 itself. All of those bodies passed the proposal with substantial unanimity, and now it will be considered by the Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee at the General Service Conference in NYC later this month. For this AA nerd, it has been a thrill to see something progress from one member's great idea to something that is under discussion across the Fellowship. If that sounds fun to you, start thinking now about the unmet needs you see or the improvements you would like to make within our fellowship, and bring those ideas to the Agenda Item Workshop in June!

Another goal of mine is to have an online session for the Area on the subject of service sponsorship – an aspect of sponsorship that some begin hearing about almost as soon as they get sober, but that others may hear about for the first time when they begin attending area assemblies. For me, I have had two traditional sponsors who have taken me through the steps, and while both of them have encouraged/insisted on my participation in service at the group level, neither of them shares my passion for General Service. If you have served – or are considering serving – at the District or Area level, you may find a service sponsor helpful. I have one now, but I didn't for many years, and there are things I wrestled with and flailed my way through that would have been much easier, I think, if I'd had a service sponsor backing me up. When I ask myself why I didn't have one for so long, a few things come to mind. The first is that I didn't really know what it was, and I thought I probably *should* know, so it became something I was afraid to ask about. The second is that I didn't want to hurt my regular sponsor's feelings. These and other things that come up around this topic will be, I hope, the subject of an online meeting for our Area later this year.

My third goal in the remaining months of this rotation is to visit some of you for your district business meetings and at your summer events. It's an element of the Area Chair and Delegate job descriptions to, between the two of them, try to visit every district at least once during their two-year term of office. I've made it to five of our fourteen districts so far, and I'm ready to roadtrip, so I hope I'll get to see a lot of you this summer at meetings and special events in your districts.

I had the privilege in January of speaking at a Service Workshop in District 72 called "How Service Preserves Us." It was a wonderful event, very well attended and with a "comfort food" buffet, which

I'd never heard of before and which I thought was brilliant. After I spoke, one of the attendees told me something that she'd heard years before at a Regional Service Conference. When considering whether to accept a service position, we should consider whether we have the ODAT to do that position. ODAT is, of course, an acronym for "one day at a time," but in this context, the acronym stands for "Opportunity, Desire, Ability, and Time." It's become a new way for me to think about willingness to stand, and I wanted to share it with all of you as we move towards the elections we'll conduct the next time we gather for an assembly.

As I reflected on what I wanted to say during the service talk I gave in January, I was struck by how often service positions have come to me seemingly by accident or happenstance. When I was newly sober, I became a GSR only because no one else in my new home group wanted the job. A few years later, I was drawn into my District's CPC committee because they were wrestling with an issue that I happened to know something about because of my day job. A few years after that, I boldly declared that I was willing to serve as a DCM only because there were already two far more qualified candidates standing, and I was sure one of them would be elected. But then one of them withdrew, and the other announced that he planned to vote for me, so I suddenly found myself with a terrifying new job that I knew very little about. Being a DCM brought me to Area, which I loved instantly, but I never would have thought of serving at Area had I not been encouraged to do so by people who were already serving. That led to two more terrifying positions that I knew very little about, including my current one. But I heard something at my first Area Assembly – and I've heard it several times since – and I can say through personal experience that it is the absolute truth: God doesn't choose the qualified. God qualifies the chosen. We find what we need to do the jobs we're entrusted with in AA.

Of course, that doesn't mean we become perfect. We make plenty of mistakes along the way. For example, at the start of our online pre-assembly a few weeks ago, I suddenly got really nervous when it was time to start. So instead of asking the group assembled to start our five-hour Zoom meeting with a moment of *silence* for the still suffering alcoholic, I asked instead if we could have a moment of *suffering*. It was not a great moment for me, but fortunately, this program teaches me how to laugh at myself and even to welcome the moments like that one that keep me humble.

In the months remaining in this rotation, I hope all of you will set and achieve goals that will be of service to your groups, districts, and Area 40, and to the still suffering among us. And I hope as you consider whether to stand in the next rotation, you'll make some room for serendipity to guide you to your next jobs. If you have the Opportunity, Desire, Ability, and Time, I hope you won't allow fear to hold you back from accepting new challenges.

- **Area 40 Inventory Report, Connie R-** Transcript not available at the time of this release.
- **Delegate Report , Kacie N**

Good afternoon! My name is Kacie, I am an alcoholic currently serving as your Area 40 Montana Panel 73 Delegate.

Here's what I've been up to since I last saw you at our Fall Assembly in September. I was invited to share my Delegate's report at the Fireman's Point Campout in Columbus the weekend after the Assembly. The next weekend I had the opportunity to share my report at the Grapefest in Helena. And the weekend after that, I got to share it at the Havre Mini Conference. That was a VERY busy and extremely rewarding string of weekends! Thank you districts 12, 61, and 51 for the loving invitations to share my report. And a special thanks to my co-pilot, Susan, who is always up for an

AA adventure and not only gets in the car but drives it too! It is getting to be that Delegate report-back time again. Area 40 invests a lot of time and financial support in our Delegates. One of the best ways to ensure you, your groups, and districts are yielding a return on that investment is to provide me the opportunity to visit you some time after I return from Conference so that I may share with you what I saw, heard, and felt while participating as a member of the General Service Conference. This provides the opportunity for me to report on the results of agenda item votes and current A.A. finances. It is also an opportunity to report back on the experience shared with me from other Areas in our service structure. It's easy not to know or simply forget that the work we do, the votes taken, and the conversations had affect more of the A.A. Fellowship than just our little corner of the world her in Montana. The Remote Communities Meeting, Area Highlights, and General Sharing sessions provide expansive insight into the challenges and successes of other Areas. And I can't wait to return and share those experiences with all of you. So, it's never too early to get in touch with me so we can schedule a time for me to visit you with my report.

In the Fall, I also had an opportunity to share information about what A.A is and is not as well as provide resources for more information to the Rotary Club in Kalispell. I got to study up on CPC material and refresh my memory on how to talk to "normal" people in as anonymous of a way as possible. There were no cameras, news articles, publications, or postings of the event. It was a great opportunity to remember that we are Alcoholics Anonymous not Alcoholics Invisible.

I had the privilege of serving on the Conference ad-hoc committee tasked with developing questions and a plan for the GSC Inventory that will be conducted during the week of Conference in 2025. We met seven times before the close of 2023 and our work will now be forwarded to the Agenda Conference Committee this month.

The members of the General Service Conference had two virtual sharing sessions, one in late Fall and the other in February. I've also attended three Delegate's Only virtual meetings with the 92 other delegates to prepare for conference and a monthly WCR Delegate's meeting with the delegates and alternate delegates of the West Central Region and our Area point person, Class A Trustee, Kerry Meyer.

The first weekend in March I flew to Minot, North Dakota for the West Central Region AA Service Conference. I won't steal Susan's thunder by sharing too many details, you'll get to hear that tomorrow. But there are a few questions I'd like to invite our Area 40 fellowship to noodle on a bit. Is the West Central Regional AA Service Conference a necessary service? If so, what are some of the barriers to participation in this event? How can we work to remove them? Are there opportunities for our Area and the other seven Areas in our Region to support this service more? What, if any, is our financial obligation as an Area to maintain this service? The WCR delegates met together in Minot, reviewed financials for the year and found that financial support through registration fees only may not be a sustainable option. We agreed to go back to our Areas and start a conversation. If you have feedback or questions for me on this topic, please let me know.

I must share that while I arrived in Minot by plane, I returned home by train, this was not planned. I won't go into all of the details but I must share with you how incredible Area 40 is. After more than five hours of delays, taxing back and forth on the runway, and almost taking off, my return flight home was cancelled. Dang snowstorm! This is happening at the end of a long, full, rewarding, and exhausting weekend. As I deboarded the plane in the snowy darkness and made my way to baggage claim, I could feel my spiritual fitness draining. I quickly realized I needed to

ask for help. There was a group of Area 40 nutballs still in Minot scheduled to leave by train in the morning. The next available flight wasn't until the day after that. I called one of those nutballs and defeatedly said, "My brain is broken. My spirit isn't too far behind. I'm tired, I can't think, and I need help." The comforting voice, as I recall it, said, "We got you. Hang tight." Some time later the van arrived at the airport, friends poured out, scooped up my luggage, and put me in the front seat. They had me laughing in no time. A room at the hotel had already been booked, a seat on the train had already been reserved, and lots of hugs were given. I didn't have to do a dang thing except surrender and accept help. I share all of this to say that if there was ever a time I was feeling kind of trudgy – I think that was it. I whispered a plea for help and Area 40 delivered. Don't tell any of the other Areas, but you guys, we really do have the very best one.

The third Saturday of every month I hop on Zoom and participate in a deep dive Concept Study with other Area 40 members across Montana. Last month was pretty monumental because we just finished our first full time through! I'm very excited to announce that this Concept Study will continue and is set to start over at the beginning with the Conference Charter next month! Anyone and everyone is invited to participate. The Concepts are such a valuable tool and understanding them seems to come so much easier when studying them with each other. There are flyers on the back table with the meeting info. This is not a secret meeting, the more the merrier! There are no prerequisites to join. You don't have to have a service position. You don't even need to know what a Concept is! If you are interested in learning, have a heart for service, and a passion for A.A., this study is for you!

This year the General Service Board, General Service Office Staff, and the Conference Improvement Committee have made a significant effort to cut costs for the conference. This includes conducting some of the pre-conference meetings virtually instead of in person in Brooklyn before Conference week begins. I have already attended the Remote Communities Meeting, the 1728 Meeting, and one of two sharing sessions on the topic of the Founders Writings. These were all held virtually but are considered part of the Conference. So, I will report back on these meetings after the entire Conference has concluded.

I closed out 2023 and started 2024 by hosting three different virtual sharing sessions to review some financial information and to discuss questions regarding the Founders Writings. I was pleased to see a wide variety of participants in these sessions and grateful for all of the feedback shared. This experience really drove home for me that conversations with one another are vital. That communication is an essential key for successful service work. And that these important conversations are most effective when founded in accurate information sharing, personal experience, strength, and hope, and a shared passion to fulfill the primary purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous. When we can start a conversation from a place where agreement on our primary purpose is the foundation, we are then more likely to have ears open to hear each other out when we might not agree with one another on certain topics. More often than not, it seems we all agree that we are here to stay sober and to help the still suffering alcoholic find us, achieve sobriety, maintain it, and hopefully stay. We may disagree on a lot of other things, but if we can agree on that, I believe it keeps our hearts open and allows a loving Higher Power to work through the collective group conscience and serve the good of AA.

I'm sure I've forgotten to include something, but I hope to convey that the privilege and honor of being allowed a turn as your Delegate is a responsibility I do not take lightly. Talking with you at events, getting your emails, letters, and phone calls, receiving text messages with daily reading

screenshots and quotes – all of these interactions and conversations are moments I'll carry with me to the conference in New York. Your voices truly do guide me when I cast my vote on each item. I share those voices with the conference from the mic and in my committee. You may not be taking up physical space there, but you are all absolutely there with me.

Thank you for loving AA as much as I do. Thank you for being an Area that embodies the Responsibility Statement. Thank you for answering the phone, responding to the email, taking the jail meeting, talking with the professional, buying a Grapevine Subscription for the treatment center, downloading and subscribing to the Grapevine app!... Thank you for being of service to your fellows and for showing up even when it isn't fun. I love you guys so freaking much and I'm beyond grateful for each and every one of you.

In Love and Service,
Kacie N. P73 Delegate

➤ **DCM Reports**

District 11 Report

As I approach my second Area Spring Assembly in rotation, I am grateful to all of the GSR's and Committee Chairs in District 11. They have been incredibly diligent in their service to our AA members and very supportive of me by their presence at District meetings and District activities.

I appreciate the work of the Archives Chair Karen T. and her committee in updating the District Policies and Procedures. I thank Daniel M. for chairing the newly created Literature Committee. Don M. has graciously offered to serve as the Public Information chair and has been off and running. I thank Patrick P. for his relentless search for volunteers in Corrections. These are a few of the opportunities to serve those of us in District 11 that have been taken.

I cannot function without the outstanding contributions of Dave K. as Alternate DCM, Meg M as Secretary, and DeeDee K as treasurer. These three people have truly serve the District.

Thanks must also be given to the Intergroup in Billings. They hosted an outstanding Holiday Party in December and a Founders Day celebration in March. It is with gratitude that I mention their great service in Billings.

Billings is the site of the 2024 Spring Roundup under the able leadership of Terry M. and Lynne W. I appreciate the assistance and information I received from everyone in Missoula and Bozeman in preparation for our own Roundup. If I can be as organized, informative, and welcoming as those members were to me, I have no doubt that "Beyond Our Wildest Dreams" will be outstanding in its delivery of information and creation of goodwill in AA land.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to serve and grow in Alcoholics Anonymous!

Dianne W

District 12 Report

Greetings from District 12 to all you happy campers in Area 40. We have had a fairly busy time so far this year. We held elections in November and have a new slate of individuals that stood for all positions. District 12 is comprised of home groups in Absarokee, Big Timber, Columbus, Harlowton, Joliet, Laurel, and Red Lodge. Our member Greg T was able to reach out to each group and get an updated leadership list. We were able to reach all groups and reestablish some communication with all. I have attached an extra sheet with the highlights of each group. All groups report steady to increased

attendance. All groups are holding their own financially. We held Fireman's point this year in September having had to change dates at the last minute. It was well attended and Kacie gave an awesome delegate report. In February we held our annual Mid-Winter Social in Joliet. The support was amazing with over 200 people in attendance. I received two Hot Line calls. One from a tortured soul in Butte and one from a person seeking time for meetings in Laurel. We have a new Hot Line chair and are hoping to get Lance involved this weekend and have a new list of volunteers added to the roster of this important piece of AA. Our work with Yellowstone Boys and Girls ranch continues to be one of our bright spots, Every two weeks on average 4-6 Laurel Home group members bring a Wednesday 6PM meeting into the YBGR recovery center. It is an exciting area of service to our recovery community. Activity continues very strong with 15-20 teenagers and their counselors participating. The YBGR executive director recently thanked AA for all our support in helping with these youth on their recovery journey. We are looking forward to another great year and invite everyone to our annual Fireman's point camping weekend August 9-11th.

Yours in Service

Bob F. District 12 DCM

District 21 Report: no report

District 23 Report: no report

District 31 Report:

Attending

In Person....

Lance B. GSR Beyond Belief Secular mtng Miles City Mt.

Ralph Forsyth Mt.

Zoom....

Kathie B. Alt DCM District 31

District 31 Report

Good morning! My name is Kathie B. Alternate DCM of District 31, my home group is Miles City we care group.

I'm Thankful to be of service here today, we meet and elect another DCM later this month.

- In our district We have meetings in Lame Deer, Colstrip and Miles City
- Colstrip has a speaker meeting first Wednesday of the month, celebrating the months birthdays!
- We had an awesome visit from our Area Delegate Kacie, she had another energetic woman with her, I can't remember her name, but we all enjoyed them both very much. This visit inspired our readiness when approached by Forsyth Undersheriff and asked to bring a meeting there.
- We have started Corrections Committee, have opened our corrections workbook and are currently bringing a meeting to Forsyth Jail every other Friday.
- We have a secular meeting "Beyond Belief" this group has been functioning every Sunday morning 10am in Miles City since 2015 and has just recently registered with GSO, with Lance B. as GSR. He is in attendance here today.

Thank you for everything you have done that we may all be here together today!

District 41 Report:

Greetings Area 40! My name is Lance Whitehorse and I am and Alcoholic. Its an Honor and privilege to be serving and your District41 DCM.

Great Falls is the Heart of District t41 but it extends out from Lewistown to all the way up to the Highline area. Don't mind the weather if your stopping by, its super nice out one day and cold and dreary the next. Much like my emotional nature when I first got here. I do love Alcoholics Anonymous in District 41 and I am super proud of our GSRs and district committee chairs.

Up Coming events in District41

April 20th Experience Strength and Hope workshop

Founder's day event

Untiy camp out

Fellowship at the Falls

Dates to be announced.

Since the fall Assembly alot has happened. We lost one of our beloved member of this Body in Area 40, in Oct. Now he loved Alcoholics Anonymous and he had a passion for the general service work, and always willing to serve in any capacity. Trying times was coming into the winter months. The recovery was strong but we was concerned about our safety. At one point AA closed its doors one day in fear of a member and a weapon. It almost felt that this person couldn't be in the rooms anymore because of the havoc that was being created. Trying to navigate through was challenging. I think we realized how important the Safety card is to have in our rooms and for the members to be able to have access to it. It almost seemed that there was a fine line of having a primary purpose and membership to the safety and welfare of others. I believe that no matter how much fear I may have, that God can get us through this. I just want to thank Many of the members in this room and on zoom for helping and guiding us along this process.

In March I got to attend WCRAASC with some of my favorite friends. What a Marvelous experience hoping on a train with 14 other drunks and heading east to Minot ND. During the weekend I have heard alot of great things on the agenda items, I hope we will touch on this weekend. During that weekend March 2nd I got the privilege to celebrate my 13 years of sobriety. It was cool to see new people new GSRs getting actively evolved in the service structure. One thing I took away from that conference was the importance of having a Delegate, having a DCM, but mainly having an Active GSR. I believe it is paramount to utter the importance of being Informed and rather being Uninformed. Our respective Home groups needs to have its voice heard and for the GSRs to be given the opportunity to be at such places like this today.

Once again Thank-you for my sobriety, my 1st step started when someone was practicing their 12th step. Thanks for continuing to carry the message to the next suffering alcoholic.

Love and Service

Lance W

District 42 Report:

Hello, I am Darrel from District 42. I would like to thank Karen H, Vern T, & Matt P for getting this district back together and functioning. WE don't have much to report. We had a District Meeting in January and had Jody T over from Havre. We are still new to this but have some things planned. Thanks to the good people and a good program that I am sober today.

Darrel H

District 51 Report

Hello, my name is Ryan McLean and I am an alcoholic. I am the current DCM for District 51. The largest town in District 51 is Havre and includes many small towns along the Hi Line. There are currently 15 groups in District 51 with 31 meetings a week.

We as a district meet every 3rd Sunday of the month in Havre. We've been having great participation from our district chairs and GSRs. We do have some vacancies in our district chair positions though.

With all the recent talk of the plain and simple language Big Book I asked all the GSRs to get a vote from their home groups. The feedback I got from the home groups was mixed and probably split right down the middle for those in favor and those opposed. So I would say that District 51 is taking a neutral position on the plain and simple language Big Book.

We at District 51 are wrapping up our speaker and feed get togethers that we do in the winter months and starting to plan our campout and fundraiser activities with the warmer weather hopefully on the way.

We'll be having 3 campouts this summer in the beautiful Bear Paw mountains, June, July and August. We'll also be having some fun fundraiser get togethers that will include cornhole, horseshoes and cow pasture golf.

We've also got a new speaker District chair who has put all our local speaker tapes online at 51speakers.org. There is some info in the back where you can find these.

We as a District try to spend as much time together outside of the rooms as we do inside the rooms.

District 61 Report

Heeeeeeeeyyyyyyyy Area 40!! There's been so many awesome things going on since the fall assembly. I got to attend the fall round up in Bozeman. They hosted a fabulous weekend with great speakers, a masquerade party, and morning yoga... Plus I got to see all my friends!

Helena's annual attitude of gratitude was a success as well. Our workshops chair arranged a new location and had Qdoba cater the event. I was invited to speak on a panel about joy in service. Turns out a little heeeeeeyyyyy translates into a lot of joy! Our CPC committee presented info about AA to 60 Kawana's members in October and they were asked to meet with the staff at Elkhorn and job corpse in Anaconda. Rockstars carrying the message!

District 61 had no shortage of holiday dinners, and around the clock meetings at Christmas and New Year's. Then Mark came over to speak at the Wilson House and lead a corrections workshop for us. His and Hughes communication with Amy has also led to the revival of the pink can in our district.

Our grapevine chair held a little competition for the groups. Which ever group downloaded the Grapevine app the most, won a pizza party. More Evidence that we are a food motivated district. Jessica and I attended the West Central regional conference via zoom in her basement living room this year. It was a fun weekend for us and a special thanks to her husband Jacob for the queso dip.

On St. Patrick's Day weekend, it's in the book group, hosted their annual northern Rockies pockets of enthusiasm for the 27th year! I wasn't able to attend but heard it was a great time as always! On the horizon is our corrections and treatment workshop. Put it on your calendar Saturday, May 4 from 11 to 3 PM. We have so many sober alcoholics in our district who are so willing to give freely what they have been given. Organizing and participating in all of these events in hopes to reach the still suffering alcoholic. They are pretty amazing!

It's my pleasure to be of service, love Krissy

District 71 Report- Transcript not available at the time of this release.

District 72 Report

Hi everybody! My name is Betty and I'm an alcoholic. I have the privilege of serving as the DCM for District 72. District 72 includes Gallatin, Park and Madison counties. We offer both open & closed meetings, options for men & women, as well as an option for the LGBTQ+community and friends/allies. Each group determines whether their meeting is online, in-person or hybrid. Hybrid District meetings are held the last Saturday of

the month, and we average about 25 voting members plus several visitors/month!

GSRs report that their meetings are doing well and growing. One GSR reported their group may need to find a larger space due to the growth. We get newcomers from a variety of sources, those moving to town, Bridging the Gap, treatment centers & correctional facilities. Once through our doors, newcomers are offered the opportunity to get involved in AA through service – setting up the room, hosting & chairing meetings, greeting, making coffee – as well as fellowship activities like special events combined with speakers and fun. District 72 hosted the Fall Roundup, “We Are Not Saints”, in Bozeman which was well attended and a lot of fun. The HOW and Primary Purpose groups put on their annual speaker events - “AA Three Legacies”, and “Freedom Through Forgiveness”, respectively. District 72 also had a speaker service event featuring Area 40’s own Chair, Lisa C. We have a number of events on the calendar for the rest of the year including the Delegate Report, service speaker & a potluck in July. There’s lots of stuff in the Special Events hopper. I understand we have formed District 72 softball teams. All great ways to get new folks more deeply rooted in AA. This work doesn’t happen by accident – it is accomplished through the combined efforts of our dedicated trusted servants at the group, district and area levels. Our Committee Chairs continue to collaborate with each other and our counterparts in Area 40 and AIAnon to share questions, ideas and approaches on how best to accomplish our primary purpose.

Administratively, District 72 looked at our processes and allowed ourselves the freedom to consider what we might be able to do better for the Fellowship, we completed a district inventory and have been making improvements in a number of our committees. We reviewed & updated our district guidelines. Implemented a form and standard process for discussing district business items more efficiently both at the district and group level. We also are in the early stages of considering moving our financial record-keeping system from a highly complex, old Excel spreadsheet to QuickBooks so that recordkeeping is streamlined more reliable, and financial reporting less challenging. Our Treasurer asked me to find out what other districts have done this so that we can learn from you. Our cabinets stay full of literature. We have new people and groups represented here at Spring Assembly. That’s exciting!

I love the energy in District 72 and am grateful to be part of it. Big shout out to District 72 for allowing me to serve.

Yours in service,
Betty M
DCM, District 72

District 81 Report-Transcript not available at the time of this release.

District 91 Report

Greetings! My name is Steve, and I am an alcoholic.

I’m grateful to be serving as the DCM for District 91. This is my first Spring Assembly as DCM. I stepped in this role in the fall of 2023. I attended the

West Central AA service conference in Minot North Dakota. Let's just say I'm happy we were all able to get out of Minot.

I’m 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 started in service early in my sobriety and it took off like a wildfire from the pink can, GSR etc. in my home group the Serenity Group, Flathead Vally Intergroup Chair, Alternate DCM and now District 91 DCM.

The district had its Into Action Workshop February 2-3rd. It was well attended. The thing we are not short of in district 91 is events. We have no less than a half dozen campouts throughout the summer the one I’m excited about is the Flathead Vally Serenity

groups Founders Day camp out at Tally Lake June 7th, 8th and 9th and then the Flathead Valley Intergroup Emery Bay camp August 22nd-25th. Please check the calendar on the Flathead Valley Intergroup's web site aanwmt.org and area 40 website for upcoming events. Don't forget the Spring 2026 Roundup which is going to be held in Kalispell at the Red Lion Hotel May 1,2,3.

On the service side of things, I am grateful to report that our district positions have all been filled, the newest one is Alternate DCM of right now is here for her first time at area assembly is Nancy S. I'm happy to have her by my side. I am grateful to be serving such an active and enthusiastic district. My committee and GSRs (7 total) are very interested in this year's GSC agenda items, and 16 total for District 91 are present here this weekend we came to re-parent. I'm excited to be back at Area Assembly. I know there are many here for their first time I'm hoping you fall in love with service as much as I have.

District 93 Report

Hi, I'm Libba, Dist 93 DCM. Here is what has been going on in our district:

- I attended the Forum in Missoula fall of '23. It renewed my love of service and I was floored by so many supportive friends and members in the fellowship.
- This I my 1st Area Assembly as DCM. I was elected about 5 months ago, along with my amazing Alt. DCM who is amazing in complimenting what I f all short of and completes me in many ways. I'm thrilled to say all District positions have been filled!
- Many GSRs have moved I and out of positions, but they eventually get filled. People step up when asked.
- We hope to do a few workshops & have a Delegate Report, as last year we missed out on the Delegate. The ball was dropped.
- We've had a few ad hoc committees started and a lot of discussions on how to help fellow 12 step program that's suffering. Also to make AA more attractive to newcomers.
- We had a longtime member with 50+ years very active in the program pass away last fall.
- We won't be having our annual Lake Como Campout this year. I think it would have been our 50th year. Unfortunately all dates were already reserved out by mid December. However, we will try to have a celebration at perhaps a different place & time. Date and destination to be determined.

Thank you for allowing me to participate in my recovery. Its an honor to participate on any level of recovery. ---- Libba C

➤ Standing Committee Reports

Archives/Area 40 Structure & Policy: Jody T

○ Chair Report:

Area Spring Assembly 2024

Area 40 Archives/Structure & Policy

In October 2023, I received a call from Paul L. asking me if I would be willing to come

to District 91's 'Into Action' in February. An immediate yes! This would give me some time to plan, of course I waited till the week before the workshop. It was a very informational weekend. District 91 shared their district service positions and put on some workshops and panel discussions. Mark H. shared "Responsibility in Service: When & How to Give" on Friday night. The asked me to speak on Saturday night "Connecting with Love, Service and Unity". I am so grateful to have been a part of this experience. The fellowship, sharing, AA Blackout bingo and food was awesome, our only problem was the drive home, it rained then snowed, thank God Jerry came with me so he could drive.

While attending a zoom meeting, I was visiting with Darrell H. from District 42. Through our conversation I offered, or maybe I just inserted myself??? to help with his upcoming District 42 meeting. I should also explain that I offered Gene A., Dan F., and Jerry T. to also come along. They were able to change their meeting to February 10th, in Conrad, Mt. The drive there was filled with recovery, some icy roads, but we made it. The potluck was amazing, Karen made the best sandwiches, so many goodies. Both Gene and myself shared about service work, the importance of having a District and Area. I would like to share at this time that Jerry and I will be moving to Dupuyer soon, so it was a great time for us to meet our new fellowship. I left knowing that District 42 has the ability to grow.

I also received an email on January 1st,2024 from Amber B. District 41 PI chair about an upcoming Helping Hands workshop. This was going to be held January 13th in Great Falls. Before we could have it, Amber let me know that due to weather they cancelled the workshop, hoping that it's still in the works.

In December, Lisa C. reached out to me and asked if I would be interested in being on the Ad-hoc committee revising A40 Policy & Procedure manual. That was an immediate yes. This is a very dedicated group working on this, I appreciate all that I am learning. Not to mention, it follows in with Structure & Policy.

I was not able to attend WCRAASC in North Dakota, would have been a very fun train ride. Due to work, health and moving it just wasn't going to work for me.

And pre-assembly on zoom was informational, and thank you Lynne, our Area Secretary for sending out a post pre-assembly aid email. I really am grateful that I "get" to be a part of and participate in Alcoholics Anonymous.

Thank you all for allowing me to be of service!!!

Yours in service

Jody Toner A40 Archives/Structure & Policy

○ **Archivist Report:**

Good Morning Area 40,

My name is Earl Fink and I am an alcoholic. I am also serving as the Area 40 Archivist. I am happy to report that our archives collection is safe and secure, the climate in the repository stays around 50* to 70* and the humidity stays a consistent 25% to 35%, sometimes drier in the winter. We have sufficient room, shelving, and storage containers for our current collection. I try to keep old records and books in acid free archival boxes as much as possible. Our repository serves us well at this time, but I have received a letter that our rent will increase from \$420 to \$460 / month at renewal. I have forwarded that correspondence to Jake. I have been doing a lot of thinking about the expense associated

with maintaining our Archives and how we are utilizing them. I believe that we need to have an open and honest dialog about some of the items that we are keeping along with evaluating our practices and our Archival Policy. Our history is very wonderful and fascinating, but it needs to be utilized and shared.

The methods of collection and storage have changed significantly since I became the Archivist. When I started we were corresponding by letters and hard copy documents that has now shifted to digital media for the most part. Distribution of Background Information was at one time making copies of 900 to 1000 pages and delivering them personally to having a complete set available on a Dashboard. Hard copy storage has turned into hard drives and the cloud. I have become a member of a few online archival groups that share articles about our founders and early members of Alcoholics Anonymous, as well as having become a regular visitor of several historical websites. There is an abundance of information and history about Alcoholics Anonymous on many reputable sites.

I was able to attend the 2023 Fall Round-up in Bozeman last Halloween. It was a lot of fun visiting with folks. The winter blast slowed attendance somewhat, but it was a great event anyway. The winter was not very conducive to traveling a lot, but I was able to utilize online events for our concept study, an Ad-hoc committee on Policy and Procedures, The West Central Regional Service Conference and the Area 40 Pre Assembly. I couple of weekends ago I was able to attend the South Central Intergroup Founders Day Event in Billings with a display and a short history presentation. The following day I was able to go visit with one of our Past Delegates, Bob H., our Panel 42 representative to the General Service Conference. He is well and living in a care facility in Billings. While at Founders Day, Terri T., a friend, former standing committee chair and former "Triangle " editor presented me with a couple of old Dictionary's. One was published in 1941 and is on the display table with the Big Book display and the other is suspected to be a 1938, though that needs to be researched further. I have been looking for one from that time period and now we have one. On the way home, I stopped at a meeting of the Laurel Home Group. I was invited to stay for the District 12 District meeting, but I chose to get on the road instead. I have been invited to attend the 2024 Spring Round-up in Billings in May and have been asked to have a display at the National Bridging the Gap Workshop this fall in Missoula and at the National AA Archives Workshop in Iowa in late September. I have not committed to that event yet but will let them know soon.

I asked that the Area start searching for a new Archivist at the assembly last fall. I have spoken with a few who have expressed interest but have not heard anything more. If you think you might be interested in serving in this capacity, please don't hesitate to ask about any questions you might have. We have two Past Archivist: Tom W. and Gerry R. as well as myself, who could provide information about this position. I have decided that I will rotate at the end of this year, therefore, a new Archivist should be elected at the 2024 Fall Assembly.

Thank you for allowing me to serve,
Earl
Are there any questions?

○ **Committee Report:**
Archives/A40 Structure and Policy – Jody T.

Meeting commenced at 9:44, opened by Jody T.

4 voting members in addition to the Chair. We had 10 members present in the room and 2 on zoom.

Area 40 Structure and Policy

1. Review Fall 2023 Assembly Evaluation Report.

Notes – eval updated. Major difference is that the new report is shortened due to complaints that the previous eval was too long. Last Assembly we only had online evaluations and did not get much response. It was miscommunication on my part. This year I made sure to make 150 copies.

2. Receive Report from Ad Hoc Committee on Policy and Procedures Revisions.

This was presented by Libbie L. as she is the Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee.

- Notes: Report presented by Libbie L. Changes to current P&P outlined by Libbie L, full document not presented.
- Jody - this is intended to be a more user-friendly reference on the AA montana.org website.
- Libbie L - nothing is being eliminated, the goal is to make the document more usable.
- Ryan: why the combination of the hotline/report & charter (or any committee that includes a secondary committee, i.e. the Archives & P&P).
- Libbie L: Hotline was voted in as a separate committee at area, even though it isn't a committee at GSC, report & charter was moved from PI to spread out the work, essentially.
- Jody: (explanation of EDW)
- Jody: do we want to vote here in committee on how to proceed?
- Paul: it might be best to present a condensed version of Libbie's presentation to the floor to explain why this matter is still in committee (original commitment was to have this matter presented to the floor in spring 2024). This should include an explanation that the full doc will become available prior to the fall 2024 assembly and the updated P&P document will be on the agenda for fall.

3. Consider proposal that Area 40 read "Why Do We Need a Conference?" at its assemblies.

General discussion of this, unanimous support in the room. The question was posed by Libbie L "If we suggest adding this to the assembly agenda, where would it go?"

- suggestion was made to add it on Saturday morning prior to roll call (along with serenity prayer, housekeeping, etc).
- Paul (zoom) suggested reading this prior to breaking out to the standing committee meetings as a reminder of our purpose as a body *and* again on Sunday before we meet back up. Another option would be to leave it as the prerogative of the Area chair.
- Earl – this type of suggestion would be better as just that, a suggestion, put to the area chair.
- Jody – I like the reading and I agree with Earl.
- Paul – suggested adding language to the "suggested agenda framework"
- *Agenda item: The area 40 structure & policy committee recommends that we add the reading "Why do we need a conference" to the "Appendix B" suggested agenda framework under the suggested welcome readings.*

This language was voted on and approved.

Archives – Area 40

1. **Review assembly report of the Area 40 Archives Chair.**
 - Report delivered by Jody
2. **Review assembly report of the Area 40 Archivist.**
 - Report delivered by Earl
 - Ryan – what are the cost considerations of moving the archives whenever area 40 votes in a new Archivist?
 - Earl – the cost is likely to increase, but it’s unknown to what degree
3. **Review activities of Archives Committees in Groups and Districts throughout Area 40.**
 - Nate S – district 61’s archives chair Bryan is doing a nice job, recently put together something for the Pockets of Enthusiasm event
 - Mary – District 81 voted in a new archives chair and she is fairly new and getting her feet under her
 - Julie – stood for district 91 archives chair in March 24 and is getting acclimated and is going to receive the physical archives soon.
 - Karen – district 42 is active again and the archives committee chair position is not filled yet but hopefully soon.
 - Ryan – district 51 has an archivist and appropriate storage. Ryan has passed along Earl’s info to the district archivist. That archivist is also in process of making sure the district mini site is updated on the area website.
 - Libbie L – Archives chair for her homegroup. She has been looking through the physical archives and presenting something at the group business meetings to increase visibility and engagement.
 - Jody – This isn’t in the report, but Jody is trying to reach out to DCM’s to keep better contact with district Archives committee chair across the area. The idea is to increase focus on structure to better preparing trusted servants rotating in/out.
 - Earl – He’s been considering the question “what is rotation?”. How can we keep effective records as groups & districts? Past actions & group histories are worth the effort.
 - Jody – Old timer interviews and group histories are important.

Archives – GSC

1. **Review content and format of Archives Workbook.**
 - Jody presented the Archives workbook, no known updates. It’s 55p long.
 - Julie has a hard copy (got it from Steve). Published 2022.

I would like to thank my committee for attending and bringing to much information to the table. Thank you to my assigned members: Nate S. DCM 61, Ryan M. DCM 51, Mary D. Rep 81 and Karen H. Rep 42. Also present were Aryle M., Libbie L., Chris M., Earl F., Alexandria R. and on zoom we had Julie H., and Paul L.
A special thank you to Nate for making my job easier!!!

Hotline/Report & Charter: Bruizer G-G

Chair Report:

My name is Bruizer and I’m an acholic. I know for most of you when you see me you think their Xavier but since are last assembly, I have legal changed my name to Bruizer. With that I would like to thank

everyone for being here this weekend. And for those of you who are new welcome I hope you find here what I did. At first it seems like they're a lot of moving pieces which can all seem super overwhelming but don't worry you are not alone. I remember my first area assembly 4 years ago I was here as a GSR not knowing what I was doing and thought I will never be able to be one of those people sitting up front talking to everyone but here we are today standing in front of all of you as your Area hotline chair and couldn't be more grateful for it. Because service work has been my center stone to my recovery.

During the last assembly Ty A40 CPC Rick A40 Pi and I was talking about the importance of service work and how could we reach those who have questions about service work whether that was in regards to hotline CPC pi or just how to get involved in general so we decided to start a service workshop the first workshop was Oct 13 @ 6pm via zoom and held on the 2nd Friday of each month after that until Jan 12th 2024. The first 2 were nicely attended with 16 people but then it started to lose tracking so we decided to stop doing them.

Then in November 2023 in Missoula a new crisis center opened called crosswinds. They start to call the hotline for 12 step bedside calls which I started answering. I did get them connected with district 81 treatment chair and CPC chair to work out a permanent plan on how to get these calls answered but in the mean while they have been calling me to handle them, I would do this 1 of 2 ways. First I would reach out and find another member to join me or if I wasn't able to I would call a member and ask them to go. For the first couple months I was getting a call almost once a week but since March I have only got one call from them. To my understanding district 81 is still working out a permanent plan.

I also received an email in December from Amber B District 41 PI chair about an upcoming helping hands workshop. This was going to be held January 13 in Great Falls. Due to the weather the night before the event it was cancelled that morning. I do hope they will still have this event this spring.

I also planned a trip to Minot ND to attend the west central regional service conference. During this plan it was decided that we would take a train. We left on a Thursday with 12 members in Whitefish MT then pick up 3 more members in Havier totaling 15 people. We also had 2 new members coming on with 60 days and others just under 4 months. We had an amazing time. I learned so much and connect with others to talk about what their area was doing. One area asked me if I could talk with them about our answering service and how our districts handle the call with the system we are using. If you haven't been to one I highly recommend going next year.

Since I have been back, I have attended the A40 Preassembly Via zoom. Then I received an email from district 11 asking if I could travel to billing and help with their pre-assembly, which I said yes. I traveled with Mark A40 correction chair, and we stayed in an Airbnb. It was such an honor to go and be able to be of service talking to a room full of GSR and district chair about agenda items. All while remembering to leave my option at the door. Which was always easy. District 11 was able to cover part of our cost up to \$150 Dollar. are dinner Friday night and lunch Saturday. Plus, we got these amazing hats thanks Lynne.

Lastly A40 has recently add a card on file with ASI for auto pay to be in compliance with the contract that we have with them.

I can't say enough how grateful I am to service as your area hotline chair. And can't wait to see what happen from now and tell the next area assembly I am so great for the people in these rooms and another day of sobriety. We also have recently add a card on file with ASI for auto pay to be in compliance with the contract that we have with them.

Agenda item 2

Now let's talk about the hotline itself. Since the beginning of the year, We have received the following calls

District 11 – 12/

District 12 - 7

District 21 - 0

District 23 - 2
District 41 - 6
District 42 - 1
District 51 - 0
District 61 - 8
District 71 - 4
District 72 - 46
District 81 - 11
District 91 - 9
District 93 - 3
Other calls - 3

Talk about how the hotline work. Also give the hotline number 4065405131

Jake district 91 has 2 male and a 2 female but their not always available. When a miss call is answered Paul district 41 one primary male and female and the alternate if they get a miss call they send to them

Lance district 12 3 men and 3 woman all from the same group but trying to get more people also having trouble with getting their meeting updated on the website.

District 11 is on top of their calls and always respond when need and even help remind me to get out month reports. They route their callers monthly

District 72 has had most call and they route out the callers every month as will as district 81 does the same. The rest of the district just have 2 main contacts that stay in the positions

Will be hosting a hotline traing via zoom June 23rd @noon for 1.5 hrs

These call have range from people trying to get help, people calling looking for help for their loved ones. and even trying to find out if a meeting is even happening.

I would like every district to keep in mind how important it is to keep the meeting listing on line update cause I have seen call more then we should about someone standing out side a meeting and the doors being locked. So if you can all go back check you listing and make sure only active meeting are on their that would be amazing cause what is on are website is what gets pulled for the App. We cant have locked door when you have suffering alcoholic needing help.

I cant say enough how grateful I am to service as your are hotline chair. And cant wait to see what happen from now and tell the next area assembly I am so great for the people in these room and another day of sobriety.

Committee Report: Agenda item 2

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Public Information & Website: Rick H & Alex M

o Chair Report:

Area Assembly, April 5-7, 2024, Public Information Report.

Greetings area 40 my name is Rick, and I am an alcoholic currently serving as the area 40 public information chair. Thank you for allowing me to be a trusted servant. Ever since the life changing experience of my first regional forum, where I felt the passion of AA and met Don M. from Colorado, I have been collecting ties. Today I have Tigger from Winnie the Pooh, Tigger's are bouncy their tops are made of rubber their bottoms are made out of springs. I am a Tigger mixed with a little Eeyore. I highly recommend attending the regional forum if you have never been to one, it is truly an experience you won't want to miss.

In December I attended the second national CPC- PI convention online it was a well-organized event with many presenters, Misha Q. from the general service office public information desk gave a great synopsis of all the informational available from GSO. There was a technology portion, presented by Lois L. From St. Louis MO on the use of AI in AA searches etcetera. Vera F a non-trustee director for AAWS gave a good presentation on the pamphlets that help new people to identify and to feel like they are welcome in AA. It was a good reminder for me that we need to seek what's best for the greater whole of AA not just my little corner of Montana. One of the more interesting presenters was the CPC chair from area 78 Edmonton AB, Cordell B. He talked about an internet portal they have set up that is self-updating and people can just go to this portal to sign up for speaking commitments, seems to be a good use of technology to get the message to the still suffering alcoholic. I might have to visit Edmonton, sounds like they have some good AA going on,

probably visit in the summer though.

In area 40 news, I was invited to participate in a service workshop in Great Falls in January, unfortunately it was canceled due to -40 temperatures. It is possibly going to be rescheduled later. In October the hotline, CPC and PI committees started a virtual service workshop on the 2nd Friday of each month it went well at the start then attendance tapered off drastically one of my advisers told me it was probably because we called it a service event, apparently, we need to come up with something more attractive. Another area 40 event that I have been attending on a regular basis is the area 40 concepts study, it has really opened my eyes to the bigger picture of this fellowship. We just finished the 12th concept ending with warranty 6, if you have not read the warranties, I would suggest joining in the discussion. I think there will be more information on that coming out of this assembly.

I would like to thank everyone here for being a vital part of my sobriety, especially the new to service people, keep coming, AA needs you. Being involved in the service structure of AA has been a transformational part of my trudge on this road of happy destiny I have learned patience, tolerance, open mindedness and how-to walk-through fear with the help of this Power I have found. You all are helping me to become the person God wants me to be.

In love and service, Rick H

○ **Webmaster Report:**

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

I would like to remind DCMs about the importance of acknowledging the Meeting Administrator at the start of District meetings. This will let GSRs know who to turn to if they have any changes or additions needed to their Group meeting information. If you require assistance in obtaining this information, please contact me at webmaster@aamontana.org. Maintaining an up-to-date online listing of our meetings is crucial for those who are still struggling with alcoholism.

Since the Fall Assembly, our website has recorded 101,464 page views, 23,348 users. Additionally, we've gained over 23,000 new users. These statistics demonstrate the significant traffic our website receives, with a substantial number of downloads of flyers and documents.

The most visited pages are the Home page, Virtual Meeting listings, and Meeting listings in various cities within our Area. This trend continues to persist on our site.

In love and Service,
Alex Mariño
Area 40 Webmaster

○ **Committee Report:**

I would like to thank everyone who attended the committee meeting, it was the biggest committee meeting I have chaired to date, with 12 attendees. We opened with the serenity prayer and got down to the area 40 business items. Alex the Webmaster will submit his report to the secretary as it is not much different than last year's and in the interest of time. Agenda item 3 was presented to the committee by Kaitlyn the ad hoc committee chair. After quite a bit of discussion we agreed that the committee was on the right track with the proposed changes to the website guidelines. We agreed that they move forward with a final recommendation to be presented at the fall 2024 assembly. Agenda item 4 was discussed extensively with Alex

after receiving more info from him on the area 40 meeting listings, it was agreed that he would make some of the changes right away and that we would get more information for possible later changes.

Moving on to the general service conference items we went over the background on the PSA's on streaming platforms and felt that it might be a little out of our financial range also the question of tradition ten, attraction rather than promotion was brought up. We as a committee thought the report on the Mesmerize PSA was very positive and should continue, the general service office podcast also seemed a positive thing and would help us to reach more Alcoholics. The next item that we had a bit of discussion on was item K, the GSO Instagram account, it was pointed out that there are three accounts that pop up right away and they are all not AA, if we want to be the custodians of our message we need to move into these alternative forms of communication. The group was in favor of moving forward with item K. One committee member thought the new young people in AA video was great. The information on the membership survey was rather confusing and we really didn't have a conclusion on that, at 11:58 we closed with the responsibility pledge

In love and service Rick H.

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

o Chair Report:

Hello, my name is Hugh. I am an alcoholic proud to be serving as your Area 40 Treatment and Accessibilities Chair . Since we last met I've been busy living life on life's terms. Never did I think that I would be able to enjoy as much as I am today. Thank you AA. I was able to attend the Havre Mini Conference and it was great as usual. Havre has it all... well at least for that weekend? In November, I was able to go to Hawaii and go to meetings on the beach. Wow. I also sat down there and had a cup of Kona coffee in remembrance of my good friend, Mr. James W who we lost last year. I'm looking forward to attending the treatment and corrections workshop in Helena. On May 4th, then I'm off to Billings for the spring roundup. Please mark the calendar for the Unity Campout the week end of June 28. Mark H our Corrections Chair will be the speaker Saturday night. In loving service, Hugh

o Bridging the Gap Chair Report:

Greetings Area 40, my name is Jessica E. W. and I am currently serving as your Area 40 BTG Chair. Since Fall Assembly, Sean R, alt BTG Chair and I have met monthly. We have also held two BTG committee meetings. For the October meeting, we invited the National Bridging The Gap Workshop Weekend(BTGWW) Chair to our meeting. If you didn't already hear, we are hosting the National BTG meeting this year in Missoula, Montana September 6th- 8th. Thank you for the support from District 81. Flyers are available over on the table(and the A40 calendar) and there is a room block. The National Conference has its own committee, but since its being held in MT, the BTG committee is serving as the host committee and therefore a few of our district chairs have volunteered in leadership positions. I want to thank Kari from District 61, BTG Helena who is coordinating registration, Dan K from District 81, BTG Missoula who is coordinating the hospitality area and greeters, and Tony from District 72, BTG Bozeman who will be available to provide background and information for the event since I was always was asked to meet with people about our committee and our Area 40 BTG structure. I have asked our Area Archivist, Earl F, to put out a display and Dan K. Missoula BTG (81) is coordinating with a local person in Missoula who would be available to record the event. I visited the BTGWW hotel site this spring with Dan K where we were able to connect with the hotels about parking, signage, registration, and a hospitality area. I am getting excited for our upcoming event.

This event had been 5 years in the making and I want to invite everyone to attend. There will be Treatment, BTG, and Corrections panels. Typically the Treatment Chair from GSO will be the Saturday

night speaker for the event and we have asked the BTG Committee for candidates of local people that have a BTG connection as part of their story. If you have someone that you would like to put forth as a Friday night speaker, we are considering speakers until May 1st so let us know. We will also have our 2024 in-person BTG meeting at the BTGWW this fall. We also discussed where to hold our 2025 Area 40 BTG meeting location, such as Miles City, Dillion, or Glendive. Once a year we have an in-person committee meetings in a rural area. In the past we have had one in Wolf Point and in Shelby and if you have an idea, please reach out to me or your local BTG chair.

We also had a March committee meeting. During this meeting we decided to have additional summer planning meetings for the BTG Workshop Weekend. We are also planning to have our normal Rotation Meeting for the incoming 2025 - 2026 in early 2025 where our outgoing and incoming BTG chairs will both be invited to attend to support continuity for BTG in their districts. We are going to work with the district chairs to find a good time to hold that after the fall/winter district elections. Last rotation was held in February. We will make a plan for that at the in-person BTG committee meeting this fall. These committee meeting notes have been made available to your district chairs and our meetings are open and you are always welcome to join.

I have continued to connect with BTG participants sending requests to be connected with AA members around the state. I haven't had many requests through the electronic BTG link since fall. When I did 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:

Committee report

We had 12 people in our meeting with great discussion of what is going on around the state. Thank you to Amy for taking notes. Meetings seem to be alive and going good in most. The treatment facilities with bridging the gap working but need to find ways to continue to get people signed up. We talked about updating our volunteer list and getting new people signed up. Joe from district 12 talked about biweekly meetings at Yellowstone. Boys Ranch, going great. Nancy district 91 talked about meetings going in recovery homes. Every Tuesday, having trouble filling treatment chair. Along with all other people who gave their reports. We are in good hands with our people. Taking the message to the newcomers, giving them hope that life will get better when they get out Of treatment. Sincerely in service Hugh M

Corrections/International Conventions & Regional Forums: Mark H

o Chair Report:

Hello area 40 my name is Mark and I'm an alcoholic and I serve as your corrections chair.

Since last assembly I've been able to attend some amazing events. I attended the Bob D. workshop last fall in Bozeman. Also the forum hosted by district 81.

So far this year I've had the privilege to participate in a corrections workshop hosted by district 61. I then got to go to district 91 for their "Into action workshop". The next adventure was the crazy train to Minot for the W.C.R.A.A.. Two weeks ago I was able to go to district 11 for a face to face pre-assembly. I'm hoping to attend more area events this coming season.

My other duty is "Pink Can". Since last assembly the area pink can has been growing so thank you to all who've participated. Our area has provided \$2,436 in literature to our incarcerated members. We have \$3,203 available in our account. This does not include districts that have their own accounts.

Thanks for allowing me to be your trusted servant in this position.

In love and service, Mark H.

○ **Committee Report:**

Thanks to everyone who attended and participated in the committee. We had 20 people in attendance with 1 attending virtual.

In attendance we had Michael D11, Patrick D.81, Susan D91, Mike D.81, Bill D.42, Kevin D.93, Niel D.61, Tom D.81, Derek D.71, Kieth D.61, April D.11, Connie D.72, Ashley D.72, Brandon D.41, Jaimey D.61, Lance D.41, Jennifer D.72. Everyone shared why they were there and what was happening in their district. Thank you to Susan from district 91 for taking notes. Much appreciated.

We also had Gary E. our M.S.P liaison and Sean R. our B.T.G. co-chair. Both who had a chance to present and to take questions.

I was lucky to have the committee I had. We had a very good sharing and discussion on the agenda items we were presented with. We had enough time to give every item serious consideration.

So thank you again to all who came and participated in this committee. It's a privilege to serve with these people.

Thank you, Mark H.

Finance: Jake L

○ **Chair Report:**

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

Area 40 finances – it's like playing a game of financial Tetris, but with fewer blocks and more serenity.

It was my honor to present some Area 40 financial highlights yesterday morning. Picture this: me, standing at the front, armed with reports and coffee, ready to conquer the day. Because let's face it, nothing screams "excitement" like a good ol' financial report.

As we approach the home stretch of this rotation, it's important to keep our minds and hearts open. But remember, in AA, you can't fix what you can't change.

Since the Fall Assembly, my life's been a whirlwind of balancing accounts, depositing contributions, and sending out monthly finance reports. And while I don't send out thank-you notes for every contribution (because let's be real, my handwriting is atrocious), I'm more than happy to look up any contributions if you're feeling curious. I've even got a real-time report that's got more action than a hyped up dog on linoleum – it'll give you insights into groups, cities, and the types of contributions we received dating back to 2010.

The current Area 40 Inc. address remains the following:

PO Box 155
Bozeman, MT

59771-0155

Please continue to keep your areas informed. The current address will always be on the Area 40 website.

As the Area 40 Treasurer, my role often feels like that of a silent guardian, quietly ensuring the financial stability of our Area finances. While I may not always be at the forefront like Lisa or Kacie, the responsibilities are nonetheless vital. Maintaining the financial health of Area 40 demands a blend of technical proficiency, meticulous attention to detail, loosely organized organizational skills, and a little bit of time. It's a role that requires a deep appreciation for the gifts of sobriety and a willingness to step up and serve whenever the need arises. And let's face it, if there's one thing alcoholics excel at, it's thriving in the face of adversity. So if you've been waiting your whole life for this opportunity, consider this your chance to shine.

Now, onto the nitty-gritty: I trust everyone has had a chance to review the latest financial reports, posted on our website each month. While we've managed to steer clear of the dreaded deficit territory thus far, impending expenses such as the Assembly, Archives rent, and our Delegate's attendance at the Conference will soon come knocking at our door.

Speaking of rent, our annual archives storage fee is due next month, following its predictable 13-month rotation. Fear not, though, for our expenses remain within budget year-to-date, thanks in no small part to the unwavering generosity of our groups. And just to put any anxious minds at ease, let me assure you that we have a healthy cushion of cash on hand – no need to sound the alarm bells despite the latest rumblings from GSO.

In the spirit of progress, I've implemented a few changes to our financial procedures this year. Contributions are now reported more accurately to reflect when they hit our books, and I've migrated our accounting software to the cloud for added flexibility and ease of transition between Treasurers. In addition, our recurring expenses are now on autopay, ensuring timely payments and sparing us the headache of lost emails or checks in the mail.

So, rest assured that behind the scenes, I'm working diligently to keep our financial ship sailing smoothly. And hey, if you look closely enough, you might just find a hidden joke in the balance sheets – after all, laughter is the best medicine, even in the world of finance.

So, let's break this down: If a dollar in the basket today is only worth 61 cents compared to 20 years ago and a measly 48 cents compared to 30 years ago, we might as well start searching for loose change in the couch cushions of meetings.

This is the perplexing dilemma of inflation! – turning dollars into mere pocket lint. It's like the universe's way of saying, "Hey, remember when you could buy a whole meal with pocket change?" And speaking of times gone by, remember when a dollar in the basket could cleanse you of the guilt of am I contributing enough? Ah, nostalgia.

But wait, there's more! Back when I sobered up, a dollar was practically flexing its muscles, worth a whopping 45% more than today's dollar. And on top of that, people were casually puffing away in meetings like it was the norm. Those were the good old days, when secondhand smoke was just typical meeting ambiance.

But hey, let's not get too caught up in the value of dollars past and present. Instead, let's ponder the

truly deep questions in life, like: What's the going rate for sobriety these days? Is it a buy-one-get-one-free deal, or more of a 'limited time offer' situation? Let's not forget the noble art of 12th-Step work. Sure, we're deadly serious about our recovery, but let's not forget the levity. After all, laughter is the best medicine, even if it's not covered by insurance. Keep in the forefront of the work we do that our primary purpose remains to carry the message to the still sick and suffering alcoholic.

I participate actively in my home group both because of my ability as a member to influence how that money is used and because it is a vital part of how AA functions. As I can afford to, I do put in a little extra for those who are unable or for the times I am without. If we want A.A. to be here for the next generation, we need to keep supporting our 12th-Step work at all levels of service. GSO very recently was fully self-supporting and we are now in a crunch. We'll get through this but we need to stick together. We got this.

So, if you're thinking of stepping up to serve, remember: We offer on-the-job training, a supportive community, and the occasional chuckle. Because in the end, we're all just trying to navigate this crazy journey of sobriety with a little grace and dignity. We need the best possible option at all levels of service. Please reach out if you are interested, I am always open to sharing my experience.

In conclusion, if anyone figures out the exact monetary value of sobriety, please let us know. Until then, we'll be over here trying to find the balance between our wallets and hearts.

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

○ **Committee Report:**

Finance - Jake - Area Treasurer –

- 11 total attendees
- Voting members: Kacie N., Lisa C-D, GSR D61, Jake L

Review assembly report of the Area 40 Treasurer

- 279 groups registered
- \$168 per group
- 85 groups or 30% contributed in 2023
- For GSO
 - There is no set % to send each year - Average in 2002 - \$121 per year
 - if every individual gave \$8 a year we would be self-supporting.
 - Per year each group is \$350

Item A: Consider a request that the General Service Board develop supplemental reporting focused on the actual and evolving costs of various services provided by the GSB.

- We discussed the request to GSB to develop supplemental reporting...
 - Important to put faith and trust in our servants.
 - Felt the current reporting is satisfactory.
 - Reporting and budget is exceptional in Montana

Item B: Review Self-Support Packet.

- Discussed GSB prefers online payments and the savings they receive from online contributions
- Some info is dated: GSO vs GSB

Item C: Review progress report reflecting shared experience from the Fellowship on possible future

changes to literature written by A.A.'s founders.

- There is not any changes proposed, we are simply looking at ways we can address future considerations.
- We are creating a lot of work for our trusted servants, work that we as a body asked them to do.
- Remain open and honest about potential changes. What are we afraid of?
- How do we define Founders?
- What is the set of literature in question?
- 3 things were changed in the literature that have caused some discontent.
 - The preamble has been modified once since the original
 - Concept 11 - recommended to remove 2 paragraphs
 - Remove "rape" from the 12x12 to "partner of other sex"
- Voted for change unanimously
- Should changes have footnotes?
- threshold for review of changes?
- In the future, what do we do when changes are requested with language in AA.
- Request that we should always have the 1st edition always available somewhere.
- Discussed original questions (2023 report pp 42) as well as the new set of questions for consideration.
- What is our primary purpose?
- What us our fear?
- What are we afraid of?
- Professionals of substance abuse are reserved about referring to AA due to God, male dominated language

Item D. Review video "Hope" for effectiveness and relevance.*

- 16 minutes - 2009 - conveys a message that is effective
- Some dated content, format, message.
- Youtube, Instagram - can watch the Grapevine content/account

Preassembly-was in Billings.

- Area 40 received expense report for committee member
- Was supposed to be funded by District 11
 - current DCM wanted to do the pre-assembly in person

Anytime you are invited to an event, there needs to be an understanding on how expenses will be funded.

We are hoping districts can better plan and align resources for planning

Needs to be clear communication on service work and reimbursement for expenses

Requesting that we go back to D11 and ask to cover expenses. We can revisit once we have an answer from D11.

Literature: Jessica S-K

○ **Chair Report:**

Literature – Area 40

Heyyyyyyyy Area 40! It is wonderful to be with you all. Things have been relatively quiet since we were

together in the fall.

I want to thank District 72 for inviting me to attend the Roundup they held last fall. This was my first round up, thank you for inviting me to bring the literature display. Please keep me in mind if your district is interested in a literature display for upcoming events.

I attended the virtual option of the West Central Regional Service Conference. It was great to hear so many voices from Area 40. I learn so much from the Service Conference, it always helps me feel better prepared for the work we do committee. It was also great to see so many of you at the virtual preassembly.

I have added the braille Big Book to the display. Please take a look at the literature display and check out the braille big book, it is another wonderful example of the many ways AA carries the message. There is one Service Manual available for \$4. I am hoping to order more after the General Service Conference, once there is more information on correcting our current manual and a timeline for the printing of the next addition.

I was recently reviewing the Literature job description in the Area 40 Policy and Procedure – It may be helpful to update the description, to include language in the job description about the need for the chairperson to have access to storage and a vehicle that can fit all of the literature materials.

Due to the ongoing discussion surrounding the plain language version of the big book, I reached out to GSO's Literature desk in the hopes of getting a better understanding of the background and history that led to the proposed plain and simple language version.

<https://vimeopro.com/user112910871/big-book-riptab/video/500617913>

Serving as the literature chair has been incredible. I am deeply grateful for all of the examples we have of unity, service and recovery. Service continues to be deeply frustrating and deeply spiritual and continues to teach me so much about my recovery. I hope everyone will take the opportunity to get into service.

- a. I would like to thank all of the amazing folks that attended the literature Committee. We had 28 people, including myself. We had 27 in person and on zoom. A special thank you to Hallie - Literature Chair from District 91, for taking extensive minutes for us.
- b. Several groups and districts continue to have issues with orders of literature from GSO arriving very late or not at all. This is likely due to the ongoing paper shortage that we discussed at the fall assembly.**

o **Committee Report:**

2. Review Chair report.
3. Review activities of Literature Committees in Groups and Districts throughout Area 40.
 - a. Tim: District 72 has been building up the inventory and getting out the message that you can buy directly from the District.
 - b. District 51: Doing an inventory of pamphlets. Keeping key literature on hand, as pamphlets are less popular. Bringing in Malta to make sure they have the appropriate literature. Also providing Literature Displays at our campouts/events.
 - c. District 11: The literature position is new for that District. Intergroup orders books and his position educates the district on new literature. CPC conference has requested pamphlets for their event. He is trying to form a committee to get more involvement.
 - d. District 42: having no issues ordering books and getting them in a timely manner but still struggling to get pamphlets in a timely manner.

District 41: Has a case of books we can't sell due to a misprint. Jessica advised them to reach out to Literature at GSO to get replacement.

- e. District 71: concern with ordering Pamphlets.
- f. District 71: Large print BBs are in high demand.

Literature – GSC

- A. Annual review of recovery literature matrix.
 - a. The committee reviewed the literature matrix
 - b. Daniel for District 11 asked about the review of literature – what determines when and if a piece of literature is reviewed?
- B. Review progress report regarding revisions to the pamphlet “The Twelve Steps Illustrated.”
 - a. The committee reviewed the progress report regarding the pamphlet “The Twelve Steps Illustrated.”
- C. Review draft of the revised pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic.” (Retitled: “Black in A.A.: Experience, Strength and Hope.”)
 - a. The committee reviewed the revised pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic.”
- D. Review progress report or draft of the revised pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American.”
 - a. The committee reviewed the progress report of the revised pamphlet A.A. for the Native North American.”
 - b. The committee was curious about when and if there is a timeline for a final draft of the pamphlet?
- E. Review progress report or draft manuscript of the Fourth Edition of the book Alcohólicos Anónimos - Spanish.
 - a. The committee reviewed the progress report of the Spanish language Fourth Edition of the Book of Alcoholics Anonymous
- F. Review draft manuscript of the translation of the book Alcoholics Anonymous (Fourth Edition) into plain and simple language.
 - a. The committee reviewed this agenda item.
 - b. The committee also had a substantive discussion on the development of the plain and simple language version. The committee discussed the development of the plain and simple language version, and we did our best to address understand the many things committee members have heard or read about the development of the plain and simple language version.
- G. Review progress report on the development of the Fifth Edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous.
 - a. The committee Reviewed the progress report on the development of the fifth edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous.
 - i. There was discussion on dustcover. Some members asked that when the time comes to print the fifth addition that anonymity be considered in the design. There is concern that the current print design doesn't consider anonymity. Others felt it made sense to forgo the dustcover because of the increased costs.

- H. Review progress report on the video animation of the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated.”
 - a. The committee reviewed the progress report on the video animation of the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated.” We did not watch the video but did so as a committee last year.
- I. Review progress report on video adaption of the pamphlet “Too Young?”
 - a. The committee reviewed the progress report.
- J. Review progress report on revisions to the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.”
 - a. The committee reviewed this pamphlet and had a discussion around some of the suggested language, specifically the recommended language on the bottom half of page 44 and the top half of page 45. There is explicit descriptions of trauma and discussion of racism, genocide, domestic violence and other forms of trauma. The committee is concerned that the language could be divisive and the changes to the pamphlet should be focused on alcoholism and recovery from it.
- K. Consider a request that the words “Donation” and “Contribution” be swapped under Warranty One in “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated” pamphlet.
 - a. The group considered the request and agreed with the request to swap the words “Donation” and “Contribution”

Cooperation with the Professional Community/Trustees: Ty K

○ **Chair Report:**

Hello Area 40!

Welcome to the 2024 Spring assembly.

Since the fall assembly life has been very full. It has been an honor serving the area this rotation. AA service really gives my life more meaning and purpose. Since the CPC luncheon in Missoula I have been looking for a CPC project so Rick, Bruizer and I have a fair amount of overlap in our committees and we discussed some ideas to be useful to district chairs so on October 13 we started a monthly CPC, PI, Hotline Workshop online meeting to stimulate interest and discussion about our service positions and to open the lines of communication between district and area chairs. Our first meeting had 16 people! We continued for 4 months and we were starting to run out of discussion topics and interest was dwindling so we decided to cancel the meeting indefinitely in January.

I attended the online Pre Assembly March 9th and presented the CPC items we are discussing today. I have been keeping in contact with districts around the area and they are very active in their efforts to keep connected with professionals around the area.

I am also on the committee for the 4th annual Lubrecht Founder's Day Campout June 7-9 and it is the best Founder's Day campout in the country. It is an event for AA by AA and there are people involved on the committee from 9 cities. I would encourage everyone to attend!The flyer is on the area website and on the back table.

Thank you for allowing me to serve!

○ **Committee Report:**

Spring 2024 Assembly Breakout Notes

17 People Attended

1. Review assembly report of the Area 40 CPC Chair.
2. Review activities of CPC Committees in Groups and Districts throughout Area 40. District 72 is very active, taking panels to nurses, court services, and medical professionals.

They are in contact with many other professionals and are working on establishing and maintaining these relationships.

District 61 Has many great cpc connections and presented to a Kiwanas meeting with 90 to 100 attendees. The annual Treatment and Corrections Workshop takes place on May 4th 2024 from 11-3 at the First Presbyterian Church and the flier is on the area website.

District 11 Has a great CPC workshop on May 4th from 10-1 at the Mayflower Congregational Church where they invited many professionals and provided continuing education credits to professionals who attend.

District 81 Did a presentation at an addictions class at U of M, helped host the CPC luncheon in missoula, presented to the Missoula Vet court mentors and presented to nursing students and they are active with DUI Court, medical professionals, and The Crisis Center.

Cooperation with the Professional Community -

GSC

A. Review progress report on AAWS LinkedIn page.

We did not have much discussion about this item

B. Review progress report on the development of outward facing pamphlet for mental health professionals.

We reviewed this and did not have much discussion

C. Review content and format of CPC Kit and Workbook.

We noted that The Member's Eye View was removed from the kit and literature list.

We found that there are CPC cards on the AA.org website with qr codes linking to the aa.org professional page and one linking to the meeting guide app.

We learned there from Mitch, District 11 CPC chair, that there is a customizable powerpoint on aa.org specifically designed for presenting to professionals.

D. Discuss effectiveness and relevance of CPC videos currently on aa.org.

We all felt strongly that we need to update these videos. They are way out of date as they show the pamphlet "Members Eye View" , promote aa directories and reference The "AA Newsletter For Professionals" that does not seem to exist.

Also in the background info suggests replacing pre professional with paraprofessional and our group had a lengthy discussion about this and suggested we use both terms.

E. Consider a request to develop a pamphlet on the unhoused alcoholic in A.A.*

The group had great discussion about this and we were 16 to 1 in favor of producing this pamphlet

Trustees - GSC

A. Review resumes of candidates for:

1. West Central Regional Trustee

Gerry R

2. Western Canada Regional Trustee

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 AA Grapevine, Inc.

E. Review progress report on the update to the pamphlet "Do You Think You're Different?"+

We discussed this pamphlet at length during the discussion of the pamphlet for the unhoused and potentially using this as a catch-all pamphlet for all of the new pamphlet proposals.

Gerry R is a part of the working group for this pamphlet

F. Discuss guidelines or parameters for deadlines of Conference agenda items.

1. Request from a past General Service Trustee asking the General Service Board to affirm the

September 15th deadline for proposed agenda items does not include motions to censure or reorganize the General Service Board.

2. GSO Archives Department's research and response.

Grapevine and La Vina/Policy and Admissions: Martin NR

○ **Chair Report:**

Hello Area Spring Assembly 2024,

Since Fall 2023 I have attended several AA events or have helped to contribute Grapevine paraphernalia to events.

- The Fall Roundup in Bozeman was an awesome time with excellent fellowship and it was a blessing to be a part of.
- Cheryl, Grapevine from Area 91, put on an **Into Action** workshop February 2-3, 2024.
- I went to Havre to speak and while not specific to Grapevine, I did provide a plug for the app.
- I did not get to go to Minot, but did provide Lance W. with some Grapevine cards to distribute to folks who attended to take back home with them for distribution.
- Since Fall, numbers for Grapevine have increased by 20% for our Instagram and YouTube accounts.
- AA podcast continues to be in the top 5% of consistent listenership.
- I will bring Grapevine set up to Billings Roundup in Spring 2024.
- This is my first Area since my first Area in 2015 that has been absent of James Wheeler. I miss James. He was a trusted servant to the end.
- Knowing I cannot rely on my own understanding, but I must rely on my Trust in God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.
- I have a connection with my higher power today because of AA, and for that I am forever grateful.
- The committee meeting was very fruitful and promising. Thank you to Rebecca, Grapevine for District 61 for taking notes, and everyone who attended.
- I am going to strive to outreach to the district grapevine chairs from now until next assembly as that is where I need to improve on the most.
- I am blessed to be able to be of service and continue to work towards being teachable.

In Service,

Martin NoRunner

○ **Committee Report:**

The group discussed the future of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) publications, including the Grapevine and La Viña. Group highlighted the need to adapt to changing times and the impact of the Inflation Reduction Act on paper materials. Rebecca emphasized the importance of the Grapevine as a valuable resource for AA members, while Libba provided information on current pricing and distribution. The group discussed reducing the number of printed and concentrating on digital distribution. Brandon and Lance B. (Miles City) also provided their

differing but equally valuable thoughts on the topic. Later, the group discussed ways to enhance the efficiency and inclusivity of the upcoming AA conference, including having a well-rounded delegation and using virtual meetings. The Group discussed the dates for the 2027 & 2028 General Service Conferences.

Action Items

- Promote online Grapevine/La Viña access over print to reduce costs.
- Bring laptops/phones to show groups instant Grapevine app access.
- Consider reducing print issues and shifting focus to online platforms.
- Explore adding translation tab to app for La Viña.
- Reallocate financial print losses to fund Grapevine/ La Viña digital services.
- Implement equitable workload distribution (EDW) plan for 2024 General Service Conference.
- Notify conference members of finalized 2027 conference dates when set.

Outline

AA grapevine and personal experiences.

- Participants discuss the Grapevine, a recovery meeting, and its various forms (audio, paper, and podcast).

The Grapevine app and financial struggles.

- Linda expresses concern about Grapevine Incorporated's financial struggles and the impact on AA traditions.

Using the Grapevine magazine in AA meetings.

- Sarah discussed the importance of the Grapevine, a AA meeting magazine, in their recovery journey.
- They suggest pooling old copies to offer to local jails or distribution centers, as the content is relatable and simple to read.
- Grapevine Libraries: Take a Grapevine, leave a Grapevine.

AA grapevine app and its features.

- Malcom expressed gratitude for free access to information and updated subscription.
- Martin suggests using past editions of the AA Grapevine as a fun way to get people involved with the app and familiar with its content.
- Martin emphasizes importance of attending AA meetings and provides app for locating in-person meetings.

AA meeting materials and recommendations.

- Guidelines emphasize that "consider" and "review" have different meanings: "consider" implies a wider-ranging discussion, while "review" focuses on a specific item with a higher likelihood of a recommendation.
- The committee may take no action, make a recommendation to reverse, modify, or supplement a prior advisory action when using "reconsider".
- Martin reviews AA Grapevine workbook, updates content, and makes it easier to use.
- Guidelines emphasize the importance of prayer and meditation in AA.

Cost-effectiveness and sustainability of printing Lavinia.

- Martin discusses the impact of the Inflation Reduction Act on consumerism and production, including the shift towards digital products.
- Martin expresses concern about financial losses due to printing and distribution of materials, suggesting a need for more fiscal responsibility in the future.
- Martin highlights the importance of cutting back on printing and trimming the fat on operations to continue passing the message efficiently and sustainably.

The financial struggles of the Grapevine magazine.

- Reviewed La Viña Magazine circulation, revenue, and budget over six years, highlighting significant drops in circulation during COVID-19 pandemic.
- Discussed the history of Grapevine's Spanish edition, including the need for a bimonthly publication at first.
- Reflected on the challenges faced by Grapevine, including operating at a loss and the importance of reaching a large population in Mexico and Canada.
- Group expresses concerns about financial sustainability of AA's magazine, Lavinia.

Magazine distribution and technology.

- Libba expressed frustration with the lack of change in the magazine's subscription prices, suggesting it's irresponsible to continue the status quo.
- Rebecca proposed the idea of conducting a subscription survey or drive to determine why members are not purchasing the magazine, and to find a solution to increase support.
- Martin mentions that the organization is struggling to provide adequate support to alcoholics in Canada and Mexico due to subscription demand and economic constraints.
- Martin suggests using real-time translation technology to make educational materials more accessible.

Sustainability of printing Lavinia magazine.

- Group mentioned that the organization is losing money on printing and distributing literature, and that they will need to make a decision about how to proceed.
- Group agrees that the organization cannot continue operating at a loss and it was suggested writing an agenda item to address the issue for suggestion.
- Group highlights financial struggles of Lavinia, suggesting cutting back on print services to fund digital publishing.

Funding and services for Asian and Asian American alcoholics.

- Group suggests implementing real-time translation feature in the app to make it more accessible. Various languages.
- Group emphasizes the importance of carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous effectively.

Literature distribution and inclusivity in a recovery program.

- Group discussed the racial tension during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly against Asian individuals, with instances of verbal and physical assault on the streets.
- The speaker's sponsor advises them to proactively greet others in a professional setting to break the ice and build connections, even for new female colleagues.
- Group highlights similarities between Westerners and Asian Americans in recovery, emphasizing the importance of literature distribution.
- Group discussed pamphlets, profit margins, and inclusivity.

Conference site selection and cost.

- Group highlights the environmental cost of producing pamphlets for a conference, mentioning a paradigm shift in economics.

Conference dates and workload distribution.

- Alternative locations for a conference included Akron/Cleveland.
- Group reviewed proposed dates for General Service Conference 2027 & 2028, considering holidays and venue availability.
- Group reviewed dates for upcoming events, including Memorial Day and Victoria Day.

EDW Pilot.

- EDW focuses on the importance of efficiency in committee work, rather than being sidetracked by non-essential discussions.
- EDW helps to create well-rounded delegates in decision-making.

Virtual meetings and online participation in AA.

- Committee discusses participation of online groups in US-Canada service structure, with a focus on efficiency and fun.
- Group discussed potential expansion of Alcoholics Anonymous to include virtual meetings and digital representation.
- Group brainstorms ways to increase fiscal engagement for virtual meetings.

Electing delegates and conference committee chairs.

- Group seeks clarification on proposed item to revise procedures for electing conference committee chairpersons and their alternates.
- The delegate chair is selected by lot, not by service position, and has increased authority and responsibility in recent years.
- The minority has the spiritual opportunity to participate at each level of the upside-down spiritual triangle, including the area delegates and delegate chair.

Agenda item for upcoming conference.

- Group suggests coordinating with Casey and past delegates before the Spring 2024 GSC to become informed on how to be of maximum service to create unity while practicing the principles in all our affairs.

➤ **GSR Breakout:** Transcript not available at the time of this release.

➤ **DCM Breakout:**

DCM Breakout Notes

Ask It basket and sharing with Andrew

Topics:

- Experience on delegating to District committee chairs
- What's next as a service rotation for DCMs
- How do you do elections in your district and how can you improve

#1 Delegating:

Daniel - "Not my show", DCM's role is a conduit of information

Ryan – Envious as he doesn't have an alternate. Perception was before he had the role was that the DCM was the "boss". Now in the role he feels he's more of a guide and a wrangle of the conversation.

Steve – delegation, ask for help, is what he was taught in AA. Delegation is the key to being a good DCM. Asking for help gets everyone involved.

Lance – experience with this at his Feb district meeting. Had a personal episode that turned his life upside down, Alt on vacation, Treasurer on vacation. So, he asked for help. And he got the help.

Libba – Having a service sponsor has been "monumental". Struggle the most the fact that they don't have an agenda for their District meetings to help keep things on track.

Struggle with that most her chairs don't understand Traditions. Don't give opinions and tries to bring balance and offer options.

#2 Rotation for DCM's

Diane – not sure 2 years in enough to do a rotation. Had to really work and not so sure others will work has hard to get up to speed. Goal is to get every group in Billings to send a GSR to Assembly, but the battle is that's a waste of money.

Lance – Alt DCM doesn't want to step up. Feels fear if the DCM is left vacant or if a person with a strong personality steps up and wants the position. Feels like people take the easy way out and leave positions open.

Steve – what's next for me? Next thing is to stand again for DCM. Came in at the halfway point and would like to have the full rotation. Feels HP will guide him to the right role

Ryan – ½ turn as GSR and full turn as DCM kind of want to go back to being a GSR and do it again now that he understands the role.

Pat – Makes his decision by look at qualifications, time commitment. Feels if he has a passion for the work that going to others, he’s working with
Greg – was an Alt DCM and chose not to run for DCM. Felt like it wasn’t the right time. Sponsor guides him to not get too involved with service that he forgets about working one on one with another alcoholic
Kathy – on Zoom and couldn’t hear her
Andrew – sponsor told him to “make himself available” for the next thing and it’s always worked out

#3 Elections

Nate – been in elections where it’s been hard to fill positions but now in a district where that’s not the case. District 61 positions are filled, and they have committees.
Daniel – whoever stands is voted “in”. Membership is not willing to take service positions. Open service positions get filled as time passes. Frustrated with how to get people excited for service at the district level. Has found people who are willing to serve show up.
Steve – Fell into a home group that has a history of being involved in service. Goal is to have elections before Fall Area Assembly so they can go to Assembly and learn before taking the new service role. District has adopted this same strategy.
Brandy – coming to Area has helped her as a new DCM helped her get a better understanding and get excited about her new role
Lance –
Susan – came to Assembly the first time because someone was funded and now that she is funded and asked someone else to come. Taking people with you generate more excited. We have an obligation and a privilege to come. Take someone along.

Sunday, September 10, 2023

➤ **Roundup Reports**

Fall 2023 Roundup

Hi everybody! My name is Bridget and I’m an alcoholic. I had the privilege of serving as your Registration Chair for the Fall 2023 Roundup in Bozeman MT. Because of its timing – the 27-29 of October, the theme of the Roundup was “We Are Not Saints”. A total of 309 people attended of which 80% were primarily AA or non-designated, and 20% were primarily part of Al-Anon. Most people registered before the event.

We had a very successful kickoff event, plus a Masquerade party with a Costume Contest. I can’t tell you the winner, but I can tell you that it was fun! From a content perspective, we had four out-of-town Keynote speakers – 2 for AA and 2 for Al-Anon, a lot of meetings and speaker panels.

After the event, we conducted a post-event online survey, and respondents ranked the event between 4 & 5 stars - between Satisfied and Very Satisfied. The features that got the most favorable responses were the LGBTQ+ speakers, panelists and the Hospitality Room. You know AAs and Al-Anons... We like our food & our coffee. Again, on behalf of District 72 and Bruce W, the 2023 Fall Roundup Chair, we would like to thank you for attending our Roundup event and for helping to contribute to its overall success.

Bridget C

Fall 2023 Registration Chair

Spring 2024 Roundup

Hi ya'll I'm Lynne, I'm an alcoholic, and the Co-Chair of the Spring 2024 Roundup. The theme is "Beyond Our Wildest Dreams," and it will be held in Billings at the Big Horn Resort next month, May 17-19. Registration is \$40 for the entire weekend. In addition to the main speakers, our Area 40 Delegate will be giving a report on the GSC (the same conference we've been preparing for this weekend), Archivist Earl F is going to interview a local old-timer, and current Area 40 Committee Member Martin NR and our past delegate Gerry R will be part of a Native American Panel, just one of many exciting AA panels on the schedule. Our homegroups in District 11 are preparing food for the hospitality room, and we will have plenty of coffee available. We have found a Raffle Chair, and not that it is a competition with 72 for their amazing Auction and Raffle items but I will say if it were a competition we just might win. We are offering a dinner on Saturday and there will also be a number of rounds of "Heads or Tails" before and during dinner. Sunday morning we are offering a buffet before the Spiritual Speaker. We have a strong Al-Anon participation for this Roundup, they will have 2 main speakers as well as a lunch on Saturday. Finally, our main speakers are going to be Jason J, Jennifer H-K, and Hilda F. There are plenty of registration fliers on the back table, you can also get it on the Area 40 website, and there is a QR code so you can register right here, right now. Come join us in Billings for the Spring 2024 Roundup, May 17-19, and find fun & fellowship that will be Beyond Our Wildest Dreams.

Fall 2024 Roundup Transcript not available at the time of this release.

Spring 2025 Roundup Transcript not available at the time of this release.

➤ **Intergroup Report**

Good morning, extended family, Area 40,
My name is Aryel and I am an alcoholic.

District 91 Liason

New Hope GSR

Flathead Valley Intergroup events chair

I am reporting on behalf of the Flathead Valley Intergroup. I'm here to inform you of the purpose and function of intergroup. Intergroup is the local A.A. service office for the Flathead Valley responsible for providing all our A.A. groups and members with

information needed to carry the message to anyone in the community who may have a problem with alcohol. In other parts of the country, intergroups are called central offices, but these are actually one and the same organization. The A.A. intergroup helps carry the message by publishing a meeting directory, managing the local Web site and supporting any activity that meets the need of helping the newcomer find Alcoholics Anonymous. Flathead Valley Intergroup serves more than 15 groups and meetings in Northwest Montana, within district 91. Intergroup offers more than 10 separate service positions, some of which differ from the common district positions, those include an entertainment chair and co-chair, which organize events such as, an annual campout, alcathons, and several holiday and fellowship events, dinners, sobriety birthday meetings. They also have a meeting schedules chair, who is tasked with organizing, editing, printing and distributing paper meeting schedules throughout District 91. We also participate in and contribute to district 91 functions and events, a local website aanwmt.org, we have recently

discontinued our independent hotline and redirected any of those calls to the area 40 hotline.

In the last year Flathead Valley Intergroup has held 12 monthly business meetings and 12 monthly sobriety birthday meetings which are on the last Saturday of every month at the North Valley Senior Center in Columbia Falls. We have also received over 60,000 views on the local website.

The local intergroup website provides a variety of services, including a calendar of events, with printable pdf fliers, contact information for all district and intergroup service positions, it also provides a wealth of useful information such as job descriptions, bylaws, as well as policy and procedures. The website also announces and informs the fellowship of several services, and workshops including, "Into Action", Corrections meetings orientation, in addition to an abundance of family friendly fellowship events and activities, such as the annual New Years Alcathon, Valentines Day party, annual Whitefish Sober Ski, St Patricks Day Dinner and Potluck, Spring Fling Barbecue, annual EZ-Duz It Golf Tournament, Founders Day Campout, Great Northern Hike, Annual Intergroup Emery Bay Campout, Halloween Party, Thanksgiving Dinner and Potluck, Eureka White Elephant gift exchange and Christmas Party, and the Annual Christmas Alcathon.

I am honored and privileged to be an active participant in the service structure of Alcoholics Anonymous, District, Intergroup, and group level. I cannot accurately express the amount of gratitude that I have for the life that God and Alcoholics Anonymous have given me, therefore the closest I can come is to take every opportunity I am presented to suit up and show up, by being of service in Alcoholics Anonymous, and to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

Thank you to each and every one of you and to Alcoholics Anonymous.
As always gratefully yours in service
Aryel M

➤ **General Service Conference Report**

Hi! I am Susan, Alcoholic. I am the D91 Corrections Chair. I have been asked to speak on my experience as a first-time attendee of the West Central Regional AA Service conference that was held in March in Minot, ND.

The excitement of the conference happened long before the conference even began. 15 of us from Missoula, Bitterroot, Flathead, Great Falls and Havre all began plotting and planning the 14-hour train ride to Minot. These were DCMs, Area committee Chairs, District chairs, several new GSR's and some newcomers who joined in just to see what we were all about. The train ride was a hoot and the perfect kick-off to the conference ahead!

The conference began Friday with a First Timer orientation where the purpose of the Conference was explained. We were there to develop Unity, exchange new ideas, and share experiences! Woo hoo. I'm in!

The theme was connecting with Love, Unity, and Service. There was a plethora of intros, welcomes, opening ceremonies and lots of AA business conducted over the 3-day weekend. I will highlight a few that stood out to me. First was the General session about "Overcoming barriers to participation" ...which I figured was basically "some people just don't want to do it, that's why they don't participate". But I quickly learned about real barriers that other members had experienced that I would never have considered. Barriers like language, age, remote communities,

transportation, folks who can't read or write, feelings of inadequacy. These were not MY experiences and were not on my radar at all. But these were very real barriers to other members, and I began to realize the scope and depth of other AA issues that need to be addressed.

We got to meet the Delegates, which was great, and enabled us to put names with faces and get to know the delegates from other Areas.

We went through the entire 74th General Service Conference Agenda items over the weekend and that made for some very interesting, passionate, thought provoking, emotional and sometimes heated discussions. This was my favorite part of the conference, and I was on the edge of my seat as these issues were unpacked by the fellowship at great length. Here are a few of the more notable topics I took interest in.

The first was when we were considering a request to develop a pamphlet on the unhoused alcoholic in AA. There were lots of folks sharing what they thought, until one guy got up and he had practical, hands-on experience working with the unhoused. And his commentary was the one that in my view seemed to be the most credible as he was coming from a place with real knowledge of the subject.

I was also very interested in the conversations regarding the paid placement of PSA videos on streaming platforms, and the whole conversation of attraction versus promotion and how this all pertains to our traditions. Loved it, it was fascinating.

As the district corrections chair. I have been following closely the draft manuscript of the translation of the book Alcoholics Anonymous into plain and simple language. Here I was really shocked at the misinformation and wildly misunderstood nature of this manuscript in general. Clarification was given several times and folks either couldn't or wouldn't comprehend the meaning of "translation". This is where the heated part came in.

Then there was discussion about the cost effectiveness and sustainability of continuing to print La Vina. Here we were clearly losing money and I thought the conversation would be short and revolve around the dollars and cents of the matter. There was plenty of talk of money and lack of finances and just when the group was almost talked out about money...a small group of Spanish speaking members came to the mic, one with a translator. And they gave an emotional appeal about how important the La Vina publication was to the Spanish speaking membership and what it meant to them. They explained how the subscriptions were passed around in their small groups, person to person, one member to another. And sometimes up to 50 people would read the same subscription. They explained why the subscriptions were down drastically due to COVID and the lockdowns closing their meeting. They explained passionately that this publication was vital to them, and at that point I had a huge lump in my throat and tears were streaming down my face. And at that moment his sobriety and the sobriety of all our Spanish AA community had come down to a balance sheet, and I was almost ashamed of some of the previous conversation. I was moved by their compassion for one another and the heartfelt plea to keep this publication available to their membership!

One thing was made crystal clear to me. No matter where you stood on a topic, no matter the subject. Everyone in that room clearly loves AA. They love the book, they love the fellowship, they love the service, and they will rally united in that.

There was also plenty of lightheartedness and laughs, to be sure. And some very heartfelt sharing by Vera F (AAWS non trustee Director) and Mike L. (beloved West Central Region Trustee) They both shared some personal stories, and it got real, and they got personal, and it was honest and it was vulnerable, and it was sincere. And I felt it. And I felt connected to them, and I felt connected to the fellowship of AA.

At this conference I learned a lot, experienced and felt a lot. And I know for certain. This is what I want to do. This is where I want to be, and these are the people I want to be with. At the start of the conference, it was stated "the purpose was to develop unity, exchange ideas and share experiences". Well, they delivered that "in spades". Thank you for the opportunity to share with

you my first-time experience at “WEST CENTRAL”.

➤ **Past Delegate Sharing**

Mark S, Panel 44

30 years ago was my first GSC. No email, all snail mail. No internet, communication was much slower. There was a lot more suspicion about what “They” are up to. I was chair of my committee that conference, and I hung out with the trustees and found out they are alcoholics who disagree just like we do. They’re just trying to get along and stay sober, there’s no big conspiracy. There is no, “Us vs Them”, we’re all in the same damn boat, we’re all just sober alcoholics.

The 2 delegates before me came back bittered from the experience. Mine were both great, but they all have a completely different flavor. It changes, the members change. Items change, they go away and then they come back. We are never really done with a few things. Money is always one of the things that we struggle with. We’ve never had too much money. We’ve been flush a couple times, but there are lots of districts in this Area who are not flush. Now that we have zoom the districts who can’t afford the travel can now participate, we just have to let them know that the option is here.

Next Assembly we will be electing a new Area Committee. One of you in this room is probably our next delegate, and someone else is the next delegate after that. While you are doing service work & throughout events like this, pay attention to who is doing the work. Not everyone who stand for a position wants to do the work. There are those who want to stand up here on this stage and look good. Sometimes ppl get elected who don’t show up. They stand for the election then fizzle out when there’s work to be done so be careful who we pick because our servants can do a lot for us.

We have had some terrific servants this rotation. There are some of you just starting your service careers, and since Kacy and Mark were both born on the same day, June 20th is a good day to be born if you want to be a delegate. You will be forever changed once you are a delegate. You will have a much deeper understanding that our fellowship is much deeper than we first understand. A lot happens there that we can’t prepare for, you just have to show up and experience it. The room itself isn’t much bigger than this one, and just like in this room the work is done by the people who show up.

There’s a group of people we are not reaching somehow, and the General Service Conference is always looking for ideas on how to reach them. You in this room can help us reach them. If you have that idea, please speak up. I have a lot of confidence in you because you are here. I hope you develop the love of service that I have. Service doesn’t immune you from drinking, but it is an excellent addition to your recovery.

This is a pretty good group, I’m proud to be apart of it and grateful you trusted me enough to send me out there a couple of times. Thank you.

Andrew W, Panel 57

I like to stay active in my recovery. I am currently the Zoom Tzar of my homegroup. It is hybrid, and someone has to turn the computer so the people online can see who is speaking. It is a good job.

Kacy is going to her 2nd conference, and we are well represented in her. She is doing a great job. Our Region & our Area prepares the delegates well. But the unexpected always comes up, and the

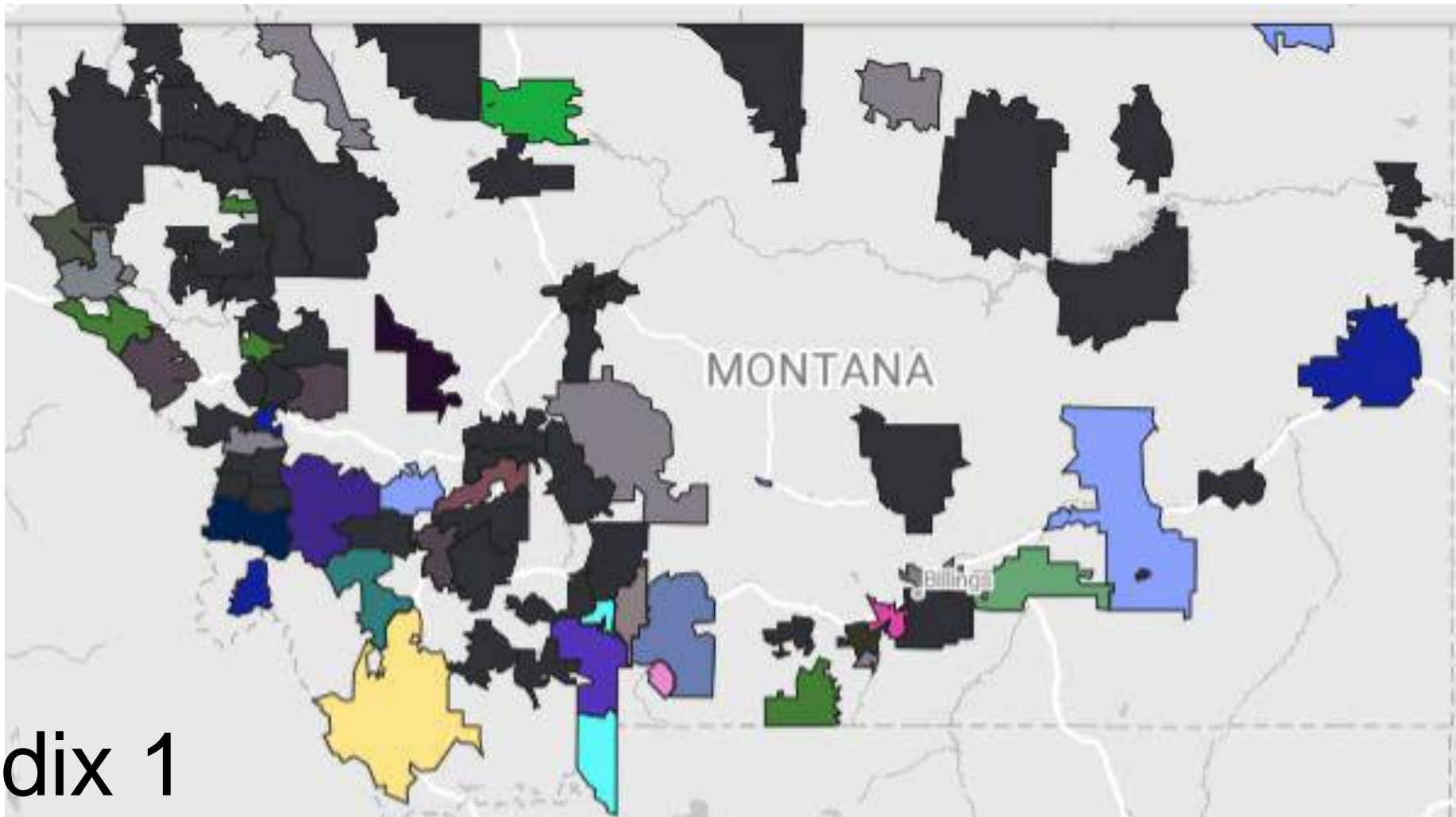
question is, “How do you deal with that?” Even with people you know, respect, and love, personalities get involved and stuff happens. In this case, the GSC Chair resigned and there wasn’t a whole lot of info. The fellowship said, “If you don’t want to give us info then we will provide it ourselves.”

Kacy called me, she didn’t know what to do. I told her to get more information. What happened was, the board was trying to be respectful, but it was being read as secrecy by the fellowship. If you leave an information void it will get filled. The first tradition comes to mind, and I have to ask: Are we moving toward unity? Kacy was a big part of the delegates asking for more information, and we as a fellowship were given it as a result.

This past March, I felt a pull to go to the Pacific Regional Assembly process (maybe because it was San Francisco as opposed to Minot). One reason was my first former sponsor was going to be there. I had the opportunity to disagree with 2 people with 50 plus years, and was respectful while doing it. I asked what they thought we should do moving forward, and I didn’t agree with their answers but I still talked to them.

There were other people who were still feeling some trust issues with the board. For me, the principle it goes back to is, “Love and tolerance is our code.” We do not add, “Until you do something that pisses me off.” We get upset at people, and we form sides. That is not the way to do it. I had to disagree with two people I love and respect, and was polite about it. I can see they think what they are doing is best for AA. Even as Delegates and Trustees we can make mistakes, personalities get involved, and we have to work on things. That is why we have the traditions. Personalities can overtake the principles so we need the traditions to pull us back in.

We are not perfect at practicing the traditions, but as long as we are willing to work toward them they keep us in check and guide us back to get on track.



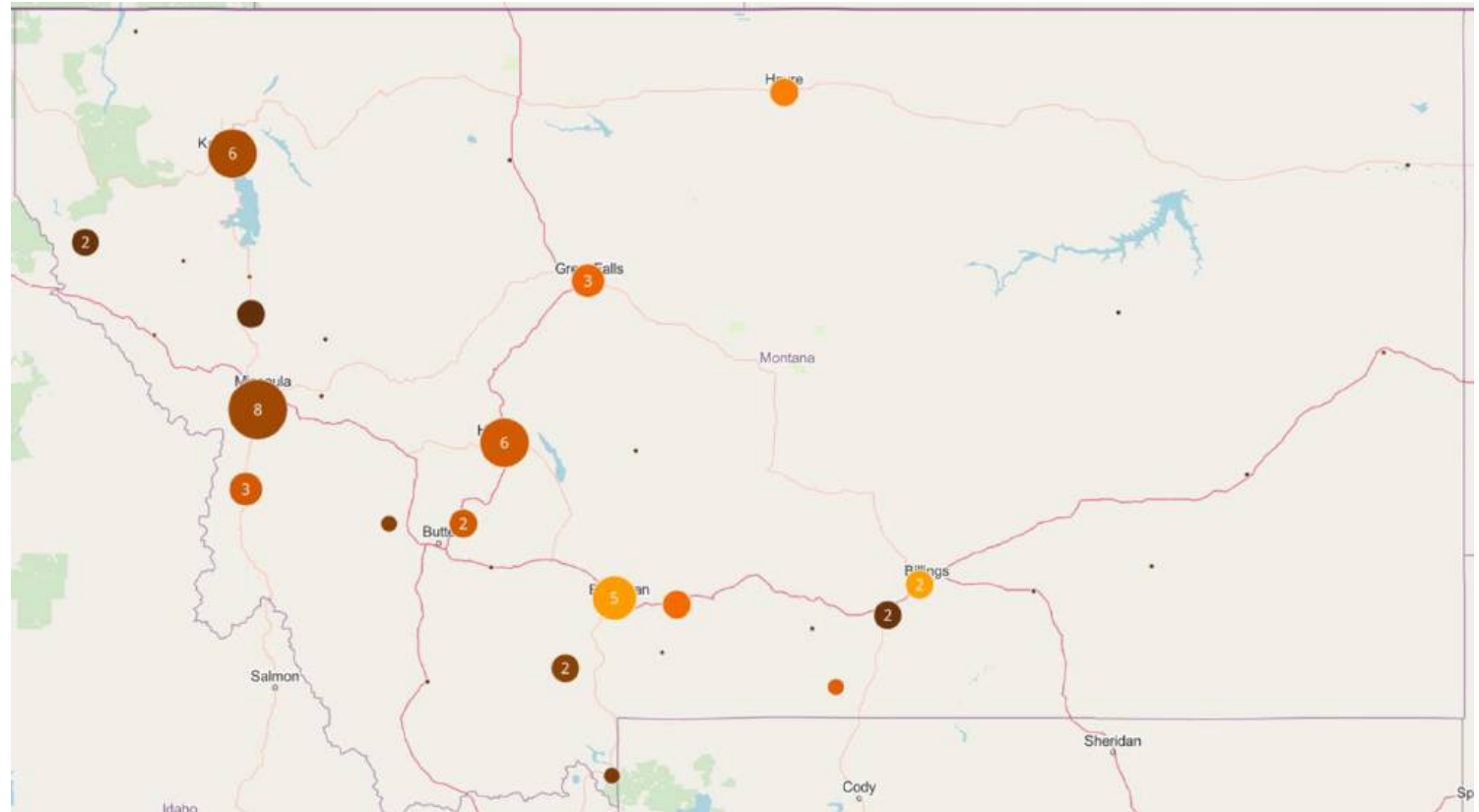
Appendix 1

AREA 40 Spring 2024

Financial Highlights

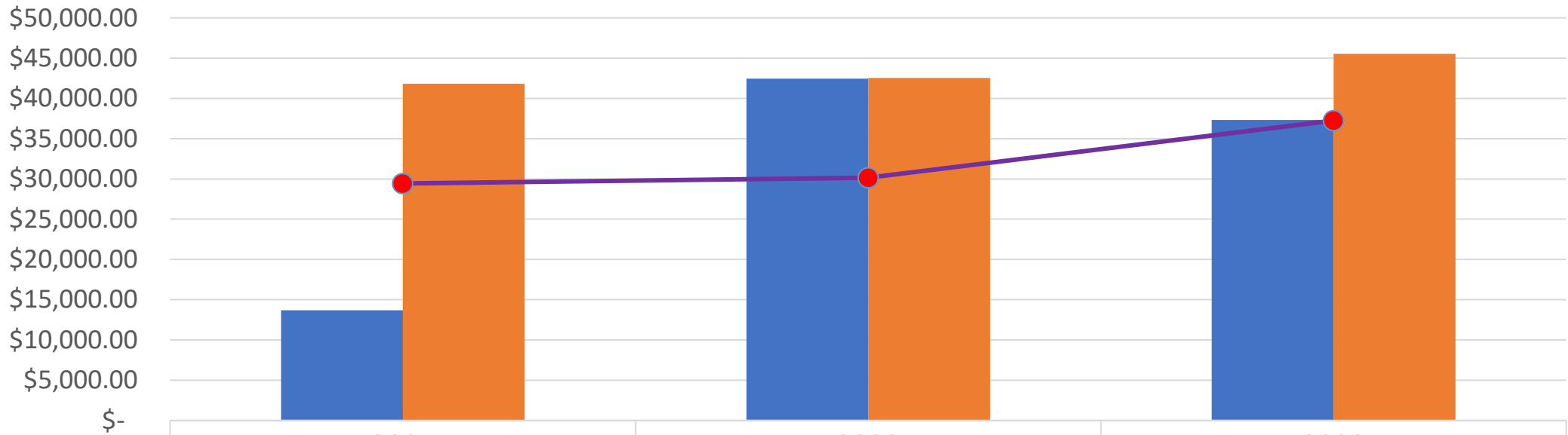
April 2024 Updates

- Accounts in good standing
- 2023 Expenses down
- Under budget
- Strengthening cash flow
- PO Box Remains the same



Income & Expense vs. Budget (FY 2023)

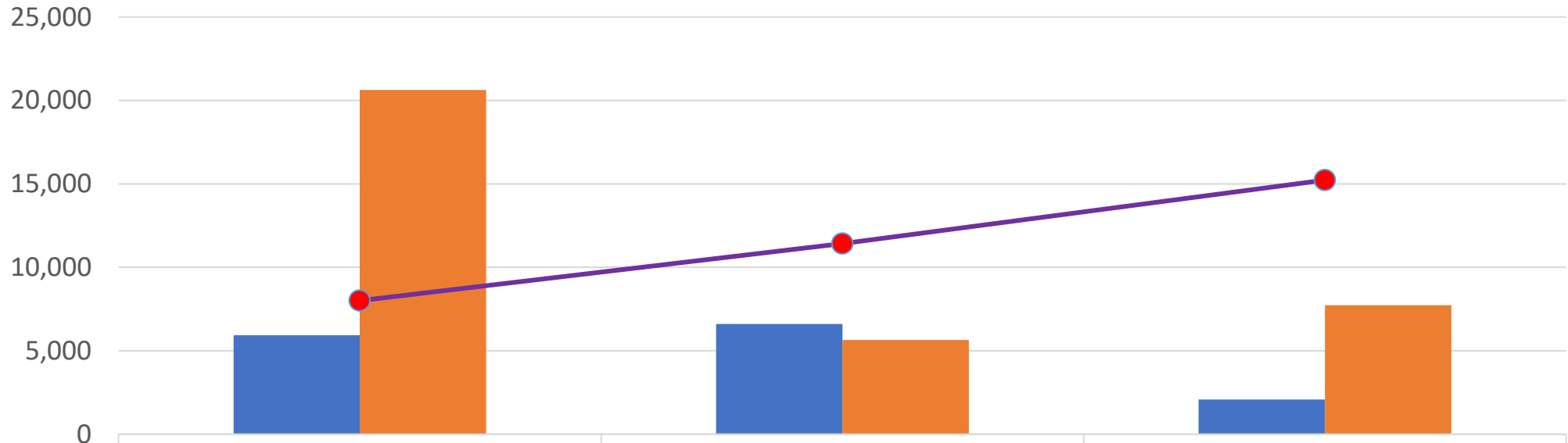
■ Expense ■ Budget ● Income



	2021	2022	2023
■ Expense	\$13,677.00	\$42,461.60	\$37,331.50
■ Budget	\$41,820.00	\$42,550.00	\$45,525.00
● Income	\$29,423.00	\$30,148.94	\$37,242.82

Income & Expense vs. Budget (2024 YTD)

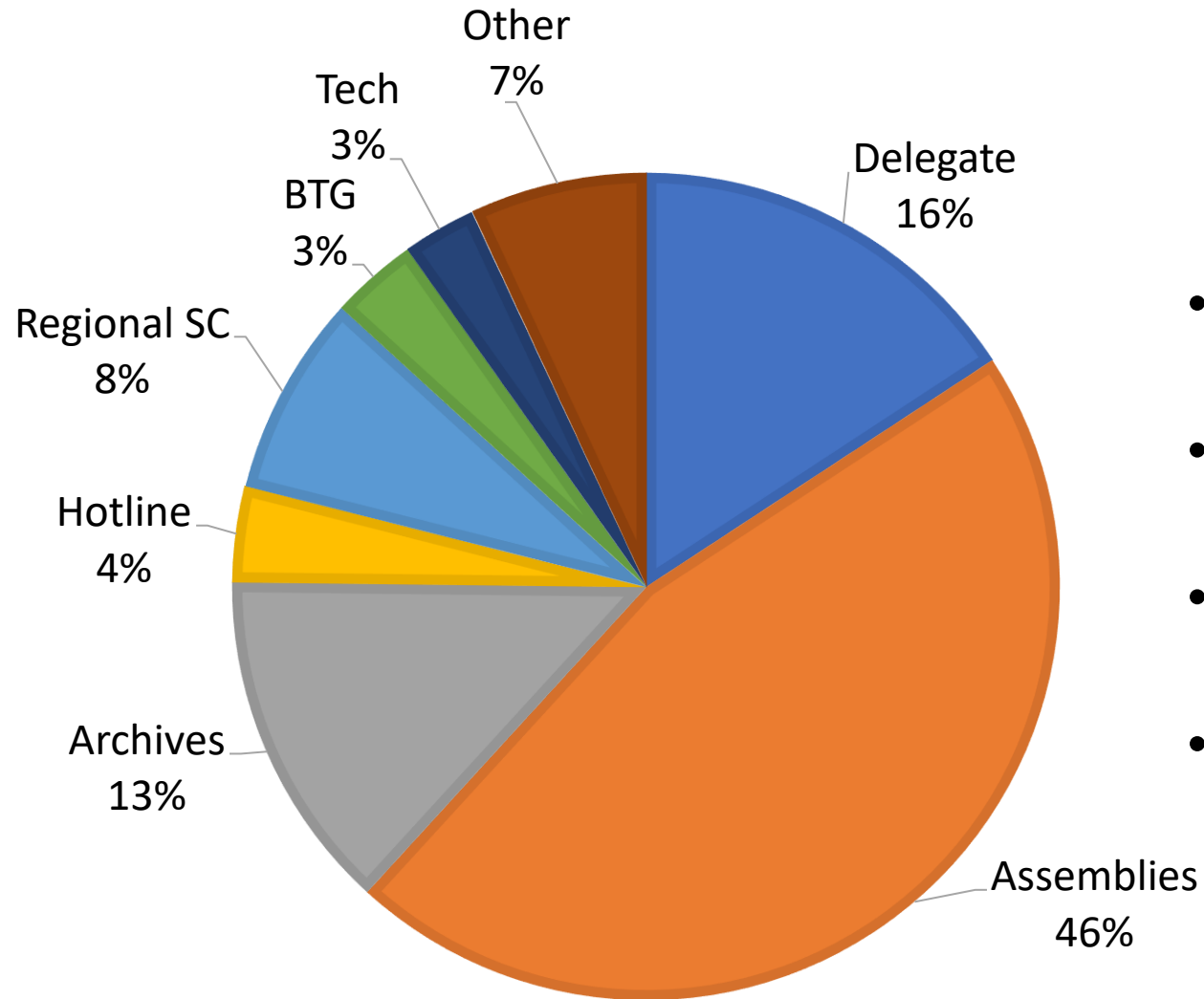
■ Expense ■ Budget ● Income



	2022	2023	2024
Expense	5,938	6,598.44	2,077.31
Budget	20,622	5,645	7,724
Income	8,007	11,421.46	15,227.48

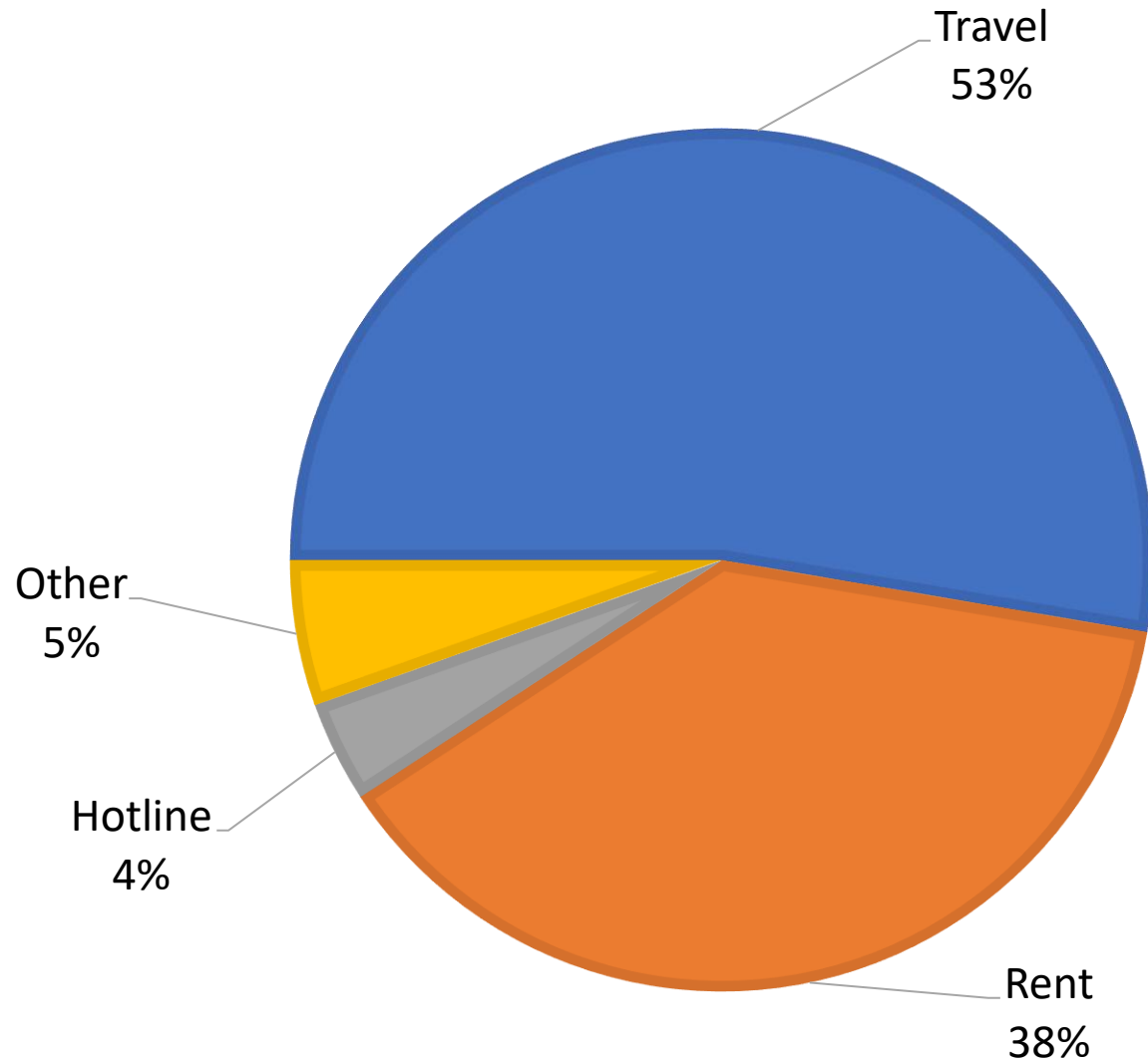
Current Bank Balance: \$43,314.03

2023 Expenses by Committee/Project



- **2023 Expenses: \$37,331.50**
- **2023 Income: \$37,242.82**
- **Net income: -\$88.68**
- **Ending Balance: \$31,164.51**

2023 Expenses by Line Item



- **2023 Expenses: \$37,331.50**
- **2023 Income: \$37,242.82**
- **Net Income: -\$88.68**
- **Ending Balance: \$31,164.51**

2023 Contributions

175

Group Contributions

180

Contributions

85

Distinct Groups

\$37,780.39

Contribution Total



2024 Contributions

71

Group Contributions

72

Contributions

41

Distinct Groups

\$15,227.48

Contribution Total



Area 40

P.O. Box 155

Bozeman, MT

59771-0155

HOW AREA 40 GROUPS SUPPORT SERVICES

Area 40 2024 budget = \$46,950

Registered groups in Area 40 ~ 279

$\$46,950 / 279 \text{ groups} = \$168 \text{ cost per group}$

41 groups (~14%) have contributed \$15,277.48 in 2024

Average of \$372.62 (\$306 in 2023) per Group

Area 40 2024 Budget is \$46,950 or \$168/Group

In 2023 30% of Groups supported an average of \$444.47 towards expenses

Respecting Money

By Bill

HERE IN THE STATES it is Thanksgiving time. The whole of AA takes its cue from this occasion and we rejoice world-wide in gratitude for the blessings that our fellowship has bestowed upon us. It is traditional, too, that this is the season for taking stock of our progress as a fellowship. We look at our society and ask "How are we doing?"

AA's Twelve Traditions are the measuring rods that we use. "How well are we sticking to the Twelve Traditions" is the prime question of each Thanksgiving week. Every year we see more clearly that adherence to our hard won traditional principles is the basis for our unity and the effective carrying of our message; that indifference, lack of understanding, or rebellion against these principles could result in widespread dissensions and maybe ruin. We keenly realize that the practice of the Twelve Traditions is quite

as vital to the life of AA as a whole as is the practice of the Twelve Steps to the life and sobriety of each member.

The Grapevine has asked me to write about the Traditions in this issue. Accordingly I've selected those which deal with the often misunderstood and sometimes unpopular topic of money—its use and its misuse. About this, our Traditions make two short and simple declarations. In Tradition Seven we read that *Every AA Group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.* Tradition Eight states, *Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.*

These few words pack immense meaning. They are the outcome of the huge controversies and struggles of our pioneering time when we knew that AA would have to come

up with a sound and workable money policy or else face endless ineffectiveness and possible collapse. If ever a matter was seriously, it was the question of money.

The money debates of the past veered crazily between two extreme poles of opinion. The conservatives said that AA as such should have no money at all. Meetings should be confined to homes, we should spread our message by word of mouth. There would be no publicity, no literature, no trustees, no committees, no intergroup relations, no trustees, no salaried workers; hence no army of bureaucrats and therefore no possibility of any government. By refusing to accept money, we'd stay completely out of business. Everything would be done spontaneously, each member following his own conscience. Cried the conservatives, "I won't be led into temptation. Let's keep it just that simple."

At the other extreme were the radicals, the promoters. They said we had to have vast sums. We would employ press agents; we'd produce great literature. We would build our own chains of hospitals; we would need to be regiments of salaried workers of every description; we'd employ paid missionaries to carry the message to distant cities and far corners of the world. As we got going there would be vast public rallies. As

world-famous men and women joined up with us, they would gladly stand on the roof-tops to



about eighty days! The idea was too impossible, no idea too grandiose for the promoters. And where

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.

Appendix 2

Plain Language Big Book- the Journey So Far

Some history...

- ▶ Discussion at the 66th General Service Conference in 2016 resulted in an additional committee consideration* that:

“the need for ‘plain-language’ recovery literature be explored by the Trustees’ Literature Committee as a way to make the life-saving message of Alcoholics Anonymous more accessible.”

*(*An item that was discussed by a Conference committee, but with no action taken or recommendation made to the Conference as a whole. Serves as a suggestion to the corresponding trustees’ committee.)*

- ▶ That exploration led to the creation of subcommittees for *Researching Issues, Possible Tools and Access to the Book*, known as RIPTAB-I and RIPTAB-II.

- ▶ In RIPTAB-I, they looked at established literacy levels to guide discussions of what language comprehension skills a reader - a prospective member - would need to comprehend the book, Alcoholics Anonymous.
- ▶ And they reviewed what other simplified “recovery” materials were being used by members to meet those needs.

- ▶ The subcommittee concluded that literacy concerns indeed reflected potential accessibility barriers and it learned how this can be related to factors such as education, ethnicity, English as first language, reading disabilities, brain injuries and incarceration.
- ▶ At the **70th General Service Conference in 2020**, the Conference Literature Committee requested the trustees make available the RIPTAB presentation. A video of that presentation was produced and distributed with a request for feedback.

- ▶ RIPTAB-II was tasked with continuing the work which involved gathering further information about issues related to fellowship requests regarding the language of the Big Book.
- ▶ A progress report was then forwarded to the **2021 Conference Literature Committee** focused on accessibility and relatability of the Big Book in terms of reaching a wider demographic of alcoholics.
- ▶ The idea of a new book was not meant to change or replace the Big Book, but rather **to overcome barriers so the AA message might reach more suffering alcoholics.**

- ▶ At the **71st General Service Conference** in April 2021, there was a Conference Advisory Action which recommended:
- ▶ *“that a draft version of the book, **Alcoholics Anonymous**, be translated into **plain and simple** language and be developed in a way that is **accessible and relatable** to as wide of an audience as possible and that a progress report or draft be brought back to the 2022 Conference Literature Committee.”*

A quick translation detour...

- Current translation practices
- No English/Plain Language dictionary
- U.S. - Plain Writing Act of 2010
- Government of Canada' [Directive on the Management of Communications](#)

Post 71st General Service Conference...

- ▶ In July 2021, at the meeting of the Trustees Literature Committee, a subcommittee was created to track the development of the Plain Language Big Book. Noting the Conference Committee's request that the book be "*developed in a way that is **accessible** and **relatable** to as wide of an audience as possible.*"

- ▶ The subcommittee adopted the name “TABB” (Tools to Access the Big Book) and worked with the AAWS Publishing Department to review potential writers for the project.
- ▶ A formal “**Request for Information**” was sent out to vendors.
- ▶ It was focused on writers with experience in the fields of health, spirituality, self-help, or education.

From the RFI...

- ▶ **Goals/Outcomes:**
- ▶ “We seek a full plain language translation of an abridged *Alcoholics Anonymous*. The final work product must be accessible to readers at a **fifth-grade reading level.**”
- ▶ “The translation as a whole **must capture the welcoming and inclusive spirit** of Alcoholics Anonymous and **inspire a sense of belonging and hope** in the alcoholic seeking help.”

The response...

- ▶ There were 16 affirmative responses.
- ▶ Of those, some were individuals, some were partnerships, some were firms. Some were AA members.
- ▶ The TABB subcommittee plus three members from AAWS Publishing (**all AA members**) - selected six vendors which were then hired to translate Chapter 5 and, if possible, a few select passages.
- ▶ The samples were independently read and ranked by TABB and the Publishing team members and a writer was chosen.

- ▶ While the selection of the writer was finalized in January 2022, further negotiations lead to the contract being signed in May 2022.
- ▶ The subcommittee recommended that providing anonymity to the writer was in everyone's best interest.
- ▶ The writer asked not to be given specific coaching on certain passages until the review process. They didn't want to be over-guided and as a result, get stifled.
- ▶ The subcommittee established a regular ongoing review process of the writer's work.

Heading towards the 72nd GSC...

- ▶ In a break with previous practice, and to obtain early feedback, the TABB subcommittee recommended sharing unedited samples from the writer's first attempt to translate the text with the Conference Literature Committee.
- ▶ The Trustees Literature Committee recommended that the samples be shared with all Conference members.

After the 72nd Conference...

- ▶ I joined the subcommittee in 2022. We met several times. Some of those meetings were joint meetings with Publishing and with the writer.
- ▶ As chapters came in, we reviewed and provided suggestions for changes, with an expectation of additional rounds of refinements to ensure the tone and tenor was faithful to the guidance and the Big Book.

Heading towards the 73rd GSC...

- ▶ Trustees Literature Committee recommended that all Conference members should have access to the completed Chapters 1 through 6.
- ▶ Given the fellowship's strong interest in this project, the subcommittee gave much consideration to how the need for maintaining confidentiality could be balanced with the need for unity and transparency.

The Reading Room...

- ▶ To ensure confidentiality in the process it was decided to create a controlled environment: a designated room; with no cellphones or recording devices allowed; and monitored by members of the Trustees Literature Committee.
- ▶ We worked with the Trustees Conference Committee to schedule hours for each Conference member during Conference week.
- ▶ Afterwards, a sharing session was held, and Conference members gave their impressions and suggestions on the first 6 chapters.

Post 73rd General Service Conference...

- ▶ Feedback from the Conference members provided to the writer and working to incorporate in the translation.
- ▶ The subcommittee has reviewed Chapter 11, Dr. Bob's Nightmare, and the Appendices and provided comments to the writer.
- ▶ Another reading room with the full draft is planned for the 74th General Service Conference in April 2024.

In closing...

- ▶ Comments from the Conference members:
 - ▶ I could read and understand this without a sponsor and heard the message of hope.
 - ▶ Was against it but I have evolved, struck by how beautiful and respectful it was. This is the most loving thing we have done for the still suffering alcoholics.
 - ▶ Lots of fear in my area, thank you for all the work to make this week possible, I think this tool will save lives please make it available in as many formats as possible as soon as possible.

Thank you

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the right side of the frame, creating a modern, layered effect against the white background.