

Area 40 Fall Assembly 2006
September 16 & 17, 2006
At the Yogo Inn
Lewistown, Montana

Welcome to the Assembly

Andrew W—alternate Delegate/Area Chair—opened the Assembly promptly at 8:00 am with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Pam read our 12 Traditions, and Kristy read the short form of our 12 Concepts. Paul W, Area 40 Secretary, took roll, with all Districts in Area 40 being represented. There were 103 voting members present, and 135 total participants at this Fall 2006 Assembly. Thanks everyone for coming.

Orientation to the Assembly—Scott W, Area 40 Delegate

My name is Scott W and I am an alcoholic. Good morning to everyone and welcome to the Fall Assembly. Would anyone attending their first Assembly please stand. Welcome to you and I commend you on your willingness to be of service to our Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.

I would like to introduce the Past Delegates who are in attendance this weekend. Would all the past Delegates please stand? Welcome and thank you for being here. By past action of the Assembly, two of the Delegates: Loren and Bob are invited to lead a workshop later on this morning. In addition, Earl, the immediate past Delegate and Area Advisor will preside over the elections later today. The remaining past Delegates in attendance this weekend are here on their own accord and continue to support Area 40 with their willingness to serve in any capacity. Thank you all for being here this weekend.

As you entered the room this morning there was a table with copies of the Agenda. If you do not have one, please be sure to take one at the next break. Also, there are name tags. Please wear your name tag so we can get to know each other this weekend.

On the table as you entered the room is a copy of the Final Conference Report of the 56th General Service Conference. I brought plenty for everyone so please take a copy. Also, would each DCM please take a copy for each group in their District that is not in attendance this weekend. I will be making reference to this report later this weekend. In addition, there are Birthday Plan envelopes. Please take as many as you wish. There are plenty for everyone.

Also, please take a minute or two to review the wonderful displays set up around the room. In addition, there are fliers for the numerous events coming up in Area 40—please take some back to your Home Group.

We will follow the Agenda prepared by our Area Chair Andrew W. One of the items listed on the Agenda is a request that all DCMs turn in their sign in sheets to our Area Secretary Paul W at the first break this morning. The sign in sheets will be used to determine the number of voting members for the elections and additional votes we may take this weekend.

Voting members of the Assembly are GSRs and the Area Committee which is composed of the Officers, Standing Committee Chairs and DCMs. Alternate GSRs and Alternate DCMs can vote if they are here in place of their GSR or DCM.

We loosely follow parliamentary procedure as outlined in Robert's Rules of Order. However, if there are any disputes, the Area Chair Andrew W will have the final call to settle any disputes.

After this orientation will be reports from the Area 40 Committee and Standing Non-Voting service positions. Afterwards will be the Area Committee meetings. I would encourage you to attend the committee meetings if there is an item of interest to you as listed in the Agenda. Please keep in mind if a vote is called for in the committee meetings, only members of the committee can vote. If you choose not to attend a committee meeting, two past Delegates will lead a workshop on 'The Third Legacy Election Procedure'. This is the procedure we will implement later today for election of the Area Officers.

Immediately after lunch we will have our elections. I can not share with you in sufficient detail how exciting the elections can be. Your group sent you to the Assembly to participate and this is truly something you do not want to miss. I have enjoyed many election Assemblies. Although later this afternoon it may seem like a tedious process, please keep in mind we are electing our trusted servants for the next two years and the process needs our full attention and energy.

After dinner this evening we will begin the Standing committee reports. As each Committee Chair gives a report on the results of their meetings, there is the potential the Committee Chair may make a recommendation. A recommendation is a made and seconded motion and is open for debate from the floor of this Assembly. This is where you have your opportunity to share your informed conscience on the item or ask questions for clarity. Trust me, if you do not understand the discussion of the item you are not alone. So, please ask your questions and share your information on the items. All sharing will take place at the microphones so everyone can hear your point. If your point is made, it is not necessary to make the point again. Also, if you have spoken once to the item please let everyone share before speaking to the item for a second time.

Last event for today will be the GSR and DCM breakout sessions. There are ask-it-baskets in the back of the room. Please attend the breakout sessions. Your questions will have great value to this Assembly and your experience to share in response to someone else's question will be of equal value.

Tomorrow morning will be reports on the Roundups, the Intergroups and the Delegate's report. Afterwards, we will continue with the committee reports and if time allows we will have time for general sharing. Occasionally at past Assemblies there has been a rush to the door at the conclusion of the business of the Assembly. Please, stay for all of the Assembly and the general sharing. This is the last Assembly for this current rotation of servants and I look forward to listening intently to those who have been of service to our Fellowship for the past two years.

Again, I want to welcome everyone to the Assembly. I hope and pray this weekend is as informative and enjoyable as I anticipate it will be for me. The discovery of how big AA is continues to amaze me. That process of discovery started with my first Assembly and I am sure will continue through this weekend.

Does anyone have a question? (Secretary's addition--- no questions at this time.)

Area Chair/Alternate Delegate—Andrew W

Dear Area 40, welcome to the Fall Assembly for 2006, especially those of you who are attending your first Area Assembly. I appreciate your willingness to be of service. It is amazing to me that two years have passed since our last election assembly. The time has flown by.

First, I want to apologize to Area 40 for an oversight on my part. After the Spring Assembly this year, my wife and I moved from Florence to Missoula. During the move, I received the invoice from the Yogo Inn for the Spring Assembly. I thought I then sent it to Sid G., our Area Treasurer. Late this August, however, I received a call from Ted H, the general manager of the Yogo Inn. He kindly informed me that we had not yet paid the Spring Assembly invoice. I apologized to him for the oversight and told him I would get right on it. I called Sid and told him of my oversight. Later, I found the invoice and sent it to Sid who then sent a check on to the Yogo Inn. Thanks to Sid's prompt response, the Yogo Inn folks had the check two days after they called me. I called Ted H back and we still have a good relationship with the Yogo Inn.

In June, I sent a reminder to DCMs that the deadline for agenda items is July 1. I subsequently received a number of last minute items for the agenda. I then used these to put together the agenda you see before you for this conference. I sent copies of the agenda to all of the Area 40 officers, committee chairs, and DCMs. I also sent a copy to the Triangle Editor and an anonymity-protected version to our Web Master so they could put a copy in the Triangle and on the web, respectively.

In July, I had an opportunity to attend and participate in a workshop on the Home Group in Helena. I appreciate the fellowship, the food, and the opportunity to be of service.

Finally, this is an election assembly. If you are thinking about standing for a position, I encourage you to do it. It is important that we have people who are willing to put in the time and energy to be Area 40 Officers and Committee Chairs. It is a very rewarding experience and I think you'll get a lot out of it, including an opportunity to help ensure we are carrying the message to the alcoholic who is still suffering and a lot of fellowship all across Montana.

Thank you all for allowing me to serve as your Area Chair/Alternate Delegate. Yours in love and service, Andrew W.

Area 40 Treasurer—Sid G

Area 40 is in excellent financial condition. Generous contributions from the groups have kept the treasury full and allowed us to carry out activities planned for the first eight months of 2006. The Year to Date financial statement and the proposed budget for 2007 are available by the front door.

As a reminder to take back to your group treasurers, the mailing address for Area 40 Treasurer until December 31st, 2006 is:

**Area 40, Inc.
PO Box 495
Helena, MT 59624**

Thank you, Sid.

Area 40 Secretary—Paul W

Hi everyone. I'm Paul W, your secretary for Area 40. I have enjoyed immensely being Secretary for Area 40, and getting to know all of the Officers and Committee Chairs. It also has been a pleasure in getting to know all the DCMs from across Montana, and thank you to those District secretaries that have sent me minutes of the District meetings. I enjoy learning of your different but similar activities in Alcoholics Anonymous. I will help, all I can, our new Secretary in learning about this job, as I rotate on.

Welcome to all who are here today, both new comers to Assembly and those who keep coming back. Would all DCMs, Area 40 Officers and Committee Chairs please give me Two copies of your reports that you will be giving this morning, and Two copies of the minutes of your Standing Committee meetings taking place later today? Thank You. Also, I will need the Group Registration Forms turned in to me during our first break this morning, so that we can determine a quorum which is 2/3 of the total voting members present by 10 am this morning. A quorum is necessary to conduct our business at this Assembly. Substantial unanimity, another term used at Assembly, is 2/3 of the votes cast in favor of a motion. DCMs or their alternates, and GSRs or their alternates, and Area 40 Committee Chairs and Officers are eligible to vote. Please add your questions to the 'Ask-It-Baskets' found at the back of this room to help in the GSR and DCM breakout sessions held tonight in this room. Contact me during this Assembly if I can be of any help to you.

Following are the motions and their outcome at our 2006 Spring Assembly.

1. This first motion is from Area 40 Agenda Items for Structure: "The Committee recommends that Area 40 adopt the Policy of having an ordered list of past Area 40 Delegates for the Area 40 Chair to invite on a rotating basis to the Area Assemblies. All the past Delegates with the exception of the Area 40 Advisor would be put on the list. The rotation would be the responsibility of the current Area Chair. The Area Chair would be added to the list at the end of each two year rotation. Those past Delegates living outside Area 40 would be compensated for only those expenses incurred while in Area 40." **This motion was voted on and passed.**
2. This motion is also from Area 40 Agenda Items for Structure. "We recommend that Area 40 sponsor and fund two Area 40 Workshops per year. The Area Advisor will serve as the Area 40 Workshop Chair/Coordinator. If an alternate workshop/chair coordinator is needed, it should also be a past Delegate. The Workshop Chair/Coordinator will be responsible for dividing the state into four quadrants and establish a schedule of four workshops over a two-year period, one in each quadrant. The workshops would normally occur between May and October. The local DCMs involved shall be consulted about time and place, and topics to be covered. The Area 40 budget shall have a line item for two workshops per year with the workshop schedule to begin in 2007. Usefulness and effectiveness is to be evaluated at the Fall 2008 Assembly." **This motion was voted on and passed.**
3. This motion is from the Public Information Committee. "The Public Information Committee unanimously recommends Instituting the policy that an anonymity-protected version of the minutes and financial report from the Area 40 Assemblies be posted on the Area 40 website. The Area 40 Secretary would be responsible for producing the anonymity-protected version of the minutes and providing it to the Area 40 webmaster. **This motion was voted on and passed.**

Two floor motions also came before the Spring Assembly.

1. "The Area Chair appoint an ad hoc committee comprised of three current members of the Area Committee to review, edit and finalize the revised Policy and Procedures Document. The Committee's work will be completed and the final document made available to the fellowship via the Area 40 website on or before August 20, 2006, so that it can be considered for adoption at the Fall 2006 Area 40 Assembly." (submitted by Bill Mc.) **This motion was voted on and it failed. A motion to reconsider also failed.**
2. "Since last year our Area's contribution to the Delegate's General Service Conference expense was \$4900.00, and it appears we can afford that amount again this year, I would like to see us continue our Area's efforts to become self-

supporting and so move that we increase our contribution (line item 310) from \$2,699.00 to \$4,900.00 again this year.”
(submitted by Julie R.) **This motion was voted on and it passed.**

Area 40 Triangle Editor—Carole B

Two years ago, I was elected Triangle Editor, a job I had wanted for a long time. I was right; it was as fun as I thought it would be. I'm both saddened and relieved my term is nearly over. I must point out that this Area Committee, DCMs, GSRs, past Delegates, and just plain members of AA made my job easy. I chose a theme and you provided the material. Thank You.

I'm not aware that any of them are here, but I want to thank the Billings US Postal Service Business Mailing Unit and Econo Print. They have made my job easy as well.

We have 68 individual subscriptions and 220 group subscriptions. Seventy-one groups pay for their subscription. Being self-supporting is a spiritual act in itself. But the best thing about renewing your subscription is that the Triangle editor gets a correct address for your group. If a DCM is interested in the number of groups with subscriptions, I will provide them to you.

The next issue will be a report of this Assembly and dedicated to PI. The last issue will be dedicated to the accomplishments of the 2005-2006 Area Committee and Grapevine. The last issue will have a special “you might be an alcoholic if” section. So be sure to look for it.

Thank you for all you have given to me. My life is indescribable because of you. Carole B.

Area 40 Archives—Dennis O

Howdy, my name is Dennis O and I am an alcoholic. Well, there doesn't seem to be anything new in Archives!..... (it's a joke.....!)

Greetings to all assembled here at the Area Fall Assembly! I am your Area 40 Archives Standing Committee Chair. It has been a privilege to serve in this position for the term soon to come to an end and I thank you for the opportunity.

I spent much of the past five months recovering from two surgeries and three separate aggressive infections. So I was delighted to have the opportunity to do an Archives workshop at the 23rd Annual Ray of Hope Camporee held near Polson every Labor Day weekend. This is a great three day retreat and I highly recommend it to all of Area 40.

I have come to believe that the Area Committee Chair that is the least active between Assemblies gets the toughest agenda item assignments.....(or maybe it just seems that way). In any event, our committee is primed to tackle our assignments later this morning and you are welcome to join us in the Kendall Room.

I want to thank Gerry R, our fine new Archivist, for his huge contribution in editing and updating the Area 40 Policies and Procedures, which will be presented for approval this weekend. And I want to thank my committee members for their faithfulness and hard work. And I thank YOU, whether you are a voting member of this Assembly or not, for participating in AA at the level of General Service.

With love and gratitude, and best wishes to all who will be elected to the next term for Area 40, I am your friend, Dennis O.

Area 40 Corrections—Gary O

I have been serving as Corrections Chair for over 20 months, and the end of my term is now in sight. Serving in this position has not been what I expected, whatever that was. It has been much busier and more fulfilling. It has been a privilege to work with some very enthusiastic AAs and some very grateful inmates. I've become more aware of how little most people outside of AA know about AA, and I've seen my patience grow in working with people employed by institutions who are indifferent to AA or even opposed to AA. My hope is that over these two years this committee has saved some souls from the grip of alcoholism by pointing them towards a new way of life in AA's program of recovery.

On a more pragmatic note, the Pink Can Fund continues to provide literature to inmates across Area 40 who could not otherwise get any AA literature. Since the Spring Assembly I have received \$3,096.37 from three different districts, fourteen different groups, the 7th Tradition at the Mini-Conference held at the Men's Prison in Deer Lodge, and from money sent to our Area Treasurer to be passed along to the fund. I have placed thirteen orders to six different institutions in the same time

period. The amount spent came to \$4,005.46. With those institutions that allow AAs to carry in orders, I place the orders based on the requests of those AAs. With the institutions that demand direct delivery to their institution, I rely on the staff to tell me their needs. I will submit a detailed report of this account to the Area Secretary to be included in the minutes. Any group or person wanting information on the Pink Can Fund may contact me and I would be happy to supply that information. Any group or person wishing to contribute money to the Pink Can Fund can send the money to me until my term ends. Also, anyone needing help, financial or otherwise, in providing AA literature to their local correctional facility can contact me. I also have information on the Corrections Correspondence Service, where AAs on the outside are put in touch with AAs on the inside for the purpose of writing letters to each other.

The Mini-Conference was finally held at the Men’s Prison in Deer Lodge on July 29th after three date changes. Twenty four outside AAs and approximately thirty five inmates attended it. The feedback from both outside and inside AAs was very positive. At that Conference I was informed by the prison staff that an orientation, which is mandatory in order to attend the Saturday meetings at the prison, would be held sometime in October and that I needed to submit the names of those wishing to attend by September 1st. I was pleased by the response, as I received thirty seven names as the result of work of those at the district level. However, I am concerned about attendance at the orientation, as the prison scheduled the orientation from 8 am to noon on Friday, October 6th, instead of the typical 10 am on Saturday. I am hoping that all those who signed up to attend and can attend will attend. Depending on who goes through the orientation I may suggest a different monthly rotation of which districts are responsible for different Saturdays. Thank you to all those involved for your continued patience in trying to carry the AA message inside this institution.

This past week the staff at RYO contacted me and I attended a staff meeting there this last Thursday. RYO is the federal juvenile facility in Galen, and virtually all of those incarcerated there are Native Americans. They now have a new director who has a positive view of AA and wants us to get involved in carrying the message there. They are especially interested in the Temporary Contact Program. I will be putting in calls and emails to various districts in order to build a base of temporary contacts. I hope districts can immediately start working on this. The towns they are most interested in are as follows: Poplar, Harlem, Wolf Point, Box Elder, Lame Deer, Lodge Grass, Hardin, and Busby. There will be other towns too, but these were their highest priority. We are hoping to also add either a regular AA meeting or speaker meeting inside the facility and I just placed a literature order out of the Pink Can Fund for them. I am very excited about the possibility of getting AA active in this facility.

With the exception of the Men’s Prison in Deer Lodge and now the RYO facility, literally all AA service work being done at correctional facilities in Area 40 is being carried out at the district and group level. A few very dedicated AAs are making sure that the still suffering alcoholics in these institutions get to hear AA’s message of hope on a regular basis by going into these institutions. These AAs, along with the district corrections chairs who coordinate it, are a huge asset to our Area. I thank you for all your efforts.

Since the Spring Assembly, I have not attended any special events at the district or group level in my capacity of Corrections Chair. However, just before I began to take that fact personally, I was recently invited to two district events in October and one in November, and I am looking forward to attending those events. And as the previous Corrections Chair, Paul L., did for me, I will offer to sit down with the incoming Corrections Chair to pass on in detail what is currently going on in Area 40 and provide a list of contacts at the various institutions. I will also pass on any money in the Pink Can Fund and provide an accounting of the fund from now until the end of the year.

I am still attending an average of two AA meetings per month in the Men’s Prison at Deer Lodge, a weekly meeting in the Forensics Unit of the Montana State Hospital at Warm Springs. I am also still bringing a monthly AA speaker into WATCH at Warm Springs. Thank you to all the speakers who have shared their experience, strength, and hope at these speaker’s meetings. Please contact me if you are interested in speaking at WATCH on the third Thursday of the month at 2:30 in the afternoon.

In closing, if anybody needs any help with their Corrections service work at the district, group, or individual level, please let me know. Thank you all for this opportunity to serve and grow.

God Bless, Gary O, Area 40 Corrections Chair

PINK CAN ACCOUNT SUMMARY----- 4/7/06 TO 9/15/06

<u>Total Donations by District and Group</u>		<u>Spending by Institution</u>	
District 72	\$146.09	Men’s Prison	\$1,008.60
District 91	500.00	WATCH Warm Springs	1,157.20
District 93	492.12	WATCH Glendive	655.25

Anaconda Traditions Group	20.00	MSH Forensics Unit	180.65
Darby Group	87.00	RYO Juvenile Facility	396.56
Early Birds Group	464.74		
East Helena Group	21.00		
Free For Lunch Group	842.07		
Hospital Group	79.00		
Live and Let Live Group	20.00		
Lolo Group	27.00		
Malta Group	25.00		
Missoula Women's Group	13.24		
New Hope Group	140.25		
No Name Group	78.00		
Stevensville Group	12.00		
Victor Group	9.74		
Freedom Group Mini-conference	80.46		
* Area Treasurer	38.66		
Total	\$3,096.37	Total	\$4,005.46

* Donations sent to Area Treasurer and passed on to me

Opening Balance	\$959.40	Spending	\$4,005.46
Closing Balance	50.31	Deposits	3,096.37
Difference	\$909.09	Difference	\$909.09

Pink Can Checking Account ---4/7/06 to 9/15/06

	Group or Institution	Check#	Amount	Deposit	Balance
Starting Balance:					\$959.40
April 24	Anaconda Trad. Group	MSH Forensics'	1035	\$ 6.75	952.65
April 24	Deposit	Malta Group		\$25.00	977.65
April 24	Deposit	East Helena Group		21.00	998.65
April 30	World Services	WATCH Warm Springs	1037	\$502.60	496.05
May 5	World Services	MSH Forensics'	1036	105.80	390.25
May 5	World Services	Butte Silver Bow Jail	1036	175.40	214.85
May 16	Deposit	New Hope Group		85.48	300.33
May 16	Deposit	Live & Let Live Group		20.00	320.33
May 16	Deposit	Anaconda Trad. Group		5.00	325.33
June 26	Deposit	District 93		200.00	525.33
June 26	Deposit	New Hope Group		\$ 32.00	\$557.33
June 26	Deposit	Anaconda Trad Group		3.00	560.33
June 29	Deposit	District 93		267.12	827.45
July 7	Deposit	New Hope Group		22.77	850.22
July 7	Deposit	Anaconda Trad. Group		5.00	855.22
July 7	Deposit	District 72		146.09	1,001.31
July 31	Deposit	Freedom Grp Mini-conf		80.46	1,081.77
July 31	Deposit	Free For Lunch Grp		842.07	1,923.84
July 31	Deposit	Early Birds Group		309.62	2,233.46
July 31	Deposit	Missoula Women's Grp		13.24	2,246.70
July 31	Deposit	Hospital Group		79.00	2,325.70
July 31	Deposit	District 93		25.00	2,350.70
July 31	Grapevine	WATCH Glendive	1032	\$ 34.25	2,316.45
July 31	Grapevine	Men's Prison	1033	56.00	2,260.45
July 31	World Services	WATCH Glendive	1034	621.00	1,639.45
July 31	World Services	Men's Prison	1038	886.80	752.65
August 8	World Services	WATCH Warm Springs	1039	654.60	98.05
September 1	Deposit	District 91		500.00	598.05
September 1	Deposit	Lolo Group		27.00	625.05
September 1	Deposit	Victor Group		9.74	634.79
September 1	Deposit	Anaconda Trad Group		7.00	641.79
September 1	Deposit	Early Birds Group		155.12	796.91

September 1	Deposit	No Name Group			78.00	874.91
September 1	Deposit	* See note below			38.66	913.57
September 8	World Services	MSH Forensics'	1040	68.10		845.47
September 8	World Services	Butte Silver Bow Jail	1040	431.80		413.67
September 14	Deposit	Stevensville Group			12.00	425.67
September 14	Deposit	Darby Group			87.00	512.67
September 15	World Services	RYO Juvenile Facility	1041	396.56		116.11
September 15	World Services	Men's Prison	1041	65.80		50.31

* Donations sent to Area Treasurer and passed on to me.

Cooperation with the Professional Community—Lloyd B

Hi everybody. Welcome to the Area 40 Fall Assembly, especially those attending their first Assembly. I'm Lloyd B, alcoholic, and your Cooperation with the Professional Community Chair for Area 40. It is hard to believe my two years are almost over. I'm just starting to think I know a little about what I'm supposed to be doing.

In May, District 42 invited me back to hold a workshop. It was well attended by their members and they had a wonderful potluck. I was also able to attend their District meeting.

In July, Mark K., District 93 Treatment Chair invited me to attend a presentation to the Western Montana Addiction Center. I was surprised at all of the questions that were asked by the counselors about what AA does and does not do. All of them were invited to attend an open meeting of AA.

The response to the written requests and announcements requesting names of lawyers in the program willing to be temporary AA contacts for lawyers in need of such assistance was so limited (less than half a dozen names statewide) that we are telling the State Bar to refer lawyers in need of such assistance to the local answering service/hot line numbers for contacts with AA.

The biggest item on my agenda is discussing the option of having a Class B (alcoholic) Trustee serve as Chair person of the General Service Board. I would welcome all input on this.

Yours in Love and Service, Lloyd B, Area 40 CPC Chair

Area 40 Grapevine—Gail M

Welcome back to another Area 40 Assembly. This will be another good weekend. I'm grateful to be sober so that I can be a part of this; so I can be a part of anything.

On May 6th, I gave a Grapevine workshop during the open house for the new location of the Billings Intergroup. It was unseasonable warm; I think the first day of the year to break 90 degrees.

I set up a display of Grapevine products and materials in the literature room at the Spring Roundup in Bozeman the first weekend in June. I also put subscription forms on all of the chairs at the banquet and speaker event that followed.

In July, I attended the Grapefest at the Wilson House in Helena—another scorcher of a day. Man it gets hot up on that little stage.

One of the Grapevine Committee agenda items today is to discuss the status of Area 40 subscriptions. I have tried papering the state with subscription forms every time I go out of town. I also put them out at local Bozeman events. Unfortunately, the numbers haven't changed much. People seem to be taking the forms, but not sending them in. In fact, September's numbers are lower than August's were. Earlier this week, I talked with Janet B., the Grapevine office manager. She didn't have exact numbers of subscriptions. The way they keep track of numbers is by copies mailed out. There were 586 copies of the September issue sent to Montana. August numbers were 597—July was 586—June was 579—and May numbers were 584. According to the April 2005 membership numbers (the most recent available), there were 279 groups and a total of 4,434 members in our Area. Let's not keep the Grapevine a secret!!

Our other agenda item concerns our Policy and Admissions assignment. We are to discuss the effectiveness of the timetable for distribution of assembly agendas and background information. I'm sure there will be standing room only for that one.

Have you all tried the “Audio Grapevine”? It’s now available to download at www.aagrapevine.org. How about the new CDs available: ‘The Story of AA’ and ‘What It Was Like’. For the amazingly low price of \$10.00 each or an even lower \$18.00 for the set, you can be the proud owner of these literary gems. My last product plug is to let you know that the 2007 AA (trilingual) Grapevine Wall Calendar is now available for a mere \$8.00 each (\$7.50 each if you order 25 or more). The 2007 Pocket Planner is just \$4.00 each (or \$3.50 in amounts of 25 +). All of these new items are displayed on the Grapevine table at the back of the room for your convenience. Also, coming soon is a new book “Emotional Sobriety” that will be available this Fall.

Changing the subject, I believe that some of the most important business at this Fall Assembly is the election of trusted servants for the 2007/2008 rotation. This afternoon, when we’re all ready for our after lunch naps, the election process may seem tedious. But I have to agree with Andrew’s article in the September issue of The Triangle about the importance and beauty of the Third Legacy Procedure. So be patient and enjoy this unique process.

Gail M, Area 40 Grapevine Chair

Area 40 Literature—Louise M

Welcome everyone. My name is Louise and I’m an alcoholic and serving as your Area 40 Literature Chair. The Literature Committee has been pretty quiet the past six months and I hate to admit it but since it’s an honest program, I haven’t traveled anywhere. So, my report will be short and I will move forward to the tidbits.

The Literature Committee is in the process of revising the pamphlet “AA for the Native North American” and they are asking you to share your experience, strength and hope by submitting your story for consideration. I have details on the criteria for this located at the back table. The deadline for submission is December 15, 2006.

Also, you will start seeing a new design for our Recovery, Unity, and Service pamphlets. The new look includes a large initial—R,U,S. The purpose is so members can identify the main topic of each pamphlet. The colors will be more eye catching with the hope to entice more people to read the AA message.

As always, the tables in the back room have a good selection of literature for you to look at and see what is available. There are plenty of Service Manuals, so be sure to get one before you leave. Remember, the pages are thicker than last year so you don’t see the front page and back page at the same time.

Since there are many of you out there that will be standing for Literature Chair, some willingly, some forcefully, you may want to order one case less of the Service Manuals the second than the first year.

It has truly been a pleasure. Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

Louise M, Area 40 Literature Chair.

Area 40 Public Information—Connie R

Hello, my name is Connie R and I am an alcoholic. I also have the privilege of being your Area 40 Public Information Chair, but only for a few more months. I want to welcome the new GSR’s and visitors to Area Assembly. What an exciting assembly to be at, as this is the election assembly. It is hard to believe that it is time to rotate, but I am willing to go wherever my higher power feels I will be the most useful.

Since the Spring Assembly, I was contacted by Sean B., DCM of District 72. He referred a Raquel B from Airpage to me as she was inquiring about AA contacts in communities that were not serviced by Airpage. Her need for the contacts resulted from Airpage receiving phone calls thru an AA answering service wanting to know about AA in other communities, i.e., a call to the Billings AA answering service requesting meeting information in Havre. I sent out emails and letters to all DCM’s requesting contacts in their districts. It was rather disappointing that only 5 districts responded to the request and two of those responses were already serviced by Airpage. This committee will have an opportunity to discuss this in more detail because of the proposal to have a statewide 800# which is on our agenda.

Gerry and I were invited to attend and share our experience, strength, and hope at the Tobacco Valley Group campout at Camp 32 in Eureka, MT. When Fred first invited me, I was a little concerned as I really am not a “sleep on the ground” camper. I prefer camping with a mattress and a shower, or as some people call them, hotels. I have learned in AA not to turn down an AA request with out a good reason, and not having warm running water didn’t seem to be a good enough reason so I

packed up and went. Fred promised a camper and he was true to his word. It was a wonderful experience. I may even attempt camping like that again next year.

I have been asked to participate in a couple of workshops in October. On the 7th, I will take part in a workshop on Chapter 7 of the Big Book “Working with Others”, and District 11 has invited me to participate in their Area workshop on the 28th.

As I said earlier, it is hard to believe that in 3 months, I will be leaving this service position. I am just getting comfortable in knowing what I am doing. In Chapter 7 of the Big Book “Working with Others” the second paragraph starts out saying “Life will take on a new meaning.” My life has taken on a new meaning because of the service work that I have had the privilege to be involved in. I used to feel lonely, different and afraid, but you, the people of AA, taught me how to step up and be of service, you taught me how to walk through the fear of the unknown, how to reach out to those suffering from the disease of alcoholism, and how to live life like it is a gift in both good times and bad. I now find myself amongst friends and I no longer feel lonely, different and afraid. Thank you for allowing me to participate in my own recovery.

Connie R, Area 40 Public Information

Area 40 Treatment—Lee G

We have been involved in two major projects in Treatment since the Spring Assembly. I have been working with Bob H. to strengthen our service to the WATCH East facility and make sure the BTG presentation is covered every month. Bob has done a great job of working with the facility staff. He has attracted folks from both Billings and Dickenson, ND to help take weekly meetings into the facility. We got a group of people cleared to go in and that group went through an orientation on May 14th. They began taking meetings in immediately. We have worked out a format for BTG and meetings seem to be going smoothly. Many thanks to Bob for all his hard work.

The issue we continue to address is the poor response rate from AAs who have consented to be temporary contacts. As I discussed at the Spring Assembly, AAs should write their facility contact immediately after receiving a Bridging the Gap card. But family members (clients) continue to not be contacted. We continue to try to get the word out about this requirement throughout the fellowship with limited success. I ask all of you to spread the word to contact the WATCH East immediately by mail once you receive a card.

The other major development has been the suspension of AA meetings at the MCDC facility due to the inappropriate behavior of one of our volunteers. As I wrote in the Triangle, I received a call from the clinical director the Monday after a Saturday meeting informing me of the incident. Over the next few days the situation went from needing to tell the AA he was no longer welcome at the facility to all meetings being terminated. It has taken some time to have the issues clarified and to develop an adequate response that is both acceptable to the facility and District 71 while staying within our traditions. I sent a draft proposal to the District and to the facility last month. The facility responded favorably, so yesterday Kevin, Gary and I met with the clinical director and had an excellent discussion. We worked out details for an orientation process, the format for the meeting and job descriptions for the meeting chairs so they know they are supposed to enforce facility policies. The district seems to be in agreement. So we are hopeful that meeting will start up again the first Saturday of November.

Additionally, since the Spring Assembly, I did a Post Assembly report in District 61 at a Assembly Follow Up workshop. I also have workshops scheduled for Bozeman and Billings this fall.

The Treatment committee had a suggestion for an addition to the Treatment Kit at the Spring Assembly. I have tried to walk it through the GSO process. Only recently have I gotten clear guidance on how the process works. It's quite cumbersome but I will begin on that project when I get home. I learned about the process by responding to a request from Area 15 in Florida looking for support to suggest the addition of another pamphlet to the Kit.

Meetings at WATCH East and West continue to go well. Kevin M., District 71 Treatment chair, continues to do a great job processing Bridging the Gap temporary contact cards from the various facilities, MCDC, WATCH West and Warm Springs.

There are still two additional projects on our ‘to do’ list. I brought a template for a facility directory with me to this assembly to circulate through the district treatment chairs and DCMs. What I want to include is a list of all the facilities in the state with AA and facility contact information as well as guidelines for each facility. That way we have a statewide directory of facilities and AA's relationship to them and a combined listing of all the guidelines so folks know what is expected if they want to attend a specific meeting.

The other project is to circulate a letter to facility staff statewide informing them about AA, extending our hand in service and making sure they are aware of the Bridging the Gap program which is available to anyone throughout the state and that local

meeting schedules are available at our website. That way, when they have a client returning to any home community, they know how to get them connected to meetings. I'd also still like to develop a packet of materials available to anyone leaving the facility. This packet might include a few key pamphlets and contact information for local meetings in Area 40 and our website information.

Our work at both WATCH East and MCDC since the spring has served to remind me again how important my conduct is as an attraction to and representative of AA. When I show up on time, conduct myself in a civil manner and follow through on my commitments, I am an attractive example of the power of AA. But when I am not, I not only damage my own reputation but more importantly sully the name of AA as a whole and that is a serious offense to a fellowship to which I owe my life.

Thank You for allowing me to serve. Lee G.

DCM Reports

Linda B—DCM District 11

District 11 has 31 active groups. There were the usual ballgames and group picnics this summer. After our August district meeting, we had Scott W give his delegate report. It was followed by a potluck at the park two blocks from our meeting place. As always, food was plentiful, even the bees had enough to eat.

Our Corrections committee has been busy keeping Big Books supplied to the Women's Prison and the Yellowstone County Detention Facility. Our Treatment, Public Information, and CPC committees are active within our district. There have been many cases of AA literature given out at these facilities we participate with. The Archives and Grapevine committees have presented displays at our district and group functions.

At our September meeting, we held elections for the next two year rotation. All officers and standing committee chairs have been elected. I will give a copy of the names, contact information, and their positions to our Triangle Editor and our Area Secretary.

The Fall 2006 Roundup was a great success. There were 428 AAs and Al-Anons attending. The comments were favorable in regards to not having a scheduled Saturday banquet. The speakers were excellent and the roundup committee did a fantastic job with the planning and executing of this event.

District 11 is planning a Service Workshop on Saturday, October 28th in Billings. It will be hosted at the Recover Group, 103 North 24th, starting at 10 am with a noon potluck. We are hoping to have our area committee chairs attend and help share their experiences with us. Not all committee chairs have been contacted yet, so this is your invitation. Please come, everyone is welcome.

I would like to take just a moment and thank all of you for allowing me to be of service at this level to Alcoholics Anonymous. I have enjoyed my term as DCM, but look forward to rotating out of this position. I am excited with our upcoming area elections and seeing who will be our next trusted servants. It is with regret that I won't be able to accept a nomination for any service positions this next rotation. Once again, I thank you for allowing me to be of service. Respectfully, Linda B.

Andy P—DCM District 12

Good news!! The district is beginning to awaken to it's responsibilities. We have a new secretary and elections are continuing. We have recently scheduled our District meetings on the Third Sunday at 4 pm at the Apple Village in Columbus. This consistent time and place has replaced the usual scramble to figure out where we are going. Attendance is improving greatly and it's exciting to watch the vibration and rotation. The hotline has been chaired for over a year, and a New Yorker found us whose brother had recently been killed in a motorcycle accident. He was shuttled around the District to meetings, and he expressed his gratitude for our help. Showing up for our responsibilities is the first step for our unity. Working together and studying and applying these principles has resulted in obvious growth with groups that practice and practice and also practice. We currently have 8 groups with 100 plus members. Thank you, Andy.

Dave G—DCM District 21

No report submitted.

Rich B—DCM District 23

District 23 currently has 3 active groups and one new group forming. Sidney Welcome Home Group attendance is slow but has been picking up a little recently. They currently meet Sunday, Tuesday nights, and Saturday noon. Glendive Life Again Group is staying fairly well attended. They meet on Tuesday and Thursday nights. Fairview is trying to form a Monday night meeting.

WATCH East has meetings on Friday and Sunday nights. Usual attendance is 40 or more. District 23 would like to thank Bob H. from Huntley for his help with "Bridging the Gap" presentations at the facility. We would like to stress the importance of writing, making the contact before someone is released when you get a Bridging the Gap contact card in the mail. The importance of this was made very clear to me when I attended a meeting and a girl spoke up and said she would be getting out in a couple of days and no one had contacted her yet. Her concern/fear of going home without the contact was evident, so again, please contact/write them before they are released.

The annual Lower Yellowstone Soberfest was held on the third weekend in August. We would like to thank Bob H. for his help. We would also like to thank our Area 40 Delegate for attending and presenting the delegates report. LYS attendance was down a little, but we were able to fund the entire function with only 7th Tradition contributions. We have seed money for the next LYS. The speakers, food and fellowship was great. The function is held in Makoshika State Badlands Park and was a very special place to be. The main speakers on Saturday night speak out on the Deck over looking the rugged badlands. The view of the sun setting on the badlands while listening to our speakers was clearly evident to all we were at a very spiritual event. Thank You, Rich B

Bill M—DCM District 31

No report submitted.

Brian M—DCM District 41

No report submitted.

Mike M—DCM District 42

(Report submitted by Everett K/alternate DCM) Greetings! My name is Mike and I am an alcoholic. I also have the privilege of being the DCM for District 42. Our district consists of seven active groups located in Browning, Chester, Choteau, Conrad, Cut Bank, Shelby and Valier. We also take a meeting into the Crossroads Correctional facility in Shelby.

In May, Lloyd B., our Area CPC chair visited us and gave an informative workshop. Scott W., our Area Delegate, visited us in July and brought us up to date on the events of the General Service conference. In August, the Lake Frances Group of Valier held their Mini-Roundup. It was a huge success.

Our August District meeting resulted in the election of a new DCM, alternate DCM, Secretary, and Treasurer. The rest of our committee positions will be filled by the first of January 2007.

My thanks to District 42 for allowing me to serve. It has been a very rewarding experience. Yours in Service, Mike M.

Doug M—DCM District 51

District 51 is alive and well. We have two new meetings at Rocky Boy. They are on Wednesday and Sunday at 7 pm at the Catholic Church. We have another meeting just starting in Havre. It is an all women's meeting. Call Ona at 357-4234 for time and location. Fort Belknap is going strong on Wednesday evening. Havre currently has meetings every day at two places at different times and several others that meet at various times. We have around 23 plus meetings per week. Havre will put on a Mini-Conference October 6-8, 2006. Fliers have been sent out. We had three campouts this past summer and they all were successful. This fall, the Third Step Group will sponsor a Sunday afternoon speaker meeting.

I am the new DCM. We have a new Treasurer in Donna R. Several others have expressed interest in service positions. We are rotating the District meeting between groups in town and out of town. Summer attendance has been fair. AA is alive and well in District 51 through our Higher Power.

Doug M, DCM District 51

Terry S—DCM District 61

Greetings from District 61, Helena vicinity, with 27 registered AA groups and somewhere around 450 mostly sober alcoholics participating in over 90 meetings each week (copies of our meeting card are on the table)! We do meet frequently so that the newcomer can find us.

Our District has held some solid workshops since the Spring Assembly—a panel presentation on the home group, followed with our Area chair as the main speaker; our Grapefest, with the Delegate's report; and a trusted servant workshop with 2 past Delegates and a former Class A General Service Board trustee. We continue within our district to have group events of various descriptions (picnics, campouts, celebrations, workshops, pot lucks, etc.). We have a couple of events coming up later this month: the Free for Lunch group picnic on the 23rd and the It's In the Book Group birthday celebration on the 30th). We have two active clubs (in the spirit of cooperation and not affiliation) that rent meeting space and event space.

We are about halfway through our district election process, expecting to fill the remainder of the officer and committee chair positions in October. I was disappointed that we did not have enough willing members present and willing to stand for the open positions at our September meeting, but upon reflection, I'm now thinking that it is a good thing. We might now get some new blood, instead of having the same faces switching places. We shall see.

On October 7th, we are having a workshop on 'Carrying the AA Message—Chapter 7, Working with Others'. Fliers are on the table. We are also planning another workshop, for new district service structure folks and new GSRs on November 4th. We're working on the 52nd annual Attitude of Gratitude held Saturday, November 18th at the Red Lion Colonial Inn. Fliers are on the table. We're also taking the first baby steps toward trying out a sobriety celebration around the winter holidays in mid-December.

We revisited the question of whether our district committee chairs should vote on district business matters, and resolved the question (until the next time it surfaces) with no bloodshed and (I hope) a minimum of resentments. We are currently exploring the purchase of a digital recorder (the prices are down and these critters are now about the size of a large cigarette lighter) to be able to burn CDs of speakers and panels at workshops.

All in all, it's been happy, joyous and free around our district, except for those times when spiritual growth simply cannot be avoided. We continue to take meetings into correctional and treatment institutions and provide bridging the gap contacts as requested. Our local hot line is still working, though not without glitches. My home group has a newcomer who called the hot line for contact with another alcoholic, and they had A-1 Towing call her. Fortunately, she called the hot line back, and they got it right the second time.

We keep updating our meeting cards and we take informational panels to the schools and various professionals. Our literature store is open every Saturday and some members of the fellowship in our District take road trips to various facilities in the surrounding parts of Montana. Some of our groups still use what some folks call "that damned California pink can" to support corrections literature purchases in Area 40. About half of our groups contributed to the District, the Area and the General Service Office during this rotation.

I see folks from District 61 (and often some of those are new faces as well as the usual suspects) at Area events. Most of us now have lives of purpose and value and we usually remember that AA made these lives possible for us and that helps us to remember the still suffering alcoholics who have not yet reached out for help.

In the little corner of the fellowship that I occupy, this year has featured arrivals and departures—births and deaths as well as slips and newcomers. Bill W. had it absolutely right—I would not want to miss witnessing the recovery of folks who come to us in the same despair and misery that I wore when I got here and some of whom pretty soon begin to shine with life and with that inner light. The doors are open and the lights are on for at least 9 meetings every day. If you're ever in the vicinity of District 61, you are always welcome to come on over for meetings, fellowship, and just plain visiting.

Terry S, DCM District 61

Marcy D—DCM District 71

I'm Marcy, alcoholic, and DCM for District 71.

Well here it is September and we are getting ready for the next rotation. It's hard to believe that 2 years are almost gone. On September 13, we elected the new DCM, our Alternate DCM, our Secretary and our new Treasurer.

We have been busy trying to work with MCDC again thanks to Kevin M., Lee G., and Gary O. Thank you for all the work you have put into to the project. Of course, the meeting with Steve K was set for Friday the 15th and of course, yours truly had to work and at that time when I get up at 4:30 in the morning, I am totally useless. Our corrections chair has been busy taking in meetings to the jail in Butte and trying to set one up in Anaconda with help from Jessie P., and Teryl R.

Scott joined us in June for a picnic and he gave his Delegate's report. Of course it was windy, slightly chilly, but what the heck! There was great food and most of all great fellowship. Thanks Scott.

We had to fill 2 chairs in the middle of the summer due to illness. Thanks to the ones who have stepped up and took the responsibility for these positions.

This summer we lost one of our most dedicated members to fibrosis, and that is Bessie Jo. We sadly miss this lady with the lead foot and spit of fire that she gave to this program. She wasn't able to come to the last few assemblies, but I know she is with us today.

Well, this is the last report I have to give this year. So I don't have to worry about knocking knees and cotton mouth. This will all be up to the new DCM for the next 2 year rotation.

Yours in service, Marcy D

Sean B—DCM District 72

District 72 has over 10 meetings a day with 52 groups hosting 80 meetings across Gallatin, Madison, and Park counties, roughly covering 9 thousand square miles, 5.8 million acres, 23 billion square meters or 36 trillion square inches.

Here's what's going on: The Montana Chemical Dependency Center has temporarily shut down all outside meetings although the WATCH meeting is doing well. WATCH participants are usually WATCH program graduates eager to bring the message into the detention facility. They share that the program works well outside of the barbwire fence. This meeting has attracted 10 to 15 folks from the District to Warm Springs.

The monthly District 72 business meeting attracts between 20 and 35 people representing around 20 different groups. Summers attendance at district meetings have been a bit lower although we have been enjoying great potlucks and ok company. Carrying service opportunities to remote communities has been a mainstay of District 72. This summer our district has rotated from Bozeman to Ennis, Gallatin Gateway, Gardiner, Manhattan, Wilsall, and Immigrant.

Thirty of the 52 groups or 60% have contributed \$5,500 to date with an expected year-end contribution total around \$8,000 at the current rate. In addition, nearly \$2,000 in literature has been distributed across the district thanks to the diligence of our dedicated Literature Chair John B.

Due to a \$2,000 deficit in the round up account after the Spring event at Montana State University, our prudent reserve is back down to a manageable level. Our district has spent many meetings discussing the importance of having every dollar associated with our primary purpose. This potential surplus was unanimously directed to offset the Round-up deficit.

Under Public Information, District 72 provides speakers every Thursday at 7 pm to speak to the DUI classes.

We have a surge in attendance the past year due to court mandated AA attendance. While there is some controversy in how to deal with this occasionally apathetic population, there is no argument that the influx of new guys and gals has re-invigorated District 72 AA. Most of these new folks are coming from Gallatin County Drug and Alcohol Services, Treatment Court, the Pre-Release center and various halfway houses and sober communities throughout the district.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service. Sean B.

Julie R—DCM District 81

Greetings from district 81, Missoula to Polson and Thompson Falls to Seeley Lake, home to 31 registered groups, 11 of which are represented here today. In my travels to visit groups in the outlying areas over the summer, I found most groups were small, but thriving, with a wide range of sobriety lengths. I was inspired by the AA servants who continue to keep the doors open, the literature out and the coffee on despite little or no attendance. Not surprisingly, those members usually had many years of sobriety. Making contact with these groups and GSRs has truly been the highlight of my duties as DCM.

This past spring our district held a new event, the Spring Fling/Service Fair. Each service area was highlighted by the district chairperson at a table with literature and sign-up sheets. In addition, we had a cake walk, coin toss and other games to win prizes and a concession “stand” with hot dogs, caramel apples, etc. Though I can’t say it was well attended—as it was also the first day of Spring—it was informative and fun for the people who came and an event we will probably try again.

On June 10th, we held our annual Founder’s Day celebration where Scott came and shared his Delegate’s report with us. We also had an old-timer’s panel, music, food, horseshoe tournament and the traditional softball game. Though the day started out rainy which kept some people home, by afternoon even the mud puddle at home plate had cleared up. I continue to learn that I am only responsible for the effort; that God is responsible for the outcome.

In addition, the Ray of Hope/TGIF group in Polson recently hosted their 23rd annual Camporee on Flathead Lake which was blessed with gorgeous weather all weekend. Dennis O. spoke on the history of AA in an Archives workshop and Robbie and Mark shared their experience, strength and hope on Sponsorship. Great speakers, food and fellowship were enjoyed by all.

Currently, all the District service positions are filled and we held elections last month for next year’s new rotation. We elected an incoming DCM, Alternate DCM, Secretary and Treasurer. Elections will continue at this month’s meeting. In addition, members are actively carrying the message into the corrections facility, treatment center, teen recovery center and speaking in the high schools. We have received several Bridging-the-Gap contact requests from the WATCH program and, hopefully, will soon have a list in place of AA members willing to be contacts—similar to the 12 step call list for the phone line.

It has been my privilege to serve the groups in my district these past few years and I want to express my gratitude for the opportunity and the trust they placed in me. As usual with AA service, I feel I’ve gained far more than I’ve given. Thank You.

Julie R, DCM District 81

Conrad M—DCM District 91

District 91 is located in the northwest corner of Area 40. With 17 registered groups, meetings can be attended any day of the week at almost any time. This past summer has been filled with campouts, picnics, and a variety of other gatherings to celebrate the freedom of sobriety. At our last District meeting the process of rotation was started with the election of a new DCM, April A., Alternate DCM, Katy H., and secretary Jim C. Both April and Katy are here this weekend to get a little flavor of the assembly and meet the people they will be serving with the next two years. As for me, I hope that my home group will allow me to make coffee one night a week.

In service, Conrad M, DCM District 91

Mary H—DCM District 93

Greetings. I’m Mary and I’m an alcoholic and DCM of District 93 in the Bitterroot Valley. Our fourteen groups were busy electing new GSRs, and all but 2 positions have been filled at the District level. I’m sure those in the next two year rotation will carry on the tradition of lively interaction with wondrous results.

Last July the district held it’s annual summer campout at Painted Rocks State Park. Though the heat was noticeable, the lake offered a cooling reprieve. Thanks again to Scott for coming to the far south west to give his Delegates report.

In closing, I’d like to say a tremendous Thank-You to District 93 for the opportunity to serve as DCM. There’s no job like it! There are challenges to be sure, yet personal growth has been such a reward! If anyone has the slightest inclination to serve as DCM, I’d tell you “go for it”. Don’t say no to a rewarding adventure.

Lastly, many, many thanks to the God of my understanding for the gift of service in the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. And now, I'll go back to the shire and continue "Trudging the Road of Happy Destiny".

Your grateful servant, Mary H.

Gerry R—Area 40 Archivist

I find it very appropriate that this, my first report as the Area 40 Archivist, comes during an Area 40 election assembly. In the six months since my own election I have had the opportunity to delve into and wander through decades of reports and records, by and about Area 40's trusted servants. Being here today, as a witness to this changing of the guard, to watch as yet more names are added to that list of people who have stepped forward to serve this fellowship, I feel the same measure of respect and appreciation that settles over me each time I walk through the door of the Archive.

In advance of the actual election process I would like to say thank you to those trusted servants who are rotating on, also, thanks to those who come willing to serve, but who aren't elected this time around. Willingness is the lifeblood of our service structure, and you all have offered us yours.

With the Archive being in its current location, a three hour round trip from my front door, it has been difficult to do research for the handful of requests I've received. Trips there have had to be well planned for effective use of time and fuel. I have presented an item for consideration at this assembly which suggests moving the Archive to a location I have arranged for in Helena. I look forward to your help in approving this move.

I also have re-submitted, for your consideration, a modified version of the proposed Policy and Procedure manual that past Archivist Kevin N. had presented in recent assemblies.

At this time, I would like to extend my apologies to the Spring Roundup committee from Bozeman. I was simply unable to familiarize myself with the archival material in time to be prepared for your event. I am available now to do what I can to make amends for my previous unavailability. Please let me know what I can do for you.

I was able to prepare a display for the Fall Roundup in Billings last weekend. If anyone here still has doubts about whether one truly receives anything back from service work, let me share just a bit of my experience with last weekend. My hope, of course, was to prepare a display that would be relevant to the fellowship, one that they could connect with. One of the items that I included in the display, was schedule from an Area conference held 37 years ago in Glasgow in 1969. I chose this item for its long list of the names of people who were presenting at that conference. While sharing this with a friend, an old-timer Fritz R. overheard us and joined in our conversation. He then went on to show us his own name tucked in the middle of that list of presenters.

Later, after hearing past Al-Anon delegate Dorothy R. speak fondly of her deceased husband, past AA delegate Perry R., I was able to inform her that I had included Perry's signed 1980 Montana directory in the display. She was delighted.

And, finally, Saturday night I was shown a picture of a young woman, standing in front of the display, holding a copy of an item I had included that was written by our very first delegate Andy P. I was informed that this was Andy's granddaughter and that she had recently celebrated her third year of sobriety in the program. A copy of this picture will soon be included in the Archive. These experiences confirm two things for me. One, our history is not only very important to our fellowship, it is still very much alive among us, and we need to honor that. And, two, no matter how much I give to this program, I can never match what it gives to me.

I would like to end by expressing my gratitude for all the help, and offers of help, that I have received since assuming this position last Spring. Thank you to Andy, Cleve and the Billings Roundup committee for helping to turn my fear over my first Archives display into a truly enjoyable experience. Thanks to Lee T. from District 41 and to past delegate Earl F. for being with me those first few times through the Archive door, as I struggled to understand the extent of the duties of my new position, let alone trying to assume them. And a special thanks to Tom W. and to Kevin N. for all the hard work they've both done in protection and preserving the history of this great fellowship, and for sharing their experience strength and hope with me, that I might try to do the same. And finally, that you Area 40 for allowing me to be of service.

Gerry R, Area 40 Archivist

Alex M—Area 40 Webmaster

Meeting listings continues to be the most sought after information from visitors to the site, followed by folks downloading flyers and pdf documents. So the most important job on the site is still the folks from each District who have volunteered to keep the meeting listing information current.

Thanks to an inquisitive visitor, I have now added hotline information when anyone does a meeting search by city. I have also spent some time revamping the look and feel of the meeting administration section of the site in an effort to make it more user friendly.

If your District is rotating the person in charge of updating the meetings, please let me know as I need to update email addresses and passwords for those positions.

Yours in Service, Alex M, Area 40 Webmaster

Election Orientation/ Posting Nominees for Delegate

Past Delegate, Earl F., led us through the election process for the 2007-2008 Area 40 Officers and Committee Chairs. A list of 6 candidates for Area 40 Delegate were posted on the board so they could be questioned by Assembly members before the election was to take place after lunch.

Election Results:

<u>Area 40 Delegate: Andrew W</u>	<u>Alternate Delegate/Area chair: Carole B</u>
<u>Secretary: Connie R</u>	<u>Treasurer: Curt K</u>
<u>Archives: Conrad M</u>	<u>Cooperation with the Professional Community: Terry S</u>
<u>Corrections: Bill E</u>	<u>Grapevine: Billy Jo D</u>
<u>Literature: Linda B</u>	<u>Treatment: Geoff D</u>
<u>Public Information: Sean B</u>	<u>Triangle Editor: Raymona K</u>

Third Legacy Procedure—workshop presented by Bob H and Loren B

Bob began this workshop with a history of his service as Delegate for Area 40 (panel 42), and he noted that at the very 1st Assembly at the Yogo Inn, only ½ of the room we now in was used. We have grown a lot since then. The Third Legacy Procedure is described in detail beginning on page S20 of our Service Manual, and Bob focused on ‘substantial unanimity’ which is described in Warranty 4 in our 12th Concept. During the Third Legacy Procedure, we vote by ballot, which means we vote our conscience, i.e., we vote for who will do the job. The job of Delegate is very time consuming; the duties are described in our Service Manual. On page S47 of our Service Manual, a description of leadership in AA is given—it talks about our trusted servants being able to ‘give and take’, ‘compromise cheerfully’, and strive for ‘improving comprises’. Our group conscience is achieved by substantial unanimity which helps to preserve our Fellowship at the local level and also at the world wide level. When/If we reach the 4th and 5th ballots during election, our substantial unanimity is showing itself. This helps us to find out the will of the Area. Think about the sacrifice that striving for substantial unanimity asks of each of us. Bill W and Bernard S developed the Third Legacy Procedure. Bob indicated that he has more information on the Third Legacy Procedure if anyone is interested.

At this point, Loren B joins the workshop, and leads us further into the Third Legacy Procedure with more information about the Third Legacy—a lot of those attending the workshop had never participated in a Third Legacy procedure. We also participated in a mock election utilizing the Third Legacy Procedure. We had approximately 31 attending this workshop, and the election was for the title of ‘President of Alcoholics Anonymous’. Running for this prestigious position were ‘Blackout Barb’, ‘Chugalug Charlie’, ‘Garbage Can Ginny’, ‘Half-measures Howard’, and ‘Misdemeanor Mel’. We used all four ballots without a clear winner, so we went to the hat, and Misdemeanor Mel was the winner. The Third Legacy Procedure was a lot clearer for all of us after this mock election. Thanks Loren.

Bob H joined us again with more information on the duties of the Area officers, and said that the time commitments for the Delegate and Alternate Delegate/Area Chair are substantial. Qualifications for each are the same—6 years of continuous sobriety. The Area Chair must also know how to chair meetings, keeping their opinions to a minimum and knowing Robert’s Rules of Order. The Area 40 Secretary must have 4 years of continuous sobriety and be able to take notes and distill these into accurate minutes giving unbiased information. Our treasurer must have 5 years of continuous sobriety and be able to

handle finances and be accountable. The Committee Chairs also must have 5 years of continuous sobriety and are elected by a simple majority. We are always charged with electing the very best person for the good of the Area.

Standing Committee Meetings

Corrections/International Conventions-Regional Forums—Gary O

1. Review Corrections committee items discussed at the GSC, but no action taken or recommendations made.

Media presentation to be used in AA training videos is moving forward. The new copy of “Inmate to Inmate” will be available in January 2007. There were no floor comments or questions.

2. Discuss the status of carrying meetings into correctional facilities in Area 40.

Following are comments from those attending the Corrections Standing meeting:

Gary O.: I mostly take care of the Men’s Prison in Deer Lodge and now the RYO facility in Galen, which is mostly Native American Juveniles. The death rate after release is high. Most other facilities are taken care of at the district level. The Pink Can is doing well.

Mike B., District 72 Corrections Chair. We have our meetings at the county jail at 7 pm, and we are responsible for the 4th Saturday meeting at the Men’s Prison at Deer Lodge.

Clint B., District 93 Corrections Chair: We go to Deer Lodge once a month, with cars divided into smoking and non-smoking teams. At the local detention center literature isn’t available unless asked for. Jail meeting attendance varies. Jail is asking for an approved list.

Paul S., District 61 Corrections Chair. We are active at Pre-release in Helena and Boulder Jail. Lewis and Clark jail meetings are on hold due to overcrowding. The meetings at the Townsend jail are postponed due to lack of AAs willing to attend.

Mary M., dist 91 DCM. I coordinate women’s meetings in the County Jail. Meth is a big topic. We take an AA meeting to Wilderness Treatment the 1st Sunday of the month.

Conrad M., District 91 DCM. Our Pink Can money goes to District first, then on to Area. We have to go through an orientation given by the County Jail in order to be carded to take meetings into the jail. We have two orientations each year.

Eric R., District 81. We go to Deer Lodge the 3rd Saturday of the month. We need more AA volunteers to do this. There are also a few AA meetings going on at Halfway Houses in our District.

Nick D., District 12 GSR. I am very uninformed about the Pink Can Program, and would like information on corrections. (Gary O. talked with Nick after the meeting and gave him information.)

Lynn S., District 31 Corrections chair. Miles City meetings are hit and miss. Only three AAs allowed per meeting, and women can attend the men’s side if accompanied by a male. Felons are not allowed , although they may have the greatest influence. We take AA meetings to Pine Hills where the kids are forced to attend the meetings, and they are hard to reach. We focus on getting them to attend meetings as soon as they are released.

Duane C., District 42. I take an AA meeting to the Regional Prison in Shelby. Men can go into the women’s side, but it works better for the women to do it. Two people need to attend each meeting. There is a lot of drug talk at meetings, but there is still a lot of interest at the meetings. We always need more volunteers. The women take meetings to Billings.

General discussion followed : We talked about safety issues, especially with staff. If somebody talks about committing a specific future crime, we use the same guidelines as lawyers and clergy and report it. Pink Can Fund: Some send it directly to Area, some send it to District and District passes on any that is left after meeting their needs to the Area. Districts can always ask for money out of the Pink Can. Every group is autonomous in where they send their money. A full accounting of this fund was submitted with the Correction’s Committee Report and will be in the minutes. How do we make sure inmates get the books? We ask the inmates, and we also ask the staff if the books have been passed on. If there is a problem, try to solve it with tact. We ask that inmates take a book only if they will read it. This does slow down the outflow of books. The Regional Prison in Shelby buys it’s own books for distribution to the inmates. Montana has two separate committees for corrections and treatment. Other areas, like those in California and Nevada combine them. Would Montana be better served with that approach? The line between the two committees is blurring. Anybody who wants copies of the Chair’s report, minutes from this meeting, or an accounting of the Pink Can, let Gary O. know and he will mail or email you the copies.

Cooperation with the Professional Community/Trustees—Lloyd B

1. Review CPC committee items discussed at the GSC, but no action taken or recommendations made.

The committee discussed the need for 3 short videos, total cost not to exceed \$63,000, and we were not in favor of this action. We think and know that face to face contact is still the best way to inform professionals about AA. Videos seem

impersonal and ineffective. Active home groups and districts engaging the professional community is also the best way to educate and inform the professionals in our respective communities. There were no floor comments.

Under Trustees: 1. Discuss the request that the selection process for Chairperson of the General Service Board be expanded to include past Class B trustees as candidates.

In summary, the committee knows that Class B trustees can currently be considered and selected as Chairperson of the General Service Board, but this has not been our practice in years past. After consideration, we see no problem and see no need to change the way the procedure is written. We need to continue to look for people willing and qualified to serve as Class A trustees. It depends on us to find these people. Floor comments: Some were in favor thinking that Class B trustees are equally qualified to serve in this position without hurting AA. Others were afraid that they might relapse and hurt AA. Scott W. indicated that we have a history in AA of recycling ideas, and this one was up front back in 92 and 93. We can't prevent anyone from doing this job because they might get drunk. Primarily, we are trying to widen the pool of qualified candidates for this position. And, a Class A trustee could always be the public face for AA.

Treatment/Agenda—Lee G

1. Review Treatment committee items discussed at the GSC, but no action taken or recommendations made.

Lee started by reviewing the GSC items where action was taken. GSC agenda items addressed terminology to broaden the scope of treatment outreach. Questions and input from attending members addressed need to reach those who don't know about AA or how it works, including offering presentations, literature packets, etc. Lee explained the Treatment Facilities Kit/Workbook. Discussion also covered possible overlap with PI and Corrections and communication between chairs—offering dual presentations. The items were: The word 'institutional' be deleted from the scope so that the second paragraph on the scope of the Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities will read as follows: "The committee will review all aspects of service to AA groups/meetings in treatment facilities and other non-correctional environments and make recommendations for changes and/or improvements. The phrase 'and other non-correctional environments' be added to the scope of the Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities so that it will read as follows: "The purpose of the treatment facilities committee is to coordinate the work of individual AA members and groups who are interested in carrying our message of recovery to alcoholics in treatment facilities and other non-correctional environments, and to set up means of 'bridging the gap' from the facility to the AA community. The committee will review all aspects of service to AA groups/meetings in treatment facilities and other non-correctional environments and make recommendations for changes and/or improvements.

Non-action Items from GSC. Lee gave background on the name of "Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities". We discussed the use of the HOPE video, how it is being used in the fellowship as well as feedback about the need to update the video to be more current. Lee explained the idea of developing a pilot electronic bulletin board on the AA website to facilitate the sharing of experience in treatment work. Lee explained the review of revisions and editions of the Treatment Facilities Workbook. Information for revision was gained through the 2004 survey of the entire fellowship.

2. Discuss the feasibility of putting together and maintaining a 12th step call list for Area 40.

Lee explained that the Treatment committee was assigned this topic because this committee has historically maintained a statewide contact list to make Bridging the Gap contacts for people coming out of the WATCH Program. Discussion concerned: Background on Airpage (an answering service) which would provide 1-800 hotline for statewide use. Districts would choose to participate or not, and support the maintaining of the lists. The Area would pay for the service. This option would be more effective than maintaining the three 800 #s currently in use. The three districts currently using 800 #s can provide experience with problems and solutions. AA would be listed in every local phone book. The possibility of creating a non-voting Area position to oversee the hotline, like the Webmaster and Archivist. Questions concerned the ability/responsibility of districts maintaining and communicating updated phone contact lists. A suggestion was made to tie 800 #s to the Area 40 website and use electronic means to keep lists updated and to mail updated lists to each group to ensure that lists are current. We need to make sure that Airpage is aware of and is using AA guidelines for connecting callers with help. Possibility of providing Airpage with contact list compiled by city name rather than by various districts. Will meeting schedules also be included? This again brings up concern of how to keep lists current. What would be the role of the Area position in overseeing the process? It would be the responsibility of the districts to maintain current lists. One member brought up the concern about the need to make sure that people leaving treatment have immediate help getting to meetings. Response included the need for district and group treatment chairs to provide Bridging the Gap presentations to local treatment facilities. In some districts, there is no District Treatment Chair so the DCM fills several roles, making each one more difficult to do adequately.

Lee also gave us an update on the Montana Chemical Dependency Center which included the information that a meeting between AA and facility staff took place yesterday. It looks like we will be able to return to the facility but with several changes. Everyone must attend a required orientation before taking meetings into MCDC. There is also a one year sobriety requirement to attend meetings. The meeting chair will be responsible for maintaining order in the meeting and addressing issues immediately if someone violates any facility guidelines.

Public Information/Report and Charter—Connie R

1. Consider the implementation of a State wide 800#. A new position, Area Answering Service Chair. Structured similar to the Area 40 Webmaster, would be created to administer this program. District PI Chairs or District Answering Service Reps would ensure the Area 40 website is up to date and, if possible, that AirPage Communications gets an updated call list seasonally.

Thank you to those committee members who attended the meeting, especially Julie R. of District 81, who has attended every one of the committee sessions. A big thank you to Nadine for taking very good notes of our committee discussion. The consideration was read to those in attendance and then we opened up for discussion. Questions were brought up about how this would effect those districts that already had an answering service in place. With the proposal most of the districts would just be handled by one account representative rather than having 4 or 5 different account representatives. From past correspondence with AirPage it appeared that other answering services could be connected to the Area 800# just like individual phone numbers that might be on a contact list. A problem with calls being sent to individuals that should not have been sent to AA was discussed with the suggestion that this would be an opportunity for the local PI Committees to do an employee training as to what AA is and is not. We discussed how coverage would be handled with an 800#. Some people shared that making sure that those who are signing up for calls are truly stating when they are available as it is when the answering service has to call several people that we loose those trying to reach AA and it costs money. We were very impressed with this proposal as far as what it would cost to do the 800#. It was presented with actual costs based on service provided to 4 districts already being serviced by AirPage. The concern is that the totals did not match with what AirPage was proposing and the cost of what they proposed it to be. It was in the discussion of what AirPage proposed that one attendee felt that perhaps it would be prudent of us to pursue proposals from other companies that provide an answering service in Montana. The committee has had this item for the past two years and the committee took no action because there was more information needed. Many felt that the 800# was worth pursuing and that we need to begin somewhere. It was decided that presenting it to the Area floor is a first step in seeing if Area 40 wanted the 800 answering service. Therefore:

The Public Information Committee unanimously recommends to pursue implementing the 800# in Area 40, utilizing an Adhoc Committee to obtain contract proposals with answering services throughout Montana for consideration at the 2007 Spring Assembly. This motion was voted on and passed.

Floor response: How do you get the 800# into all the phone books? Who will appoint the Adhoc committee? (The Area Chair will do this). Please explore the financial impact carefully. Can we still be autonomous and not participate as a District if we do not want to? Will the hotline operators have all the pertinent information. Some districts cannot afford a hotline.

Archives/Structure—Dennis O

1. Consider adjusting the Area Assembly Agenda to address financial concerns first, as much of the decision making the remainder of the Area Assembly weekend touches upon this committee's considerations.

In general, the committee (and most visitors) believed that we should first decide what our needs and priorities are before we can determine our financial needs. Also, we believe that the Treasurer and Finance Committee are addressing some of the concern reflected in this item, now. The Committee decided to take no action, and encourages District 72, if they wish to resubmit this, to provide more information. The Assembly accepted our decision. There were no floor responses.

2. Consider the suggestion that the Area 40 Archival Repository be moved to 38 Hubbard Way in Helena, MT, and that Area 40 assume responsibility for paying rent in the amount of \$300 per month for this site.

The consensus of our committee was that this item (from Archivist Gerry R.) was well written and researched. The background information included comparison of the present Archives location in Great Falls with the proposed site in Helena, where Gerry lives. When the first Area Archival Repository was started in Missoula, the rent was over \$298/month. Then following a move within Missoula it was \$200/month until moving to Great Falls, where the rent was \$150/month, where we were then bumped to our present location of inadequate space in Great Falls. The proposed Helena location is a solid concrete basement location with a vault area, controlled temperature, room for displays, and room to do research. The committee voted unanimously to recommend **“That the Area 40 Archival Repository be moved to 38 Hubbard Way in Helena, MT, and that Area 40 assume responsibility for paying rent in the amount of \$300/month for this site”.** This motion was voted on and passed unanimously. In addition, the committee urged that if possible, a long term, secure

contract such as a 5 year lease with a 5 year option be sought. Floor responses: What are the costs to move the archives? The answer to this question was that the Archives are funded entirely by voluntary contributions from AA members, contributions from Round ups, and other AA activities around the State.

3. Consider the suggestion that Area 40 adopt the proposed Policy and Procedure document draft dated July 15, 2006.

Current Archivist Gerry R. took charge and basically finished the draft which was submitted July 15, 2006. A couple of overlooked details were brought to our committee's attention. We added a Table of Contents to the draft and added two "bullet" items to the Secretary's position description. It was also pointed out that there should be a position description for the Area Advisor, but it was decided to initiate an agenda item for that addition in the future. The following recommendation was made: **"That Area 40 adopt the proposed Policy and Procedures document draft dated July 15, 2006, with the addition of a table of contents, and the two additional paragraphs added to the Secretary's position description."** **The motion was voted on and passed.**

Finance—Sid G

1. Recommend the 2007 budget. **This motion voted on and passed.**

Floor responses. There was a question about where pre-assembly expenses are paid, and these come from the budgets of the committee members. Are we increasing our budget too quickly? Do we have enough to operate comfortably and not go into minus amounts? The prudent reserve should be based upon what we spend.

2. Consider the suggestion that the Area Treasurer complete Area 40 form 990 information for the IRS such that details can be researched to protect anonymity before this document is required of Area 40. A motion **"to file form 990 S beginning with the year 2007"** **was voted on and passed.** There were no floor responses.

3. Consider the suggestion that all miles driven on Area 40 business will be reimbursed at a rate of \$0.05 per mile in addition to actual gas expense effective January 1, 2007. This suggestion came forward as a motion **"to recommend that all miles driven on Area 40 business be reimbursed at \$0.05 per mile beginning January 1, 2007"**. **This motion was voted on and passed.** No floor responses.

Grapevine/Policy and Admissions—Gail M

1. Discuss the status of Area 40 subscriptions to and participation in the Grapevine.

Committee discussion went as follows: Do low numbers of subscriptions take into account online subscriptions and Audiograpevine? The suggestion was made that more groups buy subscriptions to have them available at meetings. We can spread the word about online services, especially to those in rural areas. Maybe make copies for people who subscribe but have slower internet connections. Writing articles or letters for publication is important. Stories in the Grapevine are current which is important for newcomers to relate to. Use Grapevine articles as topics for meetings. Individuals or groups give subscriptions to jails, hospitals, or local libraries. We discussed the importance of having a group GVR (Grapevine rep.). They increase interest in the publication and explain to newcomers what the magazine is.

We also discussed whether the Grapevine has outlived it's usefulness. Here are some of our thoughts: The stories are current so they may be more interesting to newcomers than some stories in other available literature. The Grapevine responds to changes in how we get information, i.e., online and non-print products. The Grapevine office feels that they will be self-supporting eventually, and are coming closer to this. It was suggested that an Area wide survey be done to see why people aren't subscribing. Maybe they're getting the information by other means.

Policy and Admissions

1. Discuss the effectiveness of the timetable for distribution of the assembly agendas and background information.

It was mentioned that this section in the existing "Policies and Procedures" document is essentially unchanged in the proposed draft of the "Area 40 Policies and Procedures" draft document dated July 15, 2006. The question was raised about the difference in time allotted for distributing materials and the Fall Assembly. There is less than 1 month in Spring and 6-7 weeks in Fall. We discussed getting the information in a more timely manner in Spring when there is usually a bigger workload. No recommendations were made. There were no floor responses.

Literature—Louise M

1. Review Literature committee items discussed at the GSC, but no action taken or recommendations made.

Page 10 in the General Service Conference report contains the recommendations made, and page 59 of the same publication contain those items that did not pass. We read these items and did not have much more discussion. No floor response.

District Committee Member Breakout facilitated by Mark and Robbie S.

Who is on the Area Committee—does it include DCMs? In the past, we used to have Area meetings, and these would include DCMs, and this continues today.

Why can't we have absentee ballots for our elections? Mainly because no one would show up to Assembly! If we were to use absentee ballots, we would not have discussion between members and therefore no true group conscience.

How strong is the suggestion that a DCM not hold a GSR position at the same time? Serving at one job only allows others to gain experience in service. We need to create the need for service. The groups are not there to create the district—the district is there to serve the groups.

How do you get groups involved in District? As DCM, it is my job to take them the information. Show by example the benefits of being involved in service. Make service attractive, and others will want to become part of this. Ask each group how they want District to be of service to them. Encourage all groups and members to attend Area workshops. Invite Area Committee Chairs to come to Districts for workshops.

How can you avoid taking on more responsibility than you can handle? Concept 9—overloading leads to a poor structure, and you cannot do a good job. Ask for help!! Talk with other District members for their suggestions. Read the Chapter to The Family Afterwards in our Big Book.

Who Chairs Group Conscious Meetings? It is the groups decision as we are autonomous. It is their decision.

What is the general consensus or past rulings as to what should be brought to the floor as a 'floor action'. There are guidelines as to what constitutes a 'floor action'. A floor action is reserved for an emergency that cannot wait till next Assembly.

General Service Representative Breakout facilitated by Bob H., and Loren B.

Should the GSR chair Business meetings, or another person? Sometimes the secretary chairs the meetings as well as the Alternate GSR to gain experience. Each group is autonomous, so they can do what they feel fits their group. We give all of our chairs a chance to chair our group business meetings.

What does a group do with a 13th stepper that harasses female newcomers, and has been warned about this behavior? The group is more important than the individual, so this person was asked to leave the group for one year. Some men met this individual at the door, escorted him to his seat, and after the meeting, escorted him to the door. This did not work for another group. Encourage the women members to grab the newcomer female first!! Talk about this at your group inventory. The Home Group is charged with protecting the newcomer—do this!!

How do you handle those members that use vulgar language and otherwise take over meetings? We give this person 5 minutes to share before they are asked to stop sharing. I was that person early in sobriety and I talked to my sponsor and began to learn how not to be disruptive. The chair is responsible to keep the meeting on topic, and to see that all members who want share receive that chance. Have workshops in the Home Group on this topic.

What do we do about lack of females attending our meetings? First contact with newcomer females is vital. Share with them your experience, and ask for their phone number so you can call the first few days and weeks. Make everybody feel welcome before and after the meeting. Start a women's meeting. Women working with women is best.

Why doesn't the Area Treasurer send out acknowledgements of donations made by groups? There was no clear answer. Introduce an agenda item to cover this concern for inclusion in the Spring Assembly.

How do we find balance in our Service Responsibilities at the Home Group Level?

God put people in my life to teach me how to say 'no'. We have a small group, so I will take the service work until someone else is there to volunteer. I'm in service to give back what I've been given; if I want to stay sober, I have to be active in service. Sometimes when I take on too much service work, it is just feeding my ego.

Our group is having a hard time following the Traditions. How can we learn about the traditions and apply them to our meetings? I use a Traditions Checklist once a week at our meeting. We read the short form of the Traditions at each of our meetings. A good place to start is a Group Conscience meeting and start bringing the Traditions up as a meeting topic. Each group is autonomous except if it affects other groups. If I see something that violates a Tradition I try to deal with it. Bill W. said that every group has the right to be wrong. The Traditions are not to be interpreted—just learn to abide by them. Discuss the Tradition to fit the month, try not to read all of them at one sitting—too much information. Ask your sponsor to go through the Traditions with you.

Roundup Reports

Spring Roundup—2006

The Montana 2006 Spring Roundup was held at the MSU Strand Union Building in Bozeman the weekend of June 2-4. Although the attendance was lower than anticipated, there was still a good turnout and everyone there enjoyed themselves. The scheduled Friday night speaker had to cancel for health reasons. Patty C. of Great Falls stepped in on short notice and did a wonderful job. All of the speakers were inspirational and entertaining. There were a total of 4 AA speakers and one Al-anon speaker. In the end, the roundup lost about \$2,000. We had anticipated roughly the same number of people would attend as did at the last one held in Bozeman 3 ½ years before. District 72 paid the deficit the roundup incurred.

Submitted by Gail M—Spring Roundup Secretary.

Fall Roundup—2006

We had a successful 2006 Fall Roundup in Billings on September 8, 9, and 10. There were 428 people in attendance: 348 AAs and 80 Al-anons. There was no Saturday Night Banquet and things went well without it. I did not receive any complaints at the roundup about it. Since this was successful without a banquet, maybe some other cities in Montana would be able to host an upcoming roundup.

The preliminary estimate of expenses look good. We are having a closing meeting on September 25th. We will pay bills and write a post roundup report. We will have \$1000 seed money to send on to Butte. It looks like we will have around \$1300 profit after expenses. As some of you know, coffee prices were \$1.50 a cup at the roundup. We kept careful accounting and are pleased to report that the coffee was self supporting—we broke even. There was approximately \$600 worth of coffee sales. The Committee has done a wonderful job of putting on this event. I would like to thank all of them for a job well done. I also would like to thank Gerry R. for bringing the Area 40 Archives to this event.

Yours in service, Don B, 2006 Fall Roundup Chair.

Spring Roundup—2007

Plans for the spring roundup are going well. The theme for the 2007 spring roundup is Extravagant Promise—We Think Not. It is going to be at the Copper King/Ramada Inn in Butte. We have a block of rooms and prices are set at \$69.00. The dates of the roundup are May 18-20th, 2007. We have Beth G. from Ohio, and Sister Maurice from New York, and several others. Al-anon also has their speaker lined up along with an Alateen speaker. There is much fun to come for all. We hope you can join us in May of 2007. There are flyers in the back of the room.

Yours in service, Marcy D.

Area 40 Delegate's Report—Scott W

My name is Scott W and I am an alcoholic. I am privileged to serve as your contribution to the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous as the Panel 55 Delegate from Area 40 Montana.

Before I get into my report, I just wanted to say congratulations to the new panel of servants to Area 40. Al always, God puts the right people in the right place at the right time to tend to our business and I am confident that has happened again as the result of the elections. Congratulations again to each of you.

One other thank you I wanted to be sure to mention is to the past Delegates for their willingness to be of service not only to Area 40 but to have taken the time to answer my plethora of questions over the past few years. One of them in particular I

want to single out, Earl our Area Advisor. Just about two years ago Earl and I sat down for a cup of coffee in Bozeman. That conversation went on for many hours. The result of that conversation was a lot more preparation on my part for the task of serving as Delegate. Earl has been ever so gracious over the past couple of years to only offer input when asked and know he is going to be asked when I started the conversation with "Hello Mister Area Advisor". Thank You again Earl, for your service.

To thank everyone properly would take more time than I have been allotted this morning. I could easily go around the room and point out specific events &/or occasions where almost everyone in this room had had a hand in my growth and understanding of this service position. Every GSR, DCM, District level committee member and anyone who has given of their time to pass on what has been so freely given to them will forever be a part of the continuum of the history of Alcoholics Anonymous in Area 40. Thank you all for your willingness to serve and your willingness to pass the torch as you rotate on to the next service position.

Neither credit nor gratitude can be apportioned amongst any service worker, so much to this group, so much to that. All are essential regardless of rank or title. And for that matter, the most important title in Alcoholics Anonymous is one we rarely think of at all and that of course is AA member. The principle of anonymity comes alive as we do not leave our name on our accomplishments but our accomplishments become a part of the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous as we perform the service work placed before us.

So, what have I been doing since we last met?

Two weeks after the Spring Assembly I was in New York for the 56th General Service Conference. This is a week long conference held in New York City where the Delegates from the US and Canada discuss the Agenda we reviewed at the Spring Assembly. The voting members of the Conference are 93 Delegates, 7 Class A (non alcoholic) Trustees, 14 Class B (alcoholic) Trustees, directors from the AAWS and Grapevine boards and staff from the General Service Office and Grapevine for a total of 135 voting members.

I had been told that attending my second Conference would be different than the first Conference. That was an understatement. At the first conference I was your contribution, served on the Trustees committee the best I could, debated on the floor of the Conference a couple of times and came away from the experience excited and filled with wanting more.

This year I had an entirely different experience and a much deeper level of responsibility that showed in my participation at the Conference. I was honored to serve as the Chair of the Conference Committee on Trustees, give a talk at the Delegate's only meeting on Saturday night prior to the start of the Conference, and facilitate the election of the new Pacific Regional Trustee. Those events alone would have been enough for the week. But my primary purpose was to serve as your contribution to the Conference, a purpose I discovered to be a spiritual journey.

I found the overall process of the Conference to be remarkable in the fact that anything was accomplished, let alone many things well. The ability to tend to the ancillary housekeeping items of our Fellowship takes place as the result of the Delegates being not only well prepared but the living examples of the Steps, Traditions and Concepts: in particular the 2nd Tradition with God expressing Himself in our group conscience, the 3rd Concept with the Right of Decision, the 4th Concept with the Right of Participation and the 5th Concept with the Right of Appeal.

The opportunity to share with my fellow Delegates the group conscience of Area 40 through my voice &/or vote and to have an honest & open debate on the Agenda items was one more opportunity to discover the spiritual process of the Conference.

Simply, the General Service Conference experience is a set of memories I hope are forever stamped on my mind. Truly an experience I am so grateful to have not missed.

If I were to tell you I had light opinions that would be the same as me telling you I have slight personality traits instead of the more correct description of gross defects of character. Consequently, my opinions are generally firm and best described as convictions. Sometimes I stand right up to here – in my convictions, but I still have them. I have come to understand my convictions and opinions to be lessons in humility. They keep me coming back. In that process of coming back, my heart and mind have become open to the ideas and ideals you have placed before me for my consideration.

I believe it is incumbent upon all of us to have informed convictions and not light opinions for two main reasons. First, without the left or right, the pro or con of a debate we will not be able to find the prudent middle ground. Without the honest & open discussion, we will not be able to hear the God of our understanding through our group conscience.

And secondly, this is our life on the line. The items that were discussed at the General Service Conference were not a debate on what if and could be, but a discussion, deliberation and debate for the direction of our Fellowship. That was one more part of the spiritual journey of the General Service Conference that required my time, energy and total resources so that I could be an effective member and more importantly observant of our Traditions in remembrance that the actions taken at the conference are what is best for Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.

It should not matter if the debate of the Agenda Items takes 10 minutes or 10 years. Without that process, we will not reach an informed group conscience. One of my favorite members of this Fellowship often says “If we are all thinking the same, then no one is thinking”. Another phrase I often think about is ‘good enough is the enemy of the best’.

At the Conference again this year, my belief and trust in the committee system took on a new light and understanding. I knew the committee I served on did the best job we could within the time allotted. I had no doubt the other committees took their tasks and agenda items to heart and debated each item to their best abilities.

The Conference process allows time for debate of the recommendations that came to the floor from the committees. However, debate of every item that came to the floor would make the work of the committees, the committee process and the Conference process itself of little or no value. That would make trust of my fellow Delegates of little or no value. I discovered a deeper level of Trust than I ever thought possible nor had experienced up to that moment.

Was that blind trust? I do not believe so. There are spiritual safeguards in place to catch any errant action that may have taken place. Simply, the room was filled with Delegates and voting members of the Conference who absolutely love the Fellowship, who wanted the best for Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole and were willing to be of service to ensure the observance of our primary purpose.

And one last thought on the spiritual journey of the General Service Conference, specifically the value of the minority opinion. One of the many components of the Conference that makes the group conscience so complete is the diversity of the Delegates. Within that diversity are opinions, convictions and a multitude of variants for discussion on any subject, let alone the Agenda Items. The diversity is a main ingredient to attaining the prudent, workable middle ground of any Agenda Item. However, the failure to voice the minority opinion at the General Service conference, at our Area Assembly, at your District meeting or at your Home Group is a disservice to our Fellowship. Simply, if you disagree with a discussion, that does not make you a bad member of Alcoholics Anonymous, but will hopefully make you willing to voice your **informed** conscience on the Item. Perhaps, the only mistake we can make is not debating in fear our voice will not be popular. Again, good enough is the enemy of the best.

Please take out your copies of the report of the 56th General Service Conference. A year ago, I asked everyone in attendance to take the Conference report home and NOT throw it in the stack of stuff to be reviewed at some unknown later date, but to review the information and share it with your groups. I will ask the same again this year. Please review the report and share the proceedings of the Conference with your groups. There is a tremendous amount of time, energy and resources that go into the General Service Conference. Area 40 spends a lot of those resources with multiple Pre Assemblies in the spring of each year, dissemination of the Conference Agenda & Background information, committee meetings at the Spring Assembly and numerous hours of discussion & debate to determine the sense of Area 40 on every Agenda Item. Please make the time to report to your group the results of the Conference.

To make the review of the report a bit simpler, there are a few places in the report that I found to be interesting and hopefully you will also. Again, due to the limitations of time we will not go through the entire report, but I would like to point out a few specific pages.

- 1) Page 6. Bob P gave the keynote address. Bob was attending his last General Service Conference as the Eastern Canada Regional Trustee. He discusses a Corrections meeting at a prison he attended on the top of the page. Specifically, as the meeting ended the judge in attendance made the statement “I hope AA doesn’t let us down this time.” That was in 1996. Bob and several other members have made sure that meeting has been attended to since that date. More about obligations and responsibilities later in this report.
- 2) Page 9. Here you will find the list of the Conference Advisory Actions that passed by substantial unanimity. Of the four Agenda Items put forth by Area 40, one passed, one failed on the floor of the Conference and two came out of committee as additional considerations. Three of the Agenda Items were assigned to the Finance Committee. The item referencing assistance to group treasurers and group finances passed. The item asking to rescind the literature shipping and handling charge failed on the floor of the Conference. The item requesting the elimination of discounts on volume purchases of AAWS literature was an additional consideration of the committee. The last of the four Agenda Items, the observation of

the change in even and odd panel Delegates also was an additional consideration under the Policy/Admissions Committee. And speaking of Additional Considerations:

- 3) Page 59. The additional considerations. An additional Committee consideration is an item that was discussed but no action was taken or recommendation made. A thorough review of the Advisory Actions and the additional considerations will produce a great majority of the Agenda Items for consideration by the 57th General Service Conference. For example, on page 59, under Archives, second bullet point. Look at the last sentence of the paragraph and you will see the statement “be brought to the 2007 Conference Committee”. A quick review of the Advisory Actions and Additional Considerations looking for that statement or similar statements will indicate an Agenda Item on next year’s Conference.
- 4) Page 14. The Finance Report. Vince K, Class A (non alcoholic) Trustee gave his usual clear, concise report. There are some very interesting figures, break down of contributions by individual and groups to be self-supporting, and some really great news regarding the overall financial health of our Fellowship. However, as we experienced a few years ago here in Area 40 with a momentary shortfall issue coming at us unless we took action, a similar financial issue is continuing to take place that will affect the services provided by the General Service Office. A message of need was carried into Area 40 a few years ago and the groups, individuals, Districts and other resources answered the call. I am pleased to announce to everyone here today that I recently received an email from Vince K indicating that contributions for the first six months of 2006 in the US and Canada were up over 13% versus 2005. During his tenure of serving our Fellowship, Vince has never seen that type of increase in one year and wanted to know what happened. One more time the carrying of a consistent message, having faith and taking action have proven themselves out again. Thank you and your group if you are part of the ground swell of contributors to the General Service Office. The financial statements are located on pages 62—65.
- 5) Page 17. Francisco A, Panel 55 Delegate from California Northern Coastal Area gave a great presentation on “Changes in the Alcoholic Coming to AA”. His presentation centered on his prejudice towards new comers. But when he would visit with them in the language of the heart, the prejudice fell away. His talk is copied in it’s entirety on this page.
- 6) Page 23. Our new GSO Archivist, Amy F presentation that was given to the Conference on Friday morning. The text in the report contains the words of Bill W from a talk given in 1954 to a group of AAs in Fort Worth, TX and an explanation of the development of the Third Legacy. This was a very moving presentation, but on Friday morning, last day of the Conference, it did not take much to tip over the most hardened heart in the room.

On the following pages you will find reports from the General Service Board, Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. (our publishing company), and the Grapevine Boards.

Those are just a few of the pages that caught my attention. I do hope you will take the time to review the report and share the information with your groups. As always, should you have any questions now or anytime in the future, please ask. I will do my best to answer your questions or assist you with finding the answer.

One of the treats of serving as Delegate was traveling all over Montana and giving a report on the General Service Conference. I gave 10 of those reports this past summer. Although giving the report was enjoyable as I got to relive the Conference week, the real treat was the opportunity to sit down and visit with so many friends and meet so many new friends. It was through that visiting that I got to understand the local challenges of the Districts and the District level committees. I got the opportunity to share some experience, strength and hope and more importantly was able to assist many members of our Fellowship in finding answers to their questions on service work, committee work and a multitude of other issues. Each of those questions increased my knowledge and understanding of this Fellowship, so again thanks to each of you for helping me understand the service position of Delegate.

I would like to share a little with you about obligations and responsibilities.

I took on a responsibility the first meeting I attended in Alcoholics Anonymous. I may not have recognized the responsibility and be sure I wasn’t interested in any responsibility when I first came to the rooms of AA. I had my own primary purpose and that was to get them off my back long enough so I could go do what I wanted when I wanted. To meet any obligations or responsibilities was not on my list of “things to do” for the first few months of sobriety. But the moment I said I was an alcoholic, I became a member of a worldwide Fellowship of men and women trying to recover from a seemingly hopeless condition of mind and body. And thus began a spiritual journey that has taken many twists and turns along the path.

So where are the responsibilities, accountability and obligations? Let’s look a little further.

After just a couple of months of sobriety, my sponsor insisted I attend a District workshop. I can not tell you who the presenters were, what they talked about or why I was supposed to be there. The only thing I remember was at the close of each presentation, the presenter would state they could use help with their committee and asked for volunteers with at least one year of sobriety—at least that is what I remember I heard. Consequently, my hopes to “be of service”, (whatever that was) were dashed at the end of each presentation.

What took place that day made a permanent mark on my memory. I watched members of our Fellowship with undetermined time of sobriety being **responsible** to their service position. I watched as those members were **accountable** to show up on that Saturday to perform the **obligation** of fulfilling the duties of their service position. That demonstration has had a long lasting affect on me.

Responsibility—the ability to respond when asked, such as with an AA request.

Accountability—the ability to be counted on to do what I said I would do when I said I would do it.

Obligation—the actions I offer in an attempt to offset the debt of gratitude I have for Alcoholics Anonymous and the way of life you have given me. The combination of these for me has been integrity—to be unimpaired, undiminished, and whole—trying to make a daily attempt to be of maximum service to God and my fellows.

At the end of my first year of sobriety, I was elected to serve as an Intergroup Representative. I immediately took on the Special Events Chair position at Intergroup and somehow wound up as the Public Information Chair for the Fall 1992 Roundup in Billings. So it began and I never looked back, continuing down the service structure. All of this has had a price, a huge price or small cost depending on my attitude and perception of the facts on any given day. To my surprise the cost had very little to do with money but everything to do with the changes in my attitude and my perception of the world around me.

When I first arrived at the doors of Alcoholics Anonymous there were people there to greet me, make me feel welcomed, answer my questions, help me get over myself and show me through their actions what sobriety could be for me. Simply, they not only understood to keep what was given to them they had to give it away, but with their obligations of gratitude were giving back what had so freely been given to them. They showed me that responsibility, helped me become accountable and demonstrated a willingness to be of service. Now after a few years of sobriety, going down into the service structure to almost nothingness, I reflected on what I am doing to welcome the new person.

At the General Service Conference, the workshop topic was “Passing It On in a Changing World”. The group I attended had some great sharing about the diversity of newcomers and how the basics of Alcoholics Anonymous are as valid today as they were some 70 years ago. However, there was one discussion that got my full attention and precipitated my reflection on what I am doing: not only with newcomers but in my Home Group.

The story went: an older member of the group was asked if he could make coffee on a specific night of the week for a month. The member replied he had already had that service position years ago and he thought someone else should perform the service. Another question was asked of the older member, “How often do you dust your house? If you did it years ago, is it time for someone else to do it or will it not get done?” That question caused me to look at my level of responsibility, accountability and obligations to our Fellowship.

Recently, one of our Area 40 Standing Committee Chairs sent me an email stating a challenge he was trying to resolve—specifically what appeared to be a breakdown in communication regarding Bridging the Gap cards. Those are the cards the folks in the treatment centers fill out so they can be connected to Alcoholics Anonymous either before their discharge or immediately after their discharge from the facility. I do not believe there is any one person or entity at fault for that breakdown. I do believe we all have a part and I especially believe if there be fault in service work, we need to look upon our trusted servants to lead us out of the debacle.

The reason I share that story is not to place blame or point fingers. Yes there is a problem and actions are in place to correct the issue. The reason I share that story is to point out **we** all have a responsibility, accountability and obligation with carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous and tending to the service work placed before us.

When I sit in my District meeting and I volunteer to take a Bridging the Gap contact card I have assumed a responsibility, am expected to be accountable and have an obligation to follow up. If I have ½ a grain of gratitude for the people who carried me along for the first few months of sobriety, I will take care of my obligations out of sheer gratitude if nothing else. Please, if you accept a service position at any level, please perform the service well, do what is placed before you and enjoy the untold gifts that will follow.

As I have continued down the service structure of Alcoholics Anonymous, the level of responsibility and accountability have increased at a comparative rate. I am not implying any service position carries more importance than the next, just the amount of time and energy seemed to increase the further down the structure I have gone. I believe that is a consequence of wanting to uphold my obligations. My sponsor often tells me we write our own report cards in this outfit and we are often the only ones who see those report cards.

I would like to turn back to the Final Conference Report. Each General Service Representative in this room has a responsibility to share the information in that report with your group. Your group is expecting you to be accountable and share the information with them, and I have come to believe we have an obligation to follow through.

Bob H, past General Service Office Manager gave a presentation at his 15th and last General Service Conference in 1977. Almost 30 years ago he offered the following words regarding our Fellowship:

“Some of us sometimes are fearful of the future. We fear this development or that problem may destroy us all. Fear not, if this Fellowship ever falters, it won’t be because of two hatters or professionals in the field. Nor will it be caused by Rand type reports or by members with other problems. No, it won’t be because of any of these things about which we seem to worry so much. If we ever fail, make no mistake about it, it will be simply because of us. It will be because we can’t control our own egos or get along well enough with each other. It will be because we are just not wise enough or good enough to hold this thing together. It will be because we think too much about our rights and too little about our obligations and responsibilities. But I don’t think we are going to fall apart. I know we are going to stick together and keep AA strong and growing.

You and I know a land that is bright and there is a stillness for the spirit. A land we can live in for as long as we choose to do so. For it exists really only in our own hearts. It’s a magical land called AA. The Lord I believe created AA for us. May it be His will that we keep it safe.”

I believe those words are still true today. I also believe I am honored to be a part of the environment of recovery and observance of the Traditions and Concepts that is alive and well in Area 40. Simply put, I am no more than a product of that environment. Everything I am today or hope to be tomorrow I owe to you.

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service to our Fellowship.

Scott W
Panel 55, Area 40

Past Delegate Sharing

Bob H: We are not carrying the message effectively at WATCH East. We are not filling out the slips from inmates in WATCH East, and some are not done ever! We are falling short of our responsibility. The slipperiest place for the inmates is after Treatment and before AA. If you are not going to fill out the slip—Don’t take it! We are giving AA a black eye on two fronts—with the inmate and the Treatment professional. Make sure the Treatment Chair you elect will do the job. Don’t promise to do something for AA and not follow through. We need to renew our efforts to share what AA is and is not. Follow through on the cards. Did you send it out? Did the inmate respond back? Follow through!!

Loren B: Thank You to the current Area 40 Committee. We have elected a great committee for the next rotation. Why do we come to Assembly? Before the committee system, motions were made without background information as we were not informed. The committee system improved our effectiveness and understanding. Service work in general—what’s the benefit?—what are we trying to perform? Many coming to AA find the AA number in the local phone book due to work by the Public Information committee. PSAs on radio and TV are effective for those drunks ready to come to AA. That is why we do service work. My life became less chaotic, and I gained more serenity when I began to give something back to AA. This was a foreign thought for me. I began to go through the book with my sponsor and soon got involved in service. I went to a District meeting to be helpful. I served on an ad hoc committee, but all I could do was to show up—I was not able to do the work at first, but I progressed and have continued to move on to be involved in more service. Now, I am the ‘sucker’ at my Home Group—I vacuum for my Home Group and will do this for the next three months. Service is gratitude made visible. Am I still grateful for what AA continues to give me, or do I make excuses for not getting involved? Thanks.

Spring Assembly—April 14 and 15, 2007

Thank You, Paul W, Area 40 Secretary.

