

Area 40 Spring Assembly Minutes
Great Falls & Hybrid Assembly via Zoom
September 25- 27th, 2026

Contents

Assembly Welcome, Friday Evening- Lisa C	3
Service Committee Mixer – Jessica EW	3
Assembly Welcome, Saturday Morning- Lisa C.	5
Roll Call	7
Secretary Report, Secretary Report - Jessica S	8
Motions from Spring 2026 Assembly	9
Motions from This Assembly	9
Finance Agenda Item 1.....	9
Finance Agenda Item 2.....	9
Archives Motion out of committee	10
Motion to extend assembly by 20 minutes	10
Financial Highlights Lynne W.....	10
Chair Report Jessica E.W.	10
Delegates Report.....	12
Past Delegate Sharing.....	18
DCM Reports.....	21
District 11 Report	21
District 12 Report	22
District 21 Report - No Report	25
District 23 Report - No Report	25
District 31 Report - No Report	25
District 41 Report - No Report	25
District 42 Report	25
District 51 Report	25
District 61 Report	26
District 71 Report	27
District 72 Report	27
District 81 Report	28
District 91 Report	29
District 93 Report	30
Area 40 Panel 77 Elections	31

Standing Committee Reports	32
Treatment and Accessibilities/Agenda – Ty K.	32
Review assembly report of the Area 40 Bridging the Gap Chair.....	32
Public Information – Mark H.....	35
Review assembly report of the Area 40 Webmaster, Alex M.	35
Literature – Rebecca S.-Q.	37
Finance – Lynne W.	38
Hotline/Report and Charter – Lance W.	44
Archives/A40 Structure and Policy - Jody T	45
Review assembly report of the Area 40 Archivist, Rick H.	46
Cooperation with the Professional Community/Trustees - Karon K.....	47
Corrections – Daniel S.	52
Grapevine and La Vina/Policy and Admissions – Hugh M.....	53
GSR Breakout	54
DCM Breakout	54
Roundup Reports.....	57
Spring 2026- Roundup – District 91	57
Fall 2026 Roundup – District 81 – No Report Provided	57
Spring 2027 Roundup – District 72	57
Fall 2027 Roundup – District 11.....	59
Intergroup Reports.....	59
South Central Montana Intergroup Report.....	60
Flathead Valley Intergroup Report.....	60
YPAA Reports	62
MYPAA Report.....	62
BYPAA Report	62
Appendix 1	63
Financial Highlights Lynne W.	63
Appendix 2	64
DCM and Committee Pre Assembly Meeting	64

Friday, September 25, 2026

Assembly Welcome, Friday Evening- Lisa C

Good evening, everyone, my name is Lisa, and I'm an alcoholic. I am honored and privileged to be serving as your Panel 75 Delegate. Let's get started with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

As some of you know, we begin our Assembly weekends by reading something written in 1954 by the then chairperson of our Board of Trustees, Bernard B. Smith, called Why We Need a Conference. I've asked _____ to come and read that for us.

I'd like to extend the warmest of welcomes to all of you, online and in-person, and thank you for choosing to spend your weekend participating in Area 40s fall assembly. Let's start getting to know each other with a few questions. Please raise your hand if:

- This is the first Area Assembly you've ever attended
- You're a GSR or Alt GSR (explain acronym)
- You're a DCM or an Alt DCM (explain acronym)
- You're a District Committee Chair
- Raise your hand if you're a guest/visitor just here to check out what all this craziness is about
- How many of you are serving in your first service position ever?
- How many of you are considering standing for an Area position in our elections tomorrow?

How about a sense of sobriety... How many of you have been sober:

- longer than 30 years
- 20-29 years
- 10-19 years
- 5-9 years
- 1-5
- Less than one year?

Thank you all for being here and an extra special thank you to those of you in your first five years. As the future leaders of Area 40, it's great to you getting involved relatively early in your sobriety.

As you can see from the raised hands, we have quite a cross-section here of sobriety and service experience. One of the reasons for this session tonight is to help us all get to know each other a little better and to share some experience about some of what will happen later this weekend.

But before we do that, we're going to hear from two of our past delegates. As some of you know, Area 40 asks two past delegates to attend assembly in that capacity and to help throughout the weekend with workshops, ask-it-basket sessions, and other duties. This assembly, we've asked Earl F, Panel 53 Delegate, and Paul L, Panel 69 Delegate, to help us out. And their first official duty of the weekend is kick things off by to sharing some experience, strength, and hope with us about their time in service. SO with that, I'll welcome Earl F to the stage.

Service Committee Mixer – Jessica EW

Question 1 (Leader: Table Moderator / Discussion Leader)

"Going around the table, please share your name, the district or town you're from, and how would you describe your service journey or introduction to service and/or spiritual growth in only four words!?"

Question 2 (Leader: Committee chair or trusted servant)

"How do we currently document and preserve passed motions, policies, and established practices at the group, district, and area levels—and what are ways we can effectively do this?"

Table Prompts by Role / Committee:

- **Secretaries / Record Keepers:** How are motion logs, meeting minutes, and financial/administrative logs organized and handed off?
- **Committees (Corrections, Treatment, CPC, etc.):** How are local facility clearance rules, committee guidelines, contact lists, and past event details kept intact when chairs rotate?
- **Group Members & GSRs:** How does the group track historical group conscience decisions so past agreements aren't forgotten or re-debated?

Question 3 (Leader: DCM or experienced past service officer)

"How do we approach succession planning and prepare members for new service positions—and what resources, tools, and mentorship help them understand their responsibilities and grow into leadership?"

Table Prompts by Role / Committee:

- **GSRs & Group Members:** What steps help groups actively encourage members to step into service positions, utilize "Alternate" roles for hands-on training, and plan for future rotations?
- **District Committee Members & Officers:** What tools, qualification guidelines, and GSO resources do you use to help members evaluate readiness and orient new chairs?
- **Secretaries, Treasurers & Committees:** How do outgoing servants orient incoming members through technical tasks, information, or guidelines?

Question 4 -6 on the back!!

Question 4 (Leader: District representative for the committee)

"At the group, district, and area levels, are financial tools kept—such as budgets, monthly reports, and financial meeting minutes—and if so, where are they found? How is service work supported financially in your area of service, and what roles do members play in sustaining these services when requested?"

Table Prompts by Role / Committee:

- **Treasurers & Financial Officers:** Do your groups or districts maintain formal written budgets and monthly reports, or is it handled more informally? If records exist, how easily can a member access them?
- **Committees (Corrections, Treatment, Literature, etc.):** How do committees request funds when a formal budget exists versus when one doesn't? How are members mobilized when new financial needs arise?

- **Group Leaders, GSRs & DCMs:** What happens when a group or district lacks clear financial tools or tracking? How do Seventh Tradition contributions—or lack thereof—impact the services members can provide?

Question 5 (Leader: Newest attendee/member)

"Keeping in mind that groups are the ultimate authority and we exist to serve them, what are the keys to success in our trusted servant roles, and how do we support one another by asking for help when challenges arise?"

Table Prompts by Role / Committee:

- **Group Leaders & GSRs:** How does remembering that "we exist to serve the groups" guide your daily service decisions and interactions with members?
- **Committees & Officers:** What have you found to be a key to success when managing service responsibilities, and how do you handle moments when you need to reach out and ask for help?
- **All Participants:** How can we foster an environment where trusted servants feel fully supported rather than isolated in their commitments?

Saturday, September 27, 2026

Assembly Welcome, Saturday Morning- Lisa C.

Good morning, everyone! My name is Lisa and I'm an alcoholic. I have the privilege of serving as your Area 40 Panel 75 Delegate. Thank you all so much for being here today.

Would all of you attending Assembly for the first time, please stand and stay standing for a moment? 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, they too went to their very first assembly, most likely with a lot of the same feelings and questions you'll have over the course of the weekend. Talk to them. They'll be happy to help you understand anything that seems confusing to you about the ways we conduct business. 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 being here this weekend, for your leadership in your districts, and for all you do to carry information up and down the service triangle. After our secretary, Jess, does roll call, we'll ask DCMs to complete the sign-in sheet for their districts. Voting members attending virtually should let our webmaster Alex know that you're here as a voting member. Only GSRs and DCMs are voting members in our elections and on the assembly floor. Alternate GSRs have a vote only if their GSR is not present virtually or in person. Alternate DCMs have a vote only if their DCM is not present virtually or in person. If you're not sure whether you're a voting member, ask your DCM or, if attending online, ask Alex. The voting rules during the committee meetings that will happen at 10 am today are a little different, and they'll be explained by the committee chairs at the start of those meetings. DCMs, please be sure to give your sign-in sheets to Jess by 10 am.

The sign-in sheets will be used to calculate the number of voting members here this weekend. You may hear us mention a quorum, which is two-thirds of all of the voting members. We need a quorum present to conduct assembly business, so please be present for all sessions today and tomorrow if you can. Most of the votes we take require “substantial unanimity” to pass, which means two-thirds of the counted votes.

Will all Past Delegates stand, please? Thank you for your past and present service to Area 40 and for your leadership by example. Will all current or past Trustees please stand? Thank you for being here this weekend, Andrew! Andrew has stepped in to serve as Area Advisor, because our most recent past Delegate, Kacie, has been called up to the big leagues and is working at the GSO in New York. As Area Advisor, Andrew will conduct the elections scheduled for later today. I’ll be taking copious notes on how he does that in the hope of being able to perform the task two years from now without any major kerfuffles.

Our responsibility this weekend is to establish and express an informed group conscience regarding the items on our agenda and to elect the panel of trusted servants who will lead Area 40 during the next rotation. Jessica, our Area Chair and Alternate Delegate, will be facilitating the assembly according to a loose interpretation of Robert’s Rule of Order, which she will explain as she goes, and as to which she has the final say. She has prepared this weekend’s agenda and decided the order in which we will conduct our business.

Soon we’ll be hearing reports from our Area Officers and DCMs. At 9:15, Andrew will go over some information about the elections and will facilitate nominations for our next Delegate. At 9:45, we’ll take a short break, and at 10 we’ll begin Standing Committee meetings in their respective breakout rooms. Anyone can attend the committee meetings, but only actual committee members can vote, meaning the Committee Chair, appointed DCMs, and appointed District Reps. If you choose not to attend a committee meeting, our Past Delegates Paul L and Earl F will be conducting workshops here in this main room. From noon until 1:30, we’ll break for lunch.

This afternoon, we’ll have our elections, beginning with the election of the Area Officers – Delegate, Area Chair/Alternate Delegate, Treasurer, and Secretary – by the Third Legacy Procedure outlined on pages 114-115 of the AA Service Manual. Then we’ll elect our eight Area Committee chairs by a show-of-hands, simple majority vote.

After the elections, we’ll hear reports from the current Area Committee chairs, including any recommendations the committee has decided to make. Committee recommendations come to the floor as made and seconded motions, to be discussed and voted on by the assembly. If you wish to speak on a recommendation or to ask a question of a committee chair, please line up behind one of the mics here on the floor or, if online, raise your virtual hand. You’ll have three minutes to express your opinion or ask your question. Once your three minutes have been reached, Jess will let you know by the clang of the cowbell. Our Area Chair is responsible for keeping us on track and on schedule, so she may need to stop discussion at some points this weekend and move us to the next item.

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 for Fellowship in the Trigg room next door starting at 9:30.

In closing, I'd like to encourage all 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 AA's message is available and accessible if and when those folks are ready to hear it. "When ANYONE, ANYWHERE reaches out for help, we want the hand of AA to always be there, and for that we are responsible."

Roll Call

ROLL CALL (Vote Count)				
Name	Service Position	Present		
Lisa C.	Area 40 Delegate	X		
Jessica E. W.	Area 40 Chair/Alt. Delegate	X		
Lynne W.	Treasurer	X		
Jess S.	Secretary	X		
Jody T	Archives Chair	X		
Karon K.	CPC Chair	X		
Daniel S.	Corrections Chair	X		
Hugh M.	Grapevine Chair	X		
Lance W.	Hotline Chair	X		
Rebecca S-W.	Literature Chair			
Mark H.	Public Information (PI) Chair	X		
Ty K.	Treatment Chair	X		
Andrew W.	Area Advisor	X		
Rick H.	Archivist	X		
Sean R.	Bridging the Gap	x		
Mike D.	Co-Technology	x		

Jack W.	Co-Technology	x	15 for the area	
Alex M.	Webmaster	x	Voting Members	Non-Voting Members
Pat P.	D 11 DCM	x	11	12
Greg T.	D 12 DCM	x	3	
	D 21 DCM			
Steve S.	D 23 DCM			
Dave. (online)	D 31 DCM	x	1	2
Grant M.	D 41 DCM	x	6	3
Theresa L.	D 42 DCM	x	4	1
Gene A.	D 51 DCM	x	3	
Nathan S.	D 61 DCM	x	7	2
Brandi W	D 71 DCM	x	4	1
Lenore M.	D 72 DCM	x	11	7
Carly B.	D 81 DCM	x	7	3
Eli S.	D 91 DCM	x	9	8
Libba C.	D 93 DCM	x	6	
	Totals:		86	39
	Online Voting Members		16	
	Voting Members Present		103	
	Quorum (2/3)		69	

Secretary Report, Secretary Report - Jessica S

It is so good to be with you all. This time last week, I was standing in the Winchester Cathedral Cemetery at the tombstone of Thomas Thatcher, the Hampshire Grenadier who caught his death drinking cold small beer. I was filled with gratitude reflecting on the impact that tombstone had on Bill in 1918 and what happened when he got sober 17 years later.

Holy Cow! We get to be a part of this incredible thing. We get to make sure AA is here for the person who is suffering. It really is an indescribable privilege. Alcoholics Anonymous changed my life and continues to change my life.

Getting to serve as your secretary these last two years has been a gift. Sometimes a gift that really stretched me and tested my patience and principles, but a gift, nonetheless. If you are thinking about

standing for a position, DO IT! This is an incredible thing to be a part of, and it will transform you if you let it.

Personally, this year has been the hardest year I have gone through in sobriety, but this program continues to work, and our three legacies of Unity, Service, and Recovery really help, too. They have been instrumental in me not setting my life—or anyone else's life—on fire. You also get to love and be loved by so many incredible people who love Alcoholics Anonymous.

Since we last met, I have continued to work with DCMs to clean up Area 40's information on Fellowship Connection and worked with our Area Chair in planning our committee meetings. I have also been working on preparing this position to be handed off to our next Secretary.

Those of you that will be giving reports at the mic, Please be sure to email me report before the end of the weekend. DCM's please make sure to get me your group attendance lists before the morning break.

I want to thank the incredible women up here next to me. Lisa, Jessica and Lynne such incredible expels of love and service. Thank you to our Tech Team for their commitment to making sure we all get to participate in our Assembly. I want to thank our committee chairs and DCMs for putting up with my very frequent reminders and nudges. And most importantly, I want to thank the GSRs who show up, represent their groups, and make sure the groups in our Area have a voice—that those voices are represented and recorded in our minutes and carried through our Delegate.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your secretary.

Thank you!

Jess

Motions from Spring 2026 Assembly

Motion to extend 30 minutes.

Voting members: 76 Votes needed: 49

Vote - In Favor: 42 Opposed: 3 Abstain: 4

Motions from This Assembly

Finance Agenda Item 1

Consider adopting a policy addressing whether Area 40 will reimburse an Ara Committee member who mistakenly incurs an expense while making arrangements for something they are expected or required to do as part of their job.

Voting members: 102 Votes needed: 68

Vote - In Favor: 34 Opposed: 33 Abstain: 2

Finance Agenda Item 2

The Finance Committee recommends the we adopt the proposed budget of \$68,660 for 2027.

Voting members: 102 Votes needed: 68

Vote - In Favor: 77 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 1

Archives Motion out of committee

Consider creating an ad Hoc Committee to review the Area 40 Roundup structure.

Voting members: 102 Votes needed: 68

Vote - In Favor: 69 Opposed: 2 Abstain: 2

Motion to extend assembly by 20 minutes

Voting members: 102 Votes needed: 68

Vote - In Favor: 61 Opposed: 3 Abstain: 1

Financial Highlights Lynne W.

[Appendix 1](#)

Chair Report Jessica E.W.

Good morning, Area 40.

I hope you're having a great start to your weekend. I have had the gift of being able to serve as your Panel 75, Area 40, Alternate Delegate, Area Chair. Since our last assembly, I had the privilege of traveling with our Area 40 Delegate, Lisa, to NY during the week of the General Service Conference as her guest. What an incredible opportunity to meet other alternate Delegates, current standing Delegates, General Service Office staff, trustees, visiting members, and spouses or non-members supporting their spouses. It was an incredible opportunity to see members from diverse areas and groups—rural and urban, all across the United States and Canada—come together with one primary purpose: to work together to ensure we can continue to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous and how to serve AA. I got to meet with our Area 40 Delegates, with whom I get the opportunity to sit in monthly virtual Delegates meetings, but it was so special to be with them in person as they were serving in Conference.

During that week, I had the opportunity to speak at an early morning meeting where our Delegate served as treasurer. I visited our past delegate, Kacie N., who is currently serving on the Corrections desk, seeing her office and space and how she continues to serve AA through communications and supporting corrections committees across the US and Canada. Because it was the first time the General Service Office opened since the retrofit, I attended the first tour to see the incredible space, toured the Grapevine area where the work is done to keep the publication true to its original mission, and sat in the first meeting held in the GSO since the retrofit alongside people from across our conference body from N America and Canada.

I also visited Stepping Stones to see historical pieces beloved by our fellowship and Al-Anon, touring the space with standing Delegates, and Kacie N, and Lisa C. After returning home in May, I had the opportunity to visit Akron a couple of weeks later in June. It was incredible to visit Akron and attend a meeting of the first group held there alongside our District 42 DCM, Theresa. Visiting Dr. Bob's grave, his house, and the preserved memorabilia made it an incredible experience to be in both historic birthplaces of AA within a single month.

Also in June, I presented with the other seven West Central Region Alternate Delegates at the North American Alternate Delegates meeting. We presented on “Alternate Delegates as Leaders: Practicing Tolerance, Responsibility, Flexibility and Vision”. It has been so much fun to hear about how the other 92 Areas participate, and this was a special opportunity for our West Central Region to get to do this in my second year.

I visited District 41 in Great Falls. Thank you for welcoming me, allowing me to participate in service presentations, and to hear our Delegate's report. Being outside by the river with so many people I've served with, I so often feel God's presence in those places.

On June 18th, I hosted an online Area 40 Delegate's report so our Delegate could provide a virtual presentation to those unable to attend in person. Our vision for Area 40 has always been to maintain broad communication and open channels to hear the groups' voices, ensuring we share information to maximize participation in whatever new area of service your groups engage in.

I also traveled to District 81 for their July district meeting. Thank you, District 81, for the delicious food, the warm hugs, and the opportunity to witness service in action in your district.

Following that, from the last week of July into early August, I visited District 93 for the Lake Como campout. I was invited to share my story and attend another Delegate's report. Thank you to District 93 for all your support during my visit.

Before starting a five-district tour in Eastern Montana, we created flyers and information about the Area Assembly to hand out directly or share so groups could attend virtually or by phone. The following weekend after Lake Como, I attended the Fireman's Point Campout in District 12 in Columbus. Thank you for hosting us; it was incredible to see past DCMs Bob and Dave, hang out with our current DCM, experience the district's love and support, eat a lot of Spam, listen to great speakers, and take in another Delegate's report.

From there, I went to Billings on Sunday to attend District 11's Delegate's report. Thank you, Pat, for housing my car so I could “get in the car” with Lisa. I then spent the next week traveling through three additional districts, making five districts visited that week. We drove up to District 31. During that time, we visited Colstrip's home group, a group in Miles City, and a meeting in Jordan where a friend ensured the door was open, coffee was brewing, and signs were hung. Three of us came together to speak the language of the heart in an incredibly special meeting. We then went to District 21 for a meeting in Glasgow and traveled to the Spotted Bull treatment center in Poplar. Although the meeting time was off, we connected with a past DCM and members of that group, connected them with our area secretary, and got them connected with who to connect with the website and Meeting Guide app for accuracy. From there, we invited some new found friends to the Lower Yellowstone Fest in Sidney which was next on our agenda.

Afterward, we spent the weekend at the District 23 campout. The past DCM from District 21 came down and brought a newer person in recovery!!!! Both Lisa and I connected with her all day. Experiencing a higher power nudge, telling me to hand over my Big Book— and I momentarily questioned, “My Big Book, for real?”—I gave it to her with a note, reminding her that even in rural areas where we may be few and far between, she is never alone and many are willing to support her journey.

Returning home from that trip led directly into preparations for this Fall Assembly. Because our area secretary and I couldn't find a common time for our whole committee, our area committee held two

separate virtual committee meetings on August 24th and 29th to share updates and discuss last night's mixer.

As we enter this weekend and especially as your groups, districts, and here at area we elect trusted servants, I hope we continue sending love and encouragement. Congratulations to the incoming trusted servants and DCMs.

My closing thought is this: whether you intend to stand and give your time, space, and heart to be a worker among workers, carrying the message to ensure history, service structures, information, and service pieces are available to the still-suffering alcoholic—whether in your home group, your district, or wherever your higher power calls you to serve—let us keep our focus on our primary purpose. Let us love one another, be kind, encourage each other, and walk hand in hand as we care for this beautiful fellowship we've been entrusted with.

Grateful,

Jessica E. W., Panel 75, Alternate Delegate, Area Chair for my beloved Area 40, Montana.

Delegates Report

My name is Lisa, I'm an alcoholic, serving as your Panel 75 Delegate. Those of you who were here at Spring Assembly had a chance to meet and hear from Charlie Hanna, the Trustee on the General Service Board from our region, the West Central. Charlie was quoting someone who had inspired him earlier in his sobriety who apparently likened his own service journey to a turtle on a fencepost – “you don't know how he got there, but you know he had A LOT of help!” That image has been with me ever since, because I'm that turtle. And in this, my last report to Area 40 as your Delegate, I want to take a minute to thank some of the people who helped me climb onto the fencepost...

Thank you to the people who persuaded/forced me *for years* to go to the microphone at assemblies, preassemblies, regional service conferences, and forums. What Valerie mentioned, what I told her years ago about the adrenaline response is true – your body can only sustain it for a few minutes. If you stay calm and keep talking, it *will* subside. I learned this because of the persuasion/forcing I mentioned, and I'm glad to know it, although I did not love the experiences that taught it to me.

Thank you to the people who told me over the years that something I said at those microphones (breathing rapidly and visibly trembling) was a good idea or something they agreed with. That encouragement helped me find my voice.

Thank you to the GSR at my first Regional Service Conference, who helped me out when I arrived as a new DCM having not only not reviewed but having never heard of the background material.

Thank you to the then Delegate who gave me my first lesson on the concepts after I shared what I thought was a terrible dilemma – my district was opposed to something, but new information I learned at Area made me believe that view was wrong. He said, “Oh that's what the right of decision's for,” like “easy peasy, problem solved!” At my blank look – *the what now?* – he elaborated: “The Third Concept, the Right of Decision.” More blank look. So then he very patiently told me that there are Twelve Concepts and they're pretty useful and might be worth a read.

Thank you to another past delegate who explained to me what a PAI – proposed agenda item – is, where to find the form, and how to fill it out, and who encouraged me to bring an idea to my home group.

Thank you to the trustee I heard speak at my first Regional Forum who talked about how her service in AA saved her after she lost her son. She helped me realize what a lifeline AA service had become for me, during a year when two of my three children became seriously ill. The specter of losing them was with me constantly during the first two years of my involvement with Area 40. I didn't have to look too far to find other people who survived or were surviving a burden like mine or a worse one, yet they were showing up and trying to be useful in AA. I've said before – and I truly believe this – I would not have stayed sober through 2018 and 2019 had District 72 not somewhat improbably elected me as DCM one month before first one child, then the other became ill. Service was my tether to AA. It kept me from running away or drifting at a time when misery made me want very much to do both. So thank you, District 72, for giving me that opportunity to serve as your DCM, and thank you Area 40, for the incredible opportunities I've had since.

Thank you to all of Area 40's past delegates, for your patience, guidance, warmth, and humanity. The story Paul told us Friday night about realizing his zipper was down at the precise moment a past delegate was putting Bob's jacket on him... that's what I mean by humanity. If you were here in the spring, you may remember that I arrived to do the Assembly Orientation on Saturday morning... a little flustered. I slept through my alarm, woke 15 minutes before I had to begin talking on stage, lost my computer, found it, and then discovered it had like 6% battery left. I couldn't possibly have concealed my frazzled state from all of you, and the beauty is I didn't have to, because this is AA. I told the truth about the morning I was having. We all laughed about it, and my pulse gradually returned to normal. And – this is my favorite part – at the end of the weekend, someone in the audience came up and thanked me. She said, "Thanks for giving all of us permission to be human." I shared that story at the General Service Conference after another moment when someone was visibly struggling, as we all do from time to time. There is no level of service in which we stop being human... and no level where we stop needing the grace we give each other and the laughter we share in the moments when that happens.

There's a quote I've been thinking about this week from a song about addiction... at least that's what I think the song is about. It's called "Wake Up" by Arcade Fire, and the first line is "Something filled up my heart with nothing." That's how I felt as I changed from the person I really am into the vodka zombie I became on my way to my bottom. Whatever had once been in my heart, whatever I loved – family, friends, work, art, travel – it all went away, because something filled up my heart with nothing. The steps and traditions made it possible for my heart to keep beating, but it's service that has really filled up my heart with something. The truth for me is that even sober – even with family, friends, work, art, travel, hobbies, etc. – sometimes I just can't feel the joy, gratitude, connection that those things should bring. Why? I have no idea. But service – service *always* brings me joy, gratitude, and connection. Why? I have no idea. Service, as my millennial kids would say, was "not on my bingo card" as the thing that would finally, repeatedly, and very reliably fill up my heart with something. But it does. And I know I'm not alone in that, because here we all are.

On the last day of the General Service Conference this year in New York, the chair of the General Service Board, Scott H., told us, "Never forget that the work you did here this week will save the lives of people who will never know your names." That is true, and it's one of the most beautiful things anyone has ever said to me. But it's not only true of that room in New York. When I was a vodka zombie,

wasting every day of my thirties living a life I hated but couldn't escape, there were people meeting in rooms in Bozeman, in Lewistown, all over Area 40, who were making ready for me. I still lived in Chicago while most of that was happening – Montana was my last geographic, and the only one that actually kind of worked out. But while I was in Chicago, unbeknownst to me, people were meeting in Area 40 making a place for me to land. When I was ready to go to my first meeting, my sister helped me find the Area 40 website, and that helped me find my first meeting – the Friday night newcomer meeting in Bozeman. When I got there, I found a room full of people. They gave me a copy of Living Sober and a printed schedule of all the meetings in District 72 on which the women wrote their names and phone numbers. All of that was possible thanks to the work of people whose names I'll never know.

This is a picture of my niece. She's 19 years old. She celebrated five years sober on Thursday, the



day before our assembly started. I got to serve at Conference with the Delegate from her area on the West Coast, one of many people who was in the rooms years ago working with others and preparing a place for my niece to land. That Delegate doesn't know my niece's name, and my niece doesn't know hers. That's how this works, and it's so beautiful.

During her Area Chair report yesterday, our Delegate Elect Jessica mentioned one stop on a road trip she and I got to take in August. In Jordan, Montana, population 356, we found one other person. The three of us proceeded to have one of the best AA meetings I've ever attended. The woman we met is often, but not always, alone at the meeting. Sometimes one other person, sometimes two show up. She said everyone in town knows that she's the one to call when someone needs help with their drinking. She gets the calls and does what she can to help and keeps the door open and the lights on in Jordan in case anyone else who lives there or is passing through needs to find AA. This is what the Soda Group meeting in Jordan looks like...



Here's another picture from Glasgow, MT, where Jessica and I got to read the Big Book with a group of people who work together to ensure that there's a meeting seven days a week in Glasgow, population 3,131.

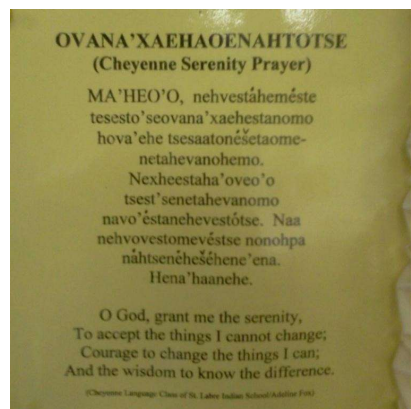


Jessica and I were in Miles City on August 10, which happened to be my birthday. This is my birthday dinner from Miles City's Black Iron Grill!



It was every bit as good as it looks (unless you're vegan or vegetarian, in which case I apologize). Someone said yesterday that she had the best birthday of her life recently visiting the Area 40 archives with sober friends. That might sound incomprehensible to normies and even to some

people who are in AA, but I get it. I spent my 51st birthday in Miles City, with my dear friend Jessica. We went to a wonderful meeting in Colstrip, MT, driving there during the golden hour just before sunset. We were greeted there by friends. One of them, upon hearing it was my birthday, sang me happy birthday in the parking lot, and she has a beautiful voice, so it was a proper serenade. When she finished, I said something like, “Damn! You can SING!” Casually, she said, “Yeah, sometimes I sing Etta James at Karaoke.” So now karaoke with my friend from D31 is on my bucket list. She knows who she is. That same friend later sent me the serenity prayer in Cheyenne...



Fifty-one is not a birthday I would have reached without AA. Because of this fellowship, I got to open my eyes that morning, have cake for breakfast, talk to my family, hang out with my friends, roadtrip across a new and beautiful part of Montana, and get serenaded in the parking lot outside a meeting. It was a beautiful day.

I gave my Delegate's Report twelve times this summer all over the state in meeting rooms, at campouts, and around the picnic table. Thank you to everyone who invited me, everyone who did the planning, and everyone who attended. Everywhere I went, I found a warm welcome, delicious food, and good discussions. There were times, as there always are, when I had to present a decision from this year's conference that someone disagreed with, decisions that caused some hurt or fear to someone hearing about it from me for the first time. What I love so much about Area 40 is that the expressions of those feelings were virtually always preceded by “thank you for your service” and followed by a hug. At a time when it's harder than ever to disagree with one another civilly and respectfully, I'm grateful to report that it's still widely practiced and very much the norm within our Area 40 fellowship.

Our friend Kacie N. always used to say – and I'm sure she still does say – “Area 40 is the best area.” That's the truth. In July, I was working with West Central folks to decide the location of the 2028 Regional Service Conference. I showed them the two bids we received from Helena and Billings. One of them, who had served as the admin for the region for several years, turned to her new counterpart and said, “This is why Area 40 is the best. These are the two best site proposals I've ever seen, and 40 came up with both of them in the same year!” That's one of many, many moments of pride I've gotten to feel while representing you all. Incidentally, the site proposal that was selected is Helena, so that's where the West Central Region will meet for its service conference in the Spring of 2028 – first time a regional conference will take place in Helena! I can't wait to see you all there.

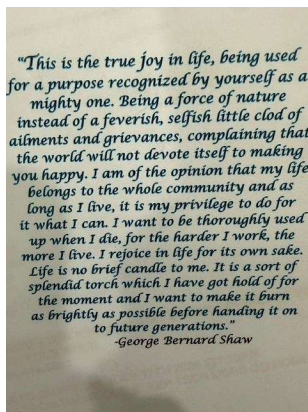
Because I'm a nerd and like data, I kept track of the trips I got to take as your Delegate: I went to two General Service Conferences, two regional service conferences, one forum, four assemblies, five

preassemblies, two roundups, and one international convention (that last one was on my own dime, for the record 😊). I gave eighteen Delegate's Reports in person and two online. I took ten flights and flew 14,476 miles. I drove 12,376 miles, crisscrossing the state on many roads I'd never travelled before. I took a sharpie and marked all those roads on a map as I went along. I have that map here with me, if you want to see it. I used it to try to make sure I was reaching all of Area 40. When I realized I wasn't, it helped me conceive of and plan the five-district Eastern Montana roadtrip Jessica and I took last month.



There isn't time during an assembly Delegate's Report to cover everything that happened at the GSC, but the final conference report is available online at aa.org/2026-general-service-conference-final-report. If you or members of your group have questions about anything in the report, please call or email me. I love to talk about Conference, and I'm still not sick of doing it! The most significant decision at Conference this year was the decision to approve the Fifth Edition of the Big Book, which will be available soon – expected early next year. I can't wait for you all to see it.

This is a text that a very dear friend who has walked beside me in service for a long time sent me Friday night:



Some of you may recognize this quote as the one that I first discovered soon after I was elected Delegate in October 2024. I shared it with Connie and Kacie right away, and it's the first entry in the Delegate Journal I started that fall. Then I heard the quote at a friend's celebration of life six months later. Then I heard the quote from the GSB Chair at the Regional Forum six months after that. I shared it with all of you during Spring Assembly this year, and soon after that a friend who's here sent me a

STICKER with the quote! It's on my laptop now! Who knew you could get George Bernard Shaw on a sticker? Two days ago, full circle, a friend who's here this weekend sent me the quote as a text. I'm going to read it, because it's become the theme for me not just of this rotation but of life in general.

This is the true joy in life, being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one. Being a force of nature instead of a feverish, selfish little clod of ailments and grievances, complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy. I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it what I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work, the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no brief candle to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for the moment and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.

This is a picture of something that someone in Area 40 left on my laptop at the end of the weekend of Spring Assembly: a tiny etch-a-sketch that says "4 Lisa (heart)!" I don't know if the person who gave me this is here, but I just want to say Area 40 really is the best area, you guys are adorable, I love you so much, and thank you so much for allowing me to be your Delegate.



In Love and Service, Lisa C.

Past Delegate Sharing

Howdy, My name is Paul and I am an Alcoholic. My sobriety date is April Fool's day 2004. A day god picked out for me, I had nothing to do with it. I have a sponsor and he knows he is my sponsor, I sponsor and my home group is The Canyon Group in Columbia Falls, Montana.

I was a late-bloomer when it came to drinking. I drank 4 times before I left home to attend college at Humboldt State. Once I got there it was on. I remember drinking Mickey Big Mouth Malt Liquor. Even back then I wanted to get the bang for my buck. At that time the legal age was 21 and when I reached that threshold I went into Marinos, my usual drinking establishment to claim my free drinks The bartender said nothing doing seeing as how I had already been drinking there for the past couple of years.

Fast forward a decade or two and my drinking regularity had accelerated. I found myself drinking more than I planned. I was drinking when I really did not want to. I was bargaining about my drinking; OK, I will go in the Palace Bar (in downtown Whitefish) if there is a parking spot right in front of it. There was always a parking spot.

Anyway, long story short, I got in trouble at work for coming in after drinking. I was referred to a state program and when I called, they suggested I go to an AA meeting. I was beaten into that "state of reasonableness" we hear so much about, so I went to a meeting. It was there that I found Hope. No one told me what to do, they explained to me what it had been like for them, what happened and the way it was now.

My first service job was carrying a 5 gallon bucket of water up the stairs to the meeting room in Whitefish above the Toggery. After the meeting I would carry down the dregs and pour them into the gutter. I took this position because I thought I could really stay in the background with it, I would be invisible. It backfired though because everyone would thank me as I toted the buckets up and down the stairs. It did make me feel good.

My next service position was that of the opener for the Whitefish Group. WooHoo, I had the keys!! I showed up the first time about 3 or 4 minutes before the meeting time and there was a line of pissed off people waiting to get in. I did not know that you were supposed to get there 30 minutes prior to the meeting time. I was not told and I did not ask. I did get the information I needed to perform the task correctly and everything went well after that. It was a good lesson for me. When you take on a service commitment ask what it entails. There has been someone doing it before you, you are not the first one. Ask questions.

I bumped along for a bit. I attended the occasional business meeting. I was curious about how this thing worked. I was nominated to stand for the Alternate GSR position. I figured sure, what the heck. This AA thing had saved my life so why not help out. Besides that there were 3 of us standing for the position so I figured there was no way I was going to get it. 2 years later I was nominated for the GSR position. I had somehow missed the part that the Alternate GSR usually became the GSR. Guess I should have been more curious and asked some questions.

As a result of being the GSR for the Whitefish Group I found out I was expected to attend the Area Assembly at the Yogo Inn in Lewistown. I figured sure, what the heck. I had never been to Lewistown before, I could bring my bicycle and go for a ride or 2. Well, Area Assembly in Lewistown was pretty intense. Lots of people, lots and lots of people, maybe 150 or so packed into the smallish ballroom they had at the Yogo. I saw 2 guys nearly exchange blows in a near knock-down drag out fight. I thought ohhhh yeah, this is AA at its best. A couple of largish, long timers pulled them apart and took them out to the hallway (next to the bar) to decipher what the problem was. Afterwards they each came to the microphone and made amends to the whole group. That was AA at its finest. Turns out one guy was taking photos of the literature or Grapevine display to take back to his home group and the other guy thought he was taking pictures of people and breaking their anonymity. As the Assembly progressed I noticed most of the others at my table were busy following along with the printed agenda, taking notes and scribbling in the margins. I thought oh-oh, I better take some notes. I did think to ask someone what was the purpose of the note-taking. They replied that it was to gather information about the Agenda items and the business of the Assembly. I got busy.

I think one of the important lessons for me as a GSR was that **I was not the "Boss" of my home group.** I was there to serve as a conduit of information from the District, Area and the "Home office." If

there were problems in the group I could help facilitate a resolution through the Group Conscience. I used what I learned at one of the Ask-It-Basket GSR breakout sessions to help with one such problem we had. It was a most egregious problem I thought. Someone wanted to read non-GSC approved material at a meeting. Shheesh. One of the problems shared at that session was from a group that was trying to deal with predatory behavior by a member and some new women in the group. I wanted my problem back. In that session though I heard solution for both of these problems. One solution was to have a sharing session about the problem. Everyone could share about their perspective about the problem, each getting a set time to share with no back and forth. At the end we asked for additional comments. We did not make a decision at that session, that came later, but we got it all out on the table. Later when there was predatory behavior going on I was able to share what other groups were doing. I was not the boss or in charge. I was the conduit for information.

I liked helping out in General Service, once I found out more about it and read about the agenda items, the service manual and the policies and procedures. I had discovered in my inventory with my sponsor was that I had a **difficult time playing well with others**. I remember from before I stopped drinking that I wished everyone would just do what I said and things would be hunky-dorre. (They even wrote about it in the Big Book, the director.....) I continued to work in general service at the District level as the Treasurer and then the DCM. All of these positions provided great opportunities for me to improve my skills at playing well with others. In one instance as the Treasurer for the District they wanted to dip into the prudent reserve to help pay for a CPC luncheon for local professionals that came across alcoholics in their line of work. The District committee went back and forth about this, actually it was the committee and myself. I was the lone dissenting vote, I gave a passionate minority opinion on why we needed to keep that money in our prudent reserve for a "what if" occurrence. Turns out I was so wrong. The CPC workshop was a resounding success and the money from group splits soon filled up the prudent reserve. What a great lesson.

During this time I continued to attend Area Assembly's in Lewistown. I remember walking back to the Yogo from lunch with a couple of friends and a Past Delegate. He talked to me about service, what my plans were, what's my interests were. Would I be willing to serve? He explained the difference between being willing to serve, willing to stand for a position and "getting elected" for a position. He said in AA we want people that are willing to serve. People that will be selected, not elected, for a position. That was the first time that I remember hearing the phrase that god helps qualify the selected, not so much elect the qualified.

What follows for me is a series of service positions that I was willing to stand for. Some I stood for and did not get. Others I did not really want yet I was selected for them. When I stood for the Area Chair I was coached by Gerry R. He said that if I stood for Area Chair that I should also stand for the Delegate because the Area Chair was the Alternate Delegate and needs to be willing and able to stand in if called upon. I did not think I was prepared to be the Delegate but I understood the process and stood for Delegate. Gerry was selected and I was selected as the Area Chair/Alternate Delegate. During Gerry's tenure as Delegate I prayed for his health everyday.

At this point it was a no-brained for me. This program had saved my life. It gave me hope and taught me how to stop drinking, to stay stopped. It guided me into recovery and a better life, way better then I ever imagined. It also gave me the opportunity to **learn how to play well with others**. Why wouldn't I want to continue to be involve din service. To do what was necessary to help **carry this message**, and to **practice these principles in all our affairs**.

Paul M.

DCM Reports

District 11 Report

Greetings from District 11,

District 11 serves Roundup, Hardin, Huntley, and Billings, with 26 active groups hosting 147 meetings each week.

Wow! What an awesome District. We have been incredibly active in serving our District, with a number of service workshops and activities.

- **Mitch A. and the CPC Committee** kicked things off with our third annual AA – A Resource Workshop for Professionals.
- **Don M. and his ad-hoc committee** organized and delivered a Safety Workshop, with special guest Paul L.
- **Six members of our District** traveled to Ennis for the Archives Work Party. It was great to visit and help organize the Area Archives. We had an incredible time together.
- **April T. worked with Area 40 Grapevine Chair Hugh M.** to put on a fun and active Grapevine Writing Workshop. All the stories drafted during the workshop were incredibly moving and full of gratitude for the AA program.
- **Our District joined District 12** at their annual Fireman's Point Campout, where we hosted a hearty Saturday morning breakfast prior to their Delegate's Report.
- **We followed up the next day** with our District 11 Delegate's Report. Thank you, Lisa! Three members from District 31 drove up to attend.

The Brown Baggers group submitted a Proposed Agenda Item to consider turning the idea of a 12 - Step workbook over to the Grapevine to the District for consideration. District 11 voted unanimously to approve the Proposed Agenda Item and have submitted it to Area 40 for consideration.

Lynne W. and the 2027 Fall Roundup – Billings Committee have been working incredibly hard to plan our Roundup next Fall. Consider registering now to take advantage of Early Bird Registration costs.

Dave O. has stepped up and worked with the CPC Committee to develop an App that will help to streamline the delivery of incoming 12 Step Service requests to our volunteers, so that we can better support the still-suffering Alcoholics reaching out for help in District 11.

We are currently working on updates to the District 11 Policies & Procedures and review of the 2027 District 11 spending plan.

I am delighted to announce that at our August District meeting, **Mark W was selected as District 11's**

incoming DCM.

Thank you to the District Committee Chairs:

- Nadine F. – Archives
- Cam M. – Bridging the Gap
- Virginia I – Corrections
- Kate J. – Hotline
- Mark W. – Interim Grapevine
- Vince V. – Treatment
- Don M. – PI
- Mitch A. – CPC
- Daniel M. – Literature
- Chris C. – Intergroup Liaison
- and Deb L. – Al-Anon Liaison

for your hard work In Love & Service to our District.

Thank you to the GSRs:

- Aimee S. – 644
- Daniel M. – Three Legacies
- Michael C – ODAAT
- Paul S. – Uptown
- Tammy P. – Serene's
- Charles H. – Brown Baggers
- Andy M. – Great Reality
- Bob C. – 848 Main
- Kate J. – Serenity Seekers
- Sarah L. – Sunlight of the Spirit
- Jon A. – West End
- Victoria T – We Are Not Saints
- Mathias M. – Recovery Group
- and the newest GSR to join us Jim B. – Hardin

for your hard work and dedication In Love & Service to your groups and our District.

Thank you to our Officers, April T – Secretary, Debbie D. – Treasurer and Mark W. – Alt-DCM for putting up with me and collaborating with me at our monthly officers meeting, and for your work In Love & Service to our District.

It has been a great honor and privilege to serve along side you all, in service to District 11.

In love and service,
Pat P.

District 12 Report

Greetings from District 12 to all Area 40 happy campers who are out there “Living the Promises” across our beautiful Montana treasure state.

Since the last Spring Assembly, we've been busy doing what we do best: staying sober, staying grateful, and staying just organized enough to keep serving the still suffering alcoholic—one day at a time, and occasionally one potluck at a time.

Like much of Montana, District 12 is rural. We don't have any big cities, but we do have long distances, icy mountain roads, elk or deer blocking the drive home after evening meetings, bears getting into garbage cans outside meeting halls, and enough winter driving stories to fill a Grapevine special edition.

District 12 includes one Zoom group and seven in person groups in Absarokee, Big Timber, Columbus, Harlowton, Joliet, Laurel, and Red Lodge. All groups are stable, meet regularly and form a strong spine for our district.

We are known to "go to any lengths," which in our district sometimes means driving an hour and forty-five minutes through questionable weather to attend a meeting. That's not dedication—that's District 12 AA cardio.

We proudly hold our elections "off cycle" from the rest of the Area. Some call us "terminally unique." We prefer "charmingly quirky with a strong commitment to tradition." This off cycle habit has been around so long that no one remembers why it started, but everyone agrees it's far too historic to change now. Fortunately we don't have to fall back on sponsor volun-telling to fill positions until our next scheduled November 2027 elections.

Our August 7th Fireman's Point campout weekend continued as a huge success. Our area delegate and alternate savored, and hopefully enjoyed, our spam cuisine and competition, and survived! The Spam Cookoff remains the most unique culinary competition in the AA universe. Our chefs continue to invent new, surprisingly delicious ways to prepare Spam. This year's dishes of Cheesecake spam bites, egg and spam breakfast burritos with green chile sauce, and spam carbonara are just a few of the amazing spam dishes.

Our Friday and Saturday night sobriety countdowns included 132 attendees, with over a millennia, or 1,708 years sobriety in total!

Special thanks to District 11 for their elaborate breakfast spread containing 10 lbs sausage, 10 lb bacon, 15 doz eggs, 20 pints dehydrated hash browns, and yes over 40 cups pancake mix. Thank you once again for your usual gracious attendance.

Our next spam cookout weekend is tentatively planned for August 6th 2027. District 12 has won every year so far—because no one out Spams us. We invite all in our Area 40 family to join us and attempt the impossible: beating District 12 at Spam cuisine. We don't think you can, but we'd love to watch you try.

Community service work includes our PI efforts supporting local county Senior Health fairs in Bridger on November 18th, 2026 and in Red Lodge December 3rd, 2026. This February is our famous Midwinter Social—our Valentine's themed celebration of love, fellowship, and industrial strength coffee. The event is held on Saturday, February 20th 2027 in the Joliet Community Hall. Speakers are lined up; attendance is usually limited to the 250 hall capacity.

As always. the beef tips and turkey breasts will cause widespread salivation, and will only be out-done by our elaborate generous dessert tables—yes, three full dessert tables—which

always steal the show. Everyone please attend, bringing your valentine, family and loved ones. Our romantic red-heart themed flyers are on the back table waiting for you to grab as long as these flyers last! Please take as many back home for your groups. The Area calendar is also already updated for our special event that brings romance in recovery to a completely different level.

Our work with the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch continues strong. Every two weeks, LHG brings meetings to over 40 teenagers navigating difficult circumstances. They connect deeply with the Common Language Big Book, and our younger speakers at the new Saturday meeting have been a huge hit. .

This year we were able to increase the new speaker meetings from quarterly to every other month. After receiving very positive feedback from the staff at Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch, our plan is to begin them on a monthly basis once we are sure that we have an ample number of YPAA speakers. After a new administrator held up for review, we just received the green light to proceed in making these meetings hybrid on Zoom, which we see as be helpful for these reasons:

1. It will allow the YBGR residents to see YPAA attendees and the town they are from creating a visual contact to other young people in some of the towns residents will be returning to.
2. It will allow “graduating” alumni to continue to attend these speaker meeting showing current residents that there are former residents in recovery available to support them.
3. It will allow for a larger pool of speakers from a wider geographic range, some of which may be from towns where the residents will be returning.

In closing, our six core groups remain strong:

- Absarokee is famous for desserts and ice cream after meetings. Recovery is sweet—literally.
- Big Timber has a loyal core of 6–8 members meeting several times a week.
- Columbus is steeped in the solution and known for its laughter. It also has a diploma resting in the 7th tradition basket +35 years that no one wants to claim.
- Harlowton has a solid group of 20 and is considering adding more meetings.
- Joliet with a half-dozen regular attendees covers a key night of the week, giving residents in nearby towns more options.
- Laurel is basically AA with a concession stand: popcorn, ice cream, pizza nights, bingo, potlucks—you name it.
- Red Lodge (the Rock Creek Group) is thriving, with an additional weekly meeting and a beloved Sunday speaker culinary themed potluck that draws a crowd and fills stomachs.
- In summary, each group in our district has its own personality, traditions, and quirks—but we love coming together.

Humbly submitted in Loving Service,

Gregory T.

District 21 Report - No Report

District 23 Report - No Report

District 31 Report - No Report

District 41 Report - No Report

District 42 Report

Hello area 40,

I'm happy to report that District 42 is really up and running. The 5 o'clock meeting in Dupuyer is strong. They meet Sundays Then have fellowship at Buffalo Joe's after the meeting.

Augusta's represented here at the area with their Gsr Karen they meet Fridays , And have fellowship beforehand at the Buckhorn restaurant in Augusta.

I'm thrilled to report that my home group the Browning bump meeting at the Browning Methodist Church on Tuesdays at 5:30 has added a Thursday meeting as well also at 5:30

I was able to visit the Choteau group again and they were doing great. I've heard firsthand that Shelby is steady as well. Dutton potlucks our favorite especially in the summer. A lot of the district 42 members head down there once a month for a wonderful potluck experience. The East Glacier group also has a potluck every few months or so.

In July, the Augusta group hosted the district 42 meeting and we also had a potluck and Grapevine writing workshop put on by our area Grapevine chair, Hugh. One of our GSRs has sent his historian and inspired me to do the same.

In September, Lisa came to the East Glacier library again and gave us her delegates report to about a dozen people. No District is too small and we are so grateful to be included on a personal note. I had an amazing time in June. I got to visit our general service office in New York and meet some of my AA Zoom buddies there and of course best of all visit Casey in her new office. I got permission to print a photo if you'd like to see it. I have it at the district 42 table

We used to go down about twice a year when I lived in Connecticut ,we would make a day of it and visit the office, but it was really special to see Kacie there.

District 51 Report

Welcome from the North Central Hi-Line. District 51 which encompasses Rudyard to the west thru Malta on the East, Havre in the middle and Big Sandy to the south makes that makes up the Hi-Line. We also include Harlem, Fort Belknap, and Hays/Lodgepole

Our summer campouts (put on by campout committee) were once again a success. We have a campout in June, July, and August in the Bear Paw Mountains south of Havre. We have the largest county park in the nation and campsites are well maintained.

The sunrise Alano club will start having Speaker meetings again in October. 3d step group will have feed and speaker once a month. Main course is provided and the rest is potluck. Usually this is hosted 3d Sunday of the Month thru the winter.

Our district will soon start planning the annual New Years Eve Party also.

The party is held at the First Lutheran Church With food a meeting and games for all.

In September we started our election cycle for the new rotation. We did postpone the elections till October but looks like we will have another rotation in our District. Have to say I was a bit worried for a while.

I want to thank everyone for another successful rotation. I did not accomplish all I had hoped for but it seems, for an old retired guy my schedule keeps filling up with a lot of conflicting items. I did not attend every group in our district as I had hoped to do.

We are busy planning for our Havre Mini conference to be held October 2nd through the 4th. New pair of Glasses is our theme for this year, and we are looking forward to having a nice crowd, good speakers and lots of fellowship. If you have time on your schedule, you will find a smaller venue with lots to offer. We have an Ice-cream social, Friday, Continental breakfast, Ala-non luncheon, and then a Banquet for our night meal. And a Breakfast with spiritual speaker wraps up Sunday's festivities. We are once again at HRDC on 5th Avenue so welcome to all who can make it.

Thanks

Gene

District 61 Report

Greetings Area 40, I'm alcoholic named Nate and I am the DCM for District 61. Our district covers the Helena area and extends as far as Townsend, Elliston, Boulder & White Sulphur Springs. We have about 10 active meetings per day throughout our district, and we hold our district business meeting at 6:30pm on the first Thursday of the month. We will hold our elections next Thursday, October 1st to elect our next slate of trusted servants.

Corrections and treatment efforts are going strong, and our brick & mortar bookstore is open 4 days a week selling conference approved AA & grapevine literature. If you find yourself in Helena on Monday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday from 11:30-1:30 feel free to stop by and pick up some books, it's right around the corner from the Alano-Club.

A few save the dates: District 61's Grapefest is coming up on Saturday October 17th. There will be a speaker and a writing workshop, and I have it on good authority there will be cupcakes. Also, our Attitude of Gratitude event will be held on November 14th. Both events are worth traveling for, and flyers are on the website.

I wanted to take this time to recognize everyone who has participated in service in district 61 over the past rotation. We have a wonderful tradition of service in the district, and I appreciate the effort of everyone who showed up for AA. It wouldn't have been the same without you.

Thanks for letting me serve,

Nate S.

District 71 Report

Greetings from District 71, I'm Brandi and I'm an alcoholic. District 71 encompasses Butte, Anaconda, Deer Lodge, Dillon, Sheridan and Twin Bridges.

I cannot express the gratitude that I have that I've been able to serve as district 71 DCM. This position has made me grow in ways that I didn't know I needed. Thank you for your patience and help with me.

We have had a very eventful summer. Our activities chair Bradley W and Mike S started a traveling speaker meeting and dinner in hopes to bring our district closer. Living in Montana we all know how far apart some of us are physically. In March we had the meeting in Butte, May Anaconda, July Sheridan, August Dillon and Butte again in September. We are hoping to continue this speaker meeting as long as the weather and roads cooperate. I personally have been so grateful to our activities chair and everyone who have helped pull this off. In June we had our annual sweeps head camp out which was an amazing success. In August we had our delegate day at Stodden Park and thank you to Lisa for coming and sharing. Recently we had our first roundup committee meeting to vote on the chairs for our 2028 roundup. And I'm excited to say our last district meeting we had 21 people present and participating.

District 72 Report

Hi Area 40! I am Lenore, alcoholic and the DCM for District 72 in Area 40. My home group is the HOW Group in Bozeman and my sobriety date is July first, 2012.

I am so sorry I can't be there in person with you all, I managed to get myself very sick while camping with my sister (who did not get sick, thank God). I am grateful for the chance to be there online and for all of the help and support from everyone else in the awesome District 72!

- AA is rocking and rolling in District 72 (which has lots of meetings throughout a big chunk of Southwest Montana)
- We have our District Committee Chairs and Officers Elected for the next rotation. It was really awesome to see everyone willing to stand for positions.
 - I am very excited to announce that Lila H. will be our next District 72 DCM!
 - I had a really good learning experience, where I feel fairly confident that I forced my own will. It's a good thing that this thing is progress not perfection!
- We still have a couple of new meetings, which is awesome!
- We have lots of different relationships with healthcare, corrections, professionals, etc. that different Committee Chairs and their committees have been working very hard on.
 - The District Treatment Committee, at Bozeman Health's request, hosts a special AA meeting at the Bozeman Health's new Inpatient Psychiatric Unit
 - We finally found Rimrocks "secret location" lol but we are trying to connect with them to see if we can be of service there
 - We are hoping to restart/support a dual recovery meeting at the Hope House

- Our District continues to take meetings to Montana Chemical Dependency Center (MCDC), Montana State Prison, as well as the Bozeman Jail (mens and womens)
- Our PI Committee is currently working on potentially putting the Grapevine App QR code somewhere on our meeting schedule.
- Plans continue to move along for Bozeman to host the Spring Round Up for April 30-May 2, 2027. This will be held at the Best Western Grantree Inn. There is a website for this event: roundup2027@area40district72.com
 - I know the round-up committee is still looking for help, so if you need something to keep you busy, email the email address above!

Over the last two years I have gotten to experience continuing to make mistakes, making (and renewing) friendships, making amends (including District amends), how to not show up in my own sobriety, how to be miserable sober, how to show up in my own sobriety, and how to learn and grow as a sober human being.

I feel so grateful and honored that I get to be a part of this amazing Area and part of my amazing District. Thank you for showing me the trust and the grace to be of service, and thank you all for your service and for the opportunity to serve as the DCM for District 72. I hope to continue to be of service at the Area, District, and Homegroup levels of the triangle.

In Love & Service,

Lenore M.

District 81 Report

Greetings from District 81!

District 81 is located in Western Montana and has around 100 meetings a week and approximately 45 groups – Our largest population center is Missoula, but we have lots of meetings in the surrounding rural areas which include Alberton, Arlee, Bonner, Clinton, Frenchtown, Hot Springs, Pablo, Plains, Polson, Potomac, Ronan, Seely Lake, St. Ignatius, St. Regis, Superior, Thompson Falls, and Trout Creek.

Next weekend Missoula will be hosting the Fall Round Up at the Hilton Garden Inn. We have a great lineup of speakers, diverse panels, an old timer's meetings, a dance hosted by our Missoula YPAA group and so much more. We hope to see you there!

Our very own Kathy T was published in the August 2026 issue of the Grapevine. She participated in the first Grapevine writing workshop our committee chair Connor put on where she wrote her now published article called "Bridesmaid to the Rescue". If you haven't had a chance to check it out, please do, we are so proud!

A new detox facility opened in Missoula and our Bridging the Gap chair Angela along with our CPC chair Elena and our PI chair Rick have been working with the administration to bring AA into the center. They attended the launch of the new facility and met with the board and are working to bring the Strength and Hope Bedside Table Program into the hospital. The bedside call program has taken off at the other hospital

in Missoula and the demand for 12 step calls has been so high the Bridging the Gap committee has expanded their volunteer training to have more AA members available to carry the message. As I've mentioned in previous reports, Angela has created a fantastic template for the Bedside call program to allow for anyone in other districts to adapt this successful project. If your district is interested in this, please see me later and I can get you in touch with her.

At our July meeting, Lisa and Jessica EW visited. Lisa gave her Delegate's report and Jessica was able to share about her work in the Area. Attendance was low but that just meant more Notorious P.I.G. BBQ for us, and it was delicious by the way.

Our events chair Janice planned a service event at the beginning of this month. The goal was to have tables for each of the district committee chairs so that we could visit with people about our service positions. This event was disappointing because we didn't have all of our committee chairs in attendance and hardly any visitors. However, we all stayed sober and got to have fellowship. Janice is also planning a Halloween dance for our district, so if you aren't doing anything on Halloween and you find yourself in Missoula, come join us! It's at the Methodist church located at 300 E Main St.

We are having our elections in October, and I feel confident we will pass on the district positions into good hands for this next rotation. At the beginning of our rotation my alternate Sage and I sat down and made a list of goals for our rotation. We had three main priorities for the last two years. We came in with too much money so one of our goals was that we wanted to encourage our committee chairs to use their budgets, we also found creative ways to use the surplus of money in our bank account such as covering some of the costs for GSRs to attend Area if their group did not have the means to do so. The second point we wanted to address was the lack of any sort of Policy and Procedures outside of basic and outdated job descriptions. Sage and I started a draft of a working document with the help with Jessica EW. In March of this year, our district voted to appoint Andrew W to lead that committee. Both him and Lynne have worked to develop a draft for approval before the end of this rotation.

The third goal was to leave the district better than it was before us. When I think about how challenging this rotation has been, it's easy to get discouraged or be hard on myself for not working harder, but then I look around at the dedicated and dynamic group of trusted servants I get to work with, and I can't help but be proud. Proud of the engagement and enthusiasm of this incredible group of alcoholics. We've all been through adversity and this rotation, and I know that adversity has made it extremely hard for us to do our jobs, but we persevered and kept showing up and I'm so damn proud of everyone. I can confidently say we are leaving the district better than we found it. It has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve as the DCM for District 81. It's also been the hardest most infuriating position I've served in, but what I know about AA and service is that if you keep showing up no matter what, magic happens. Everything that has ever felt hard in AA has made me a better person.

Thank you for letting me serve,
Carly B

District 91 Report

Hello from District 91, serving the Flathead Valley and beyond. Our district business meetings are held on the last Sunday of every month at 3 P.M. in the Mural Room of the Alano Club in Kalispell, as well

as online on aa-montana.org. Just look at the virtual meeting listings under Kalispell. All are welcome to attend.

District 91 has had an eventful couple of months. There was our usual slew of campouts and cookouts, plus our Delegates Day meeting, not to mention our Spring Roundup! This month we held our District elections for DCM and Alternate DCM, and District 91 proudly voted in Susan H. as our new DCM and Aryel M. as our new Alternate DCM. Both are deeply committed to service, and they will do an amazing job representing District 91.

Our committee chair elections will be held next month, and I am looking forward to seeing folks stand for those positions and continue to help District 91 do everything it can to be there for the next alcoholic.

Our Spring Roundup went off spectacularly, and we'll hear more about that soon. I want to thank the roundup committee for putting on a great event. I also want to thank everyone who attended and helped make it a strong showing of fellowship and recovery. We had campouts galore throughout the summer including a twofer on Founder's Day weekend, with Flathead Serenity Group hosting its event at Tally Lake while Columbia Falls own Canyon Group hosted their event at Big Crick. Both campouts provided excellent speakers and sober camaraderie. Our local Intergroup's famous Emery Bay campout followed in July.

August saw District 91 hosting a hastily put-together Delegate's Day, and we are grateful to Lisa and Jessica for attending and sharing their time with us. The event was very well attended and many of our members brought what Lisa shared back to their home groups.

There is still much to do. District 91 plans to revisit our guidelines and update them for the new rotation, for example. Today I look back on the nearly two years that I've served as DCM, and I feel bittersweet as my time in this service position comes to a close. This service position has thrilled me, tested me, and allowed me to, well, be of service during a very bizarre and ultimately trying part of my life full of continuing change and growth. In the end, I'm just one more name on a list in old minutes and agendas as my experience blends in with the other district members who helped our humble little piece of Montana show others how to get sober and stay sober. I'm proud of what I've done, and whatever happens next in my life, I'll carry this experience and the memories of those I've shared it with and look back on it fondly.

Thank you for letting me be of service.

Eli S.

District 93 Report

Hi everyone, Libba, Alcoholic, DCM for District 93.

District 93 is the smallest District in our Area but we are full of wonderful recovery. We currently have 15 Groups in the Bitterroot Valley, some meeting multiple times a week, stretching from furthest South starting at Connor, traveling 61 miles North to Lolo.

Here are some highlights of District.

We have a drug and alcohol treatment facility, with 2 sites in our valley. Where AA has been invited in to share the message of Experience, Strength and Hope. This has brought a great opportunity for 12th step work in our small community and has enriched many. This facility also brings clients to some of the local outside open meetings in the Valley, which seem to be enjoyed by AA members and clients alike.

We have a small jail in Hamilton where meetings are held once a week, for men and women for those who care to attend. This has been another wonderful opportunity to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous

Over a year ago our District passed a motion to host a Concepts Workshop, and we finally were able to enjoy having Connie R. and Gerry R. come and share their knowledge and Experience Strength and Hope. While enjoying good food and fellowship. I was a well attended event and I'm super grateful for the involvement of our AA members.

Our Lake Como Campout was a huge success as we enjoyed our fantastic speakers from around the state and Delegate that came down. We had our potluck, auction, raffle, morning meetings, and almost too much fun in the sun and water. We are already excited for our campout next year. Look for fliers on the website!

As DCM I'm truly humbled to be able to serve, and be a part of, such a beautiful and passionate District. I would like to thank the 93 District Committee, Chairs and GSRs along with my family, Sponsor, Service Sponsor, Sponsees and friends that have really helped me, in so many ways as I am walking through challenging time with the guidance of my Higher Power and the Principles of this Program. I know without a doubt standing here in this room is exactly where I am supposed to be. To suit up and show up, to give of myself with the grace of my Higher Power, as A.A. has taught me is such a privilege and honor. As I'm up here looking at all of you I can't help but feel that I reap the benefit of standing on the shoulders of giants, those who came before us, in service, those who now may just be here in beloved memory and Spirit. Those fellows who came before, blazing this path in recovery, service, and unity, in what all started as one alcoholic talking to another alcoholic over 90 years ago. It's difficult to imagine that the broken and hopeless young lady I was when I came to these rooms, could be graced with the opportunity and trust be a just small part of the great whole of Alcoholics Anonymous. For that I would like to thank you for allowing me to participate in my District, Area, and my recovery today.

Love you all.

Libba. C

Area 40 Panel 77 Elections

Area Advisor Adrew W. conducted the elections.

Officers (elected by Third Legacy Procedure as outlined on pages 110-111 of the AA Service Manual)

Delegate: Jessica EW **District 91**

Area Chair/Alternate Delegate: Lynne W. **District 11**

Secretary: Daniel S. **District 81**

Treasurer: Jessica S. **District 61**

Area 40 Service Chairs (elected by simple majority)

- Treatment: Rebecca **District 72**
- Literature: Kaytlin S. **District 61**
- Grapevine: Lenore M. **District 72**
- Hotline: Ryan **District 51**
- Public Information: Jody T. **District 42** *On Sunday morning Jody T. announced she was grateful to the Area for electing her to serve but after talking to her service sponsor and praying, she would be stepping down to allow someone else to stand.*
- Public Information (Final): Carly B. **District 81**
- Corrections: Lance W. District
- CPC: Libba C. **District 93**
- Archives: Mark H. **District 93**

Standing Committee Reports

Treatment and Accessibilities/Agenda – Ty K.

Treatment and Accessibilities - Area 40

1. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Treatment and Accessibilities Chair

Hello Area 40

District Treatment and Bridging The Gap have been very busy in Area 40. In district 72 we have panel meetings at the HRDC warming center and at the behavioral health unit at the hospital, and we attend MCDC monthly. District 71 also brings meetings to MCDC, Watch and various other correctional/treatment centers. District 91 brings meetings to Big Sky Behavioral Health, Cedar Creek, and RCM. District 61 is taking meetings into the bhu, elkhorn, and Boyd Andrew's (out patient facility) weekly, and MCDC once a month. District 11 takes meetings to Rimrock, the Crisis Center, and the Psych Center. District 93 takes meetings to Bear Creek Wellness and they are very active with BTG. District 42 has attendees at their AA meeting from Crystal Creek Lodge. District 81 has a hospital bedside 12 step call program that has been years in the making.

Please direct anyone with accommodation requests or comments to use the online form found at aa-montana.org under Area Committee, Forms and Other Documents, Special Needs Online Form.

Thank you for allowing me to serve!

Ty K.

Review assembly report of the Area 40 Bridging the Gap Chair

Greetings Area 40,

It is truly an honor and a privilege to be serving as your Area 40 Bridging the Gap Chair. Since we met in the spring, I've been working on several exciting projects and initiatives; I've also been fortunate enough to get to connect with various professionals and trusted servants across the country. At the suggestion of our former BTG Chair, Jessica E.W., I created a flowchart to

depict how BTG works in our area. I've printed off some hard copies for you to take with you; please let me know if you'd like me to send you the digital file!

While attempting to find a Temporary Contact for a gal heading to South Dakota, Area 63, I had the opportunity to connect with their Area Chair. She mentioned that she recalled having BTG many years ago, but that somewhere along the line, it died off; my email made her want to breathe new life into their Bridging the Gap program! She was very interested in how we do BTG in Area 40 and hopes that they will be able to benefit from our experience.

A few weeks ago, a professional from Deer Lodge reached out to our hotline chair in hopes of finding a sponsor for a gentleman who was going to be discharging to Billings soon. Lance forwarded the email to me, and I was able to use it as an opportunity to not only request the contact info for the incarcerated person to setup a temporary contact, but to also provide them with a vast overview of the BTG program and put them in touch with their local District BTG chair to see how we might be able to best serve their facility.

From Spring Assembly through the end of August, we successfully bridged 125 gaps via the online form. Aside from all the requests for contacts in Montana, we also received requests for temporary contacts in South Dakota, California, Washington, Florida, North Dakota, Oregon, Michigan, Utah, Idaho, and New Jersey; it's been a busy few months!

Last, but most certainly not least, I'd like to announce that Angela, our District 81 BTG Chair for this last rotation, is officially our new Alternate Area 40 BTG Chair! She has been incredible to work with over the past few years, always going above and beyond to ensure that every gap gets bridged. She has even made a tremendous effort to reach some of the more remote portions of her district to get temporary contacts for us. I'm truly grateful for all she has done so far, and I am looking forward to working with her as the Alt Area 40 BTG Chair. As always, thank you for entrusting me with serving as your Area 40 BTG Chair.

Yours in service,

Sean R.

Area 40 BTG Chair

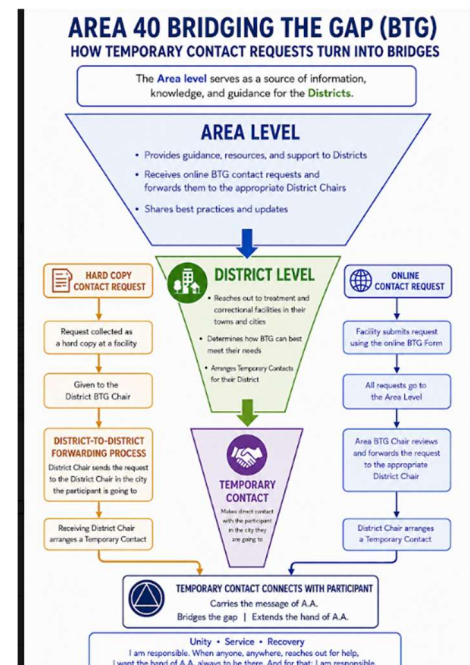
a. Questions for BTG Chair include:

i. Do all the online forms go directly to the area 40

1. BTG chair- yes

a. These forms can be used to bridge gap even heading out of the state.

ii. What constitutes a "successful" connection?



1. contact information has been shared between the individual and the volunteer, with hopes of making contact, not necessarily based on contact being made with the individual.
- iii. Please explain what occurs on the flow chart.
 1. A contact from the district that the patient will be relocating to is given to the patient to allow a local connection to be made upon relocation.
- iv. What about outpatient facilities?
 1. There was previous attempt to work with outpatient but it seems to be unsuccessful due to late contact rather than prior to or immediate upon release.
- v. Has there been any thought to pushing all contacts through the online form?
 1. Area BTG is primarily to support district chairs but allow district autonomy.
 2. Ty elaborated in the difficulties between the online form and
 3. the hard copy form and how time frame can cause connections to be missed where as the online form can allow for more immediate sharing of the necessary information to make contact to be possible, and the importance of having someone within the facilities to encourage the connection.
 4. Thoughts on a feedback loop:
 - a. Having a contact available is the most viable portion and though a feedback loop would allow to gather information would still be difficult to improve outside of sharing the contact information. The success rate has increased over the last several years and is partially attributed to having a member within the facility that is experienced with recovery and encourages the connection. The online form can remove the in person interaction which can deter likelihood of bridging the gap based on impact without contact
 - b. Bearcreek facility attends meetings in D93 with allows members in the meeting to make connections with individuals in person upon their release from the facility, they also go to the facility to share their story with individuals in the facility.
2. Review activities of Treatment Committees in Groups and Districts throughout Area
 - a. Amanda D61, Aryel D91, Micheal D72, Crystal D72, Rebecca D72, Gary D93, Tammy D11, David D72, Angela, Pat P D11, Sean R D91, Dave P D91.
 - b. Amanda D93: taking meetings into facilities in D61 every week. Pat: d11 commitments to rimrock once a week and have a monthly speaker meeting, meetings into the psych center and crisis center. Also had a females meeting at rimrock but may see more success with a sign up sheet. Michael: d72 working with an outpatients sober living gets some interest there and has been able to have success in bozeman but need to get more volunteers and travel more in the rural areas in the district. Crystal: D72 has assisted once with BTG and has taken meetings to mcdc and is trained to do meetings at the inpatient at logan. Hoping to make more time to be involved with BTG. The tablet allows immediate contact to sean because the paper form can be lost or overlooked based on turnover rate and lack of correct use of the form within the facility. Dave D91: having experienced that BTG brought information to the leaders of facilities that allowed the information to be pitched in the facility with hopes that the staff would encourage use

of BTG. Take a meeting into the prerelease facility in Kalispell and is planning on standing for treatment in 91 for the new rotation. Asks is prerelease an appropriate setting for BTG. Answer is yes. Has been taking meetings to the prerelease and attendance has fluctuated. Gary : D treatment and BTG are not able to attend but treatment chair lines up 4 ppl a week to go to Bearcreek and faces typical difficulties with meeting coverage but she has been using a signup sheet at meetings within the district which seems to be working. Angela D81: has never seen representations from many groups in their district, but has found someone to get a list of volunteers to get more contacts in rural areas.

- c. Ty read the treatment chair job description. Sean elaborated on general qualifications for trusted servants.

Treatment and Accessibilities – GSC

- A. Review the results of all Treatment and Accessibilities committee items considered, reviewed, and discussed at the 76th General Service Conference.
 - a. The committee reviewed the items.

Agenda – GSC

- A. Review the results of all Agenda committee items considered, reviewed, and discussed at the 76th General Service Conference.
 - a. The committee Reviewed the items.

Public Information – Mark H.

Public Information – Area 40

- 1. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Public Information Chair

Greetings area 40 my name is Mark and I'm an alcoholic. It's been a privilege to be serving area 40 as your P.I. chair. Hard to believe that we're coming to the end of another rotation.

I'd like to first thank everyone who's been and participated on the committee. Its been an honor and privilege to get to know and work with you all. I appreciate all your help and for putting up with me. I hope I have served you well.

I have to be honest about not participating in many service events. I was hoping to help with more but things haven't happened yet. I do know that more things are in the works and I'm definitely planning on going to more upcoming events. I'm always willing to be a part of any event. If I can help in any way please get hold of me. I was able to attend and participate at the prison mini conference. I have attended some amazing campouts. It's good hanging out and eating potlucks with people in the fellowship. I always try to talk and promote the importance of being active in service.

So now it's the end and I can only say than you. I appreciate you trusting me in this position. I'm glad I've gotten a new understanding and to grow from this rotation. I hope moving for that I can serve the fellowship that has blessed me so much and given me a life I could ever imagine.

In love and service,
Mark H.

Review assembly report of the Area 40 Webmaster, Alex M.

- 2. <https://www.aa-montana.org>

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

Jake and I recently set out to make our forms far more secure. We chose Cloudflare to help protect the site, and Jake handled almost all of the backend work. Thanks to his efforts, our forms are now better protected against spam bots, keeping our inbox clean!

I encourage DCMs and PI chairs to introduce the elected meeting admins for your Districts at your District meetings.

Keeping an accurate online meeting directory current and accurate is essential for helping those suffering from alcoholism find the support they need.

The majority of visitors look for meetings.

If you require assistance in obtaining this information, please contact me at webmaster@aamontana.org.

It comes as no surprise but searching for virtual meetings is not the number one search for the first time since the pandemic started. The most looked at page is live meeting searches.

In love and Service,

Alex M.

Area 40 Webmaster

3. Review activities of Public Information Committees in Groups and Districts throughout Area 40
 - a. Diane – PI for 41 (GF) – workshop coming up on October 17th w/ corrections & treatment. Flyer on the table, the event is called bridging the community. Geared towards professionals, but open to aa members. Eric – PI committee member for D11, and incoming PI chair. Still working on outreach flyer for hotels and working with CPC for getting it into treatment centers, hospitals, etc. Also, they've made a rubber stamp to stamp the same or similar information into books that are going into treatment centers. Tried to have some AA presence at fire on the mountain fest, running into the same obstacles, not giving up though. Ty – new GSR for his homegroup – created a web chair position for South central intergroup. This will have a calendar of events for the intergroup, links for P&P for the intergroup, and local contact email list. Working towards making a clean, ad-free website. Cali – visitor from Dist 91. Charles - Dist 11 GSR – interested in knowing more about the aa-montana.org website, using it to educate professional clients about AA.
 - i. Alex M (Webmaster) spoke up and mentioned the district mini-sites as a good resource for localized information.
 - b. Libba – DCM Dist 93 – low attendance at district meetings in general. PI chair in 93 is keeping pamphlet racks filled. Considering modifying D11's QR code pamphlet for Dist 93's purposes.
 - c. Ryan – GSR dist 51 (Havre) – also noted low district business meeting attendance. PI chair in 51 is keeping the website up to date and updating the meeting list. Ryan has a sponsee who is good with computers, working on an aa lit search database utilizing ai (called Ask Ebby). Question: is that aligned with the traditions? Alex noted that the webmaster doesn't add links to the website that don't direct to official AA URLs.
 - d. Nate – DCM in Dist 61 – our district

- e. Rick – PI chair Missoula – position was open for 5 years before Rick took the position. The job has evolved from distributing brochures to working with treatment and CPC with the courts and youth offender programs. Have gotten brochures in the hands of the federated Kootenay tribes. Oct 24th in Missoula at UC ballroom they will have a booth at the Missoula health and wellness fair. Also using a business card with a qr code for the meeting guide and hotline. Rick is going to rotate out but he is making sure to leave the position in good shape for the next chair.

Public Information – GSC

- A. Review the results of all Public Information committee items considered, reviewed, and discussed at the 76th General Service Conference.
So reviewed. Some discussion regarding google ads, PI kit, etc. Discussion focused on clarification, no action to be taken.

Literature – Rebecca S.-Q.

Literature – Area 40

- A. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Literature Chair

Thank you to Andrew you stood in for me at the Area Assembly. I missed you all.

In literature news, the AA general service office released a frequently asked questions about the 5th edition of the Big Book that should be coming out soon. You may or may not know that a new addition of the Big Book comes out approximately every 20 years.

In the 5th edition of the Big Book, new stories will be added to better reflect current membership and others will be deleted. Sometimes someone's favorite story may be taken out. However, they always get reprinted in a new book of old stories. The Experience Strength and Hope book is the stories from the first, second and third editions that were removed. The first 164 pages are only ever edited in minor ways.

I'm excited for Katelyn to be the new Area Literature chair. Thank you to everyone for letting me serve for the past 2 years.

I love Alcoholics Anonymous,

Rebecca SQ

- B. Review activities of Literature Committees in Groups and Districts throughout Area 40
 - a. . We did discuss activities of Literature Committees in districts in Area 40. Members discussed what displays worked better (anything that helps make it pop a little more).

Literature – GSC

- A. Review the results of all Literature committee items considered, reviewed, and discussed at the 76th General Service Conference.
 - a. We did review the results of all Literature committee items for the 76th General Service Conference. The discussion focused on the 5th Edition of the Big Book and the removal

of the word “Eskimo.” Concerns were expressed that groups were not consulted in the process. Support was given for our delegate in making the decision at the conference.

Finance – Lynne W.

Finance – Area 40

1. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Treasurer

Hi Ya'll, I'm Lynne alcoholic. I've been gratefully serving as your Area Treasurer. Let me give you some relevant numbers:

Bank Account: \$29,337.33 (as of 9/15/2026)

Outstanding Bills: \$2,340.25

Prudent Reserve: \$20,000.71

Operating Expenses: \$6,996.37

I project we will get \$50,700 in contributions in 2026. That is if we continue to get our average contributions of \$4,500 a month for the rest of the year. With the expenses we have left I project we will spend around \$53,000 this year. We still have the website to pay for, and we pay for the Delegate to attend the Roundup. I know at least one Area Committee Chair has plans before the end of the year. I'd like to ask one more time for you to ask your groups, districts, committees, and Intergroups to consider contributing to Area.

I've been busy as your Treasurer, keeping records, writing checks, and answering questions. I've had the opportunity to work with many of you across the state regarding financial issues. It turns out that not everyone is as honest as I believed before this rotation. Unfortunately, I became aware of a number of situations where Trusted Servants were not good stewards of the money entrusted them. While each situation is heartbreaking to me, it also makes me grateful for every step I've ever worked. I no longer take for granted that as Trusted Servants we all do enough step work to keep our finances above reproach. I realized through all these conversations that there seems to be two competing attitudes toward spending AA money: some view their service position as access to free money, and some hesitate to request reimbursement for even the smallest amount. Unfortunately that is a schism I am powerless to bridge. All my conversations helped me understand why some people don't trust us with money. That trust is something that needs to be earned, and I am always willing to answer the tough questions, especially after so much direct experience with those who can't.

Gratefully, we did not face any of these issues at the Area level. The Committee has been very cooperative with me on my quest for receipts. My goal was to have all of them this rotation, and I am excited to announce that with the patient help of the Area Standing Committee so far we are batting 1,000 on receipt collection!

The final lesson I want to share with ya'll is that a Statute of Limitations is NOT an outside issue when serving on a committee. My suggestion will now be that if you are aware of illegal activity, bring it to the attention of the committee you are serving on before any major decisions are made. Also, if there is a state &/or federal investigation you are aware of, that too may be relevant when serving in AA. I've already given some accounting principles in my PowerPoint, so please refer to that for other principles relevant to finance discussions.

I'll end on a personal note. I want to thank Archives Chair Jody for organizing the Archives Work Party & Archivist Rick for hosting it. I got to drive over with our Dist.11 Archives Chair, we met the DCM there, along with a couple of my sponsees, a grand sponsee, and some volunteers from the Ennis/Bozeman area. The first Work Party was June 27, which coincidentally is my Sobriety Birthday. Digging through our Archives, holding history in my hands surrounded by friends and the future of this Fellowship was the best birthday I've ever had in my life. Thank you Jody, Rick, and Area 40 for trusting me enough to have that opportunity. To top it off, I got to come back a few weeks later for a 2nd work party. I had the privilege of compiling a list of all the previous Area 40 Roundups, their dates, locations, and themes.

Lynne W

- 39

- e. Amanda: Raised the principle of being self-supporting.
- f. Jessica: Suggested reviewing existing policies and procedures for guidance. She expressed a need for guidelines while recognizing that policies and procedures are not necessarily rigid rules. It was noted that GSO may reimburse an employee for a good-faith mistake; however, Area trusted servants are not employees. GSO does not have a policy regarding this issue for volunteer Trusted Servants.
- g. Lynne: Explained that the Treasurer can only approve funds for authorized expenses. She expressed concern that routinely reimbursing mistakes could create an expectation or sense of entitlement. Any such decision would need committee discussion.
- h. Dawn: Asked whether this type of situation had occurred previously.
- i. Lynne: Conducted an informal poll regarding whether the situation had occurred before. Other areas consulted did not have a policy regarding this. However, the polling pool was limited.
- j. Lisa: Asked how a case-by-case process might work.
- k. Dawn: Raised an example involving an unexpected death or emergency affecting a trusted servant and whether the Area could pay expenses directly rather than requiring the individual to pay first.
- l. Robin: Shared experience from her district, where financial problems resulted in an audit and new policies. She emphasized allowing room for individual circumstances and suggested a case-by-case approach.
- m. Lenore: Suggested that general guidelines might be more helpful than a strict written policy. For example, trusted servants could be encouraged to purchase refundable airline tickets whenever possible.
- n. Lisa: Noted that the discussion arose from a situation during the current rotation. She expressed concern about requiring an individual or family to absorb a significant unexpected expense and felt that guidance could help future committees.
- o. Amanda: Asked what would constitute a “good-faith mistake” and whether the speed with which the person acted after discovering the mistake should be considered.
- p. Lisa: Stated that even if the proposed wording or policy was not ultimately adopted, bringing the issue forward could help establish a group conscience for future committees.
- q. Lynne: Discussed the need for a process to determine whether something constituted a good-faith mistake.
- r. Robin: Clarified voting rights.
- s. Lynne: Clarified that she does not have a vote unless there is a tie.
- t. Lisa: Asked how a committee could authorize payment for an unplanned expense and then allow the Treasurer to issue payment.
- u. Bill: Described this as a gray area and suggested considering the trusted servant’s history and whether similar situations had occurred before.
- v. After the agenda item was reread, an initial vote was taken:
 - i. 2 in favor
 - ii. 1 opposed
 - iii. 1 abstention
 - iv. Minority Report / Further Discussion
 - 1. Amanda: Stated that she believed the item was a “travesty,” emphasizing that those serving are not newcomers but trusted stewards of Area funds

and therefore have a responsibility to exercise care with those funds. She expressed concern about what the Area would be allowing by reimbursing significant mistakes and stated that doing so could establish a precedent of entitlement.

2. Amanda also expressed concern about the process by which the item came before the Finance Committee and questioned whether it was appropriate for the matter to be considered by a committee that included the person who submitted the item as a voting member.
 3. Jessica: Clarified that any person may submit an agenda item.
 4. A question was then raised regarding who had submitted this particular agenda item.
 5. Lynne: Asked why an agenda item submitted by a voting member of the Finance Committee was being considered by that same committee.
 6. Lisa: Expressed a desire to hear the full Area 40 group conscience on the issue.
 7. She noted that guidelines could help reduce uncertainty in future situations and expressed concern about asking a trusted servant to personally risk a significant amount of money while carrying out Area responsibilities.
 8. Jessica: Explained that she receives agenda items and believed Finance was the appropriate committee because the issue involved money. She felt the procedural concern had become somewhat accusatory.
 9. Bill: Discussed Robert's Rules of Order and whether an agenda item should identify the person submitting it.
 10. Lisa: She suggested referring the matter to Policy and Procedures for further consideration.
 - a. Reconsideration: A motion was made to reconsider the previous vote.
 - b. Motion to reconsider passed unanimously.
 - c. The committee discussed whether the issue should be referred to Policy and Procedures, Structure, or Finance.
 - d. Final Action
 - e. Lynne moved to commit the matter to Policy and Procedures for consideration in the fall. Amanda seconded.
 - f. Decision: The matter will be referred to Policy and Procedures, and discussion will continue.
 - w. Additional clarification from Jessica: The identity of the person who submits an agenda item is not disclosed.
3. Consider the 2027 Area 40 Budget. Reminder*-Background for Consider items are on the Dashboard
 - a. Committee members were reminded that background information for Consider Items is available on the Dashboard.
 - b. Overall Budget
 - i. The proposed Area 40 budget reflected an approximately 16% overall increase.
 - ii. Assemblies

1. Assembly expenses were initially discussed as increasing from approximately
 - a. \$16,288 to \$19,176.
 - b. It was noted that three trusted servants live in Great Falls or have accommodations available there, resulting in some lodging funds not being spent.
 - c. IT services provided by Jack's company, approximately \$2,900, are included in Area Assembly costs.
 - d. The committee discussed ensuring that trusted servants who incur legitimate expenses are appropriately reimbursed.
- iii. Area Service Conference
 1. The budget reflected approximately a 5% increase. The conference will be held in Minnesota.
- iv. Regional Trustee
 1. The Regional Trustee budget was increased approximately 5% to \$966.
- v. Delegate Expenses
 1. Lynne discussed budgeting for the legitimate expenses incurred by the Delegate.
 2. One expense had been budgeted at approximately \$575 the previous year but actually exceeded \$700.
 3. The committee discussed an upcoming expense that is costly but appears difficult to reduce.
 4. Amanda asked Lisa whether the amount reflected an appropriate actual cost. Lisa indicated that the amount was tight but appropriate.
 5. Roundup expenses for the Delegate to attend were budgeted at approximately \$1,200.
 6. Travel expenses around Montana remained unchanged.
 7. Overall Delegate expenses increased approximately 16%.
 8. It was noted that some previous Roundup expenses may have been overestimated because Lisa was unable to attend some events; next year both individuals may be able to attend.
 9. The General Service Conference occurs during the Spring Assembly.
 - a. Total Delegate budget discussed: approximately \$8,700.
- vi. Alternate Delegate
 1. The Alternate Delegate budget remained approximately the same.
- vii. Archivist
 1. The Archivist did not use the full travel budget, but the committee chose to retain the current amount for the next rotation.
 2. Facility expenses will remain the same if the Archivist arrangement does not change.
- viii. Bridging the Gap / PI
 1. Bridging the Gap had not used its full budget; the amount was retained.
 2. PI remained approximately the same.
 3. Alternate Bridging the Gap will be funded.
- ix. Technology

1. The committee discussed restructuring several technology line items so the budget more accurately reflects actual needs.
 2. Lynne suggested combining line items 29, 30, and 32 into a single IT-related line item.
 3. Jessica reviewed previous minutes regarding the original intent of the technology funding.
 4. The committee discussed establishing a budget with clear guidelines while allowing the technology team flexibility in obtaining necessary equipment.
 5. Laptops have sometimes been borrowed from Billings.
 6. A previous technology assistant requested approximately \$50 for computers.
 7. The committee discussed combining expenses into an IT Assistant/Supplies line item of approximately \$850.
 8. A separate software line item of approximately \$300 would no longer be necessary.
 9. Technology-related costs discussed included approximately \$850 for IT assistance/supplies, other technology team expenses, and approximately \$200 for the website.
 10. The committee discussed moving the website expense under PI.
- x. Committee Chair Expenses
1. Committee Chair supplies remained the same.
 2. Committee Chair travel initially remained the same.
 3. Lisa: Noted that these line items might provide an opportunity for cost reductions.
 4. Lenore: Asked whether the travel budget applied only to national conferences.
 5. Lynne: Clarified that it covers travel throughout Montana.
 6. Lisa later stated that she preferred retaining the Committee Chair travel budget because it encourages Area 40 chairs to participate in events throughout the Area
- xi. Ad Hoc Committees
1. No amount was entered for Ad Hoc Committees because meetings can be conducted through Zoom.
 2. Other/National Workshops
 3. The existing amount was retained.
- c. Further Budget Discussion
- i. Jessica returned the discussion to the first budget line item and emphasized the importance of being good stewards of Area funds.
 - ii. Area 40 was approximately three-quarters through the year and still had a significant upcoming expense of approximately \$16,288.
 - iii. The committee discussed the projected balance after approximately another \$20,000 in spending.
 - iv. A contract for the Spring Assembly had already been signed.
 - v. Jessica asked whether there were opportunities to reduce expenses before requesting a larger overall budget.

- vi. A reduction of the first line item from approximately \$19,000 to \$17,000 was discussed.
- vii. The committee later discussed setting line items 1 and 2 at approximately \$17,500.
- viii. Jessica stepped out briefly to verify continued access to the meeting room.
- d. Revised Budget
 - i. Revised total discussed: \$68,660.

Finance GSC

- A. Review the results of all Finance committee items considered, reviewed, and discussed at the 76th General Service Conference.

The committee reviewed the results of Finance Committee items that were considered, reviewed, and discussed at the 76th General Service Conference.

- B. Lynne discussed the possibility of sending a letter requesting funds for the Area, similar to a GSO funding letter.
- C. Lisa moved to close the meeting.
 - a. Amanda seconded.
 - b. Motion passed.

Hotline/Report and Charter – Lance W.

Hotline – Area 40

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

Hello Area 40

It has been a privilege to serve as your Area 40 Hotline Chair. I had an understanding of what this position entailed. But I came to realize how important the Hotline position is. A lot of the chairs and our agenda items deal with the fellowship as a whole and sometimes within our state. But Mainly Hotline is all local/statewide. As the Chair it is my duty to serve and work with other District hotline Reps or DCM. Typically, how it works, the hotline rep would come up with the Volunteers. Male and Female. I would then email our Answering Service and have them update that district's list with the name and number. (When someone calls the Hotline number which is (406)-540-5131 or the number on our website 833-800-8553.) The Caller will be transferred to the volunteer to have the call made. If it's missed, either I or our co-chair will forward the message to the district rep. The Rep will get a hold of the volunteer to call back or they might take that call.

Okay so here are the numbers since the last assembly!

- June- 41 total calls 22 missed
- July- 39 total calls 23 missed
- August- 29 total calls 18 missed
- Total Overall 109 Missed Overall 63

Now that is roughly 55% of the Calls are Missed. But like I mentioned with the Help of the co-chair Jake. we reached out the Reps and I believe all calls are called back attempted to be called back. I

will be having an Hotline workshop at the end of this year to help the up incoming Hotline chair and district hotline representatives.

I would like to say thank you for all the help our Co-Chair Jake, the District Reps, DCMs and big Thank you to every Person who is willing to Volunteer to answer the phone. Once again thank you to you all of the Area 40 for allowing me to serve you in help on keepin our Primary Purpose to help another alcoholic.

Love and Service,
Lance Whitehorse

2. Review activities of Hotline Committees and Chairpersons in Groups and Districts throughout Area 40.
 - a. In attendance: Lance W, Jake C, Jon A, Brad, Cody S
 - b. Discussion of challenges with service:
 - i. Script is not complete, don't always know whether the call was taken
Price: \$5/call
 - ii. Next steps:
 1. Investigate other services
Communication with district chairs about whether call takers are actually taking the calls.

Report and Charter – GSC

- A. Review the results of all Report and Charter committee items considered, reviewed, and discussed at the 76th General Service Conference
 - a. What happens if a group decides not to hear a GSR report? Group autonomy? Is GSO now telling groups what to do?

Archives/A40 Structure and Policy - Jody T

Archives – Area 40

1. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Archives Chair

This has been truly and honor and a dream to be able to serve for Area 40. On June 25 th, I traveled to Ennis to attend our work party! I decided to come a day early to see if I could get somethings organized, lol. Earl was awesome and let me in that Friday. I spent 5 ½ hours and honestly the hours flew by. I checked in to my motel and was able to attend the Ennis meeting that evening. It was a great meeting and of course I love meeting new people. Saturday June 26 th , I was so grateful for those who were able to attend...Pat P. brought Mark and Robert, Lynne W. brought Nadine and Erika and from Ennis, Earl, Susan and Ron and Joanne from Bozeman. Of course, Rick and I were there. I was so utterly impressed with how everyone jumped in and were able to organize, categorize and clean, all with smiles, laughs and jokes. Thank you, Pat and Joanne for tackling the computers, and Susan for offering to type out all of what we categorized. It was truly a day that will forever be in my memories.

On July 18th I attended the virtual Delegates Report. Lisa did a wonderful job. Even though I'm not real keen with zoom, it does come in very handy. Then, on Saturday July 25th , Jerry and I took off

for Ennis. I knew there wouldn't be as much to do, but so wanted to help out Rick. Lynne W. brought Jacob, Rick, Jerry and myself came. We were able to organize some file cabinets and of course more papers. Lynne was able to find quite a lot for the round ups. It was a shorter day but greatly appreciated. Also, Ennis at that time was having Art in the Park, so we decided to go there for lunch as Earl's wife Lori is a talented artist and we were able to visit with her and Earl. Another great day in sobriety. I have been trying to work on updating the Policy & Procedures and Past Actions. This has been a very struggling ordeal. I'm hoping the last thing I sent out is looked over and corrected. Trying to learn, can't say it's been a really good experience, but I've been willing to try. I consider myself a very lucky alcoholic, I spent 36 years learning about service, steps, traditions, concepts and commitment from many friends in District 51 and now for the past two years, being in District 42 has been a wonderful chapter to my story.

Thank you all for allowing me to be of service.
Jody T. A40 Archives/Structure and Policy

Review assembly report of the Area 40 Archivist, Rick H.

Hello area 40

I am Rick and I am an alcoholic, currently serving as your area 40 archivist. Since we met last spring things have been busy. In May I attended the Spring roundup in Kalispell I found out on Friday night that I was giving a presentation on Saturday morning so that was fun. I also won a really cool painting of the serenity prayer from the raffle. It was a great event with really good speakers, later in May I had my first sober surgery and the first time taking oxycontin painkillers, guess what? when taken as prescribed they work really well I had minimal pain I also know that I am still alcoholic when I was looking at the leftover 4 pills, I thought, I better save these. Then the thought came, I wonder what 4 would do. Next on the agenda was a trip to Great Falls for the Founder's Day event, it was a lot of fun despite being moved indoors due to the weather. On the last Saturday of June Jodi T had organized a workshop at the archive's storage unit, we had about 9 or 10 of us working on sorting and organizing lots of stuff the cassette tapes were all listed and put into storage bins, the old computers were gone through and sorted out for e waste. At the end of July, we had another workshop in the storage unit to organize some more stuff. August there was a little bit of a break to get some things get stuff done around my house. This month things are busy again. I took a history display to state prison conference at the request of the liaison Neil T, then a concept study online last weekend and here we are. Next weekend I will go to the fall round up in Missoula and I just found out that I will be scooping ice cream at the ice cream social.

Over the past two months it has become painfully apparent that I do not have the skills to fulfill this position to its potential, I feel that it would be better served by someone with the abilities to utilize the technology of the Internet and the digital world. Jody T. has been the saving grace regarding the past actions and the policy and procedure documents that need to be upgraded. I have come to realize that my ego is why stood for this position. I want to be important in AA, the truth is when I was going through my cancer diagnosis and treatment it was not the archives position that kept me tethered to AA it was my daily commitments to the jail and other still suffering Alcoholics, I believe my best service friend Kacie said it best when she was the delegate, boots on the ground person. So, with that lengthy explanation I will be stepping down from the archivist position next spring. Thank you for my life.

In love and service,

Rick H

2. Review activities of Archives Committees in Groups and Districts throughout Area 40
 - a. District 41 Grant M. reported that at this time there is no active Archives chair, but he has been able to digitize a whole box of material with the help of Joe. District 12
 - b. Greg T. also stated that they don't have an active Archives chair, but GSR's and the DCM have been taking on the role. * District 91
 - c. Chris M. has nothing to report at this time.
 - d. 81 Sage H. reported that there is no chair here and they lost their google drive, so they are busy trying to reorganize.
 - e. District 72 Joanne M. is the Archives chair and she has been very busy getting things organized and scanned to the mini site. Working on digitizing things.
 - f. District 61 Jeff M. Archives chair for 61 has been working on finding group history back from 1993. Crafting narrative for groups to share history and get it posted to the mini site. Also working on digitizing as much as possible.

Area 40 Structure and Policy

4. Review Spring 2026 Assembly Evaluation Report
 - a. This was reviewed.
5. Consider Area 40 creating an Ad Hoc Committee to review the Area 40 Roundup structure.
 - a. The background information was read and Bruizer was able to help with this as his District brought this agenda forward. There was much discussion within our group.
 - i. The motion passed with 3 in favor and one against.
 1. Minority spoke. The motion is "Area 40 create an Ad Hoc Committee to review the Area 40 Roundup structure."
 - b. Committee to review the Area 40 Roundup structure."
3. Consider making the Area 40 Advisor responsible for conducting the Area Inventory that is done every 4th year.
 - a. Jody read the background information. This was discussed within the group and when brought for a motion it failed.
 - i. The committee would like more information on this to make a clear vote.
 - ii. No motion taken.

Archives – GSC

- A. Review the results of all Archives committee items considered, reviewed, and discussed at the 76th General Service Conference.
 - a. Jody read from the 76th Final Report. This was discussed.

Cooperation with the Professional Community/Trustees - Karon K.

Cooperation with the Professional Community – Area 40

1. Review assembly report of the Area 40 CPC Chair

Thank you, Jessica. I'm Karon, and I'm alcoholic from District 72 where Pink Cloud is my home group in Bozeman. CPC, the Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee, aims to establish better communication between AA and professionals and inform them and future professionals about AA, dispelling any misconceptions or misinformation they might have.

During my rotation I have focused first on providing support, advice and mentoring to district CPC chairs, like helping District 51 plan for a CPC/Corrections/PI workshop. Second, I've focused on building our connections with professional organizations and statewide initiatives to ensure that AA is visible and its efficacy for recovery is known among professionals who encounter individuals having alcohol problems. Since April, we exhibited at the Montana Primary Care Association Pain and Addiction Conference where nearly 200 health care professionals were in attendance. Dirk S, CPC chair from District 71, helped staff the exhibit and was an invited speaker.

Following the conference, I consulted our local Class A Trustee, Kelly Parsley, to see if she'd be willing to be a speaker there. I followed up with conference organizers to suggest they consider her for next year's conference since her academic career has focused on alcohol use and other health related issues in training students aspiring to enter the health professions. Last week Bruizer from District 81 staffed our AA exhibit and participated in the Peer Support and Recovery Services Symposium in Fairmont. About 100 peer support specialists, social workers, licensed counselors and other health care professionals and administrators attended. In October we'll be present to exhibit and represent AA at the Montana Behavioral Health Conference, sponsored by the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services and hosted by the Montana Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. This statewide conference brings together individuals with lived experience, family members, providers, advocates, researchers, and public health leaders.

In addition, I attended online training for professionals on topics such as treatment of alcohol use disorder to be better informed and prepared to effectively integrate information about AA into the context of their professional development.

My attendance at conferences such as these has been instrumental for me reaching key individuals in organizations and governmental agencies. I've met with the leadership team of the Montana Angel Initiative. It aims to increase access to treatment and recovery for Montanans, reduce stigma, and increase collaboration between law enforcement, treatment, and recovery resources. I've provided them with AA literature and the CPC business cards with the end goal to integrate information about AA in their training events. I've also met with the director of the Montana Assistance Program in the Department of Labor, which helps healthcare professionals in addressing substance use disorders that may affect their ability to practice safely. I provided literature and other information on AA to the program.

I want to share some of the lessons I've learned that I think apply not solely to CPC service work. Just as we do when working on our program, I learned to be patient but persistent in pursuing new leads and not take it personally when doors were closed to me. It takes time, patience and tenacity to develop the connections required to do this kind of service work. Often, repeated calls or emails over many months are necessary for a breakthrough connection. These contacts can be difficult to establish and there is value in continuing to cultivate them.

Besides my sponsor who also serves as my service sponsor, the National PI/CPC Working Group has been the most valuable resource for me to meet AA members across the country who share CPC project ideas and other resources. I cannot overstate the value and impact that this working group has had on my service work. It has been an invaluable resource for sharing information on successful strategies and initiatives, serving as a capacity-building resource with presentation materials, posters, business cards, research reports and other information accessible on the

group's website. Monthly meetings include formal presentations and open sharing of ideas on various topics. It's essentially professional development for our service volunteers.

As a former librarian, I often cringe at Tradition Nine which states that AA ought never be organized. Although I don't really think that a strict interpretation for all AA activities was an intended outcome of the Tradition, the lack of "organization" can become an obstacle to effective operations, succession planning and sustainability of our important service work. *We rotate leadership not service.* In working with some new CPC chairs in a few districts, I have learned that the continuity of service work has been hampered by the lack of information about previous activities, contact lists and other resources. Formalizing CPC Chair position responsibilities in district guidelines for reporting, archiving, and transferring knowledge is essential to facilitating service work, especially where human and financial resources are limited. I don't mean that the same activities must always be carried forward, negating the creative thinking of new chairs and their committees. The point is that we should be curating institutional knowledge and best practices specific to our communities to avoid volunteers beginning their rotations with blank slates or limited information.

I've been blessed that you entrusted me to do this work. It has been more rewarding than I could ever imagined, providing intellectual stimulation and friendships within and outside our rooms.

I couldn't possibly have known how this work would impact me spiritually and change how I thought about myself as an alcoholic. The first year I attended the Montana Primary Care Association conference, I was not treated like a specimen of the disease of alcoholism. I was recognized as having "lived experience" in addiction and recovery—that is their terminology; they don't refer to us as alcohol abusers or addicts. Any shame and self-inflicted stigma I placed on myself was replaced by me recognizing my value there. AA had a seat at the table among professionals. In sharing our own experience and information about the program of Alcoholics Anonymous in these arenas, we demonstrate to professionals how AA can be effective for other individuals with this disease.

I hope some of you will consider standing for the CPC chair in your districts or in the future for Area 40 CPC chair. I promise you'll have the opportunity to experience the spiritual growth I did when doing this work.

Thank you,

Karon K

2. Review activities of CPC Committees in Groups and Districts throughout Area 40

- a. **Attendees:** Denise S GSR D91; Brandi W DCM D71; Mitch A CPC chair D11; Betty M CPC chair D72; Mark S Former Delegate D91; Aimee S Incoming CPC Chair D11; Karon K Area 40 CPC chair (Dave O D11 attended briefly for discussion of their new CPC app for referrals from hospital staff) I want to thank all who participated in our committee discussions, especially Denise S from D91 for taking notes. We are grateful that past delegates like Mark attend our committee meeting to clarify and illuminate the issues in agenda items. Otherwise, our discussions would be less well-informed or might lead to recommendations with consequences not intended by us. In our area currently 8 of the 14 districts have CPC chairs and fewer of those have committees to support the chair, due largely to the sparse populations in some of those districts. Please don't think that means not much CPC work is being done in the

districts. These chairs and their committees have been creative in implementing a diversity of strategies and programs with often limited resources.

- i. **District 11**, where Mitch A is CPC chair, held its third annual AA, a Resource workshop for the professional community on Friday, May 15th, and a Safety workshop the following Saturday. They immediately began planning next spring's workshop and have secured the same venue at MSUB and set a date of Friday, May 14th. The committee has secured a couple of speakers/panelists and continues to reach out to others to gauge their interest in participating. One of their goals is to have a lot of the legwork done to ease the transition of the incoming chair. They continue to work with Off the Streets, a transitional housing program for the unhoused, and Saint Vincent DePaul cooperating in starting meetings at these locations. They've recently had a request from a rehabilitation facility to explore the possibility of starting a meeting there, we will make an informational presentation there on October 16th. Twelve step requests from medical facilities have continued to decline. In order to make it as easy as possible for case managers, physicians, and other staff to contact them when a patient has requested a visit from AA, they created an App whereby scanning a QR code on an informational flyer and filling out a few fields, the request is sent directly to the volunteer list, eliminating the lag time. This will also save the district the cost of a phone and the monthly service bill. They are hoping to go live with this in early October and have printed the informational sheets and will begin distribution to area healthcare facilities soon. Dave O, who created the App, joined us to answer questions about the APP and how it might be adapted in other districts or area-wide outreach to health care facilities. Please reach out to Mitch if you want more information.
- ii. Jay S is CPC Chair in **District 51**. Since the Spring Assembly, he has participated in several team calls regarding the possibility of holding a workshop in Havre involving Cooperation with the Professional Community, Public Information, and Corrections representatives. He has also contacted staff members at Northern Montana Hospital, Bullhook Community Health Center, and local addiction counselors. This outreach has included emails and telephone calls to introduce or strengthen communication between Alcoholics Anonymous and professionals who may encounter individuals suffering from alcoholism. Jay and his committee are continuing to work on the Havre workshop and expanding their outreach to professionals in the community.
- iii. In **District 61** Alysia R and her committee have supplied Carroll College's Mobile Health Unit with 50 meeting schedules and 50 "Am I an Alcoholic" self-assessment booklets. They have also scheduled a presentation to the College's nursing class in October as part of their addiction curriculum.
- iv. In **District 71**, Dirk S joined me to staff the exhibit and was an invited speaker at the Montana Primary Care Association Pain and Addiction Conference. He spoke on his "Trifecta of Troubles" in his lived experience at the intersection of addiction, treatment access, stigma, and recovery. His story highlighted how healthcare interactions and systems influence recovery outcomes and patient engagement, providing clinicians with insight into patient-centered approaches to care. Dirk continues to speak with medical professionals whenever possible and

offer information on AA. He's distributed hundreds of "Do you know someone with a drinking problem"? "Does Alcoholic Anonymous work?" business cards throughout the district to professionals and various chairpersons at the District meeting. He puts them on various bulletin boards he sees when traveling, at the Court House and Justice Center. At the hospital he has routinely refilled the AA literature rack with cards, schedules and information pamphlets.

- v. Betty M is the CPC chair in **District 72**. The committee was asked by their MSU Nursing Student liaison to do presentations during the Summer and Fall 2026 semesters to 2 different cohorts of students. Al-Anon joined in the presentations. Each speaker remarked later how grateful they were to have been able to share AA and Al-Anon's message of hope and recovery with the nurses of tomorrow. Over the last two years, they forged a close relationship with both MSU Nursing and Al-Anon. During this rotation, the CPC met and discussed a variety of ideas for approaching potential CPC-appropriate contacts and, unfortunately, did not make much progress. Betty met with the incoming CPC chair and invited her to observe our final presentation at MSU in September, which she found very helpful. She also invited her to come to Area 40 with this Fall, however pre-existing commitments prevented her from doing so. Betty is grateful to have had the opportunity to serve in both District 72 CPC and Area 40 as district CPC committee member during this rotation.
- vi. Elena C chairs the CPC Committee in **District 81**. They did a presentation for the nurses' class at MSU in April and plan on doing another one in November. They did a successful presentation for the Missoula Healthy Youth Coalition in April. They attended the official launch for Community Hospital's Detox Center. They will have a table at Fall Roundup and will chair a table at a luncheon for a behavioral health center that specializes in addiction in October. They attended a service workshop for District 81. They may do a presentation for a group of Montana's probation and parole officers in October.
- b. I want to add my personal thanks to Bruizer from D81 who on very short notice volunteered to make a special trip to Phillipsburg to pick up our CPC exhibit after Dirk S sustained a back injury and could not attend the Peer Support Symposium. Bruizer set up and staffed the CPC exhibit at the conference and transported it back here for me to take home.
 - i. In **District 93** Chris T keeps schedules at offices of doctors willing to display them and at the Probation Department.
- c. Finally, at last year's Area Fall Assembly I neglected to thoroughly follow the agenda and omitted the review and discussion of the Area 40 CPC position description. We did that at today's meeting. Our only suggestion is to put a reference note at the top of each position to refer to the General Guidelines and General Qualifications on pages 14-15 of the Policies and Procedures – Fall 2024. Those contain important descriptions and qualifications that might be missed if a reader refers only to the specific chair position.

Cooperation with the Professional Community – GSC

- A. Review the results of all Cooperation with the Professional Community committee items considered, reviewed, and discussed at the 76th General Service Conference

- a. We reviewed results of CPC items as reported in the 2026 Final Report: Humility in Action. There were no resulting CPC advisory actions. We reviewed how our discussions and considerations differed from those discussed at the GSC; however, none were substantial enough to lead us to any further recommendations. An example was the review of the report on AAWS Linked in project. The CPC Committee at the GSC approved the report, noted that the project was aligned with original goals and made a few suggestions for reporting. At the Spring Assembly our CPC committee felt that Linked In's usefulness may be less than originally intended as a conduit for professionals, due largely to face paced technology changes and numerous irrelevant postings that must be moderated and removed. In general, we thought that it might be reconsidered as an effort based on cost and human resources.

Corrections – Daniel S.

Corrections – Area 40

1. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Corrections Chair

Hello area 40. Individuals reached out concerning local correspondence. GSO has this set up on a national level. They are wanting to be more local. We have been in contact with DOC about the next steps. We discussed various ways to make sure we as members stay safe during this process such as potentially using district po boxes not using real names.

National Corrections Conference happening Salt Lake City November 13 -15. A group of us are going to be in attendance!!!

Pink Can has mostly gone digital. There are still small town jails that have not made the switch and still have a pink can needed.

There are 43 facilities at the state level that offer digital literature. There is over %50 percent completion rate.

I will be in attendance in Great Falls for the bridging the community luncheon on October 17 from 11-3

I thank you for the opportunity to serve area 40 as your corrections chair.

3. Report on Pink Can income and disbursements

- a. The current pink can account is \$4369.94. We have a contribution of \$673.46. I have sent out literature to district 11 and district 42. I have missed sending literature out to district 61 this past summer.

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

- a. District 91 has a new pre-release center that is operational. They have a schedule to take meetings into the jails.
- b. District 81 has gone all digital with their literature but meetings are still being taken into the facility on a scheduled basis.
- c. District 41 has reported that there is talks about letting aa be allowed to bring meetings back into their facilities. They are still making sure literature is available for the incarcerated alcoholics. Meetings are being taken to Colstrip.

Corrections – GSC

- A. Review the results of all Corrections committee items considered, reviewed, and discussed at the 76th General Service Conference.
 - a. The pamphlet "The AA member-medications and other drugs" be revised and bring a progress report or draft back to the GSC

International Conventions and Regional Forums – GSC

- A. Review the results of all International Conventions and Regional Forums committee items considered, reviewed, and discussed at the 76th General Service Conference.
 - a. No recommendations were taken.
 - b. The international convention is being held in St. Louis Missouri July 4-7 2030.

Grapevine and La Vina/Policy and Admissions – Hugh M.

Grapevine and La Viña – Area 40

1. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Grapevine and La Viña Chair
2. Review activities of Grapevine and La Viña Committees in Groups and Districts throughout Area 40.

My name is Hugh and I am an alcoholic. Proud to be serving as your Area 40 Grapevine/LaVina chair. Since our last time together things have been busy both personally and in service. In May, I was able to travel to Kalispell for the Spring Roundup and as usual, it was a blast. Great speakers and fellowship. In June I traveled down to Sun Valley Idaho to visit family and was able to sit in on a book study with The Plain Language Big Book. It was my first time with this book and I found it to be a great tool for me to work with a new sponsee. I also attended a Founders Day picnic while I was there. In July I traveled up to Augusta to District 42 to put on a Grapevine writing workshop. We had nine peeps there, and was a lot of fun along with some great stories that were shared. In August I went south to Billings for another writing workshop. We had 25 people attend and there were some great stories written and I hope some were submitted.

Speaking of submitted stories, Kathy T. who attended a workshop in Missoula that we did, was chosen and her story is in the August issue this year. Way to go Kathy. This has been a great rotation but its not done yet. Next weekend I will be in Missoula for the Fall Roundup and serving ice cream and whatever else I can be of service. On October 17th I will be in Helena for the Grapefest and we will be doing a writing workshop and Kathy T. will be speaking. So come see us! Last year was great and I'm sure this year will be even better. And thank you Kaytlin for all you do in District 61. I hope to be putting on one more workshop in Great Falls. Thank you to ALL of the Grapevine chairs in Area 40 for doing such a great job and helping me to have a Great rotation.

Thank you in service,

Hugh M.

2. Discuss Grapevine memberships, the App, and story submissions.
3. Turn the idea of a 12 - Step Workbook over to the Grapevine.
 - a. First off, thank you to the 7 people in my break-out. We had some good discussion on the activity in the different districts on the Grapevine, all seems to be growing. We talked about how the growth of the App and membership. We had a very long discussion about our Agenda item and we believe we have a good plan going forward to write a new Agenda item for the Spring Assembly. We went through all items that were reviewed at the 76 th General Service Conference. We also discussed the acquisition of the

Everything AA App. I truly believe that the Grapevine is in good hands moving forward and plan on working with anything I can do to help us to continue the growth.

Grapevine and La Viña – GSC

- A. Review the results of all Grapevine and La Viña committee items considered, reviewed, and discussed at the 76th General Service Conference.

Policy and Admissions – GSC

- A. Review the results of all Policy and Admissions committee items considered, reviewed, and discussed at the 76th General Service Conference.

GSR Breakout

GSR Ask it Basket

Q: Why is the spirit of rotation important?

D: Prevent ownership and ego from setting in. Founders realized they wouldn't be able to run everything forever. New blood. New perspective. New generation teaches old generation. Prevent burnout. Allow others to receive what we've received. Maintain our own humility. One person shared experience with difficulty in finding a replacement

Q: What do we do when we're having difficulty finding our replacements?

D: Numerous people shared their experience with learning that eventually you have to walk away rather than carry the group

Q: What does the GSR do about predators in the group?

D: Take it to the business meeting and follow group conscious. GSO has safety resources, such as yellow card. Calling the police isn't against the traditions. Meeting facility can get a restraining order. One person shared experience with a safety workshop in their district. "Safety and AA: Our Common Welfare" on aa.org.

One person shared experience dealing with problem members both online and in person.

Several people shared their experience making safety a priority so predators don't stick around.

Various people shared experience with not confronting problem members alone

Not all predators are men -- someone shared experience about an ongoing situation with a female predator.

Someone shared experience with being kind and loving to problem members and having them return better.

DCM Breakout

Paul: If you are a DCM or interested in being a DCM you are in the right place.

The group talked about problems in Districts and possible solutions.

Attendees: Lila H. D72

Brandy DCM 71

Lynne Past DCM 11

Greg DCM 12

Mark 11

Thereasa DCM 42

Susan 91

Corina

Eli DCM 91

Libba DCM 91

Doreen GSR 93

Gene DCM 51

Steve 81

Pat DCM 11

Carly DCM 81

- Questions: What are people doing to encourage others to stand for next rotation?
 - Amanda wants to know – some people are jaded and disenfranchised.
 - Eli – Travel to all the groups. Talks up things going on. Looks for service-oriented people at groups.
 - Eli – encourages service people to go for service positions.
 - Sage – DCM prepares for elections. Goes to business meetings, looks for people and asks if they are considering positions. Gives them info so they can consider and encourages them. Plants the seed.
 - Carly – Encourage committee chairs to form committees. Often committee members stand for positions. Try to rally people.
 - Brandy – Likes to compare to bring message to new commers show them that service works. Have a good attitude. Get people excited.
 - Pat – Echoes excitement. Give new GSRs good orientation. Approach them near the end or rotation.
- Amanda ask how to deal with the disenfranchised?
 - Libba - Notice what people don't volunteer for. Libba recalled that other people were doing the work when she was dying of alcoholism and needed to hear the message. In her experience that softens them.
 - Carly – Had a tough sponsor that pushed her. Wants to tell disenfranchised that it is their fault because the solution is right in front of them. Their recovery is their responsibility.
- Paul asked how do we make the disenfranchised curious?
 - Sage – they have open table of officers that people can talk to and ask questions. Encourage to talk to people outside of meetings with less pressure. Want to hear their opinions. Can also set them up with newcomers. Remind them it is about helping others.
 - Mark listed to an individual who was upset about GSC. Had to remind himself it is about keeping drinks out of his own hand. Encourages old timers.
- What to do if last minute agenda items come in and GSRs vote without bringing it back to their groups.

- Carly – they have a cutoff and can agree that they don't have to vote on something if they do not have enough information. Sometimes it can be pressure on GSRs to vote right away.
- Amanda reviewed Roberts Rules of Order for AA meetings. Sends things through command chain. First new business, then can go to old business. Slows things down.
- Paul – AA moves at the speed of trust.
- Pat – good communication prevents emergencies from occurring. Communicated why things are being put on the agenda shortly before district didn't make it on but did result in a Safety Workshop. Was it right or wrong? Not sure.
- Paul and Amanda echoed wanting people to be heard.
- How do we carry principles in all affairs?
 - Corinna – the more she resented the program, the more she had to rely on her higher power. Life got bigger then ego got knocked down. Every step of the way have to ask for help from higher power.
 - Gene – Be honest and communicate. He is not good at it, but needs to.
 - Theresa – Carrying the spirit of love and service wherever she is. Always on God's time so why waste so much of my time. Could be using time more effectively then scrolling on her phone. Even in traffic. Says AA is real world, not just outside doors.
- How can we take GSC items back to our groups in a way that encourages involvement?
 - Sage – Being diligent in sobriety and present in recovery. Ask groups, this was discussed, what do you think about it? We don't tell groups what to do, we help them. Give them a chance then they do it.
 - Gene – One of the best kept secrets is how to get into the background information. If people are curious he shoes them.
 - Paul has to work on encouraging people to get into the background information. Some DCMs have done shortened cheat sheets of background info. Could make your won cheat sheet. Does run the risk of personal bias. Even go to District meetings and show people the background information.
 - Lynne – Has found use in making flyers of a few agenda items. Then encourages people to dig in more. Go find what they care about. Whole entire GSC agenda is intimidating.
 - Greg – Has problem at complete distrust.
 - Paul – Tries to stir interest with provocative statements like "they are changing words in "12 & 12"
 - Carly – Takes lots of notes. Pulls out interesting bits from her notes to share. Lisa also does this, focuses on highlights. CliffsNotes versions. Not firehose.
 - Amanda – If you don't like agenda items, make your own. (tell this to people). Put responsibility on them.
 - Libba - Printed first 5 pages of Service Manual and other stuff I missed. Prints stuff and brings it. She knows what interests her people and bring that information to them. Gives them a heads up and breakdown topics. Spring is a lot.
 - Eli – Get to know groups in your District. Notice what interests and strengths are.
 - Paul – Going to groups in Districts breaks down the barrier and eliminates us vs. them.
- How does gas expense get reimbursed in your district?
 - Sage – Has a gorm for it.
 - Carly – Get it down in language in P&P. Each group is autonomous.
 - Paul - brings receipts and milage

- Sage – Bring receipts back. Is in job description and budget.
- Greg – do GSRs get reimbursed for driving to District?
- Many voices say that is a group expense.

Sunday, April 6, 2025

Roundup Reports

Spring 2026- Roundup – District 91

(DCM Note: The Roundup was held on May 1, 2, 3 at the Red Lion Hotel in Kalispell MT. Speakers included Dean H. from Whitefish MT, Ralph W. from Los Angeles and Theresa F. from Los Angeles)

(DCM Note: The Roundup made \$8191.15 in registration. \$5050.00 of that amount was made in online pre-registration.)

The Roundup was a Blast! It was well attended, and the workshops and entertainment was absolutely next level. The DJ and the Band crushed it! What an incredible time. The jam session on opening night was awesome. It had many of us at the mic for fun sing alongs. We should all be very grateful to be part of such an incredibly talented and generous recovery fam. The contributions committee, decorations, graphics, hospitality, speakers- AAAAAAMAZING! (I just needed to add that to see how the person reading this would perform it!)- Attached are the minutes from the final meeting along with a breakdown of the financial splits made with the remaining funds.

It was an honor a blessing to be trusted with this opportunity to serve.

In service,

Nino and Victoria G.

Fall 2026 Roundup – District 81 – No Report Provided

Spring 2027 Roundup – District 72

Good morning, Area 40. I'm Catherine, and I'm an alcoholic. I have the privilege of serving as Chair of the

District 72 Spring Roundup 2027 in Bozeman.

Our Roundup will be held April 30–May 2, 2027, at the Best Western Grantree Inn. Registration and updates are at www.roundupspring27.com.

Our theme comes from Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, Step Eleven, page 109: "The persistent use of meditation and prayer, we found, did open the channel so that where there had been a trickle, there now was a river which led to sure power and safe guidance from God as we were increasingly better able to understand Him."

That image of the trickle becoming a river has really come to describe this Roundup for me. Planning is moving along. Our speakers are confirmed, and we're working to pair committee chairs with co-chairs, bringing together someone with service experience and someone who may be newer to A.A. or to

service. Service gives us a place to learn from one another, to belong, and to become willing to do things we may not have imagined ourselves doing.

We've submitted our Roundup information to Box 4-5-9 and Grapevine, and we're adding a Zoom component.

We're discussing invitations to GSO and possible virtual presentations from Stepping Stones and Dr. Bob's Home in Akron. We're also exploring a panel with some of our Friends of A.A. here in District 72—connecting our history, our community, and our fellowship.

We've also spent time discussing self-support and alternate sources of income for the Roundup, including basket contributions, raffles, and auctions. Those conversations brought us back to our Traditions and A.A. literature. We developed a discussion guide and asked our GSRs to take it back to their groups. We're trying to listen and allow an informed group conscience to guide us, and we welcome Area 40's shared experience.

I want to express my gratitude to our Roundup team. I especially want to thank Jake, our Registration Chair, for everything he has taken on, and our AI-Anon members for their cooperation and willingness to build this with us.

I also want to thank Lenore, our DCM and incoming Committee Chair, who offered me grace at our last Assembly when I got the timing wrong and stepped in to give my report. It reminded me that even when we stumble, we're still moving forward. For me, an amends means a change in behavior, so this time, I checked the agenda.

One of the gifts of A.A. is that we get to watch each other grow. I don't always recognize the growth in myself, but I can see it in all of you. And sometimes I think you can see it in me before I can see it in myself.

That is one of the gifts of fellowship—we get to witness one another becoming. The last few years have challenged me in ways I didn't expect. Lately, though, I feel like I'm returning to myself—to the things I love, to service, and to being able to show up again.

Sometimes life really does feel like a trickle. Then, almost without realizing it, things begin to flow again. I see that happening in my own life, and I see it happening with this Roundup. One person shows up. One group participates. One member says yes. Together, that trickle becomes a river. I am incredibly grateful to be part of it.

Please join us in Bozeman, April 30–May 2, 2027. Visit www.roundupspring27.com for registration and

updates.

From a trickle to a river—come be part of the flow.

Thank you.

Fall 2027 Roundup – District 11

Hi Ya'll,

The committee is off to a great start over in Billings. Our theme is “Unity in All Our Affairs.” The date is October 1, 2, 3, 2027 at the Billings Hotel & Convention Center. We are offering a limited time Early Bird registration for \$35 until the fall Roundup in Missoula (Oct.2-4, 2026). Our Program Chair Erika has completed the registration flier, so please take plenty for your groups back home. The QR code on the flier will give you the special Pre-Registration price up until the Missoula Fall Roundup.

Mark W is our Raffle Chair. He's been busy gathering fabulous items from local artists that can't be found anywhere else.

Our speakers are going to be phenomenal: Darren P from Santa Barbara, Cia F from LA, & Area 40's own Alex M, by way of Tulsa OK.

There will be an Al-Anon lunch, Saturday evening banquet, and Sunday morning breakfast buffet. Our Activity Chair Debbie will be hosting an awesome game of Recovery Pictionary, among other activities. We are also offering an opportunity to “Sponsor Newcomers & Others in Financial Need” for this roundup. When you purchase your registration you can also add to our Scholarship Fund.

The committee is also offering a mug with a Fall 2027 Roundup logo. Quantities might be limited so you'll want to order yours soon.

I had the pleasure of attending the Gopher State Roundup in Minnesota last May. It was quite an experience, and I came home with a greater understanding & appreciation of our rotating schedule here in Area 40. Thank you Annie for suggesting we go. We had already been discussing adapting the approach to Roundups, and together with Catherine from the Bozeman Roundup we came up with the Tri-Roundup flier with QR codes & dates of all 3 current Roundups being planned here in Area 40. District 71, as soon as your committee is ready to accept registrations please let me know so we can update the Tri-Roundup flier to include you (we'll take Missoula off after next weekend).

For my birthday this year, I got to sort through all of the past Area 40 Roundup fliers. While I didn't find the information requested on our agenda item, I did compile a list of all the locations, dates, and themes of our past Roundups. If anyone wants a copy please let me know.

Thank you for letting me be of service,

Lynne W

Fall 2027 Roundup Chair, District 11

Intergroup Reports

South Central Montana Intergroup Report

Activities, Events & Outreach

South Central Montana Intergroup continues to remain active in supporting our local groups, newcomers, and the recovery community throughout the area.

We continue to host and participate in events that provide opportunities for fellowship and help newcomers become integrated into the recovery community. We had a very good turnout and attendance at the Cooney Campout, which was a great opportunity for fellowship and connection.

Upcoming Events

Intergroup is preparing for several upcoming events:

Halloween Party – October 10

Holiday Party – December 12

Founders Day – March 13

We look forward to continuing these events as opportunities for fellowship, service, and bringing members of the recovery community together.

Bookstore & Literature

Our Intergroup continues to operate the bookstore, providing literature and recovery materials to the local groups and members. We currently have approximately 700 books and thousands of pamphlets and we are fully stocked in the bookstore.

Group Representation

We currently have approximately nine representatives from different groups participating in Intergroup. Their participation helps keep communication open between the individual groups and Intergroup and allows us to better understand and respond to the needs of the local recovery community.

Overall

South Central Montana Intergroup continues to be active and financially able to support the groups and the recovery community. We are grateful for the continued participation of our groups and members, the growth of meetings throughout the area, and the many opportunities we have to welcome newcomers and encourage fellowship.

We look forward to continuing to carry the message, support our local groups, and provide opportunities for service and fellowship in the months ahead.

Flathead Valley Intergroup Report

Good morning, Area 40,

It is truly a blessing to be here with my Area 40 family once again. Thank you for allowing me the privilege of continuing to serve Alcoholics Anonymous as the Flathead Valley Intergroup Chair, New Hope GSR.

Before I get into my report, I want to recognize two people who have done an incredible amount of work for the Flathead Valley AA community: John B. and Josh L. They recently redesigned our website, FVIG.org, and the amount of time, effort, and dedication they put into that project is hard to overstate. They have created a site that is more informative, more

accessible, and much easier to navigate. It has become an invaluable tool for helping us carry the message throughout Flathead Valley. If you haven't visited it yet, I encourage you to take a look, explore the resources available, volunteer for service opportunities, or submit an event to be added to the calendar.

For those who may not be familiar with us, the Flathead Valley Intergroup exists to support AA groups and members throughout the Valley. We help provide accurate meeting information, coordinate fellowship events, and offer practical services that allow groups to focus on our primary purpose: carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Some of the things we do include maintaining and publishing current meeting schedules, supporting local groups, coordinating workshops and events, and helping connect people with meetings and resources when they reach out for help.

We serve individuals seeking recovery, AA members, and AA groups throughout the Flathead Valley. Everything we do is guided by the principles of unity, service, anonymity, and accessibility. We strive to bring groups together, support their efforts, protect the anonymity of our members, and make sure help is available to anyone seeking recovery.

One of the things I love most about Intergroup is that there is a place for everyone to get involved. Members volunteer on committees, help maintain meeting lists, staff the office, assist with outreach, and support fellowship events. It is one more opportunity for us to give back what was so freely given to us.

The Flathead Valley Intergroup meets on the last Saturday of every month in Columbia Falls for our business meeting and birthday celebration. We also host several fellowship events throughout the year, including our annual Halloween Costume Party and Thanksgiving Potluck. Upcoming events can always be found on our website calendar.

Personally, serving Intergroup has given me a deeper appreciation for how much happens behind the scenes to keep AA available for the next person who walks through the door. While Intergroups may not officially sit within the service triangle, I believe we play a vital role in helping connect alcoholics with the solution that saved our lives.

As I stand here today, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the people who continue to extend the hand of AA, for those who show up when no one is watching, and for the countless acts of service that make this Fellowship possible.

When I think about what Alcoholics Anonymous has given me, I am reminded of a passage that has always resonated deeply with me: "There you will find release from care, boredom, and worry. Life will mean something at last."

That has certainly been true for me. Through AA, I have found so much more than sobriety. I have found purpose, friendship, community, and a way of life that continues to teach me how to be useful to others. a quality of life far beyond anything I could have imagined. It helped me find myself when I didn't know who I was, and it continues to show me how to live with purpose and integrity. The debt I owe AA is one I can never fully repay. I pray that I may never run out of reasons or ways to thank alcoholics anonymous, as it does in fact continue to ensure the recovery of the child born tonight destined for alcoholism, I know because that child was me,

and i now am a contributing member of not only alcoholics anonymous but my community my family and my own story.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

As always

Blessed and gratefully yours,

Aryel M.

District 91

Flathead Valley Intergroup Chair

New Hope GSR

YPAA Reports

MYPAA Report

Good morning area 40. My name is Jerrod and I am an alcoholic. I have the honor of being the G.S.R for the Missoula Young Peoples of Alcoholics Anonymous group or M.Y.P.A.A. we meet every Friday at 7 p.m at 300 E. Main st in beautiful downtown Missoula MT. We have a speaker series every 4th Friday of the month followed by our business meeting. We have fellowship events on the 3rd Friday of every month. Our members consist of fellows who are young, getting sober, got sober young and are also young at heart. We have adopted the culture and traditions of the Y.P.A.A community. At meetings you will hear many members doing callbacks to our readings. We try and have fun and remind folks “we are not a glum lot”. Every year our attendance fluctuates quite a bit. both with the school year and with the summer months. But our home group participation is high and we are active. We have been asked to take on a service commitment for this year’s Fall Roundup which is happening on Oct 2 thru Oct 4 in Missoula Mt. We will be putting on the dance Saturday at 9p.m. We participated in the Fall Roundup gift basket fundraiser. We went with a local theme, many of our members are crafts people and artists so it was full of prints, jewelry, jams and candles.

Thank you for letting me be of service

Jerrod

BYPAA Report

I’m Valerie, I’m an alcoholic. My sobriety date is February 8th of 2021, which was the first day of my senior spring college semester. While most people my age were drinking as much as they could, I was holed up in my apartment with Zoom meetings, a phone, and a really big god.

My first young people’s meeting when getting sober was both full of people my age, and people who I (and they) would not consider “Young.” But, they had double digit sobriety after getting sober young. Seeing these people do what I thought to be the impossible kept me coming back on the days the voice in my head said, “Screw this.” Carrying the message to people who think they’re too young to be alcoholics can save lives — at least, I assume, because that’s what saved mine.

In Bozeman, Bozeman Young People hosted our annual kickball event last weekend, which included a speaker, hot dogs, cheeseburgers, and a few minor injuries. Seeing members of the Bozeman AA community get to laugh and feel young (again) brought so much light and joy to my heart and reminded me of the importance of fellowship. After all, we are not a glum lot. In the next few years, Bozeman

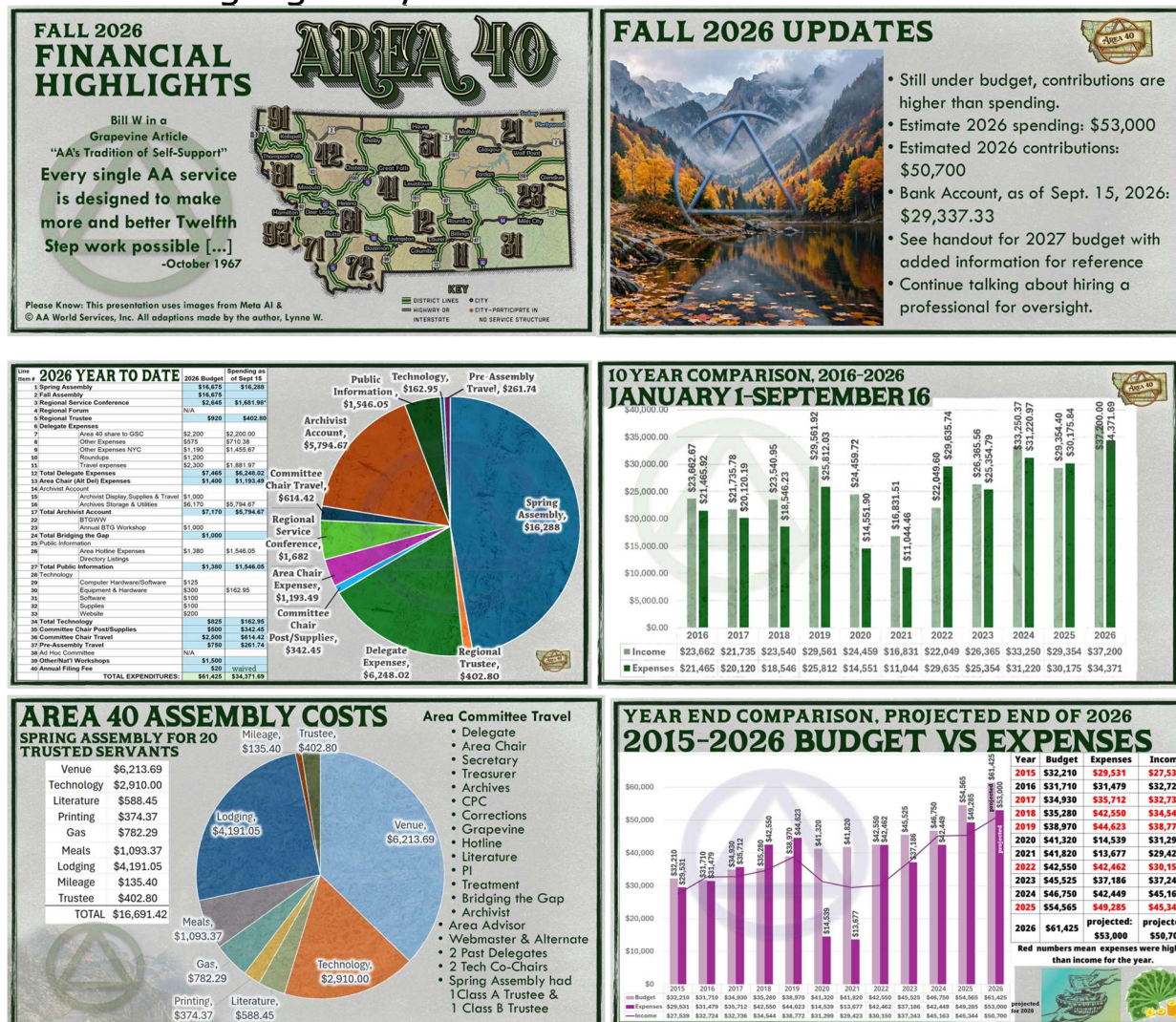
Young People is hoping to host a larger speaker meeting including a pot luck, panel, workshop, and speaker from out of state. We are currently consulting with other groups who have experience with this to determine budget and lessons they learned the hard way.

This year, the Western Area Conference of Young People in AA (WACYPAA) will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah from December 31st to January 3rd. If you are young in AA (or young at heart) and looking to connect, this event will have speakers, dancing, and business meetings with the YPAA organization. Although BOZYPAA (Bozeman Young People's) is not an officially registered YPAA group, I had the pleasure of connecting with Jerrod from Missoula in hopes of creating a YPAA event for Area 40. If you are interested in participating in the planning or have ideas about what you'd like to see from an Area 40 YPAA event, please see me or Jerrod.

Thank you all for my sobriety.

Appendix 1

Financial Highlights Lynne W.



PROPOSED 2027 BUDGET					
	2025 Budget	2026 Budget	Proposed 2027 Budget	2025 Budget	2026 Budget
1 Spring Assembly	14,500.00	\$16,675	\$19,176	21 Bridging the Gap	0.00
2 Fall Assembly	14,500.00	\$16,675	\$19,176	22 BTGWV	0.00
3 Regional Service Conference	2,300.00	\$2,645	\$2,777	23 Annual BTG Workshop	1,000.00
4 Regional Forum	2,000.00	N/A	\$2,777	24 Total Bridging the Gap	1,000.00
5 Regional Trustees	900.00	\$920	\$966	25 Public Information	1,000.00
6 Delegate Expenses				26 Area Hotline Expenses	1,380.00
7 Area 40 share to GSC	2,200.00	\$2,200	\$3,000	27 Total Public Information	1,380.00
8 Other Expenses	500.00	\$575	\$700	28 Technology	
9 Other Expenses NYC	600.00	\$1,180	\$1,500	29 Computer Hardware/Softw	125.00
10 Roundups	500.00	\$1,200	\$1,200	30 Equipment & Hardware	300.00
11 Travel expenses	2,000.00	\$2,300	\$2,300	31 Software	100.00
12 Total Delegate Expenses	5,800.00	\$7,465	\$8,700	32 Supplies	100.00
13 Area Chair (All Del) Expenses	600.00	\$1,400	\$1,400	33 Website	200.00
14 Archivist Account				34 Total Technology	825.00
15 Archivist Display, Supplies & Travel	240.00	\$1,000	\$1,000	35 Committee Chair Post/Supplies	400.00
16 Archives Storage & Utilities	6,000.00	\$6,170	\$6,220	36 Committee Chair Travel	2,500.00
17 Total Archivist Account	6,240.00	\$7,170	\$7,220	37 Pre-Assembly Travel	N/A 2025
18 Litter committee voted to take this item out				38 Ad Hoc Committee	N/A
19 General literature purchases	200.00			39 Other/Nat'l Workshops	1,500.00
20 Total Literature	200.00			40 Annual Filing Fee	20.00
				41 TOTAL	54,565.00
					10.5% 16% Increase Increase

SOME LEGALITIES

- The bank & filing laws are changing.
- If your homegroup, district, or intergroup has an annual income over \$5,000, look into filing form 990-N.
- If Area 40 has gross income over \$50,000 for the next 3 years, reporting changes from a postcard to a 4 page document
- Other Areas hire professionals to audit the books & file the proper paperwork
- Many groups now need insurance

A.A. Guidelines

Question: How do we obtain an employer identification number (EIN) number for our group checking account?

Answer: Local U.S. entities can obtain an EIN from the I.R.S. To get this number, fill out U.S. Form SS-4, "Application for Employer Identification Number," or apply online at www.irs.gov. This number applies even though the group is not an employer. Look for the section about obtaining an EIN for banking purposes only. The form asks if there is one group exemption number that applies to all, and there is not. Be sure to ask your financial institution for their requirements.

IRS website information taken from: <http://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/annual-electronic-filing-requirements-for-small-exempt-organizations-form-990-a-a-postcard>

If your group's contributions are more than \$5,000, less than \$50,000

Ready to file?

Form 990-N is easy to complete. You'll need only eight items of basic information about your organization.

- Employer identification number (EIN), also known as a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)
- Tax year (calendar or fiscal year)
- Legal name and mailing address
- Any other names the organization uses
- Name and address of a principal officer
- Website address if the organization has one
- Confirmation that the organization's annual gross receipts are \$50,000 or less
- If applicable, a statement that the organization has terminated or is terminating (going out of business)

For more information about these items, see Form 990-N, Information Required.

Do not use a smart phone or tablet to file your Form 990-N.

ANC-1.5 Finance

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				41 TOTAL	54,565.00
					10.5% 16% Increase Increase

THINGS I DIDN'T KNOW I KNEW TO HELP AN INCOMING TREASURER

- Any information needed should be disclosed (Full Disclosure Principle)
- Once you decide on your reporting system, keep it the same. Your reporting method should only be changed if it improves accuracy (Consistency Principle)
- Every transaction should be verifiable with proper documents. If you don't have documentation then you need to document why you don't have documentation (Reliability Assumption)
- Err on the side of caution. Underestimate revenue and overestimate expenses (Conservation Assumption)

Unofficial advice from my AZ divorce attorney 10 years ago: The Government is looking for real crooks. As long as you're not actually stealing, an audit is no problem. Document everything so you always have more answers than they have questions.

TIPS FROM YOUR TREASURER

Tools I Used

- Excel**
 - 4 different spreadsheets
 - make pie charts
- Quickbooks**
 - not entirely accurate due to complicated categorization
 - much more attributes than I'm aware of
- Photoshop**
 - make digital copies of receipts
 - I found pie charts to be beneficial. This was my choice, & not mandatory for the next Treasurer
- Adobe Acrobat:** the webmaster needs reports in PDF format
- Easy access to email**

Firstly, the treasurer reimburses our trusted servants accurately & with respect for their time.

- collect receipts for every expense
- check dates, amounts, & for duplication
- Suggestion:** give yourself a week to get the check in the mail.

The second most important job of the treasurer is to keep accurate records.

- Get a committee.** Suggested attributes:
 - doublecheck numbers on spreadsheets
 - verify self-reimbursement
 - help with software issues
 - ask the hard questions
 - emotional support

Note: it is way more fun to do this with people!!

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Appendix 2

DCM and Committee Pre Assembly Meeting Committee Meeting 8 29 2026

- Welcome
- 3min- One bright spot of your summer, and one of your service work
- Overview of the Friday night mixer, including how everyone will be engaged and involved with assembly participants. (Note: as listed on the agenda, we will be staying in the big room on Friday night, upside down triangle - intro)
- Question suggestions from Monday's meeting -
- Open time for any questions as the assembly approaches.

6. Wrap-up.

Item 3

Question 1 (Leader: Committee chair or officer leading the table)

Formulated Question: "How do we currently document and preserve passed motions, policies, and established practices at the group, district, and area levels—and what are ways we can effectively do this?"

Table Prompts by Role / Committee:

Secretaries / Record Keepers: How are motion logs, meeting minutes, and financial/administrative logs organized and handed off?

Committees (Corrections, Treatment, CPC, etc.): How are local facility clearance rules, committee guidelines, contact lists, and past event details kept intact when chairs rotate?

Group Leaders & GSRs: How does the group track historical group conscience decisions so past agreements aren't forgotten or re-debated?

Question 2 (Leader: DCM or voting member of committee)

Formulated Question: "How do we convey the responsibilities of trusted servants at the group, district, and area levels—and how can we best prepare them as they step into new service positions?"

Table Prompts by Role / Committee:

Committees (Corrections, Treatment, etc.): How are new chairs oriented using GSO Workbooks/Kits, local committee guidelines, and service sponsorship?

Secretaries & Treasurers: How do outgoing servants walk incoming members through technical tasks like reporting, roster updates, or logbooks?

Group Leaders & GSRs: How do we encourage members to step into group service positions and utilize "Alternate" roles for hands-on training?

Question 3 (Leader: District representative for the committee)

Formulated Question: "At the group, district, and area levels, are financial tools kept—such as budgets, monthly reports, and financial meeting minutes—and if so, where are they found? How is service work supported financially in your area of service, and what roles do members play in sustaining these services when requested?"

Table Prompts by Role / Committee:

Treasurers & Financial Officers: Do your groups or districts maintain formal written budgets and monthly reports, or is it handled more informally? If records exist, how easily can a member access them?

Committees (Corrections, Treatment, Literature, etc.): How do committees request funds when a formal budget exists versus when one doesn't? How are members mobilized when new financial needs arise?

Group Leaders, GSRs & DCMs: What happens when a group or district lacks clear financial tools or tracking? How do Seventh Tradition contributions—or lack thereof—impact the services members can provide?

Committee Meeting August 24, 2026 and August 29, 2026

- a. What do we do in terms of succession planning? What do we do to help grow leadership skills so people are able to step up?
- b. What are keys to success in serving in a position?
- c. What are the technical skills needed to serve at Area?
- d. What role does spirituality play in service?
- e. Why and how did service accelerate my spiritual development?
- f. What brought you to this Assembly?
- g. Was there a time in service when you needed to ask for help?
- h. What resources are available to learn about the service structure and various positions and what tools are available to help prepare people for service?
- i. How do you know if you are qualified for a position and the requirements for the position?
- j. How did service help you in early sobriety?
- k. Groups are the ultimate authority - we are the ones that communicate the groups authority but we exist to serve the groups.