

Area 40 Spring Assembly Minutes
Great Falls & Hybrid Assembly via Zoom
April 17-19, 2026

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Friday, April 17, 2026

Assembly Welcome, Friday Evening- Lisa C

Good evening! My name is Lisa C., and I'm an alcoholic. It's my honor and privilege to serve as your Delegate for this rotation. Thank you for being here with us on this Friday night... thank you for making the long drives some of you had to make, for braving the snow that held back for the last four-and-a-half months just so things could get messy 24 hours before assembly! Thank you for taking this time away from your partners, families, pets, couches, and Netflix queues. We're glad you're here.

How many of you are GSRs? How many are here for your first assembly? [stand up] We are thrilled you're here! That may not be the last time you're asked to stand up this weekend, and we do it, because those of us who have been doing this for a little while, we want to know who you are so that we can check in with you this weekend, answer your questions, and get to know you. [Are you wishing now that you didn't stand up?] We want to do what we can to try help people who are new to the assembly experience find something here like we found, something that keeps you coming back. Maybe even something that you bring back to your home groups and districts and sponsees that makes someone else want to come with you when you come back in the fall. That's our hope.

Tomorrow morning before we get started, we'll talk at some length about how the items we'll be focusing on this weekend fit into the upside down triangle and how information, ideas, thoughts, and beliefs about those items move from the top of the triangle, from the AA groups, to the bottom, the General Service Conference. For tonight, I just want to explain for those who may not know, that as your delegate, I'll be bringing the voice of Area 40 to the General Service Conference next week. The voice of area 40 is *your* voice as a member. It's the voice of your group if you're here as a GSR. It's the voice of the people you serve if you do corrections work or treatment work or bridging the gap work or if you sponsor other members. It's the voice of your districts if you're here as a DCM. I want to carry all of those voices with me to NY, but I can only do that if you use your voice this weekend. So don't be shy. Or do be shy and come to the microphone anyway! I have some experience with that. I still get nervous at the microphone, although I'm a little better at hiding it than I used to be. But it wasn't that long ago that I shook like a leaf every time I went to the mic. There are people here who may remember it, though maybe not, because the terror was way less of a big deal to anyone who isn't me. But I spoke at the mic anyway, because I love AA, and I'm passionate about the work we do here at our assemblies. I found over time that adding my voice was more important than shyness or nervousness.

We have two trustees here with us this weekend, who currently serve on the General Service Board at the very bottom of the triangle. I'm going to ask Charlie H, our West Central Regional Trustee, to come and read *Why We Need A Conference* so we can all remember –or hear for the first time–why it's so vital that our voices reach the bottom of the triangle. After that, Class A trustee Kelly P is going to talk to us about service.

Committee Breakout

1. Welcome from Area Chair.
 - a. Words from Area Delegate.
 - b. Introduction of DCMs and Committee Members.

2. Reminders
 - a. Area Secretary provided reminders regarding reports and committee notes.
 - b. Area Treasurer walked through expense reports and reimbursements.
3. Discussion
 - a. Chair and Delegate facilitated a discussion on leadership and the importance of leadership in service.

Saturday, April 18 2026

Assembly Welcome, Saturday Morning – Jessica EW

Hello, I'm Jessica E. W. and I'm an alcoholic. It's my honor to serve as the current Area Chair and Alternate Delegate for Area 40. Welcome to the Area 40 Spring Assembly for 2026.

Let's open this with a moment of silence for those still suffering from alcoholism in and out of these rooms and follow that with the Serenity Prayer.....Prayer.

I would like to introduce Brandie W – District 71 to read the 12 Traditions

I would like to introduce: Alyson – District 91 to read the 12 Concepts

Housekeeping Items:

Our Area 40 Policy and Procedures remind us on Page 2 that “The primary purpose of the Area Assembly shall be that of providing service to AA as a whole, to the Area 40 fellowship and, most importantly, to the still suffering alcoholic.” I'm so glad you are all here and that I'm here and I'm excited to see what we can accomplish for the still suffering who are not yet here.

A few items of note:

There are copies of the agenda on the table in the back corner of the conference room near the doors. There are also copies of two other documents – How the Conference Operates and Discuss, Review, Consider.

Assembly Welcome, Saturday Morning- Lisa C.

Good morning, everyone! I'm Lisa, and I'm an alcoholic. It's an honor and a privilege to get the opportunity to serve Area 40 as your delegate. Let's take a moment of silence to ask for courage, if we need it, and for whatever other help we may require as we work together this weekend.

Thank you for that, I needed it. I have to tell you guys, I set my alarm for 6 am this morning, and I slept through it until 30 minutes ago. Then I came down here, and as the Concepts were being read, so three minutes before I had to stand up here, I'm looking through my bag, and I can't find my computer. “Oh my God, where's my computer, did I really forget my computer?” Pure panic. But it was sitting right here on the table. Then I turned it on, and even though I had it plugged in all night last night, my battery was at 8%, so I had to fumble for my charger... So I've basically had three minor heart attacks already this morning. But it's fine!

If you are here at Assembly for the first time, will you please stand? Online, if you're attending your first assembly, please raise your hand. Thank you so much for joining us this weekend. Everyone sitting down, please take a look at everyone standing up, and think for a moment about the people who helped you feel a part of when you were at Assembly for the first time. Please try to be that person for at least one of the new folks here with us this weekend.

Will all the GSRs please stand? Online, will you please raise your hands? [amazing turnout, lots of cheering] We're anonymous, so we don't really keep records of things like how many GSRs are at assembly, but if we did, I think we would be breaking that record this weekend! It means so much to me that so many groups in Area 40 were able to send their GSRs to assembly and that so many GSRs are able to join us online. Thank you all for your service to your groups, for connecting your group to Area 40, and for carrying your group's conscience to assembly, so that I can carry it to Conference.

DCMs please stand? Thank you for your leadership in your districts and as members of Area 40. I want to welcome Greg, the new DCM from District 12, whose rotation just began in January, because District 12 elects its DCMs on a schedule that's staggered from the other Districts in Area 40. And Grant our new DCM from District 41. DCMs should be spending some time this morning completing the sign-in sheet for their districts, and those need to be turned into our secretary Jess by 10:00 am. Voting members attending virtually, please let Alex M know that you're a voting member, so that we can be sure to count you when we're setting our quorum. If you're not sure if you're a voting member, you can ask Alex or your DCM or you can stay tuned...we're going to cover that shortly.

At this Assembly, among other things, we will consider some Area 40 business and we'll review the Agenda Items that will be decided at the 76th General Service Conference, which will take place next week in NYC. 135 ppl – 22 trustees, 93 delegates, 17 staff members, including our very own Kacie N., who has just joined the General Service Office staff. I have to tell you all that I went with Kacie to her second conference as her guest, and she came to my first conference, as my guest, and now this year, we get to go to Conference *together*, and we even get to serve on the same committee. Life is amazing.

Agenda items can come from members, groups, districts, or Areas. Anywhere on the triangle. Much of the work of the conference is done in committee, divided between 13 conference committees. Area 40 operates on a committee system much like the General Service Conference. Eight of the thirteen have a direct Area 40 counterpart, and the remaining five are assigned to some of our committee chairs as secondary assignments. At 9:30 this morning, we'll have breakout sessions for each of our area 40 committees. If you're a DCM, you've already been assigned to a committee, and if you're currently chairing a committee for your district, you may also be assigned to a committee (double check with your DCM if you're not sure). If you haven't been assigned to a committee, you're welcome to attend the meeting for any committee that interests you.

You're also welcome to stay right here in this room all morning, for the workshop presented by our past Delegate Connie R. and our West Central Regional Trustee, Charlie H. The workshop will start at 9:30, and although the agenda says it will end at 10:45, we were just kidding about that, it will actually go until 11:30 or so. We'll hear some experience, strength, and hope from both Charlie and Connie over the course of the weekend, and tonight, they'll each lead a breakout session, one for GSRs and one for DCMs. Those are conducted in a loose discussion format using questions from the "Ask-It-Baskets" that are placed at the back of the room. Connie is our past delegate here in an official capacity this weekend (which means she's

working hard this weekend). We have several other Past Delegates here this weekend... can I ask all of you to stand up? Thank you all for being here.

We have two trustees here this weekend – can you both please stand up? – who you met if you were able to be here last night. We have Class A Trustee Kelly Parsley, from our very own Area 40. And we have our West Central Regional Trustee Charlie Hanna, who came all the way from Nebraska to spend the weekend with us. Thank you both so much for being here and for all you do in service to Alcoholics Anonymous. Do we have any past Trustees here this weekend? Andrew is here, as was mentioned, he is also now serving as our Area Advisor. The “past” part of the titles of these folks in the back of the room is really a misnomer. All of them continue to very actively serve Area 40, and whenever the Area Committee needs help or isn’t sure what to do, they have our backs.

Each committee meeting will have a report from the chair, a review of activities and events taking place area-wide that pertain to that committee, and any Area 40 agenda items assigned to that committee. The committee will also review the GSC items assigned to that committee. The background material related to those items will be available so that an informed discussion can be held about each item. If necessary, the committee may vote on some of its agenda items, and it may bring a recommendation to the Assembly, which we will then all discuss. Anyone who attends a committee will be permitted to speak during the discussion of agenda items, but if an item is to be voted on, only assigned committee members will vote.

After the committee meetings, when we reconvene, the chair of each Area Committee will give a report. The Chair will address most if not all the items assigned to their committee, and all of you will have an opportunity to speak to the agenda items that are of interest to you and/or to your groups.

When you want to make a comment or ask a question about an item, we ask that you use one of the microphones on the floor if you’re in person and that you raise your virtual hand if you’re on Zoom. Jessica, our Area Chair, will call on you. This portion of the Assembly will be conducted according to a loose interpretation of Robert’s Rules of Order as outlined in the document “How the Conference Operates.” There are copies of “How the Conference Operates” on the table at the back of the room.

There are also copies of a one-page document that says “Discuss, Review, Consider” at the top. One of those three words starts many of the agenda items we’ll discuss this weekend, and there is some significance to each of those words. “Discuss” is used when the committee is reading a report, reading over a list of ideas, etc. These agenda items tend to involve a wide-ranging conversation and they’re slightly less likely than the other two to lead to a recommendation. If a committee makes a recommendation, then that item is discussed and voted on by the conference as a whole. If the recommendation passes by substantial unanimity (2/3rds), it becomes a conference advisory action. “Review” is commonly used when the committee is focusing on a specific item. Review items usually do not lead to a recommendation unless the committee’s review results in a consensus that something should be changed. “Consider” items have a greater probability of resulting in a recommendation than the other two types. “Consider” items generally involve taking a look at someone’s work or suggestion and deciding whether to take action on it. These are trends, not hard and fast rules. Conference committees have a lot of autonomy, and any item can result in a recommendation.

General Guidelines for Sharing from the Floor:

People wishing to speak please line up at the microphones and the chair will call on you in order. Introduce yourself each time you speak by name, District/Home group and service position. Each person may have 3 minutes to share. Jess as the secretary has a timer, and she has a cowbell, and she's not afraid to use it. Please get really close to the microphone... so close it will feel a little weird. That's how you know you're doing it right. Otherwise, it becomes really tough for the people on Zoom to hear your comments.

If someone else makes the point you were going to make, please feel free to sit back down and wait for the next opportunity to share. We want to hear from everyone, but we also have a lengthy agenda to get through, so repetition of points is something we try to avoid when we can.

Our Area Chair has the discretion to decide when to end discussion of an item. If we move on at some point before you have a chance to say your piece, please reach out to me directly, in person this weekend or by phone or email afterwards. There are business cards on the table, and I'll ask our tech team to make sure the folks on zoom also get my email and phone number.

We ask that everyone who wants to comment on an item has a turn to speak before anyone comes to the mic to address that item for a second time.

We also ask that you refrain from applauding when people share, so as not to discourage sharing from people who have a contrary opinion to share.

Finally, listen with an open mind, particularly to those with an opinion different from your own. Some of you have heard me tell the story of my first West Central Regional Service Conference, when I realized halfway through the weekend that I was only writing down the comments I agreed with. When I reported back to my district, I wouldn't need notes to tell them why something I believed to be a good idea was a good idea. I needed notes to tell them why some people – other people who loved AA enough to spend a whole weekend or several weekends talking about this stuff – why some of those people believed it was a bad idea.

We may do some voting this weekend. We've asked a few people to be designated vote counters, and I'll ask them to come to the front of the room to count. We'll vote by raising our hands. The people eligible to vote during the floor assembly are GSRs, DCMs, and Area 40 Chairs and Officers. If you're an alternate-GSR or an alternate-DCM, you're eligible to vote only if the GSR or DCM you're serving with is not present for the vote.

When we discuss the GSC Items, we won't be taking formal votes. On items that I think are pretty likely to come to a vote at the GSC or that generate a lot of discussion, I may ask for a "sense of the area." When a request is made for a sense of the area, everyone present – in person and online – is eligible to raise their hand to indicate that they're for or against an item. So if you're attending as a non-voting member, please listen for that phrase "sense of the area," which means we're assessing the Area's opinion on something, and then everyone votes.

We'll break for dinner from 5:00-7:00, and then we'll reconvene for more floor assembly work until 8:45 pm. At 9:00 we'll have the breakout sessions for GSRs and DCMs that I mentioned earlier, and starting at 9:30, there will be fun and fellowship and Pictionary in the room next door. Feel free to come in your pjs. You won't be the only one. A lot of you probably received a handwritten invitation to game night this morning – everyone is invited! – I just wanted to mention the handwritten invitations, because I haven't

received one of those in years, and its charming. Thank you to Susan H. For her amazing enthusiasm and service. Game night is going to be great.

If you're an early riser, there will be an AA meeting tomorrow morning at 6:30 across the hall. Tomorrow at 8:30 am, we'll resume the work set out on the agenda, and that will continue until noon... ish.

Before I wrap up here, I need to take a minute to recognize our tech committee, Mike D., and Jack W., and our Webmaster Alex on Zoom. They work around the clock during these weekends to make sure we have the tech we need in person and to try to ensure the fullest possible participation for those joining us on zoom. If you've attended many hybrid AA events outside of Area 40, you may have a sense of how spoiled we are here. I don't mean to criticize the efforts in other areas, it's a hard job, and dozens of things can go wrong... but Mike and Jack somehow bat 1000 and make it look easy. Please join me for a moment in thanking them for all they do for our Area.

To quote something our delegate said at my first assembly, "You're among friends here, old friends, new friends, and friends you haven't met yet." So make friends, have fun, and let's rock this agenda. Thank you.

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	X		
Mark H.	Public Information (PI) Chair	X		
Ty K.	Treatment Chair	X		
Andrew W.	Area Advisor	X		

Rick H.	Archivist	X		
Sean R.	Alt Bridging the Gap	X		
Mike D.	Co-Technology	X		
Jack W.	Co-Technology	X		
Alex M.	Webmaster	X	Voting Members	Non-Voting Members
Pat P.	D 11 DCM	X	10	7
Greg T.	D 12 DCM	x	5	
	D 21 DCM	x		
Steve S.	D 23 DCM			
Kathy B. (online)	D 31 DCM			
Grant M.	D 41 DCM	x	3	2
Theresa L.	D 42 DCM	x	3	0
Gene A.	D 51 DCM	x	5	
Nathan S.	D 61 DCM	x	12	3
Brandi W	D 71 DCM	x	4	
Lenore M.	D 72 DCM	x	13	2
Carly B.	D 81 DCM	x	10	3
Eli S.	D 91 DCM	x	11	7
Libba C.	D 93 DCM	x	10	2
	Totals:		104	
	Online Voting Members		7	
	Voting Members Present		111	
	Quorum (2/3)		74	

Secretary Report, Secretary Report, Jessica S-K
 Heyyyyyyyyy Area 40,

When I came into AA 17 years ago, I hid under a hoodie and didn't want to know anyone. This program is a miracle. I love being known by you all. Since we were last together, so much has happened. My life has been a bit of a dumpster fire—not a wildfire, but a contained dumpster fire. I am so incredibly grateful for this program, the spiritual solution it has given me and this opportunity to serve. Also, I just really love all of you.

Since we last met, I have been working on cleaning up Area 40's information on Fellowship Connect. For those of you who do not know, Fellowship Connect is a secure website where Area Registrars update records, view current information, and search, filter, and download custom and standard reports, including Groups by District, Service Position, and Contacts. Fellowship Connect is where the information gets stored, so the message is carried and we are well represented. It is so cool and so important. If you like nerdy stuff and pretending, you're a detective, come talk to me—I have a service position for you to stand for in the fall.

One more thing about Fellowship Connect—

We need updated numbers for your groups. Group Member Numbers are incredibly important. Across the U.S. and Canada, many groups have outdated membership numbers in Fellowship Connect. Accurate numbers help:

- GSO communicate with groups.
- Support informed decisions within the service structure.
- Provide accurate information to the public and professionals.
- AA does not keep the names of its membership; instead, it relies on numbers reported by registered groups to understand the reach and health of the fellowship.

Please look at your district group lists and let me know if your group member number is correct.

I am so grateful for this program. AA continues to change my life and service continues to transform me.

Finally, I am here to help you. Please reach out to if there is anything you need or questions you have. Everything about Alcoholics Anonymous is a miracle and I am deeply grateful to be a small part of this miracle.

Thank you!

Jess

Motions from Fall 2025 Assembly **Bridging the Gap Chair – Simple Majority**

Voting Members: 108

Votes needed: 55

Candidate	Vote
Sean R.	62

Jessica T.	4
Bruzier	6
Ryan	27

Archives/Structure and Policy

Motion: The committee recommends adding a line item to the Area 40 budget to defray the cost of pre-assemblies for Area Chairs and Officers to participate. Understanding that districts are autonomous, districts are primarily responsible for covering the cost of a district pre-assembly. The budget line item should be no greater than \$750.00 and should only be used if the district is financially unable to fund the event.

Vote - In Favor: 98 Opposed: 8 Abstain: 4 minority opinion: heard, no motion to reconsider Motion PASSED

Public Information

The PI committee recommends the Area adopt the updated Area 40 website guidelines for improved grammar and formatting; clarity; singleness of purpose; meetings, service events and fellowship event access and promotion; and to provide more specific criteria for the Area 40 Webmaster

Vote - In Favor: 101 Against: 1 Abstain:1 minority opinion: None Montion PASSED

Finance

Motion Area 40 Finance Committee Recommends: To fund the West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference (WCRAASC) Registration Fee for each of our Area 40 Committee Chairs and Area Officers, rotating and non-rotating, up to 16 people.

Vote: In Favor: 84 Against: 11 Abstain: 6 minority opinion: heard, no motion to reconsider Motion PASSED

MOTIONS AND ELECTIONS FROM THIS ASSEMBLY

Motion to extend 30 minutes.

Voting members: 76 Votes needed: 49

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

Financial Highlights Lynne W.

[Appendix 1](#)

Chair Report Jessica E.W.

Good morning, everyone! It is so wonderful to see all of you here. Since our last assembly, I have had the opportunity to serve the area in several capacities, and I am grateful to share those experiences with you today.

Last fall in November, I traveled to Omaha, Nebraska, for the West Central Regional Forum. It was an incredible opportunity to meet members of our General Service Board, our Board Chair, and our General Manager. Hearing reports directly from our Trustees and GSO staff left me with a profound sense of gratitude for the tireless work they do for Alcoholics Anonymous. Moving into the new year, I had the wonderful opportunity in January to attend the District 91 "Into Action" event. It was a great start to 2026, focusing on our primary purpose and seeing the local fellowship in action. We also had a Area 40 Committee meeting to bring in the new year.

In February, I traveled to District 42 to attend their district meeting and an AA meeting. I was struck by the warm welcome from the officers and GSRs. A highlight was the car ride with three members representing over 100 years of recovery; listening to them talk about service and being of use was an absolute blessing. That same month, from February 27th through March 1st, I attended the West Central Regional Service Conference in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. I sat in on meetings throughout Thursday and Friday, including the delegates' meeting with Lisa and sessions with our West Central Regional Trustee, Charlie who is here with us this weekend. I connected with the other alternate delegates and delegates across our region. One of my favorites was the meeting with the past delegates and past trustees. We are so blessed in the West Central region. I felt overwhelmed with gratitude that Area 40 has entrusted me to represent us, and I left with a heightened sense of responsibility to do this work well for all of you.

The busy spring schedule continued on March 7th as I traveled to Bozeman for the District 72 Pre-Assembly. I am so grateful to the District for hosting me and for the hospitality of Lenore, the DCM, who welcomed me into her home. On March 21st, I traveled to Billings to hear from the groups in Districts 11, 12, and 31. I want to thank the DCMs—Pat, Greg, and Kathy—along with all the GSRs, districts, and members for hosting us; it was a gift to hear your feedback and perspectives firsthand. At the end of the month on March 28th, I traveled to the west side to be with Districts 81, 91, and 93. I am incredibly grateful to Eli, Carly, and Libba and for their leadership, and to the GSRs and the Bruzier, and committee for their hard work and for the invite and the chance to hear discussions regarding upcoming agenda items.

Last Saturday, April 11th, Area 40 hosted an online pre-assembly. I want to thank Mike and Sean for helping me co-host. The event was well-attended with representation from across the state, providing a vital additional opportunity to discuss agenda items. I am so grateful for our Delegate's leadership in coordinating this. This brings us to this weekend. I spent this past week finalizing preparations and I am so grateful to have two of our trustees with us. Last night we heard from Kelly P., our Class A trustee, and today we will hear from Charlie H., our West Central Regional Trustee. I am filled with love for this committee, our officers, chairs, DCMs, and especially the GSRs who make our fellowship what it is.

Our goal this weekend is to ensure our Delegate, Lisa, has the voice and the "heart" of Area 40 as she prepares to serve at the General Service Conference. I will continue to pray that she is guided by her "truth beam" to carry our group conscience for the good of the greater whole. Looking ahead, I already have several travel plans scheduled to visit your districts, and I am deeply grateful for the invites and the opportunity to be with you. I am currently working with our other West Central alternate Delegates to put on a presentation for the North American Alternate Delegate meeting. I have been spending a lot of time thinking about our principle of Unity. What a gift it is that we can come together to discuss these items. My hope for this weekend is that, despite any differences in opinion, we can move toward a group conscience that serves the best interests of Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.

Grateful to have this opportunity to serve Area 40.

Jessica E. W. P75, A40 Alternate Delegate, Area Chair.

Delegates Report

I'm Lisa, I'm an alcoholic. At the risk of sounding unbearably pretentious, I'm going to start this report with a quote by George Bernard Shaw. I wish I could say that I sit around reading George Bernard Shaw, but I don't. If I ever read him, it's because someone made me in high school. In all honesty, I probably didn't read it even then. But I do watch Steven Colbert, and in the fall of 2024, a few weeks after receiving the incredible honor of being elected as your panel 75 delegate, Jeff Goldblum was a guest on Colbert, and he recited a quote by George Bernard Shaw that immediately became one of my favorite things of all time. (So maybe I should read some Shaw after all. We'll see.) Anyway, this is the quote:

“This is the true joy in life, the 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.”

When I saw this quote on TV in October 2024, I transcribed it as the first entry on the first page of my “Delegate Journal.” Then I texted it to Kacie and Connie and told them I had done this, which ended up being kind of important, because if I hadn't, no one would believe what happened next. Six months later, in April 2025, I went to a celebration of life for a beloved member of my home group, Tony N, who was an absolute prince of a man and instrumental in my sobriety and in the sobriety of many others. At the standing-room only service when his widow spoke, she pulled a scrap of paper out of her pocket that she had found in Tony's briefcase. She started reading it, and – full body chills as I sat in that clubhouse in Livingston, almost an out-of-body experience – it was the same exact quote by George Bernard Shaw. I had a very distinct feeling that Tony was somewhere laughing, telling me to stop crying for him and go help some people.

Fast forward five more months to the West Central Regional Forum in Omaha, which I got to attend a week after I last saw you all at fall assembly. Scott H., the chair of our general service board, while speaking to us on Sunday morning, said he had a quote that he loved that had been an inspiration to him for many years! He launched in... “This is the true joy in life...” George Bernard Shaw!! OMG!! Kacie attended that Forum remotely, and it's a good thing, because had she been sitting next to me in person, we probably would have audibly freaked out in a way that would have been distracting to others. Instead, we had to freak out over text, and WE DID! At Kacie's suggestion, I talked to Scott a little later that day and took the opportunity to tell him that I share his love of those words, so much so that they were the first words on the first page of my Delegate Journal.

If my HP has a message for me, I guess it knows to keep coming at me and coming at me and coming at me. I half expect this quote to randomly pop up several more times before this rotation ends, just to make sure it stays top of mind and I don't forget. But I think at this point, I'm not in any danger of forgetting it. I

think about these words all the time. Serving AA “is a sort of splendid torch” to me “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.”

After Omaha, I did three more Delegate’s Reports about what happened at last year’s General Service Conference in Havre, Helena, and Lewistown. A few days after the last report of the year, 214 boxes of Final Conference Reports landed on my front porch. Slight exaggeration, but SO MANY hard copies of the Final Conference Report arrived after virtually all of the events at which people might have wanted to receive a copy were over. I brought the reports here, they’re on the table near the literature display, and I will be so grateful to each one of you who takes one home, so that it’s one less that goes straight to recycling.

This year so far, I was able to attend the lovely mid-winter event in February in District 12, which had beautiful sharing from a member of Al-Anon and a member of AA, the best brisket I’ve ever eaten in my life, and an auction. As you guys know, I love an auction! I attended the preassemblies in Bozeman, Billings, and Missoula, all of which had inspiring levels of attendance and participation. (And, at Missoula, the best homemade guacamole I’ve ever had in my life. *Area 40 can cook!*) Last weekend, I was at our online preassembly, where we had more excellent discussion of several of the agenda items we’ll begin discussing here shortly. I want to thank Jessica for planning and chairing the online event, and all the DCMs who arranged the in-person events this year. It has been so helpful to me as I prepare for conference. If I was left to my own devices to try to read through all of the background material on my own... I think I’d probably get about as far with it as I have with George Bernard Shaw.

I want to talk a little bit about one of the agenda items, not about the substance of it – I don’t yet know how I plan to vote on this item if I get the opportunity at Conference, and there are strong items on both sides. But about how the idea became a Proposed Agenda Item that’s being considered and discussed by the whole Fellowship across the US and Canada. It’s pretty remarkable. It started when a Delegate in Oregon brought a “preconference delegate report back” – which I think is like a preassembly, maybe? – to a group in a women’s prison. The background material says of this visit from their Delegate, “The women were thrilled to be included in the process.” During the visit, the women discussed the idea of a workbook. They prepared a motion, which their *proxy GSR* then brought to area assembly. The background continues, “The motion passed!” Whatever the outcome of this agenda item is at the Conference, you can tell from the excitement expressed in the background material that they were able to give voice to the idea and have it considered... the excitement that they were included in general service in their area.

I’ve been thinking about this for months, ever since I read this background material for the first time. It never occurred to me that there might be AA Meetings in jails or prison in our Area that want to participate in a preassembly or hear a delegate’s report. It never occurred to me that groups in the jails and prisons could have a *proxy GSR*, and it never occurred to me to try to find out if any of them want to do that. Why has none of that ever occurred to me? What *else* hasn’t occurred to me? What more can I be doing to make this splendid torch burn a little more brightly? What more can we all be doing? I don’t know the answer yet, but I’m excited to find out, and I hope when we’re next all together in this room in the fall, I can tell you about some things I’ve done that were inspired by this idea’s path to a PAI.

Thank you so much for giving me this opportunity to serve.

Charlie H. West Central Regional Trustee Introduction

It is a sincere honor and a pleasure to introduce our guest today, Charlie H.

Charlie currently serves as our West Central Regional Trustee. While he hails from Nebraska, he represents all eight areas of our region, including Iowa, Northern and Southern Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, and right here in Montana. In his role on the General Service Board and AA World Services, Charlie serves as a vital link between our local areas and the fellowship as a whole, helping to oversee the business and the spiritual health of our program at the highest level.

On a personal note, it has been a true privilege to serve alongside Charlie over this rotation. Over the last year and a half, I have found him consistently kind, encouraging, and supportive. It has been a gift to get to know him and to witness his heart for service firsthand during our time serving together.

We have been looking forward to hosting him for some time now, and we are grateful he could be with us. I've asked Charlie to share a bit about his own service history with us today, which will lead beautifully into a discussion about our West Central Region and our upcoming site bids for hosting the West Central Regional Service Conference in 2028.

Site Bids for 2028 West Central Regional AA Service Conference - Sense of Area

Next, we will review the host-site bids for the 2028 West Central Regional Service Conference.

Last fall, we reviewed what the host site package would look like and presented the opportunity for districts to bring those packages back to us here at the Spring Assembly. I want to clarify that this is not a formal vote today; rather, we will be asking the assembly to give Lisa a sense of the area after viewing both presentations.

It will be Lisa's role to work with the West Central Region to sign the contract for the 2028 Conference, so your feedback today helps inform that process.

We have received two submissions, and I want to extend a huge thank you to both committees for all of the hard work they have put into these. Thank you to **District 61** for putting together a bid, and thank you to **District 11** for your submission as well. We are so grateful to both of you.

District 11 WCRAASC Site Bid

This slide is a bid presentation for District 11. It features a collage of local restaurants on the left, a map of Montana with District 11 highlighted in the center, and a photo of the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Billings on the right. The text includes the following:

- Local Restaurants**
 - Countless restaurants within walking distance
 - Walkers, Jake's, Stella's, and Bertie's to name a few
 - Local coffee shops: Rock Creek Coffee Roasters, Proof Donuts, etc.
 - Big Dipper Ice Cream.
- Choose Billings for 2028 WCRAASC**
 - Affordable
 - Centralized location
 - Adequate Space
 - Strong local support & hospitality
- WCRAASC 2028 Area 40 Bid Billings**
- DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Billings**
- WCRAASC Area 40 March 3 - 5, 2028**
- District 11** logo
- AA SERVICE RECOVERY** logo

This slide is a bid presentation for District 61. It features a photo of a 'Welcome to Billings' sign, a photo of the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Billings, and a photo of a meeting room. The text includes the following:

- Choose Billings!**

Billings is centrally located at the junction of I-90 and I-94 and is between Denver, Calgary, Spokane and Minneapolis/St. Paul. Montana's Magic City is served by several major airlines and, as such, travel to and from Billings is simple and convenient with direct connections to many national hubs.
- Hotel Information**

Double Tree by Hilton Hotel
27 N. 27th St.
Billings, MT 59101

 - Room rate: \$139.00
 - Price including tax: \$154.12
 - Price honored 3 days before and following the event
 - Complementary room nights 1 per 12 room nights
 - Free Parking
 - Free Wi-Fi
 - Free Shuttle Service
 - 2 X 15 passenger vans
 - Transportation Committee to manage excess shuttle needs.
- Meeting Room Information**
 - Coffee: \$250.00 Flat Fee. We will supply the coffee.
 - Flat Rate with setup fee: \$2000.00 for entire 3rd floor
 - Grand Ballroom: seats 400 - 500
 - 5 additional breakout rooms
 - On Floor dedicated hospitality room
 - Dedicated Foyer for registration and display space
 - Display Tables: Complementary
 - Podiums: Complementary
 - Microphones: \$75.00 each/day for Handheld or Lapel
 - A/V Package: \$15/day flat rate
 - Sound System
 - Ceiling Projectors and Screens in each room, 12 x 20 screens
 - Projector package: \$195.00
- Centrally Located**

Easy to travel to by car

Bid to Host the 2028 WCRAASC!!!

- Billings, Montana
- Central, accessible, and cost-conscious host city



Why Billings?

- CENTRALLY LOCATED IN THE WEST CENTRAL REGION
- EASY ACCESS BY INTERSTATE & AIRPORT
- PROVEN EXPERIENCE HOSTING REGIONAL AA EVENTS
- ONE-DAY TRAVEL FOR MOST WCRAASC ATTENDEES
- REDUCED TRAVEL COSTS
- STRONG REGIONAL PARTICIPATION



Conference Venue: DoubleTree by Hilton Billings

- Entire 3rd Floor Reserved, Flat rate with setup fee: \$2000.00
- Grand Ballroom seats 400-500
- 5 additional breakout rooms
- Dedicated foyer & registration space
- Dedicated hospitality room on 3rd floor
- \$250 Flat Fee for Coffee. We supply the coffee

District 61

Hotel Pricing & Value

- Guest Room Rate: \$139/night (single/double)
- Taxes: 8% + \$4 city fee
- Meeting space discounted to \$2,000 setup fee
- Free Parking
- Free Shuttle Service
- Walkable dining & downtown amenities



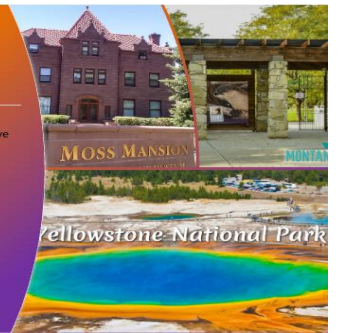
Local Restaurants

- Countless restaurants within walking distance of conference venue
- Walters, Jake's, and Bernie's to name a few!!!
- Local coffee shops: Rock Creek Coffee Roasters, Proof Donuts, etc.
- Big Dipper (ICE CREAM!!)



Local Activities

- Local walking trails on the rims above Billings
- Moss Mansion Museum
- Zoo Montana
- Pictograph caves
- Yellowstone National Park within 2 hours



Why This Works for WCRAASC

- Affordable, centralized location
- Adequate space for growth & hybrid options
- Strong local support & hospitality



District 61 WSRAASC Site Bid

HELENA MONTANA

2028 WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL
AA SERVICE CONFERENCE



Helena, Montana

2028 WCRAASC Bid

Delta Hotels Helena Colonial

District 61
& Area 40 Montana

MONTANA'S CAPITAL CITY

Helena, Montana

2028 WCRAASC Bid

Delta Hotels Helena Colonial

District 61
& Area 40 Montana

MONTANA'S CAPITAL CITY

CONFERENCE FACILITY

Delta Hotels Helena Colonial

- Ballroom capacity: 400–500 attendees
- Large, professional conference space
- Multiple flexible breakout rooms
- Layout exceeds WCRAASC requirements
- Full-service conference hotel





WHY HELENA

- Centrally located within Montana
- Easy regional access for attendees
- Montana's capital city
- Walkable, welcoming community
- Strong local AA participation

TRAVEL ACCESS

Easy Regional Access

- Helena Regional Airport
- Multiple daily flights
- Connections via:
 - Denver (United)
 - Salt Lake City (Delta)
 - Seattle (Alaska)
- ~4 miles (~10 minutes) to hotel
- Easy access from I-15 & MT287





HOTEL ROOMS

Comfortable & Affordable Accommodations

- \$169/night base rate
- \$184.52/night with tax
- Up to 4 guests per room
- Rates honored #3 days
- Free parking & Wi-Fi

TOTAL COST

Transparent & Manageable Costs

- Meeting space: \$3,300/day
- 3-day total: \$9,900
- AV estimate: ~\$378
- Coffee & incidentals: variable

Estimated Total: ~\$11,000–\$13,000





COST BREAKDOWN

- Ballroom: \$3,300/day
- Breakout rooms: included
- Projector: \$150/day
- Screen: \$30/day
- Coffee: \$48/gallon
- Tables: \$90 each

HYBRID CAPABILITY

- Strong Wifi throughout facility
- AV-ready meeting rooms
- Hybrid option available
- Scalable based on conference needs




FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

- Full-service restaurant on-site at the Delta
- Nearby:
 - The Union
 - Brewhouse Pub & Grille
 - Hokkaido Ramen & Sushi
 - Lucca's
 - Silver Star Steak Company
 - Overland Express
 - The Hopper
 - Mediterranean Grill
- Breakfast:
 - No Sweat Cafe
 - General Mercantile
 - Park Avenue Bakery
 - Steve's Cafe



WHY HELENA STANDS OUT

- Facility exceeds conference needs
- Central, accessible location
- Good value and cost control
- Welcoming local fellowship
- Beautiful surrounding area
- Rich Montana History
- A fresh Area 40 host city



HELENA, MONTANA

2028 WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL AA SERVICE CONFERENCE

- We Invite You to Helena
- District 61 is ready
- Area 40 is ready
- The Delta Colonial is ready



DCM Reports

District 11 Report

Greetings from District 11,

District 11 serves Roundup, Hardin, Huntley, Ballantine, and Billings, with 23 active groups hosting 138 meetings each week.

Groups across the district remain highly active in service. We continue to meet our commitments by supporting weekly meetings at the Psych Center, Rimrock Foundation, Rimrock White Birch Facility, and the Community Crisis Center, as well as providing male and female volunteers for the AA Hotline.

We also have a dedicated group of approved volunteers from District 11, along with support from District 12, bringing nine AA meetings each week into four correctional facilities in Billings.

In October, the 2027 Fall Roundup Committee was formed and is making excellent progress in securing a venue and planning for the Billings Roundup.

In November, the 2028 WCRAASC Bid Ad-Hoc Committee was formed and has worked to identify a venue and prepare our bid presentation, which will be presented at this assembly.

The DCMs from Districts 11, 12, and 31 collaborated to host our second annual joint preassembly on March 21. We extend our gratitude to the Area Delegate, Area Chair, and Area Committee Chairs who traveled to participate, as well as to the GSRs and members from all three districts. Special thanks to the ODAAT and Serenes Groups for providing meeting space, and to Greg T and Kathie B for their partnership in planning this successful event.

Our CPC Chair, Mitch A., and the CPC Committee have worked over the past several months to organize the third annual AA – A Resource Workshop for AA and the professional community. This workshop will be held on Friday, May 15, from 12:00–3:00 PM at MSU Billings, Student Union Building, Glacier Room. All are welcome to attend.

Earlier this year, the topic of safety in AA meetings came up at a district meeting. The discussion brought about some apprehension among members of our district, but it also helped raise awareness and opened an important conversation around this topic.

In response, the district voted to form an ad-hoc committee to look at how we can better support safety in our meetings. That committee has since developed a Safety Workshop focused on sharing experience along with practical guidance from AA literature.

The “District 11 Safety in AA” Workshop will be held on Saturday, May 16, from 2:30–4:30 PM at the Billings Public Library. We invite anyone interested to join us.

I am grateful and honored to serve alongside our dedicated Committee Chairs, GSRs, and District Officers. Thank you, District 11, for your trust and for the opportunity to serve. As we continue our work, we seek God’s guidance and strength in carrying the message.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

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, snowy-half-the-year state of Montana.

Since the last Fall 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, geographically diverse, and—how shall we put it—*lightly populated*. We don’t have any big cities, but we do have long distances, icy mountain roads, and enough winter driving stories to fill a Grapevine special edition.

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.

District 12 includes one Zoom group and seven in-person groups in Absarokee, Big Timber, Columbus, Harlowton, Joliet, Laurel, and Red Lodge. In November, every group filled its key service positions—proof that miracles really do happen. Sponsors, of course, played their usual role by practicing the sacred art of “volun-telling.” The sponsees survive, the positions get filled, and everyone ends up grateful... eventually.

We are known to “go to any lengths,” which in our district sometimes means driving an hour and forty-five minutes through questionable whether to attend a meeting. That’s not dedication—that’s Montana AA cardio.

This February we hosted our famous Mid-Winter Social—our Valentine’s-themed celebration of love, fellowship, and industrial-strength coffee. The Joliet Community Hall was packed with nearly 250 AA and Al-Anon members. The decorations committee covered every flat surface with red hearts, proving once again that recovery can be both heartfelt and aggressively festive.

The silent auction was a hit, especially the coveted woodcarvings made by one of our beloved old-timers. Bidding was fierce but friendly—no Traditions were harmed. The children’s corner overflowed with rosy-cheeked smiles, and the coffee urns worked harder than most of us did in our drinking days. We even had a small pot of decaf for the spiritually adventurous.

The food line was a highlight, as always. The beef tips and turkey breasts caused widespread salivation, but the dessert tables—yes, *three* full dessert tables—stole the show. Our Delegate, Lisa C-D, not only gave a wonderful talk but also brought homemade pastries that disappeared faster than a newcomer’s first resentment.

This quarter we received two Hotline calls. One was informational; the other brought a newcomer straight into his first meeting, where he found a sponsor and is already in service. That’s a 50% conversion rate—better than most marketing departments.

Our work with the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch continues strong. Every two weeks, LHG brings meetings to over 30 teenagers navigating tough circumstances. They connect deeply with the Common Language Big Book, and our younger speakers at the new every other monthly Saturday meeting have been a huge hit. We need your help! We are always looking for young people speakers for future events. Our next speaker event is 05/16 when Ty B from Billings will be sharing his story. Our BTG and Treatment Chairs are even exploring a statewide Zoom event to keep these young people connected after graduation.

Our CPC Chair, working with the Area CPC Chair, created a standard information packet and helped each group identify local institutions to reach out to. We’re basically running a grassroots public-information campaign—Montana style.

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.

Harlowton has a solid group of 20 and is considering adding more meetings.

Joliet covers a key night of the week, giving nearby towns more options.

Laurel is basically AA with a concession stand: popcorn, ice cream, pizza nights, bingo, potlucks—you name it. Please offer condolences to any District 12 members here today; attending the Fall Assembly means we had to miss our monthly bingo and chili potluck.

Red Lodge (the Rock Creek Group) is thriving, with an additional weekly meeting and a beloved Sunday speaker-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.

And now... the moment you've all been waiting for: The Fireman's Point Campout and Spam Cookoff!

Our late-summer signature event returns August 7–9. Camping is available for tents and campers alike. District 11 will likely provide their legendary breakfast spread, and we hope our Delegate will give her report again.

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. District 12 has won every year so far—because no one out-Spams us.

We invite all Committee Chairs and districts 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.

The flyer will be posted on the Area 40 calendar and website later this summer. The date is set—mark your calendars.

We look forward to seeing you in August at Fireman's Point outside Columbus.

Good luck—and may the best Spam win.

District 21 Report - No Report

District 23 Report - No Report

District 31 Report - No Report

District 41 Report - No Report

District 42 Report

District 42 covers Shelby to East Glacier, with representation from Cut Bank, Augusta, Browning, East Glacier, Dupuyer, and sometimes Shelby at our district meetings.

Back in September, Vern received two cases of Big Books and one case of 12x12s to bring to jails through the Corrections Committee. Karen later took books to Teton County in Conrad, and the district voted to

bring a large number of books to the Crystal Lodge treatment center in Browning. Vern also delivered books to Glacier County jails.

We did not have a meeting in October, but something wonderful happened: the Dupuyer meeting started the same weekend as the Roundup. On the way back from the Roundup, we stopped in. It's a strong literature meeting, currently reading the Big Book slowly with plenty of discussion and fellowship afterward at Buffalo Joe's restaurant.

In November, East Glacier hosted a potluck meeting with a speaker. There was a great turnout. We were also excited to distribute the Indigenous People in AA pamphlets—now all meetings in the district have them.

Jody and Jerry went to Ennis and found a 1988 report from the DCM at that time. Interestingly, the current GSR for Augusta, Karen H., was involved back then as well. Jody shared a copy with us, and it was fascinating to see how many meetings District 42 had in those days.

There was no meeting in December. In January, our Alternate Delegate Jessica attended our meetin which was held at Jody and Jerry's home in Dupuyer. We continue to read the Tradition and Concept checklists before each meeting.

There was no meeting in February due to the Super Bowl. Also in February, there was a potluck in East Glacier for Pat, who was celebrating 46 years.

In March, Bridging the Gap needed a female contact in Shelby, and our own GSR from Cut Bank, April, stepped up to fill that role. Also in March, I attended the Western/Central Regional Forum on Zoom, the Bozeman hybrid Zoom pre-assembly, and the Missoula Pre-Conference Assembly in person. It was a valuable experience to learn, connect, and contribute.

Seven of us met in March to review the current agenda items. The general consensus was that it would be best to hold off on new projects until the prudent reserve is built back up.

Thank you for letting me be of service,
Theresa

District 51 Report

District 51 encompasses the Hi-Line from Malta on the East to Rudyard on the west & also includes Big Sandy on the south.

Havre has daily A.A. meetings at several different locations & times. There is a new Sunday Open A.A. women's meeting starting on May 3, 2026. Box Elder has an active group. We have meetings off and on at Harlem, Hays, Fort Belknap, and Rocky Boy.

It's time for the annual camp-out season to start. The schedule for this year is: June 12-14 at Pagers Campground, July 11-12 Fireman's' Campground, August 7-9 at Lions B Campgrounds.

Havre has begun the work of organizing our Mini Conference again this year. We will be choosing a Theme on the 26th which is our next meeting.

We have a couple of chairperson positions that are unfilled at District. We are still having problems getting people involved in service at the district level.

District 51 has also taken over the responsibility for the New Years Eve Sober Party held at the First Lutheran Church on New Years Eve.

We do have meetings for both men and women at the Hill County Jail and are looking at other institutions in our District where we may be able to extend the message of sobriety.

Thanks for letting me be of service,

Gene A.

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 includes meetings in Townsend, Lincoln, Elliston, Boulder & White Sulphur Springs. We have about 10 active meetings per day in our district; plenty of opportunities for drunks to find a meeting. In addition to our regular meetings, District 61 also brings meetings to MCDC, Elkhorn Treatment Center in Boulder and the BHU at St. Pete's Hospital. We also bring meetings to the county jails in L&C, Jefferson and Broadwater Counties, as well as the state prison. Our district business meetings are the first Thursday of the month at 6:30pm, in person and online.

District 61's brick & mortar bookstore is going strong, operating 4 days a week and 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!

I'm happy to report the 29th annual Pocket of Enthusiasm was a big success with over 175 attendees, in person and online.

Coming up on April 25th we have our annual Treatment & Corrections workshop from 11-3pm. This event is free for professionals, \$20 for alcoholics. This is a fantastic event, geared towards professionals but all are welcome. You can find all the details at aa-montana.org

Thanks for letting me serve!

Nate S.

District 71 Report

Greetings from District 71! My name is Brandi, and I'm an alcoholic. District 71 encompasses Butte, Anaconda, Deer Lodge, Dillon, Sheridan, and Ennis.

We are very grateful that in November, our Delegate, Lisa, came to District 71 to get us started on a District Inventory. Following Lisa's visit, the alternate DCM, Jordana, headed up a committee with some of our GSRs to distribute questionnaires to all our groups. Since then, they have had multiple meetings during which information was gathered and discussed. The discussions have centered on how we can improve our overall effectiveness as a district in helping the still-suffering alcoholic and the actions we need to take to achieve that goal. It's been a very time-consuming task. I want to acknowledge Jordana and the committee and thank them for their commitment and dedication to this project.

Regarding the information we received back, the district has decided that a workshop would be beneficial in helping to educate people in our district as to what exactly the District and area are, in addition to tackling a specific concern at each district meeting.

With that being said, I had the pleasure of attending the District 91 Into Action workshop in February. It was amazing. They covered many important topics using well-rounded panels of GSRs, DCMs, and past trusted servants. Walking away from their workshop gave me multiple ideas of how to hold a workshop in District 71. So, thank you, District 91.

In February, we had a Valentine's Dinner and speaker meeting. We're pleased to announce that we have a new treatment chair, Krista S. And finally, we will have our annual Sheepshead campout June 12th – 14th. We hope to see you all there!

In Service,

Brandi W.

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.

AA is alive and well in District 72 (which has meetings spread throughout Bozeman, Belgrade, Livingston, Three Forks, Emigrant, Gardiner, Ennis, Wilsall, West Yellowstone, Big Sky, Gallatin Gateway, Manhattan, Virginia City, Cook City/Silvergate) has been staying busy at the District and Group levels with lots of events, service work, and meetings!

As a district, we have several new meetings that have recently started and are in their "let's make sure this meeting works before we add it to the printed schedule" phase.

There are 2 new women's meetings.

There is one new men's meeting

The District Treatment Committee, at Bozeman Health's request, hosts a special AA meeting at the Bozeman Health's new Inpatient Psychiatric Unit

We are trying to reestablish our relationship with Bozeman Health.

We have an Area Assembly scholarship fund in our District that is getting well used! I believe it was our current Area Delegate, Miss Lisa, who got this up and going when she was DCM! We have three people from D72 who got to use it this year so far!

Our District takes meetings to Montana State Prison, as well as the Bozeman Jail

As a result of the past few years of building a relationship with HRDC in Bozeman, there are two AA meetings at the new homeless shelter called Homeward Point.

Our district is in the process of establishing a relationship with the new Rimrock Outpatient Treatment Center in Bozeman.

Plans are well underway for Bozeman to host the Spring Round Up for April 30-May 2, 2027. The theme is: "Where there was a trickle, there now is a River". This will be held at the Best Western Grantree Inn. Catherine is our awesome committee chair for this event, and I am sure it's going to be a blast! We look forward to seeing you all then! There is a website for this event: ROUNDUP2027@AREA40DISTRICT72.COM

I got my first experience with our district hosting a Pre-Assembly. I am so very grateful for our kick ass district Special Events Chair, Amy, who got this up and together really quickly! I am also super grateful for all of the Area Committee Chairs that were able to come last minute and were fully prepared on the background information for the GSC!

This was a great learning experience for me, because I learned from other Area 40 DCM's and trusted servants at the WCRAASC that we should probably have one!

Speaking of learning experiences, I recently found out about Fellowship Connection- the online database where the lovely Jess keeps all of our Area and District meetings, and service positions updated with the people in the positions.

I am so glad I found out before I rotated out of this position!

EVENTS:

As I mentioned above, we recently had a Pre-Assembly (our first one since Covid)

Saturday June 27th, Lisa will give her report from the General Service Conference before the District Meeting. More details to follow!

Also on June 27th, our Area Archives Chair, Jodi T. is planning an Area Archives clean up. The Archives are located in Ennis MT and could use a good cleanout!

I cannot even begin to express my gratitude to all the people who keep AA alive and well in our awesome District and in our awesome Area!

Because of you all, I have gotten to experience many of the things that I didn't know were even possible before I got to AA- how to disagree without being disagreeable, how to show up to the best of my ability, how to be a part of true meaningful relationships, how to make friends, how to make mistakes and make amends, and how to learn and grow as a sober human being.

Thank you all for your service and for my life!

In Love & Service,

Lenore

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.

I'm so proud of how hard all of our committee chairs have been working, we are so blessed to have such an engaged district.

Our CPC chair Elena has worked with the University of Montana to do a presentation for the staff that will be recorded, they are keeping the presenters anonymous, and the presentation will be shared with other professionals around the college. She has worked with our PI chair Rick to attend and set up booths at various health fairs in our community.

In addition to the presentations for the professionals, CPC is working with our bridging the gap chair Angela who is a professor, to bring presentations into her classroom for the students.

Our Bridging the gap chair has been an absolute rockstar kicking off the Providence bedside calls program. When the program went live, it became clear that there was a far greater need than active volunteers so she opened the volunteer training back up and is working to get several more men and women trained to take more calls.

Every month Angela reports a handful of names she's bridged with men and women across our district. So far she reports those bridges have been successful

Our PI chair is actively working to make sure all the professional facilities have pamphlets and meeting schedules stocked and every month that list is expanded.

Our Grapevine chair Connor hosted his second grapevine writing workshop along with our Area Grapevine chair Hugh. Connor is the most enthusiastic grapevine rep I've ever seen, and he promises to have at least two more before his rotation is over.

District 81 not only is active in service, but we have a thriving fellowship that has welcomed all the events put on in recent months by both our events chair and the round up committee. These committees have worked together to plan and host several events as well as plan their own separate events which has fostered significantly more engagement and fellowship in the Missoula community than in recent years.

Many of those events have included early round up registration tables and I hear that they have generated a lot of excitement for our upcoming Fall 2026 round up in Missoula. Annie, our round up chair will tell you more about it during her report.

Every position in our district is filled except Archives which we have struggled to elect and keep a trusted servant.

Our district has so many young active service committee chairs who are engaged and enthusiastic about expanding their roles and their work reaching the still suffering alcoholic as well as working to set up a foundation for the next rotations to come.

Speaking of future rotations, upon beginning our rotation, Sage, my alternate DCM and I realized we did not have much as far as policies and procedures and desperately needed more comprehensive guidelines to help guide our business meetings, our chairs in their work, and to ensure effectiveness and unity within the district as a whole. We wanted better accounting and accountability for the job descriptions and best practices in our district Sage and I laid the groundwork to adopt and expand our current bare bones policies and have recently brought in Andrew W. to take over and lead the project to have support so we can have a final draft to be approved by the district before the end of our rotation. We want to ensure the

next generation of servants will feel confident in their roles and have clear guidelines and expectations. Our goal is to create a lasting document that will be a valuable resource for the future of our district.

During this rotation I have had so many conversations with current and recent DCMs as well as delegates who previously served as DCMs. Without prompt one of the common things, I hear is that being the DCM was their favorite position. I am so grateful for my fellow DCMs in this rotation, and I hope we continue to serve in other capacities together in the future. That being said, I can't say that this service position has been the joyful light that every other service position has been for me. Don't get me wrong I have loved every second of being able to serve, but I have faced so many challenges in the last year that I can't help but laugh and curse my higher power for what the message or lesson in all of this is. I will say that a few things are clear- I have leaned heavily on my network within area 40 to offer suggestions as well as experience strength and hope. Those conversations have led to relationships that I will cherish forever. I also feel confident that I can make it through pretty much any adversity that may come at me in the future.

Thanks for allowing me to serve.

Carly B.

District 91 Report

Hello from District 91, tucked away in the northwest corner of Montana. Our 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. If you ever want to drop in check out the Sunday virtual listings at aa.montana.org. We encompass a district that stretches halfway around beautiful Flathead Lake and all the way up to the Canadian border. District 91 has had a quiet but not uneventful year of getting the message out to the Flathead Valley and beyond. Our Christmas Alcothon was held on Christmas Eve and Day, a whole 24-hours of meetings that brought our district and more together for the holidays. In February, District 91 held its annual Into Action event at the cool sounding Experimental Aviation Hall located at the Kalispell City Airport. It was a well-attended day of learning what service is all about. I want to thank District 71's DCM Brandi W. and District 42's DCM Theresa L. for taking the time to drive out to our District and give presentations.

Last month District 91 held a joint pre-assembly with Districts 81 and 93 at the City Life Community Center in Missoula. Despite a rough go on the virtual side of things, the meeting wasn't as 'hybrid' as we would've liked with some technical difficulties on Zoom, the preassembly was well attended both online and in-person and we were thankful to have a number of Area chairs attend and help our districts for through the agenda items for this year.

And, like everyone else, District 91 is looking forward. Specifically, to the summer. The district will kick off the 'not a glum lot'side of things with our upcoming Spring Roundup to be held at the Red Lion Inn in Kalispell on May 1-3. Registration can be found on aa-montana.org. Our Spring Roundup committee has done an amazing job as always preparing for the roundup and you'll hear more about that later but know that they have some amazing speakers and events lined up. After that we all are looking forward to a summer of campouts, picnics and more. Many of which are to be found either on our Area website or by dropping by our table and saying 'hi' during the assembly.

On a personal note, I've been touched by the work done within our district. These last few months have seen me attending both regular meetings and business meetings across the district as I awkwardly attempted to explain the assembly and the larger goings-on in area and beyond. In between explanations

of proposed agenda items and committee meetings, I've gotten to see how District 91's groups function and find their own way. We have so many people in District 91 who care about service and want to make their groups better for the next alcoholic that comes through those doors. It's humbling.

Thanks 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 12 Registered 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 and upcoming events.

Within the last few months, we have elected new Hotline, Token, Web Liaison and Grapevine Chairs. I'm happy to say all our Trusted Servant positions at District level have been filled!

We have a new meeting that has started in Victor on Thursday evenings at 6:30pm that is an hour speaker meeting with the last Thursday of the month acting as a Birthday meeting for those celebrating a birthday that month.

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, which our Treatment Chair has done a beautiful job getting volunteers to go weekly to each location. 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 area, which seem to be enjoyed by members and clients alike. There was at first, some concerns that were brought to District, however in light of our growth through these discussions, I can almost certainly say our members in the Valley love and cherish our Program and want to make sure we are not stepping outside our Traditions and harming AA, yet still carrying the lifesaving message to those who suffer from alcoholism.

We have a small jail in Hamilton where meetings are held once a week, for men and women for those who care to attend. Our Corrections Chair has kept volunteers going into the facility each week and added new subscriptions to the Jail of our Grapevine magazines, as well as keeping the jail well stocked with AA approved Literature utilizing our Pink Can Funds.

Our District Literature Chair took advantage of the sale of the reproduction of the First edition Big Book at \$2 per book and sold I would guess over 150 copies to groups and individuals.

Our Grapevine Chair put on a wonderful afternoon Grapevine writing workshop with Hugh M. and had a great turn out of 16 people who showed up for writing, sharing, and snacks. It was a beautiful sight to see, I was much moved by what stories some members shared that day.

As I'm sure you've heard for other DCM reports, District 93 partnered with Districts 91 and 81 held a Pre-Assembly in March, in Missoula that was well attended by many Area Chairs and District Chair, GRSs and

other members of the Fellowship. It was hybrid, there was a Taco Bar, break out committees and wonderful information and fellowship. The committee did a great job.

Over a year ago our District passed a motion to host a Concepts Workshop, unfortunately we ran out of time, but we look forward to having this Workshop sometime this year!!! We've been waiting until some of the busy business of Area and GSC settle down to set a date and time. I know I keep mentioning this every time I stand here at the microphone, but I'm sure this Concept Workshop will be most helpful to those who attend, we look forward to having you come and join us. Look for those fliers on the website!

I'm excited to announce that we have a campout this summer at Lake Como and it will not interfere with other Founder's Day events as District has voted to move the dates, This camp out will be Friday July 31st- Sunday August 2nd where our Delegate, Lisa has agreed to join us for her Delegate's Report, we will have 2 AA Speakers- Calvin G. from Great Falls, and Jessica E./W. from Kalispell, an auction, morning meetings, potluck, and much more. Fliers are on the back table, please take them back home to your groups and Districts, the flyer is also on the website under the month of July, we look forward to having you join us!

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 and devastating times with the guidance of my Higher Power and the Principles of this Program. I remember there was a time in my life when I would have given anything to have a fraction of the serenity I have now, even in the midst of grief/loss and uncertainty for my family and our future. 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 and unity, in what all started as one alcoholic talking to another alcoholic almost 91 years ago. It's difficult to imagine that 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

Standing Committee Reports

Hotline/Report and Charter – Lance W.

Hotline – Area 40

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

Hello Everyone,

My name is Lance W. and I am an alcoholic. It is my pleasure to be serving as your Area 40 Hotline Chair. Thank everyone that I get to serve on this committee with and mainly thank you for the people that continue to show up not only just here at the assembly but in our respective home groups and the willingness to answer a hotline call. Any of this would not be possible without you all. Thank you.

DON'T CRY!!!

Now what have i been doing since the last assembly, Well I have had a Hotline workshop and thank you all you have joined. In that workshop we had an excellent discussion on how to better communicate effectively within the Hotline role in our districts. Let's not forget we have Jake C. From Bozeman as our Hotline Alternate chair. He's been a tremendous help.

In the workshop I wanted to talk about a subject that was brought up in the committee meeting at the last assembly. That was what to do if there happens to be a suicidal caller. We as the committee came to an agreement not to take any action because this is an outside issue, and there is a Suicide Prevention Hotline. But there was a lot of informative discussion on the matter.

I was able to join, and partake in one of the preassemblies via zoom. Thank you to everyone who helped put that on.

Ok so here are the numbers from the last assembly to now.

- September - 30 calls total 11 missed.
- October - 27 calls total 13 missed.
- November - 23 calls total 11 missed.
- December - 29 calls total 17 missed.
- January - 35 calls total 16 missed.
- February - 24 calls total 7 missed.
- March - 20 calls total 12 missed.
- April - 22 calls total 9 missed.
- Over all 210 calls total and 96 missed.

That still comes to almost half of the calls that were missed. Initially. Either Jake or I will receive that information when it comes in and will pass it along to the district hotline rep, which then the volunteer or rep will attempt to call back. I prefer to try to keep this as simple as possible and don't want to disrupt a good working system I believe. District Chairs and Hotline Rep please continue to send in your list for new volunteers for the month.

Don't Cry!

Lastly, I just want to thank everyone that continues to be of service and willing to help the new person to find Alcoholics Anonymous. We never know when we answer that call that someone on the line just might be suffering enough to pick up the phone and ask for help. Or someone calling about the meeting locations and the meeting no longer exist so please update your schedules. Lol But also they might be just coming out of treatment and coming to your town and you pick them up and take them to your home group and introduce them to your friends and show them what an amazing life can be in Alcoholics Anonymous.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Area 40 Hotline Chair.

Love and service,
Lance W.

2. Review activities of Hotline Committees and Chairpersons in Groups and Districts throughout Area 40.
 - a. 7 in attendance: Lance W – Chair, Jake C 72 - Alt Chair, Jon A 11, Amy T 61, April T 11, Cody S 93, Don M 91

Report and Charter – GSC

- A. Discuss the A.A. Service Manual, 2026-2028 edition.
 - i. Review list of editorial updates.
 - a. Reviewed and discussed.
 - i. Consider request to remove a quote from Dr. Bob in The AA Service Manual
 - a. Group Conscience – No Change
 - i. Review progress report on the development of a new “Amendments” section to be added to The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service.
 - a. No Action
- B. Discuss the General Service Conference Final Report.
 - i. No Action
- C. Discuss workflow and anonymizing practices for the Final Conference Report.
 - i. No Action
- D. Discuss progress on classification of AAWS and AA Grapevine Literature.
 - i. Group discussion – No Action

Corrections/International Conventions and Regional Forums – Daniel S.

Corrections – Area 40

1. Review the assembly report of the Area 40 Corrections Chair
 - i. Greetings area 40. It is an absolute pleasure to serve as your area 40 corrections chair. It has been a quiet 6 months on my end. I know Havre is in talks to hold a corrections workshop in the near future. If anyone wants me to be of service, please let me know!! The pink can issue still doesn't make sense to me. I have set up an appointment with Missoula County detention facility to discuss what tablets they use and if they offer literature through there. I am asking the other corrections chairs to get a hold of the other facilities to discuss this further to find other ways to use the pink can account funds. I would like to reiterate that the pink can is used for any individual incarcerated due to drinking but not limited to jail or prison. If they have a doc commitment and need literature at their facility it is on us to get it to them. Including but not limited to MCDC. Inmate workers at various pre-release, warm springs, watch program, the prison system or other treatment facilities I am forgetting. Also, the national corrections workshop is happening on November 13-15th in Salt Lake City!!!
2. Review the written report on Pink Can's accounting income and literature disbursements.
 - i. Since the last assembly we have had a lot of requests for literature to cutbank women's prison and the riverside facility. Shortly after it has been quiet with a few orders in. While

the pink can account holds strong \$5054.16 it still doesn't make sense to me the money in money out situation that i brought up in the fall.

3. Discuss ways to distribute literature to alcoholics who are detained in a facility as a result of a law enforcement action (PnP) that can be purchased through the Pink Can.
 - i. Part of the issue could be that tablets in facilities are being used over traditional literature and that could be a factor in literature requests being lower. I am asking the corrections committee to help reach out to the other facilities about what facilities have tablets and which ones need literature. Pink Can was traditionally used to buy Big Books and become property of facility itself but must be checked out from the prison library. There are certain facilities that don't have a library available at all due the facilities moving to tablets.
4. Review activities of Corrections Committees in Groups and Districts throughout Area 40.
 - i. District 91(Eli): Flathead County Jail has literature in its jail. New pre-release center has meetings that are well attended. Meetings continue to be brought into the jail. Men's meetings struggle to find chairs.
 - ii. District 51 (Brian): Hill County Jail alternates between men and women. Ft. Belknap has a jail, has had AA meetings in the past but is plagued with staffing issues that has affected the schedule. Rocky Boy Law enforcement has been proactive to bring meetings into its facilities. Is looking to get with CPC chair and Area Corrections to start a corrections workshop loosely scheduled for summer, late fall.
 - iii. District 93, (Doreen): A member brings a meeting once a month into the Ravalli jail and is looking for more meetings.
 - iv. Earl: Has been involved with Montana State Prison. Limited during COVID. Meetings have run gamut from low attendance challenged by the prison to recently, has thrown all of the dorms together for single AA meetings. Scheduled against a sweat and maybe in part why the meeting is low, but it is growing steadily. 20-30 men at last count. Notes that when incarcerated people are allowed to attend meetings, they behave better. He also brings awareness to Bridging the Gap program as well as the prison correspondence program. They can also communicate through email due to tablets. Currently only two members correspond with inmates. He is disappointed that more are not participating.
 - v. District 41 (Brandy): Women's meetings every Sunday at 6:30. Men's meeting also being taken in. Prison relations are at a standstill. Workshop held on October 18. Many professionals were brought in to explain and communicate as well as work with AA members. Will be held again October 17 from 11 to 4 at the Great Falls Civic Center. Not sure if it will be a hybrid event.
 - vi. District 81 (Kate): Trying to find out the inner workings of Missoula Corrections. With prerelease, it is a 'stop off point rather than actual release in Montana. Kate says she feels like she needs to explain to her district that the pre-release is a temporary thing. And is hoping to get her corrections committee together to get them all on the same page. Held an orientation earlier and only two are active now. Wants to stress to her district that orientation means a commitment. She does have a good.
 - vii. District 72 (David K.) Bringing meetings into Galtian County Facility (Gallatin does not want to be called a jail) 8 members split into 'pods Monday nights men's and women's meetings well attended. Tuesday nights, and Sunday night meetings also attended. Meeting in

prerelease but David doesn't know attendance numbers. Dose not do Watch program anymore in Bozeman.

Corrections – GSC

- A. Review the content and format of the Corrections Kit and Workbook.
 - i. Daniel explains that the review item is just a breakdown and consensus of what the book offers.
- B. Review progress report on development of a pamphlet on the transgender alcoholic in A.A.
 - i. As of January, they have 11 stories. The deadline passed.
 - ii. They have asked for a extension and have 50 + stories as of the assembly.
- C. Consider a request to update the pamphlet “The A.A. Member – Medications and Other Drugs.”
 - i. Daniel: In 2011 three new stories were added. New cover in 2018.
 - ii. Eli: Pamphlet made in 1984, updated in 2011 with new stories. It could absolutely be updated to suit more modern medications.

International Conventions and Regional Forums – GSC

- A. Review progress report from Subcommittee on Inclusion of Sovereign State Flags in the IC Flag Ceremony.
 - i. The background information states that they have asked the trustees to get more clarification about moving forward for the time being.
- B. Discuss ways to encourage interest and participation at Regional Forums
 - i. Daniel pointed out how someone explained that this is where the Triangle implodes. This is where everyone can interact with everyone on the Triangle regardless of service position.
 - ii. There were multiple charts about the participation at the past Forums.
 - iii. The next forum is in north Minnesota in 2027.

Cooperation with the Professional Community/Trustees - Karon K.

- 1. Review the assembly report of the Area 40 CPC Chair
 - i. Hello, I'm Karon, an alcoholic and Area 40 chair for the Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee. CPC aims to establish better communication between AA and professionals and inform them and future professionals about AA—what we are, where we are, what we do, and what we don't do.

Since September I have provided support to district chairs, orienting new chairs to sources they haven't already been introduced to and providing answers to questions about the appropriateness of certain activities or targeting professional audiences. I continue to participate in the National PI/CPC Working Group which is valuable for presentations on project ideas and sharing resources. Last year after one such presentation I created a new CPC business card with Montana hotline number and QR code to the AA meeting App and the YouTube video “Does Alcoholics Anonymous work?” These have been quite successful for outreach; I've been distributing them to Districts for use in their CPC work. Through a contact at that meeting, I've been asked to serve as a CPC service sponsor and have recently begun working with a District CPC chair in Iowa, sharing some of the experiences

we've gained here in Montana. I see my role as CPC Chair to provide the same mentoring for any CPC chairs who might ask for assistance with their activities in districts in Area 40.

I continue to follow up on contacts I've made at conferences and workshops, focusing on potential opportunities to integrate information about AA in statewide initiatives. Just as we do when working on our program, I learned to be patient but persistent in pursuing new leads. This often requires numerous emails and calls, along with a thick skin when there is no positive response or none at all. I am hoping to get presentations on AA in training for professionals in the Governor's 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. Another effort is the Montana Department of Justice Crisis Intervention Team Academy. Its purpose is to assist first responders (law enforcement officers, detention staff, dispatchers, EMS), ER staff, behavioral health advocates, and anyone involved in the community crisis system in engaging, assessing, and assisting individuals in crisis with mental and or co-occurring substance disorders. This is a 40-hour evidence-based training that exposes the participants to materials and experiences from trained mental health and medical professionals to better prepare them to effectively and safely work with this population. These week-long trainings in 10 counties would provide an opportunity for several district CPC committees to participate.

I've also 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. Dirk S from District 71 will join me in exhibiting and participating in the 6th annual Addiction Medicine Network and Pain Management Conference of the Montana Primary Care Association, the non-profit society of Montana's community health centers and urban Indian organizations. It brings together over 100 physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, social workers, counselors, and health care administrators on issues related to substance use disorders and quality of care. AA has become a welcome participant in their training and annual addiction conferences. They "want us to be there" and have waived the exhibit fees to allow us to be present and participate fully. This year I have ensured that there is no conflict with Tradition 6; they will afford the same waiver of fees for any other organization similar to AA's organizational status and imply no affiliation on our part with the association. Dirk is an invited speaker at the conference. His story will provide valuable insights for clinicians on how healthcare interactions and systems influenced his recovery path and outcomes.

I will also participate in and host an AA exhibit at the Montana Peer Support and Recovery Services Symposium in September. The focus is on advancing behavioral health recovery in the state. More than 100 certified peer supporters, clinicians and administrators will attend.

Finally, I attended the West Central Regional AA Service conference (online) and preassemblies in Bozeman, Billings, Missoula, and the Area to answer questions about agenda items the committee reviewed today.

Thank you for entrusting me to this service. Your Area 40 CPC chair, Karon K

2. Review activities of CPC Committees in Groups and Districts throughout Area 40
 - i. Antoinette M CPC chair D91; Allyson B GSR D91; Brandi W DCM D71; Melissa L Alt GSR D61; Erin M Alt GSR D61; Mitch A CPC chair D11; Gary B GSR D93; Jay S CPC chair D51; Theresa L DCM D42; Jason S CPC chair D12; Betty M CPC chair D72; Greg W D81; Corinna H DCM D31; Paul L Past Delegate D91; Mark S Past Delegate D91; Karon K Area 40 CPC chair.

I want to thank all who participated in our committee discussions, especially Allyson B for taking notes and past delegates Paul L and Mark S for providing clarification on procedural and other questions as we discussed agenda items.

In our area currently only 9 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. As you'll hear shortly, these chairs and their committees have been creative and strategic in implementing a diversity of strategies and programs. I want to congratulate them all for the work they are doing with limited resources.

Mitch A is CPC chair in **District 11**. Their committee has contacted most of the healthcare facilities in the area regarding their 12-step call line. They are working to get volunteers to cover Roundup, and Mitch did attend a meeting in Hardin and had a handful of people willing to help facilitate 12-step calls in Bighorn County. In October they did a presentation to the case managers of Inter-Mountain Health. The planned presentation to RiverStone Health was fraught with technical difficulties and unfortunately did not come to fruition. The committee was contacted by Off the Streets, a transitional housing program, to speak with the clients about AA. They were finding that the church groups and PAR (Power for Abundant Recovery) were too fearful to continue in person support of their program. They inquired about getting an AA meeting started there. When Mitch presented there again the other day, a couple in recovery living in the subsidized apartments there, were wanting to facilitate that meeting. He met with them after the presentation to discuss particulars. The committee will most likely continue to present there every other month or quarterly as OTS is a 30-day program. They also met with the new Services Director at St. Vincent DePaul to discuss how they might cooperate to help their clients start an AA meeting at that facility.

Their biggest project each year is the AA, a Resource workshop for the professional community, and they have been working on it since last Fall. The committee this year has consisted of two or three members versus a dozen the previous years. Fortunately, a lot of the groundwork and contact information was in place from before. The two most asked about areas last year were sponsorship and Bridging the Gap, so they are going to spend more time on these areas. The workshop will take place on Friday, May 15th, from noon

until three in the Glacier Room at MSU Billings. This is located in the lower level of the Student Union Building directly north of the parking garage on Poly Drive. Finally, Mitch continues to participate in the PI and Safety committees.

In **District 12** Jason S has been working with groups and providing guidance for their CPC work. All groups have received updated meeting schedules, pamphlets and a “form” with a list of Google-researched “professionals” with physical addresses in their locations. The “form” can be copied and periodically used again to assist in keeping CPC up to date in the future. Each Group is now determining for itself if/when/how to actually visit the professionals within their community.

The Google research on local professionals proved not exhaustive. The Rock Creek Group in Red Lodge, for instance, identified several other “professionals” with offices located within a local public services office building, whose addresses were not posted to Google.

The Carbon County Public Health Services Department (CCPHS) has renewed its interest in AA and has asked for updated meeting and attendance data. Also, CCPHS maintains a website and is working now with the District to include links to relevant AA information. The PI and CPC both work together there on efforts like this.

Finally, after visiting the CCPHS in Red Lodge and other adjacent offices referred to above, several more meeting schedules and pamphlets need to be purchased in addition to those initially approved by District 12. Other groups within District 12 will also need to order additional materials after visiting their local professionals and professional buildings.

Jay S in District 51 has attended several online CPC webinars to stay current with outreach ideas and best practices. He’s made initial contact with local professionals, including staff at Northern Montana Hospital and Bullhook Clinic, to begin building relationships and awareness of CPC. He’s working toward coordinating a joint session with Area personnel involving CPC, Corrections, and Public Information to improve collaboration and outreach and plans a small local CPC meeting within the next two weeks to help generate interest and participation at the district level.

Jay is also continuing work on a short (approximately 2-minute) informational video for professionals that explains what Alcoholics Anonymous can and cannot do, along with a brief introduction to the program.

Since being elected to chair the CPC committee in **District 61** late last year, Alysia R and her committee have thoroughly reviewed all materials, pamphlets and workbook as well as notes left by the prior chair. They have contacted a local college nursing program and will be supplying AA brochures for its mobile health unit. They will also be reaching back out to faith communities and reiterating their ability to speak as well as provide materials to be a resource to faith leaders and their congregations.

In **District 71**, Dirk S continues to speak with medical professionals whenever possible and offer information on AA. He's distributed hundreds of the "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. He has met with the Probation Officers in the District and supplied cards and his contact information.

Betty M is the CPC chair in **District 72**. She is grateful for the two to three consistent members on the CPC Committee. In the last six months, they have given a combined AA/Al-Anon presentation to the MSU Nursing students focused on who and what we are as an organization, what we are not (a religion, a cult, etc.), how we are effective in helping alcoholics to recover from alcoholism, highlights from the Meta analysis (Does Alcoholics Anonymous Work?) and two speakers who shared their experience strength and hope with the students. For this first time, they included a speaker who had relapsed several times and was fairly newly back in the program. While they were cautioned that this could be dangerous, it wasn't. In fact, this person was able to give the audience something unique - relapse experience and why coming back to AA was and is their best hope of not drinking one day at a time. If anyone else is interested in learning more about their experience with this, Betty would be happy to share.

With their Treatment Chair, the committee met with Rimrock to discuss how AA might be useful to them as they assumed responsibility for the local Outpatient treatment program formerly led by Cedar Creek. They seemed interested, and when they followed up with them as requested, they indicated that they had retained their staff inherited from Cedar Creek, many of whom are in AA, and did not feel that CPC could be useful to them in the future. Betty also met with a woman's shelter, Haven, to offer a presentation for their staff working with shelter guests; they declined interest.

The committee has a number of ideas for how to continue sharing the message of AA with professionals in Gallatin County and is in process of deciding how best to move forward in 2026. They know that they will be asked to present to the summer and fall cohorts of MSU Nursing students. Ideas under consideration include: more medical facilities in the area (CHP, St Vincents, Gallatin County Public Health), GV (Gallatin Valley) Interfaith Council, the Bozeman/Gallatin County Judicial system, Fire Departments. At their next meeting, they will be making some decisions. Their struggle is that they need more volunteers to help plan and execute events and they are actively trying to recruit more new members.

Elena C chairs the CPC Committee in **District 81**. They continue to reach out to individual social workers and did a successful presentation for the psychologists at University of Montana's Student Health Center. They checked out the Community Health Fair to see if CPC wanted to have a table in 2026 but decided not to have a table there because they see the same professionals at other events. They attended a luncheon for a behavioral health

center and networked with professionals and presented at a nurses' class in December. They chaired a table at Community Court. They did a presentation for all 4 college departments that teach substance abuse counseling and treatment at UM and Missoula College and are planning presentations for Missoula Healthy Youth Coalition and a nurses' class this spring. They have been actively reaching out to All Nations Health Center, HR for the city of Missoula, and the national guard base, the Food Bank, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Interfaith Collaborative.

Antoinette M chairs the CPC committee in **District 91**. She has been reviewing CPC materials, the CPC kit and workbook as she considers priorities for the committee's focus.

We ran out of time to have more discussions about general issues committee chairs face in the course of their work. The most significant were 1) continuity of service (starting a rotation with a blank slate when there's not "hand off" of resources and experience), 2) engaging volunteers to help with committee work and activities and 3) trusting trusted servants.

Cooperation with the Professional Community – GSC

- A. Review progress report on AAWS LinkedIn page.
 - i. The committee reviewed the report and noted that Linked In's usefulness may be less than originally intended as a conduit for professionals. AA's pages are linked to lots of irrelevant non-AA information and job postings.
- B. Review progress report on the development of an outward facing pamphlet for mental health professionals.
 - i. The committee reviewed the report and members agreed that a shorter version is more likely to be read by professionals. They also expressed a general concern that the cost of supplying large numbers of full-length pamphlets may be prohibitive for some CPC committees in districts. As a part of our review of this item, we discussed additional ways to reach out to professionals by hosting "Sponsor you professional" workshops to engage more AA members in personal outreach to their own medical and other professionals to expose them to AA and what it is.
- C. Review content and format of CPC Kit and Workbook.
 - i. The committee discussed the workbook and kit. While it is valuable for all the guidelines and resources, as a cost savings of production and purchasing, it might be better distributed only in digital format.
- D. Review progress report on the effective use of CPC videos on aa.org.
 - i. The committee reviewed the report. In general, these full videos may not be as useful because of their length. On this and the following agenda item, we had several questions about permissions for use and acceptable reuse.
- E. Consider a request that stand-alone audio/visual clips be created when developing any new/revised videos for professionals.
 - i. The committee reached general consensus in favor of creating these clips. They could provide valuable content for potential adaptation in CPC outreach materials. Most audiences are more likely to engage with digital material of shorter length.

Trustees – GSC

- A. Review resumes of candidates for:
 - i. Pacific Regional Trustee
 - 1. *There are no resumes to review as those are only provided to voting members of the Trustees Committee of the GSC.*
 - 2. Eastern Canada Regional Trustee
 - a. *There are no resumes to review as those are only provided to voting members of the Trustees Committee of the GSC.*
- B. Review slate of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.
 - i. *We reviewed the slate and had no comment.*
- C. Review slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.
 - i. *We reviewed the slate and had no comment.*
- D. Review slate of directors of AA Grapevine, Inc.
 - i. *We reviewed the slate and had no comment.*
- E. Review Progress Report on process for receiving motions to censure.
 - i. *We reviewed the report and do not recommend the process. We had concerns about maintaining privacy and confidentiality.*
- F. Review progress report on the revision to the pamphlet “Do You Think You’re Different?”
 - i. *We reviewed the report and were in general agreement of the pamphlet’s value for identification. In particular, the “community” references in stories is helpful in guiding the reader to a “community” they identify with. This may provide a singular resource when the cost of providing many of the individual targeted audience pamphlets may be prohibitive for groups.*
- G. Consider a request to produce an animated video based on the pamphlet “The Twelve Steps Illustrated.”
 - i. *For many of the same reasons we stated on items D. and E. under the CPC agenda, the committee agreed that this seems like a good idea and looks forward to an update on progress.*
- H. Consider a request to produce an animated video based on the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”
 - i. *The committee suggests that this item be put on hold or tabled until more is known about process and costs if work on the Illustrated Twelve Steps is done.*

Literature – Rebecca S.-Q.

Literature – Area 40

- 1. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Literature Chair
 - i. Hi all,
As you know, AA Literature has been active during my rotation. The 5th Edition is in review. That is exciting. Imagine receiving 2,300+ personal stories and having to whittle it down to 48. Then again to 26. Then deciding which stories would be taken out. AAAGGHHH!

 - The 4th edition of the Spanish Big Book is also in process. How cool is that?
There are many new and updated pamphlets. I placed many of the old ones in the display for the weekend, but was advised that maybe that wasn’t a good idea, so it was changed over.

According to the 2025 Final Report of the GSC, over 1.6 million pamphlets were distributed in 2024.

I brought tons of service manuals, so please get one if you need one. Pay what you can in the can.

I am grateful for being a part of the Area 40 Committee.

Thank you for letting me serve,

Rebecca SQ

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

- i. Members present- Susan M. H. D91, Kelly P Class A Trustee, Megan B D81, Holly D. D51, Joey H. D93, Robin Z. D81, Daniel M. D11. Special thank you to Holly for taking the minutes. Thank you to the voting members and non-voting members who came to this meeting, including Kelly P, who is on the Trustee's Committee on Literature and to whom I asked several times, "Would you like to add anything?"

Discussion: District 91 created a new binder for newly updated pamphlets. Easy way to keep the groups involved with new pamphlets. Also, they are starting a campaign that will notify individuals what is all out there for literature and pamphlets. Experience Strength and Hope, AA Comes of Age, and Our Great Responsibility are three great literature books that many groups don't know about.

Literature – GSC

A. Annual review of recovery literature matrix.

- i. The annual review of the Recovery Literature Matrix tracks how A.A. literature is being used, including print distribution, page views, downloads, and audio access. The main takeaway is that A.A. is using data to see what literature is reaching members and where updates may be needed. The committee also wants the matrix in a more flexible, sortable format for easier review.

B. Review content and format of Literature Kit and Workbook.

- i. Workbooks and literature service kits are reviewed each year, and proposed changes come back as committee considerations rather than recommendations. The key point is that these are service tools, not Conference-approved literature, so changes follow a different path. The Literature Workbook is available on AA.org and should be a standard reference for committee work.

C. Review progress report on the development of the Fourth Edition of the book *Alcohólicos Anónimos – Spanish*.

- i. The Spanish Fourth Edition project is moving forward with progress reports, not final approval yet. The working group has reviewed stories, chapters, and translation issues, and is trying to make the book reflect current membership more accurately. The main point for your committee is that this is a large, careful revision process that is still in development.

D. Review draft of the Fifth Edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

- i. The Fifth Edition draft is a major project with a complete manuscript now under review. The big themes are updating stories to better reflect current membership while keeping the first 164 pages and other protected front matter unchanged, as required by Conference action. The draft also includes revised foreword, preface, and selected appendices, plus a process for deciding which stories from the Fourth Edition remain.
- E. Review progress report on the update to the book *Living Sober*.
- i. This item is a focused revision of selected chapters in **Living Sober**, not a full rewrite. The first chapters being reviewed are Chapter 10, Chapter 14, and Chapter 16, with the goal of updating language and content while staying true to the book’s purpose. The committee is being asked whether the revisions are moving in the right direction before more work continues.
- F. Review progress report on the development of a Plain Language Big Book amendment process.
- i. The major issue here is not the content itself but the process for handling proposals to change the Plain Language Big Book. The committee is building a clear workflow for how suggested changes move from members, to trustees, to the subcommittee, to Publishing, and then possibly to Conference. The goal is to avoid confusion and make sure substantive changes are handled in an orderly, principled way.
- G. Review progress report of subcommittee exploring the needs of Spanish-speaking members for tools to access the Big Book.
- i. This study asks what Spanish-speaking members actually need to access Big Book content more effectively. The committee is exploring whether a plain-language Spanish Big Book is the right solution or whether other tools would work better, such as pamphlets, audio, video, or study aids. The draft survey is meant to gather Fellowship experience before decisions are made.
- H. Review progress report on the development of a pamphlet for the Asian and Asian American alcoholic.
- i. The pamphlet project is still in the story-gathering and drafting stage. The working group has held writing workshops and is trying to reach a broad range of voices and cultures within the Asian and Asian-American A.A. community. The key point is that this is a targeted outreach pamphlet built from Fellowship stories and experience.
- I. Consider publishing the personal stories from the Fourth Edition of Alcoholics Anonymous not included in the draft Fifth Edition of Alcoholics Anonymous
- i. This item asks whether the 30 stories removed from the Fourth Edition Big Book should be published elsewhere. The main question is whether A.A. wants to preserve those stories in another volume, similar to *Experience, Strength and Hope*. The committee should note that this would require a Conference action if it is to move forward.

Treatment and Accessibilities/Agenda – Ty K.

Treatment and Accessibilities - Area 40

1. Review of Assembly report Area 40 Treatment and Accessibility Chair, Ty

- i. 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 an amazing hospital bedside 12 step call program in action that has been years in the making (Thanks to Angela for all of your hard work!) In March and April I attended 3 pre-assemblies in Missoula, Bozeman, and on Zoom. It is so great to be back to in-person pre-assemblies! 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.

2. Review of Assembly report of the 40 Bridging the Gap Chair, Sean R

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



Greetings Area 40, It is truly an honor and a privilege to be serving as your Area 40 Bridging the Gap Chair. During our assembly last fall, I mentioned that we had a few additional facilities utilizing the online BTG form; I'm pleased to report that I have seen a significant increase in the number of Temporary Contact Requests coming in! Since September 1st, there have been 153 requests submitted. (up from 94 between our last 2 assemblies) Of those requests, 130 were for contacts in Montana, while 23 of them were for contacts in California, Idaho, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Kansas, Georgia, Iowa, Washington, Michigan, Illinois, New Jersey, and Florida; all of which were successfully bridged. Our contacts at the facilities that use the form repeatedly share how immensely grateful they are for having the tool at their disposal. While chatting with one of the counselors who uses it regularly, I learned that Leadership at their facility is strongly opposed to anyone coming in from the outside, for any reason; if it wasn't for our online form, they wouldn't have access to BTG.

In addition to the above-mentioned requests, I also received a few requests from GSO and the BTG Workshop Weekend website for people returning to Montana from Treatment. While the majority of my BTG work since Fall Assembly has been focused on connecting the incoming requests, I've also made myself available to both facilities and committee members for questions they have and have done training with some committee

members regarding how to reach out to facilities that BTG isn't in yet, to see how or if we might be able to serve them. Thank you for entrusting me with serving as your Area 40 BTG Chair!

Yours in service,

Sean R.

Area 40 BTG Chair

3. Review of Activities of Treatment Committees in Groups and Districts
 - i. Lots of activities in Bozeman, 14 patient facilities, now able to work with them consistently.
 - a. Experienced amazing willingness in patients.
 - b. 3-day turnaround in detox places is hard to be consistent, but having a process helps, especially a process that takes into consideration HIPAA concerns
 - c. Outpatient facilities: less engagement, b/c they can & do go to outside groups.
 - d. Online forms w/ HIPAA rules help, especially if the counselors are there filling them out with the patient.
 1. Different Area Disconnect
 - e. How it should work: BTG chair in the destination district communicates with the facility district, so that they connect people.
 - f. MCDCC helped keep the process & forms top of mind.
 1. Diligence in talking about it during the transition is lagging.
 2. In the format of the meeting, in the discharge, helps.
 3. It is sometimes helpful to snag a quick picture of an intake form but be aware of HIPAA concerns.
 - g. Yellowstone Boys & Girls ranch
 - h. Bringing meetings in, the program is good, looking for YPAA speakers (late teen → early 30s), 1yr sobriety requirement.
 1. Wed 6pm meetings.
 2. 3rd Saturday in the month is a speaker meeting.
 - ii. Discuss accessibility barriers in Area 40 and services materials available to groups.
 - iii. District 11 (Pat) update
 - a. Treatment and corrections are going well.
 - b. Rimrock has a relationship with us but there are not a lot of buy in from the staff, would appreciate help from caseworks.
 - c. Prerelease isn't a good opening because they are given very limited passes, so residents don't want to sue them for meetings.
 - d. Now separated into male and female.
 1. Tami: made it hard because the facility doesn't tell us what they're doing, and we made missteps over bringing women into a man-only facility, etc.
 - iv. Why do the BTG forms at intake?
 - a. Because it takes a long time to get things started.
 - b. Even if the places aren't helpful with BtG, consistent meetings keep foundation there.
 - c. Sean has a form with FAQ with contact options for people incarcerated.

Treatment – GSC

- A. Review progress Report on Military/Veteran Interview Project
 - i. In the works for a while, YouTube interviews of Veterans sharing their experience strength and hope.

- ii. Review contents and format of Treatment Kit and Workbook.
 - iii. Can order it directly or download the workbook online.
 - iv. \$20 but out of stock
 - v. Can print it off, good to have, can also hand off at rotation.
- B. Review contents and format of Accessibilities Kit and Workbook.
- i. Available online
- C. Review the A.A. Guidelines on Accessibility.
- i. Ty read guidelines.
 - a. They are a good resource, especially if you have an event with a specific question.
 - b. Why are not conference approved.
 - i. Because they are made by GSO staff to be quick
- B. Consider a request to review locally produced safety-related video service material.
- i. Watched video.
 1. Discussion is around having a good resource available in a grassroots nature without costing anything, versus opening the floodgates for anyone to make anything willy nilly.
 - a. If we did adopt it, we would have to update to make it more general (take out CA)
 - b. *Bruiser*: my group is older and didn't see the value of a YouTube video
 - c. *Sean*: It's worth noting that it was unanimously approved in the creating district, in the creating area, as well as another CA area, and an area in NY.
 - d. *Alexandria*: I really love it, I'm visual and this made things hit home very well.
 - e. The initiative in and of itself has already created connections and conversations between districts to share materials and tips.
 - f. This would be a way to get more mass distribution, instead of the bottleneck of one person passing it up through district, etc. etc.
 2. Does it have to go this deep on reviews? Can't we just do these things ourselves? Is this more red tape?
 - a. No, this does not remove a group's autonomy.
 - b. It's taking the conference approved yellow card/safety statement and making it into a conference approved video.
 - c. It's also very general, so helps guidelines, but does not stop someone from creating their own evacuation plans, responsibilities, etc.
 1. District 11 has 90% of the sober living in MT, and they are required to go to meetings, so safety guardrails are important, and this could make that more accessible and help. It could also help with predatory outside groups (lenders, predatory organizations, etc.).
 2. Chairing requirements have gotten more lax to promote service in newcomers, but sometimes they don't know what to do in bad situations.
 3. Sean has seen "opener workshops" every month, or check lists, so they know the run down.
 4. People can get confused as to what to do, and how to do it, so this is an easy way to address it, play the video.
 5. Note that it doesn't have to just keep people safe from physical harm, but emotional damage, so having the safety cards expressed any way possible, it could prevent someone from having a bad experience that no one is aware of, and possibly making someone feel excluded and leave.

6. Some discussion around the video's production value.
7. Thoughts that it was too choppy and not well done.
8. People get very upset about non-conference approved literature, so making this approved would help placate that issue.
9. Just because we don't like it doesn't mean it's not helpful, useful and an important tool to reach the next generation.

Agenda – GSC

- A. Review suggestions for the theme of the 2027 General Service Conference.
 - i. We will go over the options on the assembly floor.
- B. Review presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2027 General Service Conference.
 - i. We will go over the options on the assembly floor.
- C. Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2027 General Service Conference.
 - i. We will go over the options on the assembly floor.
- D. Review the 2026 General Service Conference Evaluation Form and the 2025 Evaluation Summary.
 - i. there are a ton of background information, we trust the delegates to know what is best.
- E. Discuss progress report on Conference improvement.
 - i. Discussed
- F. Discuss offering 10 minutes of presentation time during the General Service Conference to La Vine. (PAI 91)
 - i. French Canadian Grapevine getting 10 minutes at conference.
 - ii. We support, but we would like to defer to the delegates who know if it is appropriate and necessary.
 - iii. There's been a lot of talk about removing delegate reports in the interest of time, so hesitant to add more.
 - iv. Is there something going away that would make the addition work?

Finance – Lynne W.

Finance – Area 40

1. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Treasurer
 - i. Hi ya'll, I'm Lynne, Alcoholic, I've had a busy six months as your Area Treasurer. Lots of contributions have been coming in from all across Montana. In 2025, we took in a total of \$45,344 from 134 individuals. We spent a total of \$49,285, which is \$5,280 under the 2025 budget. So far this year, as of April 9, we have spent \$5,733.16. Our contributions this year are \$14,626.57. Which means we are off to a good start, because our working budget this year is \$60,002.20. If we take in over \$50,000 this year it will put us into the next tax bracket, which gives us three years to adjust. Right now, all I have to do to satisfy the government is fill out a postcard telling them we are a non-profit that took in less than \$50,000. Once we hit that mark, the filing process turns from a postcard of information to a 4 page document. I think it will be necessary to have an expert to overlook our finances at that point. Many other areas already have an accountant on file, and a professional review is part of the rotation auditing process. I see our Area moving in that direction, but I am not officially starting that journey yet. As your Area Treasurer, I have enjoyed many conversations about finances with people all over the Area. Earl, Libbie, Connie & I have been helping District 81 out with an Audit, & they've let me stick around. I'm helping Andrew update their policy & procedures. In my home district of 11 we reviewed & updated our Roundup policy &

procedures before embarking on our very own Fall 2027 Roundup. I've visited groups discussing financial matters, and watched my own ego react to each discussion. I've learned about myself that I am terrified of spending money. When someone calls to ask if I think there's room in the budget for fill-in-the-blank my reaction is, "WHHHHAAAAATTTT????? Don't you know, we're already asking for \$60,000 & now you want to spend some of that money?????"

Fortunately, I have a 12-step program for that. I can recognize it as my all too human fear. The answer is a cold, reasoned "Yes." That is to say, yes, they want to use the money in service of AA. Yes, that is indeed what we all agreed to last Assembly. As an Area, we have an active committee spread out over 147,000 miles. While I'm stuck in my ego, others are focused on serving the Area that elected us & I can see there really is a God working all this out. Spirituality can be seen in finances, and it took me this rotation as your Area Treasurer to be able to see that clearly.

I have had lots of help. I have made lots of mistakes, & luckily my committee is quick to help me correct them. I won't give ya'll the complete list, but I do want to mention that if you send me receipts & don't hear back from me within a week, please please PLEASE reach back out to me. The non-voting members are Julie R, Debbie D, and new to the committee is Mark W.

We discussed in committee a change made by GSO to not fund the Delegates to go to Stepping Stones. Our committee decided that not only should we, Area 40, pay for our delegate, but also help other Delegate's whose Areas might be a little less.... Supportive. More will be revealed on that.

Thank you for letting me serve,
Lynne W
Area Treasurer

2. Attendees: April A, District 61 Alt GSR Tom D, District 71 GSR
 - i. Amanda B, District 41 GSR, 4 th Dimension Group, Lisa C, P75 Delegate, District 72, There is a Solution Group, Lynne W, Area 40 Finance Chair, District 11, 644 Group, Martin N, District 41, SOP Group, Brandon R, District 41 GSR, SOP Group, Jessica E W, P75 Alt Delegate/Chair, District 91, Flathead Valley Serenity Group, Nancy S, District 91 GSR, Debbie D, District 11 Treasurer, West End Group, Mark W, District 11 Alt DCM, 644 Group, Tyler O, District 61 GSR, Last Chance Recovery Group, Lenore M, District 72 DCM, Mark R, District 72 GSR, HOW Group

Finance GSC

- A. Review Self-Support Packet.
 - i. Discussed
- B. Discuss motion to add wording to Item F-3, "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix."
 - i. - Suspend discussion pending decisions of the Grapevine Committee re: Grapevine and La Viña.
- C. Consider a request to create a Twelve Step study guide or workbook.
 - i. Options: add a workbook to Grapevine online, add workbook portions to the printed Grapevine ex: workbook for Step 1 in January etc.

- ii. - Is Grapevine on tablets in institutions? Lisa C will research if Grapevine is available on corrections tablets.
 - 1. Al Anon and NA are not AA approved literature.
- iii. There was conversation about the workbook being a major expense vs being a steward of our AA dollars.
- iv. The website everythingaa.com is NOT AA approved, and therefore separate from what GSO does.
- v. Would the workbook be published with the original Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous or the Plain Language Big Book?
- vi. There was conversation about the facts that we already have the Big Boo 12 Steps and 12 Traditions, Living Sober, Sponsorship, etc.
 - 1. Sense of the Committee Meeting: In favor – 3 Opposed – 8
- D. Consider a request to discuss the location of the General Service Conference (GSC) (PAI-22).
 - i. There was lots of discussion (from background reports page 20 – 23) and the Quarterly Report of General Service office.
 - 1. Brooklyn – 1.2 Million
 - 2. WC – 1.07 Million
 - 3. EC – 1.03 Million
 - 4. East Canada – 1.27 Million
 - 5. New England – 1.10 Million
 - 6. Manhattan – 1.0 - 1.5 Million
 - a. Sense of the Committee Meeting: In favor – 6 Opposed – 5 Abstain
 - ii. Do we as an Area want to continue to pay to send our Delegate to Steppingstones?
 - 1. Amanda suggested we add offering scholarships to Areas that are short of money to send their Delegates as an agenda item
 - 2. Lisa C's expenses to GSC will be about \$2,100.00. Adding a visit to Steppingstones will be an additional \$500.00 +/- . That will include 1 hotel room, 2 bus rides and 2 meals.
 - 3. Sense of the Committee Meeting (all attendees): In favor – 13 Opposed – 0
 - 4. Sense of the Committee Meeting (voting members): In favor – 3 Opposed – 0 Abstain

- 1

Public Information – Mark H.

Public Information – Area 40

- 1. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Public Information Chair
 - i. Greetings area 40, I'm Mark and I'm an alcoholic. So here we are in the second year of this rotation and it's amazing how much I'm still learning. I've been trying to field any questions and pass on the proper information. It's definitely been a growing experience. I appreciate all the help I've received.

I enjoy the things I get to participate in. I was able to speak at D.41's "Building bridges to the community". I attended 2 grapevine workshops in both D.61 and D.93. I've been able to attend some district P.I. committee meetings. I traveled last fall to the regional forum in Omaha Nb. Recently I got to go to the W.C.R.A.A. in Cedar Rapids Iowa. Then coming home and participating in the 3 live and virtual preassemblies. I'm hoping to attend and participate in some upcoming events. If anyone is interested in having me come to an

event, please get hold of me. It's always a pleasure to serve the fellowship that has given me this amazing life.

In love and service,
Mark H.

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

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

I am Alex, alcoholic, currently serving as your Area 40 Webmaster. I encourage DCMs and PI Chairs to introduce your District's elected meeting admins during District meetings. If you need help identifying this information, please contact me at webmaster@aamontana.org. I encourage DCMs and PI chairs to introduce the elected meeting admins for your Districts at your District meetings. If you require assistance in obtaining this information, please contact me at webmaster@aamontana.org. Keeping an accurate online meeting directory current and accurate is essential for helping those suffering from alcoholism find the support they need.

The virtual meetings page continues to be one of the most visited sections of the site, second only to the homepage. Since my last report, user engagement has increased by about 70%, from 80,000 to 114,000 page views. We also saw an 86% increase in PDF downloads, from 5,400 to 6,300, highlighting the value of flyers shared by Districts and Groups. Jake and I will continue to update the website and fix issues to better serve the Area.

In love and Service
Alex M.
Area 40 Webmaster

3. Review activities of Public Information Committees in Groups and Districts throughout Area 40

- i. Teresa R (D61) - working on a process/procedure document to help the incoming PI chair for the next rotation. Printing schedules quarterly on a printer owned by the district.
- ii. Lois (GSR in D91) - Her meeting is growing and the District is getting ready for the roundup.
- iii. Erica (D11 PI committee member) - the D11 PI committee has been working on increased public outreach. Including new flyers with QR code for the meeting guide, hotline number and the Area 40 website. The benefit of the flyer is that they are static (info doesn't change). *(This was very well received in the committee meeting)*. The district is putting together a safety workshop on May 16th. There is a flyer for this event. Also, D11 is trying to organize an AA presence at music festivals in the state.
- iv. Libba (DCM D93) - PI is alive and well in the Bitterroot with presence in jails/treatment and pharmacies.
- v. Susan (GSR Vennis over the hill group, D72) - They have been discussing how to be more visible for tourists/travelers coming through Ennis.
- vi. Dez (D51 PI Chair) - recently elected to the position. There is a need for increased AA visibility on the reservations on the highline. Dez received a request from someone at tribal court to have a meeting on the Rocky Boy Reservation.
- vii. Ryan (DCM D51) - working on local PSAs for radio stations. The station cluster he spoke with said they would not play national spots but would be open to a locally targeted PSA. Fort Belknap had their first pow wow meeting this year.
- viii. Rick (D81 PI Chair) - Great falls has PSA ads through a national ad agency by GSO. This seems to be unique to Great Falls. In D81 their PI budget of \$1000 was exceeded last year. Rick put together a map of placed in the District that have PI materials/pamphlets. The

district will have a table at a health and wellness fair at UofM. Their budget is increased for 2026 from \$1000 to \$1500. They are working with the schools to get integrated with the health curriculum. Also working on getting the GSO produced PSAs for local TV stations.

Public Information – GSC

- A. Review progress report on PSA Development and Review Plan
 - i. Reviewed
- B. Review report on the GSO Podcast, “Our Primary Purpose.”
 - i. Some discussion on the plan to develop guidelines on anonymity in relation to social media.
- C. Review report on AAWS YouTube Channel.
 - i. This report was discussed, some comments and questions regarding content. Also it was asked if comments were turned on or off on individual videos
- D. Review report on Google Ads.
 - i. Reviewed
- E. Review report on Meeting Guide app.
 - i. Alex reports that not all areas use/work with the meeting guide app. The app updates twice daily with reference to the meeting list on our area website. There is a new feature in beta testing that will refer you to virtual meetings worldwide.
- F. Review report on GSO’s A.A. website.
 - i. Reviewed
- G. Review report for AAWS “Online Business Profiles.”
 - i. Reviewed
- H. Review AAWS Social Media Policy.
 - i. Reviewed
- I. Review proposed plan for 2026 Membership Survey.
 - i. Some discussion on this one, recognizing the challenges of acquiring accurate membership data.
- J. Review draft revision of the pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity” (P-47).
 - i. Some discussion on this one. General support for putting QR codes on the front of pamphlets vs the back. Recognizing the fact that people may be more apt to scan a QR code rather than carry around a pamphlet.
- K. Review content and format of P.I. Kit and Workbook.
 - i. A request for Mark to ask if Charlie H has any information on why the PI workbook (and workbooks in general) have not been available for purchase on the website.

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
 - i. Hello, my name is Hugh an alcoholic, proud to be serving as your Area 40 Grapevine/LaVina Chair. Since the fall assembly I have been pretty busy. Oct 18th, 2025 I went to Missoula and Connor and I put on a Grapevine writing workshop. It was very well attended with at least eight stories submitted. Then on the 25 th I was able to attend the Grapefest in Helena, we had 35 people attend with great speaker and a lot of fun and fellowship, thank you Katelyn for doing a great job! I also attended the Havre Mini Conference and as usual it was a great time. Who knew Havre has it!!! In February we had another writing workshop in Havre. Great fellowship

and at least one person submitted his story. March brought preassembly; I went to Billings on the 21st. We had a good turnout and awesome discussion on the agenda items. The food was awesome. Thank you District 11, 12 and 31 for doing a great job. Then it was off to Missoula the next weekend for another pre-assembly. Once again, it was well attended and great food and fellowship. Discussions were great. Then the next day I went to Victor to put on another writing workshop. As usual, District 93 didn't disappoint. We had a great turn out with some very good stories that hopefully will be submitted. I look forward to the Spring Round-up in Kalispell in May and hope that more workshops will be put on by other Districts. Please, get ahold of me and let's have some fun writing. Thank you for allowing me to serve you. Hugh M

2. Review activities of Grapevine and La Viña Committees in Groups and Districts throughout Area 40.

- i. had six people in my breakout. We discussed writing workshops throughout the area. Charles from Billings said they have a district chair, but he's concerned about the lack of awareness and how much people used to know and read the grapevine, but not so much now, the district wants to have a grapevine workshop but hasn't planned one yet.
- ii. Megan is working with their district literature Chair to get grapevine and grapevine literature into meetings and helping with awareness, they buy the jail subscriptions to the grapevine and work with the district corrections chair to get them there.
- iii. Denise's group has eight grapevine, subscriptions and two Lavinia. They are not grapevine, specific meetings in their districts. So she is here at the committee. Meeting to discuss the contribution agenda. Item.
Brian is here to support the grapevine. The grapevine wrap is active. He sees the importance of it. It was instrumental in his early sobriety. He was gifted a grapevine when he was new and credits it for a large reason. Why he stayed.
- iv. Carly, her district had a writing workshop. They have one meeting in Missoula. That is a great vanish meeting meaning they read various literature, including old grapevines and other grapevine literature.
- v. In district 93, they gave Megan seed money to purchase literature and she went to the meeting to announce that she had literature and sold aid lot, the money goes back to the district.

Grapevine and La Viña – GSC

- A. Review AA Grapevine Workbook.
 - i. Reviewed
- B. Consider the list of suggested AA Grapevine and La Vina book topics for 2027 or after.
 - i. Committee discussed the list.
 1. We also discussed stories about submitting and some of the criteria. Since so many districts are having writing workshops. Example, a woman who submitted a story forgot she did, and two years later was contacted. That her story was going to be published. Grapevines and corrections, how can we get books into the jail? And inmates can actually take them stamp with a message that it is a gift.
- C. Review the five-year plans for both Grapevine and La Viña
 - i. Reviewed
 1. How do we make sure the books don't stay with the facilities? But go to prisoners. Specifically, the 5 year plan is available at the 2025 conference final report.

- D. Review the progress on the AA Grapevine survey of the membership to identify relevance, usefulness and financial viability of products and services provided by Grapevine, such as the magazines, books (print, digital, and audio), podcast and social media (Instagram and YouTube).
 - i. Literature price increase would be a hundred and fifty thousand dollars. In addition to revenue from small price increase proposals through twenty thirty.
- E. Review the AA Grapevine/LaViña Media Platforms report.
 - i. Considered
- F. Consider that the AA Grapevine, Inc., accept contributions.
 - i. Would align grapevines, funding sources more closely with a entities that rely on voluntary members and group support. Financial boundaries clarity. Some people think it might muddle the contributions with g. So is it going to take away from that? We felt that if we don't do this, what is the chain reaction? If we don't have some sort of solution and we keep losing money, will we lose our printing company grapevine, hasn't always been in the Red. The last time it was in the black was twenty fifteen, so there is hope to find common ground for both sides.

Policy and Admissions – GSC

- A. Review GSO general manager’s report regarding General Service Conference site selection.
 - i. Reviewed
- B. Review dates for the 2030 General Service Conference.
 - i. Reviewed
- C. Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW)
 - i. Discuss the suggestion to discontinue the annual review of service kits and workbooks by Conference committees.
 - ii. Discuss the suggestion that a similar number of agenda items be assigned to each Conference Committee.
 - iii. Discuss creating a “Conference Committee on Digital Communications.”

Archives/A40 Structure and Policy - Jody T

Archives – Area 40

- 1. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Archives Chair
 - i. First off, I would like to thank everyone for this opportunity to serve. It is truly an honor. Part of my job description states that along with the Archivist and Area Advisor, the Archives Committee updates the Area 40 Policy and Procedure Manual and the Area 40 Past Actions Document after each Assembly and makes it available to the Area 40 website. I put together information that I received from the PI and BTG chairs about changes to their guidelines and qualifications and sent this October 26th to those that were involved. But to my surprise I should have made sure this went to Andrew, who is our Area Advisor(I did not know this till zoom pre-assembly). Also, on October 11th Jerry and I went to Bozeman for their H.O.W. workshop, which was awesome. While we were there, Rick along with Joanne met us in Ennis at the Archives storage. I remember once Kacie describing her experience and I thought no

way...OMG I was wrong. It truly is one of those highlights every recovering alcoholic should experience. I so enjoyed looking back over some of the history and realizing just how much we have there. I came up with an idea to help Rick with organizing and cleaning things up. Let's have a workshop weekend!! I got home that weekend and by that following Thursday I sent out emails to Area DCM's, and Chairs wanting to see who would be interested. **I had a lot of response.** We have picked the weekend of June 27th. I will continue to let those that have responded to know specifics as we get closer. On January 18th, I attended an Area Committee meeting on zoom. Always helps to stay connected with everyone. I was able to attend WCRAASC in Iowa via zoom. So much information and very helpful for upcoming Assembly. I was asked by Districts 81, 91 and 93 to attend their pre-assembly March 28th in Missoula. It was well attended and a very good way to get ready for Assembly. I also attended the Area 40 Zoom Pre-Assembly on April 11th. There was quite a few who attended, and some very good questions and suggestions. As always, it is so good to see new faces and the older ones too.
Yours in Service, Jody

2. Review assembly report or the Area 40 Archivist, Rick H.

i. Spring Assembly - April 17-19,2026

Greetings Area 40. My name is Rick and I'm an alcoholic. Currently I am serving as the Area 40 Archivist. Life has been a little busy since the last time we gathered here to do some business. I was invited to the Fall Round-up hosted by District 61 in Helena. First thing was they put me in a room that was above my standards, it had real glass water glasses! Then I bought some tickets for some of the items they had up for raffle and I won an awesome book cover made by Lynn W. It was a really fun event with lots of fellowship with old and new friend.

The first Monday of November life got real. The doctor told me I had cancer and we didn't know the extent of it at the time. That was a tough place to be with an alcoholic brain like mine. Enter the Design for Living that you people have taught me. The day I found out, I went to my Detention Center commitment that night. Wednesday night I woke up in the middle of the night and was starting to go to the worst-case scenario, what came to mind was the line in the book, either God is or God isn't, what's it going to be. I chose God is, and went back to sleep. The next test came back with positive news, it was localized and highly treatable. The next three months consisted of more tests, preparation for treatment and 28 days of targeted radiation treatment. I rang the bell on Friday the Thirteenth of February. I am so grateful for the foundation I have with you and this program. Fortunately, that was a slow time for archivist stuff. Next was the WCRAASC which I attended online. I met a fellow Archivist from Area 35, Marc N., he reached out to the Archivists in the West Central Region and Rick K from Area 76 joined the email. Next up in March was the annual Billings Founders Day event on the 14th. It was a great event with an awesome potluck and a great speaker sharing the Language of the Heart. I have had a few requests for information from the archives relating to round-up themes and the regional service conferences, unfortunately I am still having trouble locating things in the repository.

On a personal housekeeping note, I need to make an amends to Area 40. Since 2020, when I was elected to be the District 72 DCM, I have been acting like I can understand and function in the computer world of emails and spreadsheets. In reality, I have no idea how to do some the things required for these service positions. So, I guess I might need some help getting the past actions into the Policy and Procedure documents. I want to thank all of you for being a part of my sobriety and for showing me the path to walk through hard things in life.

Gratefully in love and Service,
Rick H.

3. Review activities of Archives Committees in Groups and Districts throughout Area 40
 - i. Joseph B. District 93 - New Archivist (new and replacing). He has received two old tubs, mostly needing organization and protecting the information. He is going to ask District 93 for help. At a later date he will explore digitizing.
 - ii. Grant M. DCM District 41 - Much work has already been done towards digitizing, thanks to Joe. Other than that, not much to report.
 - iii. Dan F. GSR District 51 - Just visiting.
 - iv. Jeff M. District 61 Archivist - He was able to put together three displays, 1. Attitude of Gratitude, fliers and photos from 1952-53. 2. Grapefest and 3. Pockets of Enthusiasm, fliers and photos from 1997. Working on coordinating with Rick H. to build, collaborate history, more complete information and with filling in the gaps, etc. Glad to have a committee!!! There were two members, one moved but I still have 1! Reviewed and revised questionnaires to groups for histories to include in archives. Seeking photographs of all groups in Helena.
 - v. Sage H. District 81 Alt-DCM - Our Archives chair stepped down. Working on digitizing all items and speaker tapes.
 - vi. Chris M. District 91 - Archives Chair. Hoping to get recordings from old timers.
 - vii. Greg T. DCM District 12 - Currently needing to work on organizing and get what few records currently held in storage.
 - viii. Leo B - GSR District 51. Visiting.
 - ix. Merida S. District 61 - Valuable secretary!!
 - x. Joseph B. added that he moved from Seattle, experienced many Oldtimers having verbal history and valuable depth, layer and character to archives.

Area 40 Structure and Policy

1. Review Fall 2025 Assembly Evaluation Report
 - i. Jody read the evaluation report in full and sent around a copy of the evaluation for this assembly. At one point there was an evaluation with many, many questions and with the help from Kacie, I brought the questions down to 9 items with opportunity to add comments. There was quite a bit of discussion that followed. Joseph reminded us that the background information was available, folks should ask if they need help to access. Jody brought up sponsors helping sponsees to get the information. I am available to help anyone needing to find the information. The evaluation report was also shared in Google Docs (thank you Alex and Jessica). Jeff stated that there are areas to improve so maybe dig deeper...time management, arrangement of content, hotel section, etc. Greg agreed that there were some common themes, accommodations being one of them. Jody reached out to get more clarity and going to talk with Andrew. The evaluations are available online.

Archives – GSC

- A. Review content and format of Archives Workbook.
 - i. Jody read from the background material. This was revised in 2025, sections were moved, and workbook updated. There is a digital access through aa.org. Literature rep can also order the workbooks. I did reach out to GSO about how many copies should be saved and was told at least three copies, 1) no touching 2) can touch 3) can be copied. Also it was

brought up about the interviews that can be done. Very important to get our old-timers recorded. I do have the interview and can email to those who are interested.

- B. Consider a request to define eligibility for Area-level service for members residing outside of the geographic area they want to serve. (PAI 46)

GSR Breakout

GSR Ask it Basket

Connie: "I love GSRs because you are the starting point, it's the most important job"

Question #1: When did you realize there was such a thing as GSR?

"When I came back to AA in the 1990's"

Q #2: Does your group use Venmo for the 7th tradition?

"Yes, we started using Venmo at our group in D11."

"Yes, about six months ago at our group in D81, and we've seen an increase in contributions."

"A QR code is placed in the basket."

"How do we not use a personal email or phone number?"

"We use a burner phone and a sim card."

"Can set up a business account but there is a fee while personal account is free."

"I always put a dollar in the basket to show the newcomer."

Q #3: What do you think are the most important things that the GSR should bring back to their groups regarding GSO/AAWS?

"It's important for me to hear what other people are hearing."

"GSRs know what is important to your group"?

Q #4: How do you handle disruptive behavior such as double/triple sharing, long shares, lecturing, sharing on drugs?

"Set up expectations at the beginning of the meeting."

"Use timer because many chairs' struggle to point out disturbances."

"don't scold or ask them to leave."

"Ask them to stick to the steps."

"Discuss at your groups business meeting."

"Ask them to be their sponsee to show them best ways to act at meetings."

"Have trusted servants pull them to the side as a learning opportunity."

"Page 77, our primary purpose is to be of maximum service to God and our fellows."

"Many drunks are also drug addicts."

"We need to be reminded and hear about how we got sober and stayed sober, not drunk alogs"

"I once told my sponsor that sometimes the discussion doesn't focus on the solution. He asked me if I shared my experience to bring it back to focus. I said no. The point being that we shouldn't complain if we don't share our experience during those times. Be the solution"

Q #5: What is your opinion on a member declaring themselves a member of two home groups, voting at group conscious at multiple business meetings, holding service positions in multiple groups?

"Often, newcomers don't know anything about service work. It's important to have a sponsor to share how to be of service."

"a home group is my family. It allows comfort and safety to share sensitive information".

"I feel it's Ok if newcomers want to help with service positions at various groups, many districts here reported that groups struggle filling service positions. With that said, it's important that elected group reps are home group members who don't hold another position at the same time. Add requirements in job descriptions".

"Sponsorship, Home Group, Service Position. It's not plural".

Q #6: With 17 topics items, why is the workload split up into 9 committees?

"Area Assembly is structured similar to GS Conference."

"Similar to EDW or Equitable Distribution Workload"

DCM Breakout

DCM ask-it Basket

Q 1: How do I carry the principles in all my affairs?

Charlie: If I'm not practicing principles, it hinders my ability to help other alcoholics.

Q 2: Are raffles/fundraisers allowed in your district?

Charlie: No. My homegroup had a book raffle, but it was basically rigged to make sure books got in the hands of newcomers. Some events around Lincoln do raffles but that's been up to the individual committees.

Q 3: how would you fund events?

Charlie: I would find a way to fund it within the group.

"I'm in a district that seems to fundraise out of fear that an event won't break even. How do we avoid that?"

"We can address fear with the 12 steps and reliance on our higher powers."

"We are not the traditions/steps/recovery police. Groups have the freedom to make their own decisions and their own mistakes. If a group doesn't have the funds to put on an event they have two choices: fundraise, or don't hold the event. That is a decision they need to make as a group."

"Another issue regarding self-support is the fact that young people prefer non-cash options for making contributions. It's important to note that we would rather not have the \$ than have it come from someone like Kelly P (Class A trustee)."

"Show of hands, how many people participate in fundraisers? (5-6 hands out of about 15 people in the meeting)."

"Fundraising is totally expected in NC where I got sober. Sometimes costs ramp up for events in different places, fundraising seems to be a necessary endeavor sometimes."

" I attended an event that held a 50/50 raffle a while back. I told them to keep the money because I didn't need it and they seemed quite happy with that outcome."

Q4: What are people doing to encourage folks to stand for various service positions for the next rotation?

“I like what was said last night about working on 3 people. Dr. Bob said we should never be too busy to give the person behind us a pat on the back. Doing what we can to encourage others is important. I wouldn’t wait until election day to tell someone good job/encourage them.”

“Our elections start in October. We like to ask GSR’s if they are willing/interested in standing and that discussions starts as early as possible.”

Picking on sponsees is a great way to do it.”

“We elect alternates to many positions. This seems to be a pipeline to the primary job. I’d like to see my alternate elected to the DCM position, but I’ve been told that may be presumptuous.”

“I didn’t want to be trustee when I was elected, it was a chaotic time at GSO. What I wanted was to be genuinely humble, but it wasn’t my goal to be trustee.”

“I’ve stood for positions that I didn’t think I was qualified for, but it’s worked out. I want to stand for grapevine that I think I’ll be bell suited for, but I should stand for all of them.”

“My sponsorship line says, “don’t stand for positions that you aren’t qualified for”. People can learn certain skills but if there are technical skills or experience required, people should have them.”

“In NC, we put the right people in the right job. In MT it’s more “everyone stands for everything”. I thought this was crazy, but then I got elected treasurer and I thought that was crazy. I was convinced I couldn’t do it, but you guys disagreed.”

“I’ve heard “god doesn’t choose the qualified, he qualifies the chosen”. Skills are to be practiced and learned. We are offered guidance from those who went before, the resources and experience are there, it’s just a matter of tapping into it.”

“Speaking of “do we trust god enough?”. We will only have one person stand for district positions, that doesn’t seem like enough.”

“We have regional trustees and there are 4 candidates, and one is a gossip, and I’m shutting my mouth and not telling the other delegates who I don’t want. It’s not my job to control who gets which position.”

“We have had trouble filling positions, just because there’s only one person who stands means we *have* to elect them.”

Q5: Did you travel much before becoming DCM?

“I pray for God to help get me where I need to be, and if I don’t get there it means God doesn’t want me there. When I was young in AA I didn’t have a very full life. Our delegate was from my hometown. He would tell people to get in the car, I was the guy who said “ok”. I went everywhere with the guy.”

Q6: How can we take the GSC agenda items back to our groups in a way that encourages engagement at the group level?

“Sometimes it’s easier to break it down/offer up a few important points rather than the entire agenda.”

“Having enthusiasm is important too.”

“Excitement is contagious.”

“It’s good to have a group that doesn’t present service as an option.”

Q7: How does gas expense and reimbursement work in your district?

“I don’t honestly know. It seems like all areas have their own group conscience and policies. Some groups use the IRS rate. It’s a group conscience thing.”

Q8: How you handle a district business meeting when a last-minute item comes in and district votes without GSR’s bringing it back to their groups?

“GSR’s are trusted servants, they have some authority to make decisions, but you can try to steer them as the DCM. You can ask for a motion to table until it can be brought back to the groups. Ultimately, it’s up to the GSRs and the groups.”

“Floor actions are typically emergency/urgent issues. This is rarely the case.”

“We had this happen in our district; a member would take the meeting hostage by throwing out an item for discussion at the end of the meeting. We addressed this by putting out the agenda early. If new items came up, we would put it on new business for the next month.”

“We put out our agenda 2 weeks ahead of time and we add items to new business if we have time, otherwise it goes to the next month.”

“ When I was alternate DCM we used a similar form that we use are Area for bringing up new agenda items.”

Sunday, April 6, 2025

Roundup Reports

Fall 2025 – District 61

Hi everyone,

Here is a brief final roundup report. The fall 2025 Roundup was very successful, and as a result we were able to pass \$2,000 in seed money to Kalispell for the spring Roundup.

The spring 2025 Roundup in Great Falls gave us an initial \$2,000, which was extremely helpful in maintaining positive cash flow until additional registration funds came in. I am grateful that the Helena Roundup was able to provide the same support to Kalispell.

The Kalispell Roundup seed money check was cashed by their treasurer. Nino, the Roundup Chair, is very appreciative.

Sobriety rocks, (to steal a phrase from my friend Shawn!)

Rebecca

2025 District 61 Fall Roundup - Helena

Treasury Report

Beginning Balance \$ 1,851.49

Credits

7th Tradition \$ 725.00 Raffle \$ 1,568.00 50/50 \$ 530.00 Registrations (Including Scholarships and Meals) \$ 13,281.00 Seed Money \$ 2,000.00 Coffee Donations \$ 325.00

Debits

Great Northern (Including Meals, Rooms, Venue) \$ (12,799.60) Gifts \$ (114.55) Recording Surcharge \$ (200.00) Speakers Flights and Parking \$ (1,209.48) Checks Returned \$ (95.00) Bank Fee \$ (10.00) Archivists Room \$ (436.00) Swag \$ (216.00)

Current \$ 5,199.86 Seed Money \$ (2,000.00) **Future \$ 3,199.86 \$1348.37 Surplus**

Spring 2026 – District 91
It's TIME!!

THE 2026 ANY LENGTHS SPRING ROUNDUP is HERE!!!

Let's GOOOO!

Now... Even though you've all done your best to teach us to never "Should all over ourselves or others"...

We do know where y'all SHOULD be 2 weeks from now!

The Red Lion Kalispell sharing your recovery with us- OF COURSE.

Hello from your District 91 Spring Round Up Fam! We are sorry we could not be there. In our stead, we have asked this fine specimen of a human being and phenomenal example of recovery to give this report. (That's me ;)

Our names are Nino and Victoria G.

We are your current Spring Roundup Chairs, here in the Flathead Valley, and very grateful for the opportunity to walk this path with you.

FIRST things First: Thank ALL of you in attendance for your service. Thank you to all of those who were unable to attend. Thank you to all of those whose Love and Service is bereft of a service structure title.

It's because of all of you and the tireless work that you do, that we are all able to have this beautiful privilege and program of recovery.

Thank you!

Things are AWESOME here in Northwest Montana -

The snow is melting, The Red Willows are poppin, and the Animals are starting to move around. and by animals of course we mean Alcoholics helping out with the Roundup.

We have 3 incredible Speakers, Workshops that'll make ya wanna write the Grapevine, Live Music with The Burning Desires, Jam Sessions, Marathon Meetings, Art, Meditation, Games, A Dance, and more importantly the meetings before and after the meetings - where the real healing happens.

We hope you'll join us on the road to happy destiny, and by "Road" of course we mean- Highway 93!

Please be sure and grab a flyer or scan a QR code at the information table, and register this weekend.

Lastly, if you are a musician or know one in recovery who you're obviously going to carpool with, bring your acoustic instruments- seriously! Participating in or witnessing a group of Recovering Musicians Sharing in Song Form, is something you don't want to miss!

Again, thank you ALL for EVERYTHING you do to make AA Run Smoov.

Grateful to serve,

Nino and Victoria G

Fall 2026 – District 81

Greetings from the Missoula Fall 2026 Roundup committee!

I want to start by thanking everyone here for their service to Alcoholic Anonymous! It is always inspiring to see service in action at the Area 40 Assembly. It has been an honor and privilege (along with a boatload of work and a huge learning curve) to be the round up chair for the fall 2026

Missoula roundup. The Roundup is occurring Oct 2-4, 2026 in Missoula at the Hilton Garden Inn. We have an all star lineup of AA speakers, Al anon speakers, Alateen pizza party, dance, workshops and panels on our programming; in addition we will be offering child care and a well stocked hospitality room. The early registration fee is \$40 and runs to September 15. After September 15 the registration fee increases to \$45. We have paper registration flyers on the back table and the registration forms are also available on the Area 40 Website.

Our roundup committee has been working very hard to provide area 40 with a high quality roundup and we have had to be very innovative in ways to do this. Our primary challenge has been finances in regard to cost of hosting a round up in Missoula. The hotel contract, alone, is \$23,232 with an initial \$5000 need for a down payment to secure the venue. Our committee was fortunate that the 2023 roundup committee had the foresight to see that hotel cost and conference center fees were dramatically increasing in Missoula.

The Missoula Roundup 2023 committee held \$4000 in seed money from the 2023 Missoula roundup and we were able to use that as partial downpayment for the hotel and conference center downpayment. Then our committee needed to come up with another way to find an additional \$1000 for the rest of the \$5000 deposit; we were able to procure \$2900 in seed money and were able to use some of those funds for the total \$5000 down payment.

The fun did not end at coming up with the money for a down payment for the hotel and conference room, as we then had to tackle the financial situation for our committee to be able to provide flyers, Eventbrite account, postal box and flights for our speakers. We brainstormed as a committee and went to work on contribution raising. So far, we have had 6 contribution raising events in district 81, put on by the roundup committee. We started with a river float, picnic and bake auction, followed by a Backyard Olympics event with world cuisine potluck, then a Halloween party and dance, a Brunch with Bill movie day and potluck, Valentines Day Dance and finally a Bingo event. The committee has a final event planned before the fall roundup, another river float and BBQ in July. We launched early registration events at local homegroup events (the Marathon New Years meeting and the Valentines Day Dance) In addition, we

had Roundup t shirts designed and offered free t shirts for early registration. We will have roundup t shirts for sale at the Fall Roundup. We also have great participation, in cooperation not affiliation, from Missoula Alanon. We had AA speakers or AA panels at our special events. Missoula Al anon put on an event, a Valentines Day dinner and AA and al anon panel and gave contributions to the Roundup. At this time, we have \$9800 in our banking account.

Needless to say, this has been a lot of work and required many hours-of-service work by members of the roundup committee and other members of district 81. We have had many newcomers to recovery and new comers in recovery but new to service help at our events. We also have worked on offering these events as a way to increase awareness and enthusiasm around the 2026 Missoula Fall roundup.

The language from Area 40 sets out the rotation for the roundups; including the statement that if a district is going to drop out of a roundup rotation, they need to do so 2.5 years in advance. Basically, we are nearing exhaustion and the roundup has not even occurred, all jokes aside the future of roundups in Missoula and possibly in Area 40 need to be financially well planned and executed. We need to continue to think of innovative new ways of contribution raising, that are compatible with AA's 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts.

Thanks,

Annie B

Spring 2027 – District 72

District 72 is actively preparing for the Spring Roundup 2027, which will be held April 30 through May 2, 2027, in Bozeman, Montana. The Roundup will take place at the Best Western Plus Grantree Inn, with an additional room block available at the Hampton Inn. Our theme comes from Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, Step Twelve, 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.” This theme reflects spiritual growth through meditation, prayer, and service, and will guide the spirit of the weekend.

The event is being hosted by District 72 in cooperation with District 8 Al-Anon, and will include speaker meetings, fellowship, and opportunities for connection across our communities. Planning is well underway, with committees actively working on programming, registration, and outreach. Our committee meets on the third Saturday of each month, at the Fellowship Hall and via the Not A Glum Lot Zoom room. We welcome and encourage Area 40 input.

For more information and updates, please visit: www.roundupspring27.com or email: roundup2027@area40district72.com

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service.

Catherine J. District 72

Fall 2027 – 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 set, so join us 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). After that, the price will rise so go ahead and get in on this special price & register early! There's a flier on the back table with the date, speaker lineup, & a QR code for registration.

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. That's right, our very own webmaster will be one of the speakers for the fall 2027 Roundup, and you can get your registration right now for just \$35!

We will also have raffle items, an event yet to be decided, & we'll probably offer a Saturday evening banquet, details on that will come later. 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 merchandise with a Fall 2027 Roundup logo so be sure to watch for that. We are starting with mugs, and the quantities might be limited so you'll want to order yours as soon as we make them available.

Please be sure to grab a flier off the back table for the Fall 2027 Roundup in Billings. Early Bird Registration is already open so take back lots of fliers to let your groups know about the exciting Billings Roundup.

Thank you for letting me be of service,

Lynne W

Fall 2027 Roundup Chair, District 11

Intergroup Reports

South Central Montana Intergroup Report

South Central Montana Intergroup has had a prosperous start for the year of 2026. From putting on fellowship events to carrying the message of Alcoholic Anonymous to the newcomers. Our AA community is alive and well. There are over 20 meetings in the area every day. From campfire to candlelight, South Central Montana has a meeting perfect for anyone looking to get in touch with AA.

The Founder's Day event held in March had a great turn out. Activities included panels, speakers, a potluck, bingo, and a silent auction. The room was packed with both old timers and lots of newcomers celebrating the day Alcoholics Anonymous came to Billings and seeing how it evolved into what we get to enjoy today.

Cooney campout is scheduled, and we are ready for the summer weather, the food, and the fellowship with beautiful views of the lake. This is an annual campout we host in July and have many AA folks from all groups that attend every year. Planning for the annual Halloween party in October and the annual Holiday party in December will begin in the following months. We look forward to bringing good laughs, good food and great memories to our community. Not only does each group help with our annual events but they themselves host numerous potlucks, bingo and bowling nights, hot dog eating contests and poker nights. A new group-wide karaoke contest has even been started with an adorable Donkey trophy going to the winning group. Group activities are going on almost every weekend and the retreats are life changing. So if you're in the area, stop in, share a laugh, eat some food and take in the fellowship.

Intergroup also runs a small bookstore that consists of all kinds of AAWS literature. A couple groups had taken on a project to renovate the bookstore and upgrade the security. It offers a more secure but welcoming atmosphere along with our usual books and pamphlets. It is open on Saturdays from 10am-2pm. Volunteers from the various groups in District 11 take turns working shifts at the bookstore. Intergroup is also responsible for maintaining the District 11 printed meeting lists. After conducting an audit we can now provide better, up-to-date copies that can be obtained at the bookstore or online.

Currently SCMI is conducting a survey throughout our groups. We are hoping to see how we can further help the community we serve and enhance communication across all groups.

The monthly Intergroup meeting is well in attendance. We look forward to our continuation of hosting events, being of service, and showing the newcomers “we are not a glum lot”. That there is a good life to be had in Alcoholics Anonymous.

I'd like to thank the SCMI for allowing me to present this report and wish you all a blessed day!

The Flathead Valley Intergroup Report

Good morning Area 40,

I am so grateful to be at my favorite family reunion, and what a privilege it is to continue to serve Alcoholics Anonymous in district 91 and the Flathead Valley. I am here once again to inform you of the purpose of the Flathead Valley Intergroup, but I want to begin by mentioning that I have taken a large portion of this seasons reports directly from our new intergroup website FVIG.org which has been created by John B. and Josh L. and they have done such a wonderful job and spent tireless hours recrafting a much more well written and much more user friendly site to help us more effectively carry the message in the Flathead Valley. I would strongly encourage you all to take a moment to explore the new website, volunteer to serve or even submit an event for our webmaster to add to the calendar. This is a brief synopsis of the purpose of the Flathead Valley intergroup:

Flathead Valley Intergroup

Flathead Valley Intergroup serves groups and members in the Flathead Valley. We support the AA community by providing meeting information, and fellowship events to help groups carry the message of recovery to those who still suffer.

What we do

- Maintain and publish accurate, up-to-date meeting schedules for the Flathead Valley area.
- Coordinate intergroup events, workshops, and service opportunities that foster unity and recovery.

Who we serve

- Individuals seeking recovery from alcoholism.
- Members and groups of Alcoholics Anonymous in the Flathead Valley.

Principles

- Unity: We bring groups together to strengthen AA's primary purpose.
- Service: We provide practical support so groups can focus on carrying the message.

- Anonymity: We protect the privacy of AA members and uphold the Traditions.
- Accessibility: We strive to make meeting information and resources available to anyone in need.

Flathead Valley Intergroup encourages participation from all AA members. Volunteers serve on committees, help maintain meeting lists, staff the intergroup office, and assist with outreach and events. For participation details, meeting schedules, or literature requests, contact the intergroup office or attend an intergroup meeting.

Flathead Valley Intergroup exists to help AA groups carry the message of recovery in the Valley through practical service, accurate information, and a spirit of unity.

The Flathead Valley Intergroup holds its monthly business and birthday meeting on the last Saturday of every month in Columbia Falls and has many upcoming events that are posted on the website calendar. Some of which are the annual Spring fling which will be may 9th and the Emery Bay campout, July 23-26.

We at the Flathead Valley Intergroup share a variety of responsibilities and participate in a plethora of fellowship activities that allow us to connect and grow throughout the valley, and though I have been told that intergroups are not within the service triangle I believe that we serve as a portion of a very important role and that is helping the next alcoholic find what I continue to find here, and that is a “sufficient substitute, vastly more than that. I find release from care, boredom, and worry, and thanks to alcoholics anonymous, my life means something at last.”.

In closing, I am forever grateful to those who stand beside one another, provide the hand of AA and continue to help me truly see the magnitude of the debt I owe to Alcoholics Anonymous, the debt of providing me a quality of life far beyond my wildest dreams, the debt of finally finding myself, a debt I will never be able to repay, but can hopefully begin to make small remittances by continuing to suit up and show up for every opportunity God provides me to be of service.

As always blessed and gratefully yours in service,

Aryel M

District 91
FVIG Chair
New Hope GSR

Appendix 1

Area 40 Committee Meeting

January 18, 2026

Roll Call:

Here	Name	Service Commitment	Here	Name	Service Commitment
x	Lisa C.	Delegate	x	Pat P	District 11 DCM
x	Jessica EW	Area Chair/Alt D.		Greg T	District 12 DCM
x	Jessica S	Secretary			District 21 DCM
x	Lynne W	Treasurer		Steve S	District 23 DCM
x	Jody Toner	Archives		Kathie B	District 31 DCM
	Karon K	CPC		Grant M	District 41 DCM

x	Daniel S.	Corrections	x	Theresa L	District 42 DCM
x	Hugh M	Grapevine	x	Gene A	District 51 DCM
x	Lance W	Hotline	x	Nathan S	District 61 DCM
	Rebecca S-Q	Literature		Brandi D	District 71 DCM
x	Mark H	Public Information	x	Lenore M	District 72 DCM
x	Ty K	Treatment	x	Carly B	District 81 DCM
x	Andrew W	Area Advisor	x	Eli S	District 91 DCM
x	Rick H	Archivist	x	Libba C	District 93 DCM
x	Sean R	Bridging the Gap			
		Alt Bridging the Gap			
	Mike D	Co-Technology Chair			
	Jack W	Co-Technology Chair			
	Alex M	Webmaster			
	Jake L	Alt- Webmaster			

1. Upcoming WCRAASC
 - a. Lisa shared the WCRAASC flyer and reviewed key details with the committee.
 - b. WCRAASC will be held February 27–March 1.
2. Bid Discussion for the West Central Regional AA Service Conference (WCRAASC) in Montana
 - a. 2028 Site Bid
 - i. Districts 11, 61, and 81 are planning to submit bids to host WCRAASC in 2028.
 - b. Lisa will work with Jessica E., the Trustee, and regional delegates to determine which district will receive the bid.
 - c. A clearer sense of the host district is expected following presentations at the Spring Assembly.
3. Pre-Assembly
 - a. Districts 81, 91, and 93 are planning to hold a Pre-Assembly on March 28.
 - b. The Area is working to secure a virtual, Area-wide Pre-Assembly.
4. AA Self-Support Communication
 - a. Lisa read a communication from GSB Trustee Scott H. regarding self-support.
 - i. AA has begun sending a monthly self-support email; this is not fundraising but a communication effort in response to a drop in contributions.
 - b. Lisa shared her personal reflections on self-support and what AA has given her.
5. Concept Study
 - a. Lisa highlighted the monthly Concept Study meeting.
 - i. Lisa read remarks shared by Connie R. related to Concept II.
 1. Members were reminded that contentious discussions may arise during WCRAASC.
 - a. The importance of disagreeing respectfully without demonizing others was emphasized.

- 2. Similar discussions may occur both at WCRAASC (in Iowa) and at the Area level.
- b. Monthly Area 40 Concept Study Details
 - i. Every third Saturday, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
 - ii. Meeting ID: 934 7874 0545 - Passcode: 231097
- 6. Area Agenda Items
 - a. Area agenda items are due February 1.
- 7. Fall Area Agenda Items
 - a. Fall agenda items are tentatively due July 1.
 - b. Jessica will communicate any updates to this deadline.

Appendix 2

Area 40 Pre-Assembly

April 11, 2026

- A. Jessica EW - 12:30: Call to order
 - i. Jessica EW - Welcome to the A40 Virtual Preassembly- Welcome to the Area 40 Pre-Assembly. It is wonderful to see everyone here this morning. My name is Jessica E.W. My service position is Panel 75 Area 40 Alternate Delegate and Area Chair. Panel 75 just means I started my rotation in 2025. I live in District 91 in Kalispell, and my home group is the Kalispell Serenity Group. If you haven't already, please update your name and service position in Zoom.

This pre-assembly is presented by Area 40 and follows many other in-person and hybrid preassemblies that have been held in the last few weeks.

Area 40 covers a huge stretch of our state. I want to thank all the districts and everyone here representing them who have put in so much energy and effort to get information out and efforts to be informed, as to carry your group's voice to Lisa at our Area 40 spring assembly. We have already had a pre-assembly over on the East side, which consisted of District 11 (Billings), District 12 (Laurel), and District 31 (Miles City). We also had a hybrid one in our Central Area, District 72 (Bozeman). The Western side, District 81 (Missoula), 91 (Flathead Valley including Kalispell), and 93 (Bitterroot Valley), and other Districts held their own service events and opportunities to discuss items. This ensures that no matter where you are in the 14 districts, there are opportunities for people to hear the background of these items, discuss them in their groups, and then carry that voice to our Delegate next weekend at our spring assembly. Our goal today is to discuss agenda items, share our collective experience, and ensure every voice is heard from your groups. Once you have this information, the goal is for you to take it back to your groups and have discussions about the items that are important to them.

You will then carry that voice back to the Area Assembly, which will be held next weekend, April 17th, 18th, and 19th in Great Falls. There is also a hybrid option available for that assembly. All of this is so that we can best prepare our Delegate, Lisa C., with the information and the voice she needs to carry to the General Service Conference, which will be held the very next week after our assembly.

We have such a gift this assembly that we have two Trustees from the General Service Board speaking and participating at our assembly. Please get the reminders out that our Class A Trustee, Kelly P, will be giving a talk on Friday night, so please encourage people to attend.

For today's agenda, (Sean), you'll see our schedule for the committee chairs to cover a few items from their committees. This time is designed for GSRs and members to hear the background neutrally, so you can take it back to your groups and discuss it. Since we haven't listed every item At the end of each section, I'll ask you to chat with Sean, who will serve as our ask-it Basket, the committee, and the item number you would like to cover.

Once we are done rotating through the items on today's agenda, Sean will share the list with me and I will then facilitate an "ask-it" time for any agenda items you want to further discuss or have questions about. Depending on how many items we have, I will do my best to allocate the time to chairs based on the number of items brought forward, and then we'll wrap up for the day.

Does anyone here need assistance getting onto the dashboard? If you need help, please chat with Sean, who is serving as my co-chair today. He has his number in the chat and on his name.

I thought it would be appropriate to read an excerpt out of the history of pre-assemblies that was put together with historical context for members of AA. Just as a reminder, Area 40 consists of a majority of Montana, except for a few boundary towns. When we talk about Area 40, we are talking about almost the entire state, and we have 14 districts across Montana that are compiled to make up our Area.

Excerpts From Our "History of Pre-Assemblies"

"In 1999, a group of AA members took the train from Kalispell across the highline to attend the West Central Regional Service Conference in Minot, ND. They were able to experience the discussions and breakout sessions of the weekend and get the shared experience of other attendees from across the region. One individual, Bryan S., was quite moved by the experience and thought to himself, " We should do something like this for the groups of Area 40 so they can be better informed." He started planning an event and invited neighboring Districts to join. The Area Committee Chairs and Officers were invited and asked to present the agenda items for their committee and share the background information with the people in attendance. The event was modeled on the breakout sessions that were experienced at the

Regional Service Conference. Four committees met during the same time and people chose which committee they wanted to attend. This created an opportunity for greater participation from the groups to have additional members join in to attend multiple committees. There was also time for sharing amongst the attendees and presenters, fellowship and food. The purpose of the event was to help the groups to become better informed about the General Service Conference Agenda items. The date was March 2001 and the event became known as a Pre-Assembly. The preassembly was well received and at the 2001 Area 40 Spring Assembly the GSR's and DCM from District 91 spoke about the experience and how it improved their understanding and knowledge of the agenda items. They were able to share with their group members and provide information and insight to help their groups achieve a better-informed group conscience and that was shared with the Area committee and the Delegate at the Spring Assembly. There was more discussion at the Fall Assembly in 2001 and a seed was planted.

In the spring of 2002, before the General Service Conference, District 91 once again hosted a Pre-Assembly, inviting the Area Officers and the Area Committee Chairs to participate in their event. They also encouraged groups from neighboring Districts 81 and 93 to join them.

Gerry R, the District 61 Archives Chair planned and organized a Pre-Assembly held at the Boulder Hot Springs and invited Districts 42, 71 and 72 to join. These events were very beneficial to not only the groups and GSR's but were also helpful to the Area Committee as it gave the Standing Committee Chairs several opportunities to discuss and present agenda items and get feedback from individuals and group representatives. Another benefit that was noticed later was the promotion of unity from several Districts working together to support the events.

In 2003, District 11, 12 and 31 expressed a desire to host an event at Huntley for the Eastern portion of the Area, that created a third Pre-Assembly along with the West Central Regional Service Conference prior to the Area 40 Spring Assemblies. This seemed to be the magic number as the Final Conference Agenda and Background Information became available to the Delegate around February 15th and there was usually adequate time for the events prior to the Area 40 Spring Assembly, where the Delegate would get a sense of the Area to share at the General Service Conference. It was determined that these events were most beneficial prior to the Spring Assembly and initially were designed to discuss the General Service Conference Agenda Items only but later included Area 40 business items as well.

The three weekends were filled with food, fun and fellowship. Most agenda items were discussed unless there was an unusually large agenda. The neighboring districts established a rotating schedule and whichever district hosted the events selected the location, planned, made notifications and was responsible for any expenses.

Formats

In 2009, we seen the first venture into telecommunications for the preassemblies. District 51 hosted "The First Annual" or possibly the "First Ever" Preassembly Teleconference that included a 15-minute presentation by each Area Committee Chair with a five minute follow-up for questions and comments. As an encouragement to be self-supporting, participants were asked to send contributions to District 51 to help reduce the expense of each call-in.

Obviously, in 2020, when the pandemic pretty much turned our world inside out, we as AA members were scrambling to figure out if we were going to be able to have a meeting of our home group, let alone an

Assembly or a Pre-Assembly. The trusted servants of the time were able to put together an afternoon session to go over the agenda items and get feedback from those that joined online. These online pre-assemblies were offered as an independent option to ensure an opportunity for communication was available.

In Conclusion

The pre-assemblies have always improved unity, increased understanding, stimulated discussion, and helped our trusted servants become better informed. Increased participation amongst our groups and the fellowship in Area 40 has been a benefit as well. The Pre-assemblies have served us well.”

A. Jessica EW Presents the meeting agenda.

i. Sean: Flyer for spring assembly, Agenda

B. Lisa C. Panel 75 Delegate –

- i. Connie R. Read Why We Need a Conference - The late Bernard B. Smith, nonalcoholic, then chairperson of the board of trustees, and one of the architects of the Conference structure, answered that question superbly in his opening talk at the 1954 meeting: “We may not need a General Service Conference to ensure our own recovery. We do need it to ensure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room. We need it to ensure the recovery of a child being born tonight, destined for alcoholism. We need it to provide, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics who, in the ages ahead, can find in A.A. that rebirth that brought us back to life.

“We need it because we, more than all others, are conscious of the devastating effect of the human urge for power and prestige, which we must ensure can never invade A.A. We need it to ensure A.A. against government while insulating it against anarchy; we need it to protect A.A. against disintegration while preventing over integration. We need it so that Alcoholics Anonymous, and Alcoholics Anonymous alone, is the ultimate repository of its Twelve Steps, its Twelve Traditions, and all of its services.

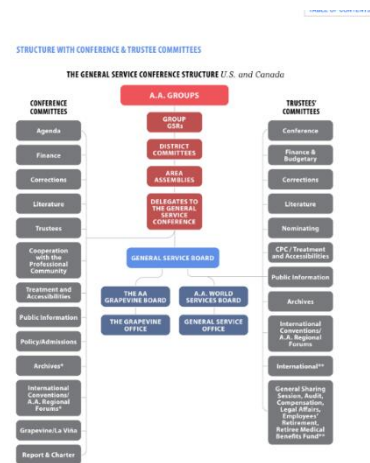
“We need it to ensure that changes within A.A. come only as a response to the needs and the wants of all A.A., and not of any few. We need it to ensure that the doors of the halls of A.A. never have locks on them, so that all people for all time who have an alcoholic problem may enter these halls unasked and feel welcome. We need it to ensure that Alcoholics Anonymous never asks of anyone who needs us what his or her race is, what his or her creed is, what his or her social position is.”

C. Lisa C – Presented on the Conference

- a. Makeup of the 76th General Service Conference - There are 136 voting members of the 76th General Service Conference Annual Meeting. Ninety-three delegates elected by the service areas of the U.S. and Canada comprise 68.38 percent of the voting body. Delegates always make up more than two-thirds of the voting members. The General Service Office staff, general manager and Grapevine office staff and the Grapevine executive editor/publisher, totaling 17, comprise 12.5 percent of the total. General Service Board of Trustees and Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. (A.A.W.S.) and Grapevine directors, totaling 26, comprise 19.12 percent of the voting members. The usual composition of the General

Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous consists of twenty-one trustee members. Six trustees, known as Class A trustees, are nonalcoholic. Class A trustees bring to the Board special expertise in areas such as business, medicine, and law, and are asked to serve for six years. The alcoholic (Class B) trustees serve for four years. Eight regional trustees are elected, one from each of the regions of the U.S. and Canada. Two trustees-at-large are elected, one from the U.S. and one for Canada. The remaining trustees, called general service trustees, are selected based on their expertise in areas of finance, publishing, or other fields that would be helpful to the General Service Board and its corporate boards. Currently, there are 4 general service trustees. The A.A.W.S. Board oversees the activities of Alcoholics Anonymous World Service, Inc. (except for Grapevine material) and the General Service Office. This board is currently composed of nine directors: two regional trustees, two general service trustees, three non-trustee directors, the general manager of GSO and the GSO staff coordinator. The Grapevine Board oversees the operation of AA Grapevine, Inc., and is composed of nine members, including one Class A trustee, two general service trustees, two regional trustees, two non-trustee directors and the Grapevine executive editor/publisher.

P-45 Circles of Love and Service



The A.A. Service Manual

Discuss, Review, Consider

There is no hard and fast rule for the use of one or the other. Yes, the type of agenda item lends itself to the use of one of them for about every agenda item, but it is a fallacy that certain ones indicate that an advisory action will take place. What a committee does with any given item is up to the committee. Any one of them may result in the committee making a recommendation.

Having said that, as you browse through the agenda, you will see it is common for a "Discussion" to take place when the committee is reading a report, reading over a list of ideas, etc. It is more likely that a recommendation would not come out of a discussion.

You will next see that a “Review” is commonly used to when the committee is focusing on a specific item. The result of the review may be that the Conference committee may recommend something, they may view with appreciation the item, or take no action. When reviewing something, unless you want something changed, no action is taken. On the other hand, there are items listed as “Review” that always results in a recommendation – the best example is reviewing the list of future Conference dates. In that example, the committee would need to recommend a date. Hence, things tend to be focused rather than a more wide-ranging discussion.

If one of the terms carry a heftier chance of an advisory action taking place, it likely is “Consider”. The reason is that Consider is taking a look at someone else’s work or someone else’s idea and seeing if you agree with it and want to take action. You/the committee may take no action, a recommendation may be made, or it may be viewed with appreciation and sent back to get more work done. For items that are at the finishing stages, yes, it is quite probable that a conference recommendation will be made. Take a look at where its used, and you’ll see it is normally focusing on one specific issue.

The term “Reconsider” is used occasionally. It is always in relation to a prior advisory action that had passed, and now someone wants the advisory action reconsidered. The committee may take no action, they may make a recommendation to reverse, modify or supplement the original. Bottom line, it is used in relation to a prior advisory action.

Tom
Thomas L. A.
WCR Trustee

- A. Hotline/Report and Charter – Lance W. – Presented by Sean R.

Report and Charter – GSC

- A. Corrections – GSC
 - i. Consider a request to update the pamphlet “The A.A. Member – Medications and Other Drugs.”

International Conventions and Regional Forums – GSC

- A. Review progress report from Subcommittee on Inclusion of Sovereign State Flags in the IC Flag Ceremony.
 - i. Questions about sovereign nations in other countries like Australia.
 - 1. Discussion over flag ceremony – the number of flags, the beauty in representation of as many members as possible, the belief it should only be those tribes that are sovereign. Opinion that International should remove the flag ceremony because it isn’t the right place for it. If we can’t recognize the representation of all nations then we shouldn’t do it for some.
- A. Cooperation with the Professional Community/Trustees - Karon K.
 - i. Review progress report on the effective use of CPC videos on aa.org.
 - ii. Consider a request that stand-alone audio/visual clips be created when developing any new/revised videos for professionals.

- iii. Both of these agenda items seem like a good way for GSO to save money.

Trustees – GSC

- A. Consider a request to produce an animated video based on the pamphlet “The Twelve Steps Illustrated.”

- A. Literature – Rebecca S.-Q.

- i. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Literature Chair
- ii. Report on current literature availability, pricing, and ordering specifics.
- iii. Review activities of Literature Committees in Groups and Districts throughout Area 40

Literature – GSC

- A. Review progress report on the development of the Fourth Edition of the book Alcohólicos Anónimos – Spanish.
- B. Review draft of the Fifth Edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous.
 - i. Draft will be presented at conference and may be accepted. The entire conference will be able to see the 5th addition draft and it could be available as early as the fall.
- C. Review progress report on the development of a Plain Language Big Book amendment process.
- D. Consider publishing the personal stories from the Fourth Edition of Alcoholics Anonymous not included in the draft Fifth Edition of Alcoholics Anonymous.
 - i. This will be put in front of the conference committee.
- A. Treatment and Accessibilities/Agenda – Ty K.
 - i. Consider a request to review locally produced safety-related video service material and provide input on the potential for this video service material to be adapted for use by GSO.
 - 1. Comments on the concern of groups creating promotional materials for AA without GSO approval. Other comments that creating things like this is the role of the group.

Agenda – GSC

- A. Review the 2026 General Service Conference Evaluation Form and the 2025 Evaluation Summary.
 - i. The time constraints amount that must be covered prevents business from getting done. Encouragement to look at the background material to get a better understanding of the challenges our Area faces that are similar to those of GSC
- B. Discuss offering 10 minutes of presentation time during the General Service Conference to La Vine. (PAI 91)
- A. Finance – Lynne W.
 - i. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Treasurer

Finance GSC

- A. Consider a request to create a Twelve Step study guide or workbook.
 - i. Concern about creating workbook when we should be using the big book. Importance to remember that these agenda items are for those of us that aren't here, that still need AA,

people in correctional institutions, don't have access or can't get access to literature and it would be worth wild to look into something like this, we should use sponsors and not workbooks, some people in prisons do not have access to sponsorship and this could reach the people that can't get our message.

A. Public Information – Mark H.

Public Information – GSC

- A. Review progress report on PSA Development and Review Plan
- B. Review report on the GSO Podcast, “Our Primary Purpose.”
- C. Review proposed plan for 2026 Membership Survey.
- A. Grapevine and La Vina/Policy and Admissions – Hugh M.

Grapevine and La Viña – GSC

- A. Consider the list of suggested AA Grapevine and La Vina book topics for 2027 or after.
 - i. Suggestions are available in the background information.
- B. Review the five-year plans for both Grapevine and La Viña
- C. Consider that the AA Grapevine, Inc., accept contributions.
 - i. Groups and individuals are encouraged to pay for grapevine if they don't want to lose the grapevine; This is a great idea; we should be fully self-supporting and not just dependent on literature sales.

Policy and Admissions – GSC

- A. Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW) Discuss the suggestion to discontinue the annual review of service kits and workbooks by Conference committees.
- B. Discuss the suggestion that a similar number of agenda items be assigned to each Conference Committee.
- C. Discuss creating a “Conference Committee on Digital Communications.”
- A. Archives/A40 Structure and Policy – Jody T
 - i. Review Fall 2025 Assembly Evaluation Report
 - 1. Jody will be working with Alex to improve access to the evaluation on the website. It is currently listed as “inventory” and needs to be changed to “Evaluation”
 - 2. It is important to communicate with the hotel about our concerns. Lots of comments about the hotel and also requests for more lunch and dinner time. Concerns about the growing cost of Assembly

Archives – GSC

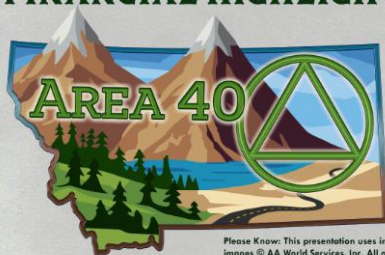
- A. Consider a request to define eligibility for Area-level service for members residing outside of the geographic area they want to serve. (PAI 46)
 - i. It is important for us to consider this as an Area because we have members who hold service positions. Consider how we might ensure that we have parameters to help people

be honest; if we do this, it would be helpful to have guidance. It would be good to hear how this is working in other groups and districts.

- A. Open for other agenda items we would like to cover and questions.
 - b. How is Area 40 doing financially?
 - i. Lynn Presented on the financial status of the Area.
- B. Meeting Closed

Appendix 3 Financial Highlights


SPRING 2026 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



Bill W. in a 1946 article:
Let us A.A.s, they say,
be no longer takers
from society. Instead
let us be givers.
We are not helpless
now. Neither are we
penniless any more.

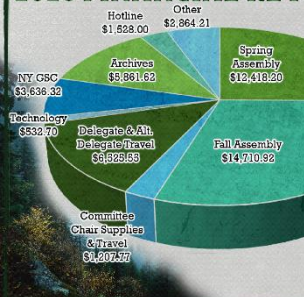
Please Know: This presentation uses images from Meta AI & Images © AA World Services, Inc. All adaptations made by the author, Lynne W.

SPRING 2026 UPDATES



- So far, under budget.
- Still battling with Quickbooks, Excel has won the war: all reports are based off Excel spreadsheet
- All tax paperwork has been filed with state & feds (990-N).
- Groups are needing insurance policies separate from their landlord's policy.
- Not all QR codes are created equal, some have lots of hidden fees.
- We did not reach \$50,000 income, so I do not formally suggested we hire a professional... yet.

2025 FINANCIAL REVIEW



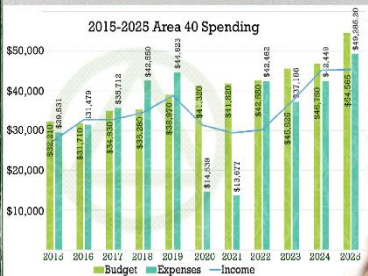
Category	Amount
Hotline	\$1,628.00
Other	\$2,864.21
NY GSC	\$3,636.33
Archives	\$5,861.62
Technology	\$533.70
Delegate & All. Delegate Travel	\$9,828.65
Committee Chair Supplies & Travel	\$9,207.57
Spring Assembly	\$12,418.20
Fall Assembly	\$14,710.82

Area 40 2025	Spent	Budget
Spring Assembly	\$12,418.20	\$14,500
Fall Assembly	\$14,710.82	\$14,900
Committee Chair Supplies & Travel	\$1,207.77	\$3,900
Delegate & All. Delegate Travel	\$6,525.55	\$7,900
Technology	\$532.70	\$875
NY GSC	\$3,636.32	\$2,800
Archives	\$5,861.62	\$6,240
Hotline	\$1,628.00	\$1,380
Other: Last Year & Next Year Bills	\$2,864.21	\$2,520
Total	\$49,285.29	\$54,565

Red letters mean money spent was over budget.

134 groups, districts, intergroups, individuals, & Roundups contributed
\$45,944

YEAR END COMPARISON 2015-2025 BUDGET VS EXPENSES



Year	Budget	Expenses	Income
2015	\$32,210	\$29,531	\$27,539
2016	\$31,710	\$31,479	\$32,736
2017	\$34,930	\$35,712	\$32,736
2018	\$35,280	\$42,550	\$34,544
2019	\$38,970	\$44,623	\$38,772
2020	\$41,320	\$14,539	\$31,299
2021	\$41,820	\$13,677	\$29,423
2022	\$42,550	\$42,462	\$30,159
2023	\$45,523	\$37,186	\$37,243
2024	\$46,750	\$42,449	\$45,163
2025	\$54,565	\$49,285	\$45,344

Note: numbers mean expenses were higher than income for the year

JAN-MARCH, 2016-2026



Year	Contributions	Expenses
2016	\$27,289.60	\$9,812.05
2017	\$3,634.52	\$7,242.80
2018	\$9,075.88	\$6,462.46
2019	\$4,544.83	\$7,132.92
2020	\$7,001	\$12,760.62
2021	\$2,801	\$6,688.94
2022	\$4,120	\$6,917.04
2023	\$4,387.29	\$9,708.42
2024	\$4,339.88	\$9,520.25
2025	\$6,881.98	\$7,571.18
2026	\$5,235.04	\$14,092.57

- Area 40 Budget: \$60,002.20, works out to \$214.29 per group (280 active groups in Area 40)
- Contributions this year: \$14,626.57
- Bills this year: \$5,733.16
- Bank Account: **\$33,701.06** (as of 4/9/2026)
- Prudent Reserve: **\$20,000.71**
- Operating Expenses: **\$13,700.35**


• If your group, district, or intergroup has extra \$\$\$ for their split, please consider prioritizing Area 40

• We are an active Area, your money is put to good use

AREA 40 TRAVELS

Area 40 Committee by City (19)

- 2 Billings
- 7 Bozeman
- 1 Corvallis
- 1 Dupuyer
- 2 Great Falls
- 2 Helena
- 2 Kalispell
- 2 Missoula
- plus 2 Trustees, Helena & Nebraska



- Total of 6,034 miles this Area Assembly for 19 Area Committee Members
- 3 in person Pre-Assemblies in Bozeman, Billings, & Missoula for a total of 6,344 miles traveled
- Our Delegate & Area Chair will go to at least 6 cities, easily another 6,000 miles this rotation

• Tech Committee top notch: our hybrid assemblies include 3 professionals who are busy the whole 3 days, supplement with their own equipment including computers for the breakouts

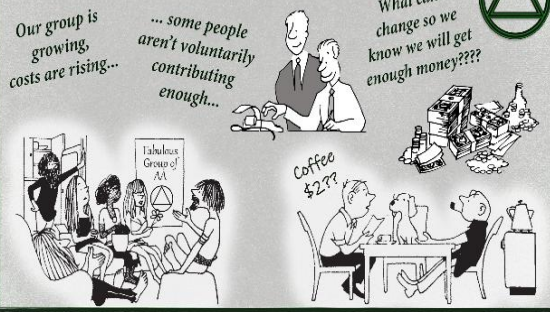
INSTITUTIONAL KNOWLEDGE EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

- We reimburse expenses the Chairs encounter to conduct Area 40 business
- Traditionally, Chairs had a \$200 annual travel budget, outside of Assembly costs
- We will reimburse some proxy expenses for Area business if the Standing Committee Chair needs to send a proxy
- " [...] no one should be excluded from service because of finances"*
- We want the Area Standing Committee Chairs to be accessible to the Area they serve
- All reimbursement requests need to have receipts
- All decisions can be reviewed by the Finance Committee

Suggestion: For local events, split the cost of Gas, Food, Hotel between Area, District, Groups, & have a 7th Tradition at the event.

*M.G-15-Finances, p. 4

RAISING THE QUESTION



BILL W THOUGHT THE SAME WAY

Way back in the Beginning...

Bill W., A.A.'s co-founder, and some of the early A.A. members initially felt the only way for the Fellowship to survive was to solicit financial support from philanthropic institutions or individuals outside A.A. These "high rollers" could then supply the funds the Fellowship would need to carry out the vital Twelfth Step work the early A.A.s envisioned — to bankroll the army of paid missionaries, the chain of A.A. hospitals, and the library of books they were certain to write.

One potential A.A. patron, however, when approached by the pioneering members for money, instead helped to lay the groundwork for A.A.'s Tradition of self-support:

"I am afraid that money will spoil this thing," said John D. Rockefeller Jr., while at the same time endorsing the work of the fledgling Fellowship.



"I'd like a lot of money to build a vast chain of hospitals, please."

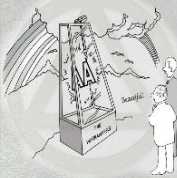
"I won't give you a lot of money, but I will buy your book..."

WARRANTIES

THE WARRANTIES ARE A BLUEPRINT FOR FOLLOWING THE 12 TRADITIONS

CONCEPT 12: GENERAL WARRANTIES OF THE SERVICE CONFERENCE (SERVICE MANUAL)

- 1.) The Conference shall never become the seat of perilous wealth or power. *"Trusted Servants do not drive us by mandate; they lead us by example." (C-50)*
- 2.) Sufficient operating funds, plus an ample Reserve, should be its prudent financial principle.



"Above all, we devote ourselves to the newcomer..."
"...money-begging by pressure exhortation is unwanted & unneeded in AA. [What is important is to focus on] what the giver's service dollar really brings in terms of steering alcoholics to AA, & in terms of our over-all unity & effectiveness." (C-50)

- 3.) None of the conference members shall be placed in a position of unqualified authority over others.
- 4.) That all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, & whenever possible, by substantial unanimity.
- 5.) That no Conference action ever be a personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy.

SELF-SUPPORT: WHERE MONEY AND SPIRITUALITY MIX

We need money to survive...

Q: Do all groups contribute to A.A.'s service entities?
A: No. Contributions are strictly voluntary and some groups simply cannot afford additional contributions after covering their basic needs. Additionally, there are groups who, for whatever reasons, choose not to be a part of the selfsupport network. These groups, nevertheless, will receive basic services from the district, area and intergroup if they wish, and are welcome to list with GSO, where they will receive the same basic services as other groups. In 2023, the percentage of all active groups who contributed to GSB was 31.6% (p.9)

Q: Can a group have too much money?
A: As stated in the long form of Tradition Seven, "We view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority. (p.9)

...& part of being a Trusted Servant is spending those dollars wisely.

...but I can't put a financial barrier in front of people when they make it to AA...



CONCLUSION

Offering a free cup of coffee is an act of welcoming people who haven't been welcomed anywhere in a long, long time... so let's continue allowing all contributions to be voluntary!



Some of us would be willing to start paying GSO for things they currently don't charge us for, such as printed copies of the GSC annual reports...

P.O. BOX FOR 2026 CONTRIBUTIONS

The post office will no longer forward from the previous address

- Please make sure ALL the groups you go to have the current addresses!
- Quarter sized address sheets on the back table, please take one for every meeting you attend (not just your homegroup)

**Area 40, Inc.
P.O. Box 43
Billings, MT 59103**

**Area 40 Pink Can Fund
P.O. Box 232
Missoula, MT 59806**



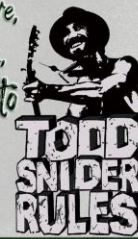
SPRING 2026 FINANCE COMMITTEE

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Voting | Non-Voting |
| • Lenore M | • Debbie D |
| • Jessica EW | • Julie R |
| • Lisa CD | • Mark W |
| • Amanda B | |

Thank you!!

I'll do my job here, whatever it pays, I'm just happy to be here at all.

- Special Workers**
- Dakota Wealth Management
 - Quickbooks Help Professionals



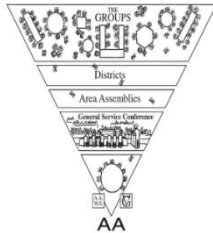
Leadership in AA



What does Leadership look like in AA.?

- ▶ Found at all levels
- ▶ Sponsors, members, GSRs, Delegates
- ▶ Not about control
- ▶ Lead by example

- ▶ "Leadership does not drive by mandate – They lead by example" (AA Service Manual Concept 9



Workshop Overview

- ▶ 36 Principals of Recovery in AA
 - ❖ 12 Steps
 - ✓ Recovery
 - ❖ 12 Traditions
 - ✓ Unity
 - ❖ 12 Concepts
 - ✓ Service



You're Not The Boss of Me!!!

- ▶ Leader:
 - ▶ What is a leader in AA?
 - ❖ Guides and supports with experience
 - ❖ Able to Communicate
 - ❖ Practice principle over personalities



Why Leadership Matters

- ▶ Structure alone is not enough
- ▶ People make A.A. work
- ▶ Weak leadership = weak results
- ▶ Ongoing need for leaders



Leadership in Everyday A.A.

- ▶ Sponsors are leaders
- ▶ Members are leaders
- ▶ Service = leadership
- ▶ No title required



Choosing Trusted Servants

- ▶ Groups choose GSRs
- ▶ GSRs help choose Delegates
- ▶ Avoid random selection
- ▶ Focus on willingness and ability



Principles for Selection

- ▶ Not popularity-based
- ▶ Set aside ego
- ▶ Choose best person to serve
- ▶ Think long-term



Qualities of a Good Leader

- ▶ Leads by example
- ▶ Listens to others
- ▶ Takes responsibility
- ▶ Makes decisions
- ▶ Handles criticism well
- ▶ Willing to compromise
- ▶ Shows humility
- ▶ Has vision



Breakout

- ▶ When has leadership helped your recovery?
- ▶ What does leading by example look like?
 - ▶ Give an example of someone who showed you good leadership?
- ▶ How can you practice leadership?
 - ❖ In a struggling group
 - ❖ Smuggling district