

AREA 40 FALL ASSEMBLY 2007
SEPTEMBER 22 & 23, 2007
AT THE YOGO IN
LEWISTOWN, MONTANA

Welcome to the Assembly

Carole B.-Alternate Delegate/Area Chair—opened the Assembly promptly at 8:00 am with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Sandy read our 12 Traditions and Jim read the short form of our 12 Concepts. Connie R., Area 40 Secretary, took the roll with 13 of 14 districts represent. District 21 had no members represented again at Area. There were 93 voting members present and 120 total participants at this Spring 2007 Assembly. Thanks to everyone for coming.

Orientation to the Assembly –Andrew W. Area 40 Delegate

Welcome everyone. My name is Andrew W. and I am an alcoholic. I also have the pleasure and privilege to serve as your Delegate for this rotation. I especially want to welcome all the new General Service Representatives (GSRs) and everyone attending his or her first Area Assembly. Would all the new GSRs please stand up? Would everyone who is attending his or her first Area Assembly please stand up. I hope you all get as much out of being involved in general service as I have.

I want to give a special welcome to our Regional Trustee, Chuck B.. Chuck is from Iowa and he is the regional trustee for the West Central Region. It is a pleasure having Chuck here and having him participate in our Assembly.

I also want to welcome all of the past delegates in attendance today and thank them for continuing to share their experience and their enthusiasm for service with us.

My job now is to give you a brief orientation to this assembly. The first thing that happens following this orientation is that members of the Area Committee will give their reports. This includes the Area officers and committee chairs sitting at the front table as well as all of the district committee members. If you have any questions for the committee chairs or Area officers, feel free to ask them during breaks. You may even want to invite them to visit your district.

In Area 40 we are organized on a committee system based on the committee system used at the General Service Conference. After all the reports this morning, we will have all of the standing committee meetings concurrently. Feel free to attend any of the committee meetings or to attend the Workshop that will be held in this room while the standing committees are meeting. The committee meetings are led by the Area Committee chairs except for the Finance Committee, which is led by the Area Treasurer. Each committee discusses the items on the agenda for that committee. All of the items of we will discuss in committee at this assembly are Area 40 specific items. The committee will discuss these items and choose to make a recommendation or choose to take no action. When taking a vote in committee, only the members of the committee vote.

This afternoon, I will give my report as your delegate. One of my responsibilities as delegate is to attend the General Service Conference in New York. The General Service Conference is how A.A. as a whole in the U.S. and Canada get together to make decisions on matters affecting A.A. as a whole. I attended my first GSC in April and part of my report will be on the Conference and my activities in giving my delegate's report around the Area.

Following my report, we will have an election for the Area 40 nominee for West Central Regional Trustee. Chuck will be rotating on from his position after the 58th General Service Conference in April. There will be an election for a new West Central Regional Trustee at the GSC and each of the eight Areas in our region can elect a nominee. We will choose our nominee this afternoon. We are lucky to have Chuck here today. If you have any questions on the many responsibilities of a regional trustee, feel free to ask Chuck during the breaks, at lunch, or during the workshop which he will be leading. For the

election of our nominee, we will use third legacy voting procedures and there will be an orientation to this process before we begin voting.

Then we will begin our floor assembly where we meet as whole to hear the committee reports. The committee chair will present the committees report on each agenda item and then we will have a chance to discuss the item. If the committee makes a recommendation on the item we will take a vote following the discussion. In order to be a valid vote we must have a quorum (two-thirds of the voting members present). By past action, a vote must receive two-thirds of the votes cast in order to be considered to have passed. There will also be time for minority opinion after a committee recommendation is voted on. The purpose of minority opinion is to help ensure we have an open discussion on each issue and that no voice is squelched in the process.

One piece of advice I have for those of you who are new to Area Assemblies is to be active participants. Take part in the discussions. I know that it can get somewhat confusing at your first assembly, as we tend to use a lot of jargon. Sometimes it may be unclear as to what we are talking about. Please ask questions if you are unsure. You might find that many others share your confusion. In the interest of saving time, if someone else has already expressed your opinion, it is not necessary to repeat it. If, however, someone else has not expressed your opinion, please go to the mike and share it.

After dinner tonight, our speaker will be our West Central Regional Trustee, Chuck B.. This will be followed by breakout sessions for DCMs and GSRs. Please feel free to place any questions you have for these sessions into the appropriate ask-it-baskets located at the back of the room.

Tomorrow we will hear reports from the Roundups, Intergroups, and the Regional Forum. We will also hear updates on the establishment of the Area 40 800 number and the Service Workshops. After past delegate sharing from Bob H. and Mark S., we will continue with our floor assembly.

Finally, a reminder to get things started: we ask all of the GSRs to sign in with your District Committee Member (DCM). Your DCM will turn the sign in sheet to the Area Secretary, Connie R.. This will enable us to determine how many voting members are present and to determine the number of votes required for a quorum, which is two-thirds of all voting members.

Thank you all for being here. I hope you enjoy your weekend at the assembly.

Yours in love and service,
Andrew W.
Area 40 Delegate
Panel 57

Area Chair/Alternate Delegate—Carole B.

Greetings Area 40,

Welcome to the Area 40 Fall Assembly to all who are here for their first time. Since I left you last spring, I visited Districts 41, 42, 51, 61, and 71. My goal was to generate agenda items specific to Area 40 for this Assembly. Also I sent out reminders to all the Area Committee and District Committee Members asking for agenda items. As you can see, we have a few items to discuss this weekend. I stand here with much anticipation of the outcome on Sunday. You never know, I might get to pick my first Ad-Hoc Committee!

Early this month, attended the West Central Regional Forum in Omaha. I have to tell you, I am very appreciative of the people who serve Alcoholic Anonymous at any level. Twice over the weekend, I got to visit with Leonard Blumenthal, our Chairman of the Board. He has been attending meetings for over 41 years and he's not alcoholic. Last weekend, Leonard was at the Georgia Area Assembly for their elections. All the Trustees, GSO staff members and the GSO general manager absolutely love AA. Mary S. will be giving us a report on the Forum on Sunday.

I have yet to visit Districts 21 and 23 and would love an invitation. My prayers are with the smaller districts and groups in small towns trying to keep the doors open. The last 3 years, I've been lucky to have a plethora of meetings to go to, but I've spent most of my sobriety in Districts 21, 51, and 42. Anyhow, please let me know what I can do to help.

In just one year from this weekend, we'll be electing our Area Committee for the 2009-2010 rotation. If you have an interest in a committee, please attend their committee meeting. I would have never guessed 17-1/2 years ago when I attended my first Assembly that I would someday be the chair.

Enjoy the weekend and thanks for letting me serve.

Carole B.
Area Chair/Alt Delegate

Area 40 Secretary – Connie R.

Hello everyone, my name is Connie R. and I am an alcoholic. Welcome to the 2007 Fall Assembly to all of you who have been to an Area Assembly and a very big and warm welcome to the newcomers. This most definitely can be, as the big book says, "an experience you must not miss". To those of you who have never been to assembly, sit next to someone who has been here before, ask questions, and remember, we have all experienced the fear of our first assembly.

I apologize for not getting the Spring Assembly minutes out on time. In that process, I hurried and did not complete the CPC floor actions in the minutes. I have completed them and they have been placed with the DCM's sign in sheet on your table. Please replace these corrections in the Spring Assembly minutes you received in the mail. This is one error I am aware of and will correct any others you might find and send those corrections with the Fall Assembly minutes

DCM's, on the table you have you the voting members list. Please fill these out and return them to me by the end of the 1st break. This helps us establish the total number of voting members present, substantial unanimity, and a quorum should voting be necessary this weekend. Those eligible to vote during Assembly are DCMs or their alternate, GSRs or their alternate, but not both, and our Area Chairs and Officers.

Some of us have stood at the microphones before and some of us have not, I encourage all of you to participate in this process. This is the only way our group conscience can be heard. If you have a question you would rather not ask aloud, there are baskets on the back table you can put the question in. These are for the GSR breakout and the DCM breakout that will happen later tonight. There are time limits on the reports and on expressing our opinions. They are; 5 minutes for Area 40 Chairs and DCM reports and 3 minutes for floor discussion at the microphones. I have my handy timer here, so please stop speaking when the timer goes off and allow the next person to share.

Committee Chairs please remember to have someone take minutes during your committee breakout sessions. I will need copies of these given to me by the end of this Assembly.

The following are motions from our Fall Assembly 2007:

**The Public Information Committee makes the following recommendation:
Implement as soon as possible an Area 40 800 number, utilizing the services and contract from
Answernet. Contract to be a month to month agreement, with a maximum, possible expenditure of**

\$1,000.00 per month to Area 40. The Area 40 Public Information Chair will make reports regarding utilization and expense at each Area Assembly.

This motion was made, seconded, voted on and it was passed. A request for reconsideration was made and it was seconded voted on and failed. The motion remained as passed.

I began receiving from GSO information to begin installing the Fellowship New Vision program. This is the new way GSO will be receiving the updates for Groups, Districts and Area. The program allows me to put in new or corrected information and it is interfaced with GSO so it becomes effective immediately. I used myself as a test since I was receiving 3 mailing from GSO, one as DCM, Area Secretary and Area Records Keeper. I was able to remove myself as DCM for District 61 and since then have been only receiving 1 mailing. It works! I received information from David R past DCM of District 12 this week about his leaving and that Steve will be the new DCM and a new GSR for a Group in Absarokee. I will be able to make the changes and they too should be receiving GSO mailings faster than the old way of notifying GSO. Please let me know if there are changes or duplicate mailing coming to you so I can take care of them right away. My email address is secretary@aa-montana.org.

I again asked that the committee reports be emailed to me. I wish to thank all of you who sent them to me early. For those who have not done so please be sure to get to me 2 copies by the end of Assembly. I truly appreciated Conrad's honesty at Spring Assembly about not sending information to him by email as he does not use it. I would appreciate if each of you would let me know if emailing the minutes would work for you or if you would prefer to have them snail mailed to you. It was quite expensive making the copies and then mailing them out.

I hope each of you have your own "experience you must not miss" this weekend and will come back to create new ones next spring. Just like recovery, being part of general service is a process well worth the experience.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service.
Connie R.

Area 40 Treasurer—Curt K.

Hi everyone, my name is Curt K. and I am an alcoholic. Thanks to God, the actions of AA, and sponsorship, I've been sober since July 22, 1993. And I have the privilege of serving as your Area 40 Treasurer.

A special welcome to all of you who are attending your first Assembly. And welcome back to those of you who have returned after a number of years.

And now about money...Early this summer, Carole B. forwarded me the transcript of a workshop held at the 57th General Service Conference in April, where Andrew was so competently representing our Area. The workshop was titled "Spiritual Value of Our AA Dollars". One of the questions addressed at the workshop was "What practical and spiritual benefits come from contributing in the hat?" The answers ranged from the practical needs of our groups for coffee, rent, and literature to the spiritual benefit of the sense of belonging that comes from participating fully in our recovery at all levels. And as if they were speaking on the floor of our Area Assembly here in Montana, the participants connected the practice of the 7th Tradition with "carrying the message to the person who still suffers."

As we address the agenda before us this weekend, and certainly as we consider the Area budget for the coming year, we would do well to ask this same question of ourselves. What practical and spiritual

benefits come from contributing to Area 40? If our primary purpose in AA is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety, then we must assume that the money forwarded to the Area by the many groups across the state is intended for this purpose as well. Well, what does that look like? On what activities should we be spending our Area funds? What are our priorities?

When the Finance Committee meets this morning, I hope there will be a lively discussion about the best uses of the 7th Tradition funds so generously entrusted to us by AA groups from across the Area. The discussion should be filled with the great variety of experience, strength, and hope that makes our Fellowship so strong here in Montana. (And with no offense meant to the four other members of the committee, this means I expect there to be more people in the room than just our five members.) The practical outcome of the Committee's work should be a budget proposal for 2008 to be presented to the full Assembly later today.

But the Finance Committee and the Area as a whole have some challenges to face regarding our budget. The details of our current financial situation can be seen on the August financial statements available at the registration table outside the door and on the table at the back. (see attached) The simplified version goes like this – we're spending more than we're receiving from groups. And based on our current spending levels, and the current rate of group contributions, we will dip into our prudent reserve significantly by the end of 2008.

The surplus we amassed two years ago has been spent. We're not keeping up with the significantly larger budget we have grown over the past two years.

We can't keep spending more than we take in – not over the long haul. So what are our options? They are simple really. One, we increase group contributions to meet the budget. Two, we cut the budget to match the group contributions. Or three, we do some combination of options one and two. Option one does not require reprioritizing our spending – it only requires that our groups back up the budget we have adopted in our group conscience over the years. We asked the Area to provide these services, so now stick to our word and fund them. Options two and three require that we examine our spending priorities and decide which are most important and which we can let go.

So we get to decide. In fact, it's our responsibility to decide. What are our priorities? Are we willing to fund them? We are the group conscience of Area 40. We've been entrusted with these funds to fulfill our primary purpose. So I look forward to your full participation and the certain expression of God's will in our actions.

Thanks for letting me serve,
Curt K.
Area 40 Treasurer

Area 40 Triangle Editor—Raymona C.

Thank you all for entrusting me with the Triangle for this rotation. I especially want to thank my fellow Panel members for their patience and persistence with me as I continue to make mistakes. I am finding out that I do not quite understand exactly what "anonymity protected" means in relationship to posting the Triangle to the web site. With the constant glitches, I am becoming more and more humble as we go. Please forgive me as I bumble my way through this process with the guidance and patience of the Area 40 committee.

That being said, I would like to express my happiness in this opportunity. It turns out to be a more complicated job than I originally anticipated but I feel confident I can continue to make strides in the right direction.

There are some excess copies of past issues of the Triangle on the back table that you are all welcome to take home to your home groups or shut ins or prisons or where ever else you feel such a publication would benefit others. I usually have extras printed just incase more subscriptions come in or extras are requested.

I trust everyone is receiving their Triangle and that corrections are slowly being made to mailing lists and expiration dates. Whew! There is way more room for error than I thought in this process! I am glad that you all understand that I am not only alcoholic but human as well.

I have begun creation of the next issue of the Triangle. I sent out an email last week asking DCM's, committee members and others to bring a short two or three paragraph story to assembly with them that I might put in the next issue with titles such as "my first experience at assembly" or "my favorite experience at assembly", "my worst experience at assembly", "my funniest experience at assembly", you get the idea. I would also like to encourage each of you currently present to contribute in the same way. The catch is that it must be submitted to me prior to the end of this assembly. I am sure a few of you could jot down a paragraph or two during the assembly or on your coffee break, lunch hour, during breakfast, in your room, etc. I ask that your story be personal, brief—keeping it to a couple paragraphs, somewhere in the neighborhood of 100 — 200 words would be great. I want to leave here with enough stories to get the next issue to print by the end of this coming week. Then, another issue will follow around early November to summarize the assembly with a post assembly issue. This will get me back on schedule for the proposed 8 issues a year. The final issue for 2007 will then come out between Christmas and New Years.

I hope to be a bit more disciplined next year in keeping the issues closer to an even 6 weeks apart. It's tough not to let your personal life sometimes interfere with business but I am working on staying on task more promptly. What can I say, there enters that humanity again.

I am grateful to be here and be a part of this wonderful assembly and I hope that you all are encourage to participate in what ever way the Creator moves you. Come heck or high water, we are a team and stick together we must or we die.

Thank you.

Area 40 Archives—Conrad M.

Good Morning. My name is Conrad M., Area 40 Archive/Structure chair person. I did not get the opportunity to give any workshops this summer. I did get invited to speak at a campout near Livingston hosted by Park County Intergroup. I spent time this summer reading past issues of Markings, the archives news letter from GSO.

Later today we will be looking at two agenda items that concern Area 40. First our archivist has requested Area 40 fund his attendance at the National Archives Workshop and second, look at the Pre-assembly concept in Area 40 along with the review of three other items. If any of these are of interest to you please attend our committee meeting in the Kendal Room. We want your input. Thanks you.

Area 40 Corrections—Bill E.

9/21/2007

Hello Area 40,

It is great to be in a room full of my people. I would like to welcome anyone new to the assembly and say it has changed me in ways I cannot begin to describe. So relax and have a good time, cause it just keeps getting better and it is very good to see my old friends and fellow thinkers.

I am very grateful to all who participate in the correctional facilities meetings throughout the state. Please continue to pass on your experience, strength, and hope.

Bring along as many as you can hijack, handcuff, or wrestle, to share in the solution

Well, I started out the corrections position in a hurry before the last assembly and it has been slow and steady ever since. I have been blessed with the opportunity to participate in the two area workshops. The first of which was in Glendive, and the second in Dillon. Traveling with my good friend Sean B. to Glendive got me primed for some good debate. I had no idea what I would be debating but I was ready. It was very nice to find a welcoming committee and hot coffee. I had no idea what I would talk about, but I shine at winging it. So I did. At the end of the meeting I was amazed by how much more "I" understood my service position, and while I don't think I probably made any sense whatever, it felt good. Thank you. Dillon was even better. I also got invited to a workshop for professionals in Helena and that was very cool. Thank you again. I was bummed I could not participate in the founders day in Great Falls, as I had a prior commitment, but thank you as well for the invitation. With four kids, my own business, and an alcoholic wife I have a rather busy life as the result of the actions of Alcoholics Anonymous and a most Gracious God.

However, I am eager to participate in more of our gatherings so if you have something coming up and I can make my schedule work around it. I would love to be of service and help in any way I can.

There is a host of opportunity in our area if you are interested in service work. We have the Montana State prison, which will be having a mini conference on the 15th of Dec. put on by the Freedom group. The Watch program, the Start program, Warm Springs forensics unit, not to mention the temporary contact program, the correspondence program, the pink can program, and the facilities in your districts harboring dying drunks. (ie. jails, prisons, etc.)

Speaking of the pink can program many of you I suspect will be happy to know that there are copies of the latest report in the back of the room and I apologize for not having one at the last assembly. If you would like to know more about what the pink can is and how to get your group involved, come talk with me. If you frequent a correctional facility, please find out what literature is needed there and forward that information to me and I will get an order in.

There was a Montana State Prison orientation on the 15th of Sept., and we had a total of five AA's get orientated. Thanks to those people for carrying the message and if you are interested in getting orientated there will be another orientation sometime this quarter. I will let you know as soon as I find out what the date will be.

Thank you for allowing me to serve,

Bill E.

Corrections chair

Area 40 Cooperation with the Professional Community—Terry S.

AREA 40 CPC COMM. REPORT, SEPTEMBER 2007

My name is Terry S. – I am an alcoholic. Since we met here in April, it's been my privilege and pleasure to take part in 2 Area Workshops, in Glasgow (District 21) on May 5, and in Dillon (District 71) on June 2, and take part in 3 local events—a Corrections (and PI/CPC and Treatment) Workshop in Helena (District 61) on April 28, the Founders' Day Celebration in Great Falls (District 41) on June 30, and the Summertime Fun in Recovery in Valier (District 42) on the weekend of July 27-29. At every one of those events I found enthusiastic sober alcoholics who participated, contributed and shared. It's been

great! I know that I've learned and grown from every one of these events, and I hope that I contributed to the success of each of them and have given back some of what I have received.

Our Area Treasurer is a very adept accountant. I am neither adept when it comes to finances, nor an accountant. I've been reimbursed for all of my travels as chair of your Area CPC Committee, I have money left in my budget, and I would like to keep right on visiting your districts and pitching in, wherever and whenever CPC is part of any function, gathering, meeting, workshop or business meeting you might be having. I have trip to Great Falls for a CPC luncheon already set for October 17. I missed a Campout in District 12 in August, for reasons I'll get to in a minute, and I hope to get a second chance to visit you folks before the year is up.

I also want again to encourage all of you, DCMs, GSRs, District Committee chairs, group members, members of the fellowship—if there is any way I can be of service to you, call me, write me, e-mail me—send a message by carrier pigeon, but let me know, and I will do my best to respond as quickly and completely as possible.

You see, I lost my wife in early August. We'd been together as a couple for almost 10 years, married for more than 9 years, and I didn't know that it was time for her to go on home until it happened.

I could have tumbled into morbid reflection and started obsessing on poor little old me, but right along with Sue's family and my family, the fellowship of Alcoholic Anonymous—not only my sponsor and sponsees and the newcomers and old-timers in my home group and home district, but also the rest of you folks from all over Area 40, and even some folks from other places as far away as Philadelphia, PA and Arizona, reached out and offered me support and condolences and hope.

Life may be short, but there is still work to be done, there's experience, strength and hope to be shared, and there is still a world of satisfaction in the doing. So even if my budget runs out before the year ends, if you can use me, let me know, and I will be there if I can find any way at all.

This life we have received is way too wonderful to waste even one day of it. Thank you, all of you, and let's keep on keeping on, again today, and pass it on. One of the ways we attract newcomers is through those professionals who know about what we do and where to find us. Let's keep on cooperating with them, so we can share this way out of despair and darkness with our fellow sufferers who haven't found us yet. Thank you for letting me serve, and helping me serve.

Area 40 Grapevine—BilliJo D.

It is hard for me to fathom the fact that my service term in this position is near half over.

Talking on the phone to Janet in New York, we agreed. The Grapevine Chair position IS the best of all AREA service positions. It is the best because, we think, it is the most fun. I congratulate anyone wearing purple today in support of the Grapevine. My thanks!

Since the spring Assemble I attended the Butte Spring Round-up. There, two young ladies who had never heard of the Grapevine helped blow up the balloons, er, ah, I mean, the grapes, for the now nearly famous Bunch of Grapes Shirt. I have yet to find someone willing to wear the shirt, though. I did talk with a couple of newcomers, in addition to the two young ladies, who had never heard of the Grapevine. I gave away several subscription forms, gave away a few old copies of the Grapevine, sold a couple of books, and visited with numerous people.

The first weekend in June was the annual Grapefest in Helena. I presented a workshop on writing your story for the Grapevine. We literally ran out of time for the workshop, so it was shortened. Yet, the fellowship, meeting old and new friends, was great as was the food and the other presentations and talks.

The last weekend in June was a Founder's Day Celebration in Great Falls. Yes, the good people in District 41 do know that Founder's Day is June 10th, but the 30th was a better day to party. They held a unique workshop with AREA and District chairs co-presenting about their service positions. I had locked myself out of my home that morning while loading my vehicle for the trip. Needless to say, I was late for the workshop and harried. But Jim had a beautiful display up with all the Grapevine materials for sale. It was a really informative workshop and one of the most relaxing afternoons of summer. Again, old and new friends and great food.

September, I am here. And next weekend I should be able to attend the Fall Roundup in Great Falls at least on Saturday.

In October, I plan to attend the Havre Mini-Conference and have a display there. I have also been invited, and have accepted, to a 7th Tradition Workshop in Bozeman on the 20th of October. I am the guest speaker the night before, the 19th, in Helena at the Wilson House.

That is all on the calendar so far until the Spring 2008 Assembly.

A word about the Grapevine budget. As you may be aware, I have spent over budget. I phoned Curt about this because it really bothered me. I try to car-pool (which is sometimes successful such as riding from Missoula to Kalispell to the first pre-assembly with Andrew and car-pooling to the Billings pre-assembly as well). I either share a hotel room or stay with friends. And I eat inexpensively. Yet, I am over budget. Granted a budget of less than \$400.00 a year is not much but I am responsible to it. Curt assured me that he was aware of my efforts to be prudent with AREA expenses. The reasons the Grapevine is over budget are: 1) I live close to Siberia. The mileage and miles to get anywhere where there are people is significant. 2) The substantial increase for the cost of fuel since the budget was set last year; from approximately \$1.60 to \$2.95 darn close to double. 3) I take my position seriously. I attended all pre-assemblies and events to which I was specifically invited. 4) Cost of copying and postage of hard copy background material. I will try for all electronic distribution next spring.

The responsibility declaration states, in paraphrase, that whenever someone asks for help we are to be there to help. That is why our sponsors teach us to say 'yes' to any AA request. So when I am asked to come to speak or to share a display; I will be there with the message of our meeting in print. And I would ask of you to be there also, both physically and financially, in support of all your District and AREA functions. I will continue to do all I can both to be a wise steward of AREA resources and to be available to share.

Area 40 Literature – Linda B.

Hello, my name is Linda and I am an alcoholic. I would like to welcome any newcomers to this assembly. You might think that the agenda is light compared with the spring assembly, but remember we will be discussing the 2008 financial budget and I'm sure the discussion will be lively.

Since last assembly, I have been to the Area 40 Workshop in Glasgow. It was a small gathering and informative to those attending. I was asked if I could bring the Literature display to the Great Falls

Founder Day celebration. I was unable to attend this as there was a conflict with my schedule. I have not received any invitations to participate in any other workshops. I would like to remind the districts that I am available and willing to come to your district, if you want to host a workshop. I've ordered more pamphlets and have restocked some items missing from the literature display. I've revived the traveling literature display and the lending library. New pamphlet jackets are replacing the old style. You'll be able to tell the difference when you look over the display. Our central office has rotated personnel and I have had a letter from Eva Sanchez, the new literature coordinator.

At the spring assembly, I gave lots of information about being a literature chair in your group or district. I asked each district to give me those contact people and their address and phone number. Well, I only received a few. There are still many districts missing. I have the newest service manuals still for sale. If you don't have yours, buy one. They are \$2.50 each. Another item that needs clarification; the books are for display only. The pamphlets are available, but please be self-supporting and pay for the pamphlets you take. I will have the price list for the pamphlets at the table. After last assembly, I had pamphlet purchases over \$150 to restock just the pamphlets and as you can see, the literature budget is already gone. I have a new traveling display that is a work in progress (that means I'm trying to make it more attractive). It will be available for use at any Area 40 function. Any group or district wanting to use this can contact me and make arrangements for its use and will be responsible for the shipping arrangements to and from Billings. If there is anything I can do to be of service this weekend, please come and see me. Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

Linda B., Literature Chair

Area 40 Public Information –Sean B. (reported by Area Advisor Scott W.)

Visitors and voting members of the Area 40 Fall 2007 Assembly:

First of all I would like to thank our Area 40 Advisor Scott W. for his sage-like counsel over the past year and for not making me look like an ass in front of ya'll while reading my report.

There are too many folks across Montana who have contributed to PI work to thank in this short memo, although I would like to mention our Area 40 Webmaster, Alex M., for his patience and technical skills. He greatly contributed towards getting our 1-800# off the ground. As we have turned the corner to actually implement this system, a large part of this project has squarely fallen in his court. It would have been very difficult to get this work going without Alex's calming demeanor and robust skill set.

This summer brought about many road trips across Montana including the Glasgow and Dillon regional Area workshops and several district meetings to discuss public information and the new 1-800#.

The Area 40 1-800-number is **888-607-2000**.

This is the number we plan on using, but we're testing this number before listing it in all of Montana's phonebooks in case we end up getting many wrong numbers, or any other unforeseen conflicts. If the number appears to be working properly, we'll start this winter working with all the white and yellowpages available in Montana. Here are the books I plan on listing the 800# in:

Name	Phone	Sales Number	Location	Web
PDC –Phone Directories Co.	800-443-0810	801-225-0801	Orem, UT	www.phonedir.com
Local Book (Statewide Publishing)	888-442-8838	509-734-1186	Kennewick, WA	www.statewidepub.com
Dex Media	800-422-	800-422-1234	N/A	www.dexknows.com

	1234			
Yellow Book	866-929-3556	888-789-9103	King of Prussia, PA	www.yellowbook.com

Let us know if your district has any other phone books that the PI committee should be aware of.

It is our hope that by Area 40 Assembly we will have basic contact info already being provided to AnswerNet for each district (First name, last initial, district #, city, days available, times available, Primary#, Secondary #, Tertiary#, other notes). We may be able to transfer existing contact info into this new system for districts that already use AnswerNet, although we still ask that you ready your PI or Answering Service chair to complete this task.

In the near future, we are looking into having the system randomly pull a qualified name, generate an e-mail to send to the District Answering Service Chair regarding if the person was reachable, any difficulties, etc. so that we can best track both AnswerNet and our AA contact's performance.

Thank you. Feel free to contact me with any questions. My cell number is 406-581-7571.

Yours in service,

Sean B.

FYI –Scott, here is the format approved by the last assembly, in case you get any questions.

Area 40 Answering Service Structure:

- 1) A caller would dial the Area 40 1-800-Number (or a local number that is forwarded to the 800#) into a digital answering service system that will welcome the caller to the Montana AA hotline and ask them to press 1 to speak to an AA member or 2 for meeting information or anything else (this prioritizes the prospective alcoholic call to be answered first).
- 2) The trained answering service representative would answer within 1 minute *“Alcoholics Anonymous, how can I help you?”* and find out where the caller is looking for a meeting **and/or** if the caller is looking for a person to speak to. In addition, the answering service will ask in what town the caller is located (this prevents mismatching a caller to the wrong city and a basis for tracking minutes used by districts). Here are the two main types of calls:
 - a. **Looking for a meeting:** Using the www.aa-montana.org website the answering service will look up the requested meeting information and use www.MapQwest.com to provide directions, if asked (meeting info is currently updated locally by individual districts).
 - b. **Looking for a member of AA:** Using a newly created, secure, encrypted page on the www.aa-montana.org website the answering service will look for a contact that indicated they would be available at that specific time (AA contact info will be updated locally by individual districts).
 - i. If no scheduled contacts are available, the answering service will ring AA members in that town **not scheduled** to receive calls at that time.
 - ii. If an AA contact is still unavailable the answering service will begin calling AA members **scheduled** to receive calls at that time in the district (outside requested town).

- iii. If an AA contact is still unavailable the answering service will begin calling AA members *unscheduled* to receive calls at that time in the district (outside requested town).
 - iv. If at this point if no one has answered the phone, the answering service is authorized to begin this process in an adjacent district or metro area.
- 3) The minutes used to complete the call will be tracked by district. The district that is *first* identified by the caller will be the district by which that call's minutes will be associated (in case the caller asks for info in different towns).
 - a. A few of the answering services have offered to upload real-time usage info by district to the Area website so that local answering service committee members can track their calls and minutes.
 - b. All answering services can provide a vanity number for ~\$20 a month (i.e. 1-800-get-help).
 - c. AnswerNet is willing to propagate the 800# and local numbers in every phonebook in the state at no cost.
- 4) At the end of the month a master bill will be sent to the Area 40 Treasurer. Local district usage will be billed to the districts who are able/ willing to be self-supporting.
 - a. Districts that cannot afford to pay their portion of the answering service will be paid by Area 40.
 - i. For a charge of \$7.50 each, separate bills can be mailed or e-mailed directly to each district instead of the Area Treasurer having to re-mail each invoice.
 - ii. At this time it is unclear how many of the districts are willing and able to support their share of the overall cost, although all of the districts and intergroups that were interviewed and participated in the conference calls were generally in support of this model.
 - iii. It is estimated that Bozeman, Helena, Missoula and Billings will pay about the same for their answering services and will make up one-half to three-fifths of the total call volume.
 - b. The Area PI Chair will remain the principle contact to the answering service and the local district/inter-group answering service chairs. The Area may at some time decide that this responsibility has grown to the point that it is necessary to have a dedicated Area 40 Answering Service Chair.

Area 40 Treatment – Geoff D.

Since the Spring Assembly, I was able to attend the two area workshops in Glasgow and in Dillon. While in Dillon, I was also able to attend their Campout & Delegate's Day. There's nothing like good food and fellowship.

Thank you to Districts 21 & 71 for all your service.

We have also been working with WATCH West and Bridging the Gap with regard to temporary contact cards. We are trying to determine how to get them out to the District Treatment Contacts in time for AA members to contact the patient before being released.

Writing a letter to the patient is a good way to begin contact before they are released. When writing, introduce yourself and inform them that you had received their name from the Bridging the Gap Program. One suggestion was to have the patient fill out their Bridging the Gap cards half way through their 6 month stay. WATCH East has been doing this and it allows AA members time to establish contact.

MCDC has had two orientations since the last Assembly.

Districts 72 and 61 continue to help support District 71 with WATCH West and MCDC. The WATCH West meetings are on Fridays at 7:00pm. MCDC has their meetings at 6:00pm on Saturdays.

WATCH East continues to have meetings Fridays and Sundays at 7:00pm. Some AA members from Billings and Dickinson, ND are helping to support District 23 to carry the message into the facility.

District 11 continues to have an Introduction to AA meeting at the Rimrock Foundation the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm.

If I can be of service in your District, please feel free to let me know. If you have had a change in your Treatment Chair Contact, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can continue to Bridge the Gap.

One of the more slippery places in the journey to sobriety is between the doors of these facility's and the nearest AA group or meeting.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service,

Geoff D.
Area 40 Treatment Chairperson

DCM Report

District 11--Rich K.

District 11 consists of groups in the Billings area, including Hardin, Roundup, Lockwood, Lodge Grass, Pryor and Huntley having at least 132 regular meetings.

District 11 has all committee chairs filled and holds regular monthly meetings the second Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. in office space we rent from the local intergroup.

Most of our committees have active chairs with only one vacant seat that is expected to be filled at the next district meeting.

Some district committees are meeting regularly with encouraging results. We are actively engaged in cooperating with WATCH and MCDC, local treatment centers, mental health providers, counselors, and correctional facilities. A contingent from our corrections committee had a luncheon with people involved in the drug court. A great conversation was held and a few of the invitees later attended an open AA meeting. It is fabulous watching as lines of communication are opened and contacts and friendships are engendered.

A small contingent from District 11 attended the delegates report at Fireman's point and enjoyed the fellowship with Andrew and District 10 members. A fine time was had by those attending. Regular district meetings, after showing a few slow months in the summer when meeting schedules ran into conflicts with local events, are again having good turnouts. Fun was had for over 100 people at the regular Cooney campout.

Plans are being made for a service workshop later this year, with me and the Alternate DCM attempting to give an overview of how the General Service Structure is designed and where and how groups fit into the structure.

Also schedule for October 25-28 - 17th Annual Native American Indian Convention in Billings.

District 12—Sandy A. Acting DCM for Steve G.

District 12 has 11 functioning groups with an estimated number of approximately 125 attendees. Eight groups regularly participate in the district. Three groups do not participate. The district is financially sound and retains no debt. There are currently no district workshops planned. We maintain a Hotline which directs the caller to which group they are interested in; the caller is then connected to recordings, made by each group service representative, which tells when the meetings in that group take place. The recording also gives a contact phone number (s) which may be used to call a person.

Our DCM has taken work in Arizona and will be unable to finish out his term. The alternate has stepped-up to the task and has been elected full DCM as of September 16, 2007.

Active and Non-participating Groups (average attendees)

1. Absarokee (7)
2. Big Timber (7) **NP**
3. Clarks Fork Group (5) Fromberg
4. Harlowton (7)
5. Joliet (12)
6. Laurel Home Group (25)
7. Red Lodge Groups
 - a. Rock Creek Group (40)
 - b. Progress Not Perfection Group (12) **NP**
8. Stillwater Group (7) Columbus
9. No Name Group (3) Columbus **NP**
10. Broadview has not joined the district.

The district is financially sound and continues with two annual social events:

1. The Midwinter Social (held at Joliet)
2. Firemans Point Campout (held just south of Columbus)

Both functions were a spiritual success, though we lost money on the Fireman's Point Campout. We were grateful to be treated to a very thorough and informative report from Our Area Delegate; Andrew W. Thanks again, Andrew! We were also enlightened and amused by Bert E. with stories of getting sober on the reservation in the 60's.

Several of the District's Groups also continue with some long lived traditional gatherings like the Cooney Campout and Laurel Home Groups Chili Supper and Summer Barbecue, amongst others. The Absarokee Group continues with its sister Alanon Group to provide pot-lucks when the month contains 5 Wednesdays (Alanon cooks) or 5 Thursdays (the AA's cook).

We currently have two committees;

1. A Grapevine Committee, Sandy A.
2. A Corrections Committee, Nick D.

We thank all who serve within Our District and within the individual Groups for their efforts.

In Service,

Sandy A.

GSR Absarokee

Acting DCM for Steve G.

District 21-- Dave G.

No one present from District 21

District 23-- Joe P.

Greetings from Eastern Montana!

District 23 is still going strong. We have meetings in Glendive, Savage, and Sidney. The Monday noon meeting in Sidney has taken the plunge and become a registered group. We have been having regular District Meetings the second Wednesday of every other month at 6:30 pm in Savage at the First Lutheran Church.

The Lower Yellowstone Soberfest was a good time again. I would like to thank Andrew for his report. The speakers were good as was the fellowship and food.

Mike M. and I attended the Area Service Workshop held in Glasgow this spring. I was amazed at how informative and organized our trusted servants were, especially since they had only started their service rotation a couple of months earlier.

We will be holding a gratitude day at the Savage Hall November 17th. There will be a potluck, Call-Up Meeting and dance dj'd by the One Armed Bandit. The doors will open at 3:00pm and go till we've had tooo much fun.

Looking forward to a good Assembly and meeting some new friends and seeing some old ones. Thank you for this opportunity to serve.

In Fellowship Joe P. DCM District 23

District 31-- Neil T.

Hard Facts:

Baker: Last meeting was up to four people, two visitors from Miles City. The Lutheran Church has taken an active role in finding local members should some body show for a meeting.

Jordan: Remains small. The last two visits I found only one person in attendance.

Colstrip: Remains alive and well with an occasional newcomer.

Broadus: Remains a "call ahead" type meeting. However that may change (someone from Mile City recently moved there).

Forsyth: Meetings remain the same. The jail meeting has been restricted to two Forsyth members only.

The DCM has been rather occupied by other things this summer and his computer went down. The alleged culprit has only recently fixed it and I should be back on line next week

District 41-- Mary S.

I'm Mary and an alcoholic,

Our district has been meeting monthly and busily working on several exciting events coming up soon in our district.

Of course the Fall Roundup is just around the corner, but more importantly our CPC Committee is working hard put on a luncheon for the professional community. They have sent out invitations and will have Area and District members facilitate.

Our corrections committee which consists of three separate chairs has really gotten active in this rotation. There has been an increase in volunteers to take meetings inside to the county jail and the prison population housed there as well. At our Roundup there will be corrections workshop for those interested. Our groups and district have been discussing the prospective move to a 1-800 number statewide. We had a great question and answer call with Sean Becker on a conference call that was held at our district meeting.

Last June we had a Founder's Day Picnic and Delegate Day. Our delegate and several committee chairs from Area gave presentations on our service structure along with other committee chairs and members of Alcoholic Anonymous from our district. It proved to be very successful and a good time for friends and fun. Our other chairs and committees are working diligently and doing good work for the still suffering alcoholic. We are active and doing well.

Mary S.
DCM
District 41

District 42—Gerald L.

New DCM, Gerald L. of Shelby taking over from Michell M of Valier. Reported on meeting schedule for area. It's on the web site.

Choteau: 8pm Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays.
Chester: 8pm Thursdays
Cut Bank: 7pm Fridays
Shelby: 7:30pm Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Saturday
Conrad: 8pm Tuesdays, Saturday at noon
Browning: Noon & 7:30 pm daily
Valier 7pm Thursdays

I'll do better next year.
Gerald L.
DCM

District 51-- Doug M.

District 51 has been holding it's own since last time. Our meetings are going as strong as ever. The Hays meeting on Monday night is getting off the ground. Check our hot line to get the directions and time. Speaking of hotlines our phone chair, Mandy has filled the commitment list very well. She has lots of help in phone answering. Thanks. The Rocky Boy meetings are hit and miss. A call to our hotline will get you a number to call. Meetings elsewhere in dist 51 are great... ..

The district 51 is glad to have a lot of attendance from the GSR's, committee chairs, and others at our monthly meeting. Lots of good ideas and input from the AA community has been welcomed and appreciated.

This past summer has been filled with camp outs and great fellowships. Returning are the monthly potlucks and speakers meetings on the third Sunday of the month. Call Robert F. if you have a story to share with all.

We are holding a min-conference Oct. 5, 6, and 7th. Call for information. We are having speakers from Canada, **fun**, food, **fun**, workshops, **fun**, meetings, **fun**, fellowships, **fun** and entrainment. Hope to see you there.

We invite you all to come and share our AA hospitality while traveling the Hi line.

In sobriety,

Doug M

Dist. 51 DCM

District 61-- Tim M.

We have twenty-nine active groups in District 61 which hold over one hundred meetings a week. I have been told that on Thursday it is possible to take in six meetings in one day.

I have made it to approximately half of the groups in district 61 in the first half of my rotation as DCM. I am glad to report to the assembly that we indeed have a very diverse and therefore in my humble opinion, healthy AA community in our district.

I am also happy to report that all of our district committee chairs positions are currently filled and that we routinely have around 35 people between committee chairs, GSR's and well-wishers at our monthly district meetings.

Since the Spring Assembly we have held the following events in District 61:

- A Workshop for professionals in the Correction field, which was a combined effort between most of our District committees. We had 115 in attendance.

What an event! To see the faces and hear the positive comments from the four members of the corrections profession in attendance as they listened to people who they at one time may have arrested and considered drunkards, misfits, lushes, inebriates, and ditzomaniac who now stood before them as self-respecting alcoholics hosting a luncheon at the prestigious Montana Club and thanking them for their efforts, was an experience I would not have wanted to miss.

A similar workshop for 2008 is in the planning stages. Be there, you won't regret it!

- We held our annual Grapefest on May 2nd with Andrew our Area delegate and Bobbi Jo the Area grapevine chair as our honored guests. We had over two dozen members of our fellowship in attendance listening to the delegates report, learning how to write Grapevine articles and feasting on fine burgers afterwards.
- We had several groups sponsoring great picnics and Campouts during the summer months.
- The first, and I hope annual, district 61 motorcycle trek traveled from Helena in July up through the Yaak valley, to Sandpoint ID, back down to the Cedar forest by Troy and back to Helena with 10 members of our fellowship on nine bikes.

Ongoing:

- We continue to host the AA hotline at the district level, (looking forward to the statewide 1-800 number).
- Our committees continue to;
 - Hold and participate in various workshops around the district on alcoholism,
 - Bring meetings into the jails in our district,
 - Support AA at the prerelease, MCDC, WATCH and bridging the gap,
 - Attend to the archives of the district, and
 - Staff a district literature store.

Up coming events in District 61:

- Attitude of Gratitude will be held at the Colonial Inn on Saturday November 17th. As always it will be a full day of meetings, fellowship, and great speakers, and the foods not that bad either.
- The Spring RoundUp will be held in Helena May 16 – 18th of 2008 at the Colonial. The Friday night speaker is Kyra S. from Helena, Bobby C. from Philadelphia will be the Saturday night speaker and Francine W. from Mill Valley, CA on Sunday morning.

It will be a great time and I hope to see all of you, and allot more, in Helena this May for the 2008 Spring Round-Up.

In conclusion it is my pleasure to report to the Assembly that with such a full and varied calendar of events and activities in district 61 the state of our treasury is sound.

Thank You – to all the groups in District 61 and especially to our committee chairs, Rick W.-Archives, Answering Service-Rolf S., Attitude of Gratitude-Amanda S., Corrections-Paul S., Grapevine-Huck S., Literature-Kyra S., PI-Lance S., CPC-Tom D., Treatment-Mary S., Workshops-Tom F., Alternate DCM-Fritz B., Secretary-Shawna H., Treasurer-Betty P., and our past DCM Terry S. for making all of this possible.

Sincerely,
 Tim M.
 District 61 DCM

District 71-- Richard P.

Hi my name is Richard P., I am an alcoholic and your trusted District 71 DCM/servant. District 71 is located in the heart of Southwestern Montana with Butte being our pivotal point. There are approximately 35 registered groups in our district with as many as 75 - 80 weekly meetings in Anaconda, Dillon, Whitehall, Sheridan, Twin Bridges, Lima, Jackson, Philipsburg, Deerlodge, Opportunity and Drummond, as well as Butte.

Our District meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7 pm in the old St Ann's School in Butte. We average 15-17 people per meeting with approximately 5-7 committee members and 8-10 GSRs attending regularly. Currently our district has openings for a secretary, phone and treatment chair.

Our Spring/Summer was highlighted with District 71 hosting the 2007 Montana Spring Roundup, May 19-20 at the Butte Copper King Inn. The roundup was well attended and everyone had a great time. Our roundup report Sunday morning will cover the sorted details of the weekend.

The second of 4 semi-annual Area 40 sectional workshops was held at the Elks Lodge in Dillon, June 2nd. It was sponsored by Districts 71, 72, 61 and 93. A huge thanks to Scott W. and all of the Area committee members who provided the information/entertainment for this event. All who attended were well informed and felt it was time well spent.

That same weekend our District hosted the annual Summer Campout/Delegates Day Picnic at Barrett's Park south of Dillon. The Saturday night steak fry/pot luck/campfire meeting had well over 50 attendees. Fun and fellowship was the theme of the weekend with yours truly winning the first annual cribbage tournament. The grand prize was a 1 year subscription to the Grapevine. After a great BBQ picnic on Sunday, our Area Delegate, Andrew W. gave us a very informative General Service Conference report. Thanks again, Andrew. Better luck next year in the crib tournament.

There are unlimited opportunities for service work within District 71, especially in the areas of treatment and corrections. There are meetings in MCDC, Warm Springs, WATCH, Montana State Prison and START, to name a few. These facilities need both individual and group support and/or contributions in order to help carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic. Please don't hesitate to contact myself or one of our committee members if you would like to be of service in any of these institutions.

I am both thankful and grateful for this opportunity to be of service. If I want to keep what I have, I have to give it away.

Yours in Service,
Richard P.

District 72-- Lori F.

Greetings from District 72! My name is Lori F. and I'm an alcoholic.

Since last we met, things have been moving right along in the District – one step forward and two steps back – but always in the direction of growth. As I mentioned in the spring, our Alternate DCM, Pete F., resigned, his last District Meeting being April 28, 2007. Our Special Events Committee Chairperson was also forced to resign due to life happening. For a couple of months, no one stepped up for election to these positions. In the interim, I attempted to fill these positions as well as my own – this is not recommended. Things got better when I asked for help. We now have both positions filled again!

On a sweltering Saturday, July 14th, we welcomed Andrew W. to Bozeman to present his General Service Conference report. Gerry R. was also invited to share his experience so far as the Area 40 Archivist. Both presentations were excellent, informative, and much appreciated by those in attendance.

Our committees in District 72 have been keeping busy by taking meetings to WATCH, MCDC and the State Prison, collecting information for meeting cards and phone and temporary contact lists, and filling monthly literature orders of \$400-\$500. The CPC committee is working on our annual luncheon for professionals, which will take place November 8th. This year we are inviting those involved in medical professions. Our special events committee is putting together a workshop entitled "The 7th Tradition – I am Responsible" which will be on Saturday, October 20th. We are excited that Area Treasurer Curt K., and Area Grapevine Chair BilliJo D. have agreed to participate.

This summer we spent time at several meetings discussing who should be included in the voting membership at District Meetings. While we ultimately did not change the current procedure (yet!) of GSRs or their alternates, Committee Chairs and District Officers voting, we did have the opportunity to

discuss several Concepts through this process of coming to an informed group conscience. Our discussions also highlighted the fact that we have many groups and/or GSRs who are not participating at the District level which saddens me. Having considered and rejected bribery and coercion to increase participation, I have come to the conclusion that perhaps attempting to improve the lines of communication would be a good place to start.

We now are looking at the way we determine our prudent reserve and whether the amount of our reserve fund should be changed. Our Finance Committee will also begin hammering out a preliminary 2008 Budget soon which will be presented at our October District Meeting.

I am grateful to the District for setting aside the funds to send me to the West Central Regional Forum. It was another chance to learn and grow in service, to meet up with old friends and to make new ones. I hope to present a coherent report to my District in about a week.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve,

Lori F., District 72 DCM

District 81 Paula H.

Greetings from District 81. I want to thank Butte for the marvelous Round Up and the Valier and surrounding communities for a wonderful local Round Up too.

As I review the minutes from the last six months, the recurrent theme seems to be filling committee chair positions. They get filled, then life happens and they are open again. One of our biggest losses is the Phone Committee chair who recently resigned because of ill health. Dave took the job in hand, working hard to keep the answering service list of volunteers current. Our Special Events chair, Danielle, is moving. She did a wonderful job with Founder's Day, and was looking forward to other events.

Corrections reports that people in the County side of the jail are there fewer days. Therefore attendance has been very low at the meetings. It was decided to hold meetings only once a week on the County side, but keep the twice-a-week meeting schedule on the State side.

Literature, Treatment, and Public Information are up and running smoothly. Mike R, especially, is doing a great job of networking with all the groups. We just filled CPC, again.

We have a Spring 2009 Round Up committee in place. It held its first meeting last week. Dave L has all but one of the chair positions filled. A date has been selected, and negotiations are in progress!

As I stated, Founders Day was a big success. Andrew W. gave his report from the General Service Conference. I believe it was his first or second time out. I hope everyone has heard it by now. I attended three times at different events, and learned something new each time. We also had a speaker panel, a mixture of "old" and "new" sobriety. It was a nice change. The picnic was marvelous as only potlucks can be. We had beautiful weather for it. As usual, the softball game pitting "old" sobriety against "new" was the highlight of the event. "New" won as usual!

The number of groups increased by two during the past few months. Another group recently increased the number of meetings per week from one to two. All groups report good attendance.

The Thompson Falls group had their first annual picnic. It was a great success. They want to do it again soon and often.

Upcoming happenings:

- 7th Annual Halloween Bash, Oct 22, hosted by the Special Events Committee. Kristi B. chairs this one. It can't be beat. Flyers are available in the rear of the room.
- Gratitude dinner hosted by the Silver Tip group on November 17. They have made this an annual affair.
- The Missoula Group will host the Thanksgiving Day potluck, and the Speaker Meeting will host the Christmas Day potluck.
- Women's Annual Holiday Dinner, Dec 8, for all recovering 12-step women.

Yours in love and service,

Paula H.
DCM

District 91-- April A.

Greetings from district 91 nestled up here in the North Western corner of Montana. Our spring and summer has been filled with campout after campout, the last one of the season is taking place right now at Tally Lake, hosted by the Whitefish Group. What a great way to enjoy the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous and enjoy life!

In May we invited Andrew W. to visit and give his Delegates report on the General Service Conference, he gives a very good presentation. Thanks Andrew.

In July we invited Sean B. over to share a little more about the Area wide 1-800 Hotline service. He was able to answer some of our questions and explain exactly how the service will work. He really helped us get a clearer picture of what to expect and what we need to do once we get on board. Thank you Sean!

District 91 has submitted an Agenda Item for consideration at this Fall Assembly. The agenda item concerns the Pre-Assembly events regarding their fiscal and logistical feasibility.

District 91 sent their DCM, me, to Omaha, NB to attend the Regional Forum. What a great opportunity for greater understanding of the General Service Office what they do, why they do it and who they are. Also for expressing our concerns and asking questions face to face to those who serve us in New York. I am grateful to have been sent. I picked up a lot of good information for our District.

We are well into the planning stages of our annual "Into Action" event held every year. This year's dates are February 15 and 16th, 2008. Our speakers will be Bob D from Las Vegas and our own Robbie S. from Kalispell. The Serenity Group will be holding their annual Fall Refresher on October 20th and 21st; there are flyers on the back table. We also host a Christmas Alcathon with meetings every hour starting Christmas Eve at 5 PM, ending Christmas day at 5 PM, great for the "too much family" syndrome and the "I don't know what to do with myself" feeling.

I would also like to announce that the 2008 Montana Fall Round Up will be held in Kalispell, MT, district 91. Flyers are available on the back table. The committee has been working very hard to ensure a great time will be had by all!

If you are ever up in our neck of the woods please stop in and enjoy one of the many meetings all over the Flathead Valley. We are in the Area 40 Website.

In Service,
April A.

District 93-- John V.

My name is John, DCM for District 93.

Since spring assembly we had a campout at Painted Rocks campground attended by 50-60 AA members and family. Our auctioneer did a great and wonderful job of getting the dollar meeting members to pay top dollar for items. Which gave us over \$600 along with the 50/50 raffle which netted us \$100. and also some money from regular donations. Everyone had fun, even the non AA people who were there.

Last weekend at our regular district meeting we had the Delegate report along with a potluck. It took awhile to match schedules with our delegate, but it was worth it, if you haven't heard it yet you best do it soon.

Our 2nd Saturday Speakers group is now a meeting, and our district is doing a wonderful job on the road to recovery.

Thanks for letting me serve.

Area 40 Advisor—Scott W.

Thank you Madame Chair for the opportunity to share the following report.

Greetings to all of the new GSRs and first time visitors to the Area Assembly. This weekend looks to be filled with abundant opportunities for learning about our service structure and the business of Area 40. We also have the privilege of having the West Central Regional Trustee, Chuck B. with us this weekend. He is a wealth of information regarding our General Service Board and I know he is looking forward to sharing with us this weekend.

By past action of the 2006 Spring Assembly:

*We recommend that Area 40 sponsor and fund two Area 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.***

Two such workshops were held this year: May 5 in Glasgow and June 2 in Dillon with total expenditures for both workshops at \$1736.00. The event planning started in December of 2006 with numerous emails and conference calls with the DCMs in each quadrant. Care was taken to schedule the workshops so they would not be in conflict with other AA events in Area 40. But even with the best planning there were a couple of conflicts that surfaced and regretfully precluded some members from attending the workshops. One of the many lessons that I learned from the Glasgow workshop was that support of late spring high school sporting events will diminish the number of attendees.

A similar format was used for both workshops: introduction of the presenters, an approximate 30 minute presentation, and questions from the attendees. Also, each workshop had a potluck. Each presenter was

knowledgeable regarding their service position and gave fine presentations. In addition to the presentations, many questions were posed and additional information specific to each District was disseminated. And I want to say again, that each presenter did a fine job.

The workshop in Glasgow had approximately 17 total attendees. The Area Committee Chairpersons that were invited by the DCMs were: Cooperation with the Professional Community, Corrections, Literature, Public Information, Treasurer and Treatment. The Districts that hosted the workshop were: 21, 23 & 51.

The workshop in Dillon had approximately 23 total attendees. The Area Committee Chairpersons that were invited by the DCMs were: Cooperation with the Professional Community, Corrections, Public Information, Treasurer and Treatment. The Districts that hosted the workshop were: 61, 71, 72 & 93.

At the conclusion of each workshop, I asked each attendee to complete an evaluation form. The results of the evaluation forms are included with this report, but due to time restrictions I will not go through a detail of each of the replies on the evaluations. The complete report will be available in the minutes of this Assembly.

Five questions were asked on the evaluation form.

- 1) What is your current service position?
- 2) How many "service workshops" (including this one) have you attended?
- 3) What part of the workshop helped the most?
- 4) In what way did it help?
- 5) Do you have any suggestions for improving the Area 40 Workshop?

A quick review of the responses to the questions on the evaluation forms indicates a positive and appreciative evaluation. However, some interesting facts came from the evaluations. For example:

Number of workshops attended: average of 7.5 in Glasgow and 3.8 in Dillon. This would indicate the attendees were mostly seasoned service workers of our Fellowship. However, at each workshop there were first time attendees to any type of service function. That gives me great hope.

Additional comments ranged from: gratitude for description of what each service position offered to the Districts, how to follow up with local professional agencies, removed a resentment held against the General Service Office, passion and commitment to service are inspiring no matter how packaged, no one knew about the meeting and it worked out better than most, expand the information channel to assure communication is received regarding the workshop, and many others. Again, the full report in the minutes of the Assembly will contain all of the comments.

Planning for the two remaining workshops to be held in 2008 has already started. I look forward to participating with the remaining Districts and implementing the many fine comments that were suggested to improve the workshops.

And finally, next year at this Assembly we will have elections. Now is the time to start looking for your replacements and our next panel of servants. Look around your Home Group, your District and this Assembly. Ask the hard questions: do you have the time, are you willing to serve, have you fulfilled the previous service commitments? Ask the hard questions – not only of those who you believe are qualified to serve but of yourself also.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit this report.

In Service,
Scott W.
Area 40 Advisor

Area 40 Archivist—Gerry R.

Good morning, my name is Gerry and I'm an alcoholic. I'd like to thank Area 40 most sincerely for the privilege of serving you and Alcoholics Anonymous as your Area Archivist.

This has been a busy and exciting past six months for the Area 40 Archives. Busy and exciting, now granted those are two words you don't often hear in an archives report, but busy and exciting it has been, and will continue to be, through this upcoming fall.

Things kicked off this spring with my being asked to bring an archives display down to the Butte Roundup in May. As those of you who attended know, this was a great event that everyone enjoyed. One of the highlights for me was the opportunity to hear our Delegate Andrew W. give his first Delegate's report on the General Service Conference. The Butte Roundup Committee has since made a generous contribution to the Area 40 Archives, and I would like to extend my thanks to the Committee at this time for their generosity.

In June, I was asked to bring a display and give a short talk at District 41's Founder's Day celebration, where I also had an opportunity to hear many of the districts trusted and enthusiastic servants share about their positions and service work in general, or the "S" word as I'm told it's called there. I also had yet another chance to hear Andrew give his Delegate's report. Thank you District 41.

In July, District 72 asked me to bring a display and give a longer talk on the Area 40 Archives. After we all enjoyed the rare opportunity to hear Andrew give his Delegates report, I gave my Archives report. You can ask any brave soul who sat through it in that 90 degree heat, it was a loooooong talk. Thank you for asking and for bearing with me District 72.

This weekend our Area Chair Carole B. has asked me to give a short workshop on the Area 40 Archives this afternoon. I'm looking forward to this with an interesting mixture of anticipation and terror. Directly afterward, we'll all get the chance to hear Andrew give his Delegate's report. All joking aside, for those of you who have not heard Andrew's report yet, you're in for a very interesting and informative presentation on, not only the G.S.C., but on the state of affairs in A.A. as a whole, including some very cool archival material. Do not miss it.

Next weekend, District 41 has invited me to set up a display at their fall Roundup, and I am looking forward to being there. I believe Andrew has that weekend off. Thank you again District 41, for allowing me to be of the "S" word.

The weekend of October 20th finds me in Kalispell with a display for the Flathead Valley Serenity Group's Fall Refresher. Thank you for that invitation, I look forward to being there as well.

Finally, the last event scheduled for this year is a unique one. I have been asked to bring a display to Billings during the weekend of October 25th for the 17th annual NAI-AA Convention. Carole B and others from Area 40 have also been asked to present a service workshop there. This should be a great event for anyone who attends. Ken S. the Convention Chair told me to get ready for one of the best A.A. Conventions I ever attended. I hope to see you all there.

This weekend we will be discussing an item that I asked Carole to place on the agenda. It is my request that Area 40 provide funding so that I might attend a national AA Archives Workshop. The displays that I've mentioned are just a small fraction of the work that is done in archives, and while my ego has no problem with my saying I know everything there is to know about this area of service, the reality is I very much need to learn more in order to serve the fellowship effectively in this capacity. The funding is no small amount, so I'd like to say upfront that I greatly appreciate your consideration, and will most certainly respect your decision, whatever that may be, on the matter.

I would be remiss if I did not mention that the Area 40 Archives has received some much needed help this last summer. Claudia B. a member of the Boulder Sunrise group has been volunteering to do some much needed work in the Archives and has been a tremendous help. As luck would have it she is also here this weekend attending her very first Area Assembly serving as alternate GSR for her home group. Please help me thank her for her willingness to be of service to Area 40 with a round of applause.

So, as you can see, Archives can be busy and exciting after all. I look forward to seeing all of you at the workshop this afternoon so we can carry this discussion further. And, as always, please don't hesitate to contact me for anything related to Archives, and thank you dearly for allowing me to be of service to you and to this amazing program.

Yours in service,
Gerry R.

Area 40 Webmaster—Alex M.

Webmaster Report for the Fall Area Assembly 2007
<http://www.aa-montana.org>

I would also like to welcome everyone who is new to the Assembly and to let you know that Area 40 does have a website and it is your website.

Since we last met I have been busy working with Sean and the Answering service on the implementation of the State wide 800 number.

Three applications have to be developed on the website for this project.

The first is a login system to allow each District access to its own area.

The second application allows each District to add, modify and delete records to the database.

The third application will allow the answering service to login to the website and access the database in a manner that makes sense and is useful to them.

As of today I am about 80% done with the login application and we have finalized the specs for the application for the answering service

I am implementing a two tier security system for the 800 app. It will require a login to the folder on the server before you can see the page which allows you to login to your District. This was deemed necessary as the system will house personal information from volunteer AA members around the state.

Up to this point the biggest use the website sees is users coming in to find meeting information. So, as it is become customary for me to do, I will like to thank all of you who volunteer to keep the meeting lists up to date.

I still am seeing a lot of traffic to the online flyers as well and encourage you to email me any function you might have at your home group of District.

One last note – as the owners of the website each one of you has the power to suggest changes and additions through the committee system.

Yours in service,
Alex M.
Area 40 Webmaster

Standing Committee Meetings

Literature—Linda B.

Literature Committee Report

Thank you to Kari L., Kyra S., Gerry L., Scott W., Laura L., and Tom H. for attending our committee meeting. There were two items on our agenda. I will start with item #2 first, as it pertains to Area 40 business first.

2. Consider forwarding to the General Service Conference Secretary a proposal to publish a hardbound edition of the Daily Reflections.

It was a unanimous decision to request this of the Literature Publication department. It will be given to our delegate, Andrew Ware, and be forwarded to the publication department through the Literature Coordinator, Eva Sanchez. Since the Daily Reflections is a conference approved piece of literature, it doesn't need to come to the floor of the General Service Conference. It will be a request.

Motion was presented to the floor. 76 voted for the motion and 6 opposed. No minority opinion.

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

There was great sharing on the agenda items that were from our spring assembly. The new A.A. for the Black and African American Alcoholic will replace the same pamphlet titled Can AA Help me, too? It better reflects the scope of the pamphlet. The A.A. Member-Medications and Other Drugs will be revised. The Spanish 3rd edition be produced. The A.A. for the Native North American pamphlet is in the process of revision and a draft will be reviewed at the 2008 General Service Conference. The committee discussed the request to develop an intergroup/central office pamphlet and took no action. There was a floor action brought to the conference and the item was voted not to consider. And lastly, the committee took no action on a request to replace the pamphlet "Letter to the Woman Alcoholic".

We had a general sharing and questions. We talked about the yellow sheets (service material) being so valuable to our committees. We discussed how A.A. literature can help our PI/CPC committees in our community work. There are many ways in which our literature can carry a message, one to the suffering alki trying to find our fellowship, and maybe one to the man or woman being of service in our home groups, districts, or areas. Our written work is a tool to be read and utilized. Thank you.

Grapevine/policy and admissions—BilliJo D.

9 in attendance

4 Committee members

4 District Grapevine Chairs

Area Chair

Grapevine:

1. Status of subscriptions and participation
 1. April '07 report (pg 40 of Final Report) Area 40 is up by 4 subscriptions
 2. Around the State
 1. Plans to give 1-yr sobriety birthday a 1-yr subscriptions
 2. Actively collect and accept donations of 'old' Grapevines to give to Corrections and new comers. Recirculation is strong.
 3. Selling other Grapevine materials (books, tapes, literature)
 4. Visiting groups and promotions GV

(Final Report pg 27) “Exactly 50 years ago, Bill W. in writing *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age* (p. 31) described the A.A. Grapevine as “. . . our biggest and best means of communicating current A.A. thought and experience in staying sober, in hanging together, and in serving. . . a lively and convincing means of introducing A.A. to the new or potential member. . . [It is} the monthly mirror of A.A. in action. . . .”

2. review GSC Grapevine Committee items discussed
 1. Forward to the A.A. Grapevine Board the suggestion to produce two new books in 2008 or later
 1. a collection of stories by people with 40 or more years of sobriety
 2. a book of classic cartoons and jokes
 2. Update in workbook Grapevine presentations ideas
 3. Explore less expensive formats for production of workbook
 4. Urged as soon as financially possible produce a Spanish translation of the workbook
 5. Starting with this October issue, pg. 51 the 'gray pages' return
 1. Also in Oct is a photo credit for Paul and Nancy W. on pg. 45
 2. And in Oct is a 'call for stories” pg 20
 1. we have at least one Area 40 member (a District Grapevine Chair) who has recently submitted a story

Policy & Admissions:

Discuss the effectiveness of distribution process of background material

1. we feel it is very effective
2. would ask for all background information to be sent electronically if possible.

BilliJo gave awards at assembly floor to Jim of District 41 for being an active GVR and Sandy of District 12 for new GVR

Archives/structure—Conrad M.

Present: Patrick S. (GSR, Lockwood Group, Dist. 11)
Kelly S. (GSR, Newcomers North Group, Dist. 61)
Becky W. (GSR, Tues @ 8 Group, Dist. 72)
Conrad M. (Archives/Structure Committee Chair)
Lori F. (DCM, Dist. 72)
Doug M. (DCM, Dist. 51)
Dan K. (Alt DCM/GSR Way Out Group, Dist. 81)
Gerry R. (Area Archivist)
Darrell H.
Lee T. (Dist. 41 Archives)
Claudia B. (Alt GSR Sunrise Group, Dist. 61)

Archives

1. Consider a request Area 40 fund the Area Archivist to attend either the 2008 or 2009 National Archives Workshop, depending on whichever is closest and/or the least expensive. Funding is not to exceed \$1,500.00.

2008 Workshop will be held in Niagara Falls, New York; 2009 Workshop will be held in Woodland Hills, California. Area Archivist gave approximate costs for travel to both locations.

There was discussion about benefits of sending Archivist to the Workshop:

- the more Archivist knows about what to save and what not to save at the Archives, the better the Archives will be;
- Archivist is a non-rotating position;
- Archivist would document what he has learned and would be willing to put on workshops for district archivists;
- Types of things that could improve Archivist's ability – learning how to best handle and preserve materials; de-acidification methods; cataloguing.

Concern was raised about Area's financial situation and there was discussion about whether to propose funding for 2008 or 2009. Niagara Falls workshop will take place September 11-14, 2008, which means that it is a year away. It was suggested that if the Committee proposed the funding for 2008, and the motion did not pass, then Committee could propose it for 2009.

Motion: That Area 40 fund the Area Archivist to attend the 2008 National Archives Workshop at Niagara Falls, NY. Funding is not to exceed \$1,500.00.

Motion made by Patrick S., seconded by Dan K.
Motion passed unanimously (5 in favor, no one opposed, no abstentions).

Floor Discussion:

- Why do we have to send Archivist now?
- Curt, Area Treasurer was asked about if we could afford it and he responded that financially we can finance what ever we want to finance but we must let our groups know to support the expenses we approve.
- Bill supports this. Gerry is excited about what he does and this may help to encourage other to participate

Floor vote—67 for 6 opposed

Minority opinion –Doesn't position end soon—Position is non rotating

Concern because we only have \$3,000.00 left before hitting prudent reserve

This is not in the proposed budget.

Rich made a motion to reconsider. Kevin 2nd, 30 for reconsideration 46 opposed. Motion to reconsider fails.

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

Committee reviewed the Archives Committee items discussed at the 57th Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference as listed on pg. 66 of the 2007 Final Report.

The Committee was especially enthusiastic about:

- 1) the suggestion that the Archives Workbook be produced in a new format such as a 3-ring binder and/or a CD, which would allow for forms and pages to be easily updated;
- 2) the request to consider that the Conference Archives Committee be established as a permanent Conference committee.

Structure

1. Consider asking the Area Chair to appoint an Ad Hoc Committee charged with studying the Pre-Assembly concept currently utilized in Area 40. Ask the Committee to review the purpose of these events, the funding of these events, and the contribution they make to the informed group conscience of Area 40. It is hoped that this study will determine the current usefulness of these events and guide for future direction for them.

There was a brief discussion of the pros and cons of pre-assemblies.

Motion: The Archives/Structure Committee recommends that the Area Chair appoint an Ad Hoc committee charged with studying the Pre-Assembly concept currently utilized in Area 40, and that the committee review the purpose of these events, the funding of these events, and the contribution they make to the informed group conscience of Area 40.

A report from the Ad Hoc committee outlining the findings of the committee and suggestions for an Area policy should be given to the Archives/Structure committee no later than the Spring 2008 assembly so that the Archives/Structure Committee can bring forward any policy recommendations needed to guide future Area 40 Pre-Assemblies.

Motion made by Doug, seconded by Darrell.

Motion passed unanimously (5 votes in favor, no one opposed, no abstentions).

Floor discussion:

--Wouldn't we want a report before Spring Assembly?

--Would this be adequate time for discussion?

--Gerry R involved in Pre-Assembly in Dist 61 and brought items to Assembly to add Pre-Assembly as a line item. Hopefully chair will appoint a committee that has experience with Pre-Assembly. 6 months would be sufficient

Vote taken with 69 for 5 opposed.

Minority opinion: Concern with wording of motion. Does this allow sufficient time for committee to make a policy?

Point of order—Is Scott a voting member. Yes he is substitute for Sean B. PI Area chair

Ad-Hoc committee is Scott Weiss, Curt K., Doug M., Paula H. and Alex M.

2. Review the Policy and Procedure document for accuracy.

Four items needing changes were noted:

- 1) new information about 1-888 number to be added under PI (pg. 12)
- 2) job description of Area Advisor to be added (pg 4)
- 3) Area Secretary to post minutes on Web site (anonymity protected) (pg 14)
- 4) Treasurer's report

Gerry R. will make these changes to the document.

3. Review the Passed Actions document.

It was agreed that someone needs to go through minutes to record Passed Actions – Gerry R. will do this with the help of others.

Finance – Curt K.

See attachments for proposed budgets and final budget.

Floor discussion:

Item #2 was discussed first: Review the Financial Status of the Area. Curt passed out his budget excel sheets which are attached to this report as exhibit A.

Item #3: Recommend the 2008 Area 40 Budget:

Discussion: The budget doesn't reflect the 888 # cost. Curt explained that we do not have any numbers to reflect what will be left for Area to pay after the District pay their portion.

--Budget can be amended.

--Question about how the districts will be charged for the 888#

--Andrew reminded all that we are adding \$1500 which will increase the prudent reserve by \$750.00

--Question are we going to do the items in order like the steps? Deciding the prudent reserve before essential services? If item 1 passes it will add \$5,000.00.

--motion to amend adding 888# of \$1500 for 888#--motion 2nd

--Robbie stated a concern of adding the 888# on the budget and that the committee would be correct in to adding. Assumption that District will not contribute.

--Bob stated that contributions are down. We need to anticipate that Area will pay all of the bill on the 888#.

--Rich place in Prudent Reserve for anticipated expenses.

--Ed bills are paid from contributions of District

--Lori we need to put in budget. When we had too much money it caused anger because it didn't get used.

--Paula 888# is a month to month contract \$1,000 is not a real figure

--Doug it is more realistic to put \$4,000 in budget because Area 40 is on contract

--Rich are calls charged where originated from. Scott yes call origination district is billed.

Motion amendment voted on 14 for 62 against adding \$1500.

--Raymona Cost considered for each Pre-assembly.

Point of Order –only 76 voting isn't quorum 93? It is a simple majority of total votes taken.

--Sandy why are Area Chairs that went over budget not increased. Curt stated that it is Area's practice to maintain at same figure.

--Tim made motion to amend budget to add back in the cuts on delegate expense. No second

--Lori why the increase to assembly.

--Curt increase is due to gas and lodging increase. Assembly costs are not charged to each chair is charged altogether in Assembly.

Motion to accept Area budget voted on 82 for and 3 against. Motion passed.

Item #1: Finance Committee recommends that Area 40 reduce prudent reserve to 33 1/3 % (4 months of services)

--Lori have we ever had to dip into prudent reserve?

--Bob Area had to dip into the prudent reserve in 1991 when Area bought the computers.

--Bill concern that 888# should be part of prudent reserve.

--Mike stated that debt service coverage is what the prudent reserve is for. For a lending institution they require 25%. We are a service organization and it is realistic with our finances. We should not hoard money but use it.

Motion taken to accept setting prudent reserve at 33 1/3%. For 74 against 2

Minority opinion

--Rich we are not a business.

Public Information/Report & Charter—Scott W.for Sean B.

Thank you everyone who attended and Paula H. for taking minutes. Committee members present: Tim M. Paula H. Scott W. filling in for Sean B..

1) Consider expanding the Area 40 Website to include dissemination of other materials such as reports from the annual General Service Conference, information coming from the General Service Board throughout the year, and other materials that might continue to improve the communication between all levels of the service structure.

Anonymity concern

Background info for Area 40

Synopsis of Back Ground for Pre-Assemblies

The PI Committee makes the following recommendation: The PI Committee will determine what is reasonable & prudent to add to the Area 40 website to allow better communication to our fellowship and make a recommendation to the Spring Assembly for consideration and implementation.

Floor discussion:

--Gerry, is that like tabling the item?

--Ann, what will the report consist of?

--Scott, the committee needed more information on what can be added to the website.

--Rich why is it necessary to have a recommendation to have a report

--Scott, by making a recommendation we can guarantee that there will be more work done on this.

Motion voted on 77 for 22 against.

2) Discuss the progress of the Area 40 800 number.

Progress of Area 40 800 number.

- The greeting doesn't not have the words "Alcoholics Anonymous"

- What do we do with Alanon calls?
- 800 # is an answering machine or a non AA entity.
- Testing phase
 - “alcoholic anonymous”
 - 800#
 - Al Anon

Answered with “Thank you for calling Area 40’s Statewide Information Hotline”

Floor discussion:

- Nick, 50¢ stops when calls are transferred?
- Scott, this is not correct. Charges begin upon connection.
- Neil, tracking being made for those numbers not answering. A code is used showing who is called and when.
- Brandon, if a call originates outside of Area 40 who gets charged. Newcomers would not know what Area 40 is; perhaps in the message have “Montana” instead.
- Joe, is there a way to know if an answering machine is being used?
- Frank, 800# is identified for Montana so out of state call should not be charged to us.
- Earl, Outside call will be Area 40.
- Bob, Districts need to call to make sure that names are current. No increase on charge, 50¢.
- Gerry, be sure to call person back to reduce costs to answering service.
- Libby, Discussion is about how to do Hotline, I want to know how to get this going.
- Bill, is there going to be a training for the answering service?
Sean has setup a lot of training even AnswerNet has offered to come to Area.
- Joe, remember that each time we check the hotline it is 50¢.

3) Review Public Information committee items discussed at the GSC, but no action taken or recommendations made.

The committee discussed the items with appreciation.

CPC/Trustees—Terry S.

Your Area 40 standing Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community met earlier today with 4 voting members—myself, Richard K, DCM Dist. 11, Richard P., DCM District 71, and Tom D., District 61 CPC Committee Chair. The voting member from District 51 was absent. Mary McC, District 91 Corrections Chair, took the minutes—thank you, Mary—and Lorraine K., GSR for the Roundup Group, D. 11, Jewellea G., Alt. GSR, Whitefish Group, and Phil T, GSR Sat. Morn. Breakfast Mtg, Helena, also participated. Thank you all.

CPC

1. We did. We added several suggestions to the 13 suggestion list the committee generated last spring: Take the number of the interested person and call them, instead of giving them your number.

GSC Report, p. 66, last 3 bullets in CPC.

Get several district service committees together to present a workshop— more folks, more ideas, more support.

If the info is getting to the target audience (target professionals), even if it is going a way that is outside the formal committee structure, let it happen rather than insist that it come through ME so I control it. Getting our message to the professionals is our goal.

Sponsor your professionals as personally as possible—professional friends in the community, your boss at work, anybody with whom you have a connection that lets you let them know that you are in recovery and want to be sure that they know you are a resource for info and contact with AA.

2. We did. Aside from the suggestions for increasing interest and activity in CPC, the short video segments for professionals, to put on our web site, will be back in 2008, closer to being finished, for the Conference Committee on CPC; and there will be 2 minor changes to the CPC Kit and Workbook.

TRUSTEES—We reviewed the procedures, and thank you, Chuck B., for coming and answering our questions about those procedures.

Floor discussion: None

Treatment/Agenda—Geoff D.

Treatment

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

Lots of good discussion on all of the GSC items.

We also had a lot of discussion on how best to carry the message in to the treatment centers in area 40 communication is a big part of the discussion.

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

The committee decided that the call list would be a part of the new 800 number and therefore a mute point.

Agenda

No Agenda items

Corrections/international conventions/regional forums—Bill E.

Corrections Committee Report
Area 40 Fall Assembly
9/21-9/23/2007

Hello Area 40,

The corrections committee members in attendance:

Neil T.
April A.
Peggy
Clint B.
Bill E.

And around 14 none committee members participated. There were many excellent ideas and thoughts thrown around the room and it was a great meeting to be apart of.

The first item discussed was:

Discuss the effectiveness of the Pink Can Program.

The committee reviewed a summary of the pink can account activity since the beginning of the current rotation and checked those numbers against the activity from the previous rotation. The previous rotation (01/05-12/06) brought in a total of 11,940.25 dollars and sent out 12,689.07. This is of course a total for two years. We divided each by two to show the approximate yearly total. The total received per year was 5970.13 and the total spent on literature was 6344.54. Then pit those numbers against the current progress. The current rotation (01/07-12/08) has brought in 4822.05 (from 01/07 to 09/07). The total outgoing from (01/07 to 09/07) has been 4300.14. So with three months left in 07 we are at a pace to closely compare with the past rotation.

We also discussed the intent of the pink can as it was originally designed at the Area level. The intent was that the groups would meet their commitments in their districts And then forward on the excess monies to be used at facilities where the groups or districts are not financially capable of supporting such a facility on their own.

We discussed the importance of disseminating information for the need of literature through the proper channels in the service structure. Therefore solving the problem of contradicting requests from individuals that are taking meetings into these facilities communicating with different individuals.

There was discussion about checking with the captains or whomever is in charge about whether or not inmates can take books with them when they leave and designating some books, for that purpose. Also checking on the current supply in the facility and pulling out any books that are damaged to be replaced. We also discussed the possibility of ordering other Conference approved literature for facilities (12&12's, daily reflections, etc.).

We then discussed the second item:

Review the corrections committee items discussed at the General Service Conference, but no action taken or recommendations made.

The committee reviewed sections of the 2007 final report of the 57th meeting of the general service board. We reviewed the corrections committee portion of the final report. There was not a lot of discussion on the items. We did discuss the video for training academies and in service training personnel at correctional facilities. We did not have a chance to view it. Andrew W. (area 40 delegate) will have a delegates report at the roundup in Great Falls on Saturday Oct. 6th. He will show the video during his report.

The committees report did give some great ideas for stimulating correctional 12-step work. :

Utilizing videos

Creating power point presentations including photos and discussion topics

Hosting roundups inside facilities

Letting corrections chairs know GSO collects sharing on local corrections workshops and events

Sending sharing on workshops and events to GSO

Discussing ways to collect money for literature at facilities

Including local corrections events on the Area website

Introducing someone to corrections service by bringing them

Listing corrections chairs with GSO so they receive useful information

Sharing corrections service experience with excitement and enthusiasm
Encouraging ex inmates to participate in corrections service
Creating a calendar of corrections events around U.S. and Canada

The third item discussed was the status of carrying meetings into correctional facilities in Area 40.

There was lots of discussion on the item. A comment was made that there is great work being done in the facilities, however we discussed the severe need for more participation, and the host of opportunity for twelve step work.

Meetings at the Watch West are going well, as are the Watch East. The Watch East program was able to get a mini conference started at the facility. The professionals at the facility have also been invited to sit in on a meeting, as some of them have never been to an AA meeting in their careers.

The Montana State Prison meeting has been doing well. There was an orientation for new carted sponsors on the 15th of Sept. and there were five new AA's orientated. There will be a new orientation some time the next quarter as that is the facilities desire. I will let others know as soon as I know when that will be. Well, as of the assembly the mini conference that was rescheduled for the 15th of Dec. has been cancelled. Due to some missing funds. The regular meetings will still be in affect though. Sorry to all who were planning to attend it is a great disappointment.

Meetings at the Start and the Forensics unit at Warm Springs are going good also. There are also two new "Meth" facilities (one in Boulder, one in Lewistown), which are having regular AA meetings, that are well attended by those inside and support from the outside is needed. They also inquired about the need for literature. The community is welcomed to share comments or feelings on the pink can fund for such a request.

There are about 16-18 guys taking meetings into the Helena jail where the Captain has been invited to come to an AA meeting. Meetings will be starting back up in Sidney in Oct. The Townsend jail is also having meetings.

There was lots of discussion about luncheons with professionals in the Area and the need for more in the future. As the friends of AA, supporting and understanding what we do makes our work that much easier and effective in reaching those dying from the disease who have no idea that there is a solution. We also talked about encouraging the inmates to work with others by having meetings in the facility other than their scheduled time with outside members if it is possible.

There was mention also of the Temporary Contact Program, which has need for those who contact inmates at the facilities through the mail. Then taking them to a meeting when they get there, and the importance of following through with that if we say we will contact such a person. Not showing up when we say we will is worse then not being there, at all. Please follow through!

Mentioned also was the Correspondence Program and the need for members to carry the message through the mail by corresponding with an inmate who is interested in writing to an AA member. There is a great opportunity to work the steps with people around the country through the mail and there was comment on the depth of understanding the steps one may learn by sharing them through the mail. A person can also get a P.O. Box or use their groups or Districts to send and receive correspondence.

Floor Discussion:

--Cortney, How many people showed up for Orientation?

-- 5

--that is pitiful

--Raymona, Is the Triangle being sent to the prison.

--Clint, Fall Mini Conference, there was not enough time to get approval to go in.

--Mary, when is the next orientation?

--For the prison it is every quarter, but no date set.

--Raymona, Triangle editor, The Freedom Grp of prison paid for Triangle.

--Bob date of conference is in December and orientation is done by October.

--Jeff, confusion about which Bridging the Gap should go to, corrections or treatment

- maybe just work together**
- Paul, Correction workshop to be held in Helena includes treatment because they are intertwined.**
- Lloyd, The patients in the Watch program can leave but they go directly to Prison.**
- Convention theme is "A Vision for You"**

The final agenda item was:

Discuss the 2010 International Convention.

The Conference is on July 1-4th in San Antonio, TX at the Alamo Dome. The theme is to be "A Vision for You". Montana will have a flag there so you can find us and you do not want to miss this event.

Thank you to all who participated in our committee and all who carry the message.

Corrections Committee Chair,
Bill E.

Area 40 Delegate's Report – Andrew W

My name is Andrew W. and I am an alcoholic. I am privileged to serve as your Delegate for this rotation. Shortly after our Spring Assembly, I went to New York for the 57th General Service Conference. This was my first service conference and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I felt very well prepared for the conference. I want to thank all of you in Area 40 who took the time to attend either the pre-assemblies or the Spring Assembly and participate in the discussions on the GSC agenda items. All of our discussions and the many times that we took a "sense of the Area" at the Spring Assembly helped make me a more well-informed delegate. I also think that our service structure here in Area 40, including the committee system, is good preparation for the conference.

As Concept II states, the GSC, "for all practical purposes, has become the actual voice and effective conscience of our Society." The theme of the 57th GSC was "Our 12th Step Responsibility: Are We Going to Any Length?" The conference was held April 21 - 27, 2007 in New York City at the Crowne Plaza, Times Square. Voting members at the conference included 93 delegates from across the U.S. & Canada, 23 trustees and directors, and 16 GSO & Grapevine Office staff members. Everyone participated in the discussions. One thing that was suggested at the conference was to sit at a different table for each meal that we had together. This was an excellent suggestion. It was a pleasure to meet the other delegates, the trustees, the non-trustee directors and the staff members.

It was a week of firsts for me: (1) I attended my first General Service Conference; (2) I wore a suit every day for a week (no, it was not the same suit every day); and (3) I spent a week in a hotel and never turned on the TV. We started off slowly. The panel 57 delegates were given an introduction to the Conference first by the Panel 56 delegates at a delegates-only meeting on Saturday night, next by our regional trustee at regional luncheons before the Conference officially started on Sunday, and finally by one of the chairs of the conference when the Conference officially started on Sunday.

I had two committee assignments: a primary assignment on the Finance Committee and a secondary assignment on the Archives Committee. I learned a lot serving on these committees and taking part in the conference.

I hope you all have a copy of the Final Conference Report (the one with the purple cover). I will refer to this now to point out some items that stand out to me.

1. One page 6, you will see a listing of all the Conference Advisory Actions. These are the recommendations that came out of committee and were passed by the full conference. I will point out several of these items.
 - a. Under Agenda, #1, the theme for the 2008 General Service Conference be: "Communication and Participation – The Key to Unity and Self-Support." I was happy to see this as the conference theme because we discussed an agenda item similar to this in

- the Finance Committee but took no action because we felt that the item was out of place in the Finance Committee.
- b. Under Corrections, #5, the informational media presentation is now called “A.A. in Correctional Facilities” and is available in DVD format.
 - c. Under Grapevine, #8, “The Grapevine and La Viña include a section on the medical, legal and social aspects of alcoholism, with an appropriate disclaimer.” This surprised me in that the discussion on this issue had strong opinions expressed both in favor and opposed.
 - d. Under Literature, #12, the approval of the Spanish-language Third Edition Big Book, *Alcoholicos Anonimos*.
 - e. Under Public Information, #19, the trustees’ Committee on Public Information develop their suggestion for a video project that would include video/digital submissions from the Fellowship, with selected submissions to be compiled and used in carrying the A.A. message to young people. As an update on this, the trustees approved guidelines for these videos and I have made copies for everyone to take back to their groups.
 - f. Under Trustees, #32, “...the General Service Board consider all eligible class A (nonalcoholic) and class B (alcoholic) trustees when selecting the chairperson of the General Service Board.”
2. The report from the treasurer of the General Service Board, Vincent K., starts on page 13 and gives a good summary of the financial status of the GSB. On page 15, around the middle of the last column, Vincent summarizes what he considers the “surprises” for 2006 (where it starts off “In 2006:”). These include:
 - a. A record amount of contributions from groups in 2006
 - b. Increases in pension and retiree health care costs
 - c. La Vina loss reduced by \$36,000 while Grapevine had an loss of \$48,875.
 3. On page 25, Doug R., G.S.O. staff, gives a summary of some of the international activities of the G.S.B. and the G.S.O. staff. If you think the international travel is all in luxury, I suggest scanning down to the 4th paragraph in Doug’s report where he describes a 27-hour bus trip in Siberia with a notable lack of hot water and flushing toilets.
 4. On page 66, all of the additional considerations are listed. Additional considerations range from items the committee took no action on to items that the committee wants to see come back to the agenda next year. I will highlight a few of these:
 - a. Under Archives, the last bullet, “The committee forwarded to the 2008 Policy/Admissions Committee a request to consider that the Conference Archives Committee be established as a permanent Conference committee.” This was the only time I voted a minority of one.
 - b. Under Literature, the second bullet the committee took no action on the requests to develop an intergroup/central office pamphlet. This is an item we (AAs in the U.S. and Canada) seem to be divided on. I would not be surprised to see this come back at some point.
 - c. Under Trustees, the last bullet, on the “Appeal to the General Service Conference” dated April 11, 2007 concerning the decision made in the January 2007 executive session of the General Service Board not to begin a search for a new General Manager of G.S.O. I am grateful to the committee for sending this back to the board and focusing on the issue of clarifying the language in the Composition, Scope and Procedures of the GSB on the term of service of the General Manager of G.S.O.

These are just a few of the many items of interest in the report.

Back in Montana, it has been a smoke-filled and busy summer. Since going to New York, I have had a chance to see many of you around Area 40. I gave my first delegate’s report on the conference at the Spring Assembly in Butte. The next day I went up to Eureka to give my report at a District 91 meeting.

The next two reports I gave were at the Grapefest in Helena for District 61 and at a campout in Dillon for District 71. I gave my report at Founder's Day celebrations in Great Falls for District 41 and in Missoula for District 81. I gave my report in Bozeman for District 72 and at the Lake Francis Campout in Valier for District 42. I gave an outdoor report at the Fireman's Point Campout in Columbus for Districts 11 and 12. I gave my report in the A-frame at the Lower Yellowstone Soberfest in Glendive for District 23 and swung by Miles City to give my report at a District 31 meeting. My most recent report was at a District 93 meeting in Victor. I was hosted very well at these events. I want to thank all of you for the potlucks and all the other hospitality.

In addition to giving my delegate's report around Area 40 this summer, I also had the opportunity to attend AA meetings in Port Douglas, Australia, Sydney, Australia, and Warsaw, Poland. Though the accents may be different, the AA message is the same all over the world.

Earlier this month many of us from Area 40 were able to attend and participate in the West Central Regional Forum in Omaha, Nebraska. It was a pleasuring seeing some of the Trustees and the G.S.O. and Grapevine staff members, as well as AA members from around our West Central Region. You'll hear a report on the Forum tomorrow.

One of the things I have tried to do is participate in the e-mail discussions between the delegates. Often these discussions start by one delegate asking the rest of us to share our experience on a given topic or asking how something works in our Area. These discussions have been enlightening. You can see the latest Triangle for an example of one of these discussions.

One of the responsibilities that I think that I have done a poor job on is in welcoming new groups in Area 40 that register with G.S.O. Each delegate receives notification from G.S.O. on each new group that registers in their Area. While it is not feasible for me to visit each new group in Area 40, I can do a better job than I have. DCMs, you can expect a call from me. I will pass on to you the information on new groups in your district that G.S.O has given to me and I may ask for your help in visiting these new groups.

What's coming up for me? I will give my delegate's report at the Fall Roundup in Great Falls next weekend. In October, I will be attending an Assembly for Area 92 (Eastern Washington, Northern Idaho, and Libby) as I was invited to help out in their election assembly. The assembly will be in Wenatchee, Washington. Early next year, I will be headed to New York again, this time for the January Board Meeting.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for allowing me to serve as your delegate to the 57th General Service Conference and thank you for your attention! Any questions?

Yours in love and service,
Andrew W.
Area 40 Delegate
Panel 57

Election of Nominee for West Central Regional Trustee

Those willing to stand for Nomination for West Central Regional Trustee are:

Bob H
Mark S
Earl F
Scott W

The Third Legacy was followed in the voting process of Area 40's Nominee for West Central Regional Trustee. The first vote taken had Bob H with 25, Mark S with 15, Earl F with 21 and Scott W with 31. 2nd vote taken had Bob H with 23, Mark S with 8, Earl F with 24 and Scott W with 35. Per the Third legacy any nominee with less than 1/5th of the votes is removed. Mark S received less than 1/5th so his

name was removed. 3rd vote taken had Bob H with 21, Earl F with 30 and Scott W with 39. Per the Third Legacy any nominee with less than 1/3rd of votes is removed. Bob H received less than 1/3rd so his name was removed. 4th vote taken had Earl F with 40 and Scott W with 49. Per Third Legacy, chairperson asks for a motion for a 5th ballot, motion was made and seconded and failed. The names went to the hat and Scott W's name was drawn from the hat. Scott W is Area 40's nominee for West Central Regional Trustee. Congratulations to Scott and thank you to Bob H, Mark S and Earl F for being willing to stand.

**DCM Breakout 2007 Spring Assembly
Chaired by Bob H.**

23 in attendance, discussed 4 questions.

- 1) How do I/we increase attendance and participation in the District?
 - Ask for help in the room (face to face)
Enlist newcomers as soon as possible for committees. Ask what interest you?
 - DCM regularly visits groups in the district
 - Bring someone with you
 - email or call GSR's and committees; one week prior, one night prior, the morning of.
 - Visit each other often
 - Keep communication lines open
 - Make service interesting
 - Co-chair/understudy/mentor into service

- 2) Who pays for what when Area/District/GSO overlap, ie, pre-assembly, workshops, delegate to NY?
 - Each are a separately funded entity.
 - All districts are encouraged to ask area to visit and do workshops. Expect inviting district to be self supporting if able.
 - Inability to be self-supporting is no reason no to ask.
 - Let groups, district, Area know what real costs are involved. Provide a self addressed stamped envelope for any contributions.

- 3) Kicked out of Meetings? Can we do it? Should we do it? What is districts role?
ie, zealous use of the 5th tradition, members kicked out if talk about anything but alcohol.
 - use 1st, 3rd, & 5th traditions wisely. Each group is autonomous but is it affecting AA as a whole?
 - Allow groups to fix or fail
 - Allow opportunity to grow.
 - Make it a safe haven for newcomers.
 - Has to be a safe haven for newcomers
 - Use GSO

ie, Predators

 - Empower groups to contact GSO to discuss this and other issues. Get their experience.
 - Can ban from group but not AA
 - Use business meetings, voting, certified letters and law enforcement as warranted.
 - The group comes first.

- 4) Feeling inadequate? Am I doing enough or the right things as DCM?
 - Remember the spirit of rotation
 - Read/use service manual for job description.
 - Ask myself is it untreated alcoholism—fear or ego.
 - Depend on committees

- Let committees know they are depended on.
- Make it concrete- make appointments, have accountability.
- Listen when people tell you're, you're not.
- Take actions. Especially if you think you are doing enough
- Listen to your gut, sponsor
- Pray

GSR Breakout

Encouraging discussion of the 7th tradition:

- address at the business meeting
- in announcement book, we break out our expenses
- talk about it with sponsees

How do you approach people mandated to be there?

- maybe they'll express their gratitude later
- give birthday contribution to you home group as well as GSO envelope
- be sure to explain where the money is going
- I seem to gain in my life in relationship to how I contribute
- Hold group workshops about 7th tradition

How do groups determine splits?

- group conscious determined at each quarter
- care for group first
- follow the pamphlet
- be generous with all entities

Participate in all levels of service

- spiritual significance

Using timers in meetings:

- we needed to start using a 3 min timer to deflate some big home group egos.
- Put time caution in the format
- High class problem—usually means we have meeting that are growing
- Workshops on how to chair meetings
- Sponsorship topic also. Tell you sponsees
- Restate the protocol when someone goes on and on
- Should be a group conscience decision
- Chairman chaired the meeting, letting it be open to who wants to talk can cause the problem

Dwindling home group membership. Regain interest?

- might need to leave some jobs open until others sense a need.
- Travel meetings; social events grow membership
- Sponsorship emphasis with in group brings people in

My group is unstructured and does a lot of crosstalk, how do you start to make small changes?

- groups conscience meetings are where you start
- group inventory is a good place to start
- bring up the newcomer as the focus of the meeting. Are thy being served?
- The more consistent the group is the more successful the group. Maybe visit other groups
- You have to first decide if the group wants to change
- You have to be comfortable in any group really

- Ask you sponsor to go with you

What about length of sharing at a 1st step meeting

- 3-5 min still okay
- could take newcomer off separately to tell story
- chair person call up someone to tell 20 min of their story

Pastor or others attending meetings?

- that is CPC wk (to open meetings)
- remember what is meant by open and closed meetings
- be careful about explaining the anonymous part of AA
- be certain to use anonymity statement
- could open a closed meeting if you want
- explain to group members what we mean by open meetings so they can opt out
- use the literature to learn how to talk to professionals

If the chairperson isn't chairing should the GSR step in?

- GSR is a servant no the boss of the group
- Maybe we should just trust the process

How do we get outside guests to come to our facility meeting?

- talk to area corrections chair about contacts

Marijuana/meth conversation in the meeting

- another sponsorship issue
- explain singleness of purpose
- help folks find NA if they need it
- talk w/ people after the meeting
- use pamphlet AA and other medications
- be careful of when we talk with new people
- have patience with the person who is trying to find their way

Roundup Reports

2007 Spring Roundup Report – Butte

The 2007 Spring Roundup was a great success.

We had great speakers, great fellowship, good food and great weather.

We were able to sent \$1,200.00 up to Great Falls for the Fall Roundup. District 71 hopes everyone had a great time during this weekend.

Thank you, everyone for making the 2007 Spring Roundup a great success

Yours in Service

Marcy D

2007 Spring Roundup Chair

PS: Sorry I couldn't be there with you. I have to be in Bozeman this weekend.

2007 Fall Roundup Report – Great Falls

My name is Mary an alcoholic and Roundup co-chair, The 2007 Fall Roundup is next weekend in Great Falls at the Best Western Heritage Inn. The Roundup committee has been working hard to line up some great speakers, an old-timer's meeting, Delegate's report, corrections workshop as well as many Al-anon activities/ speakers. Attendees will enjoy a wonderful banquet and music/dance by "Cold Hard Cash" A Johnny Cash tribute band. There are bright yellow fliers on the back table please take this home to your groups, there is still time to register. See you next weekend in Great Falls!

2008 Spring Roundup – Helena

2008 Spring Roundup will be held in Helena, May 16th, 17th & 18th at the Colonial Inn. Flyers can be found on the internet

Intergroup Reports

No reports given

West Central Regional Forum Report

Hi, I'm Mary and an Alcoholic,

I was asked to give a report on the West Central Regional Forum which was held in Omaha, Nebraska on September 7-9, 2007. It was a pleasure for me to attend and I thank my district for generously funding my way there. I was aware that I was one of 3 DCM's from Montana attending and I was appreciative. It was also gratifying to be able to talk directly with many of the folks who actually work in New York at GSO and AA Grapevine Inc. These trusted servants gave excellent presentations on each of their roles in New York and answered many difficult questions from the audience. These are highlighted in the newsletter that I brought back; there are some on the back table. We heard about the role of the Class A Trustee, Class B Trustee, Trustee at Large and the A.A.W.S. Director. We were given an excellent presentation called: "Participation: A Spiritual Journey," by Greg Muth our General Service Manager. We saw a wonderful video called "Markings on the Journey."

Delegates gave presentations on topics relating to service and AA as a whole. As participants, we gained insight as to how hard our trusted servants work for us. I once again felt blessed to be able to be a part of such a great fellowship. Our primary purpose is to keep our message clear for the newcomer. We have a common problem and a common solution. Our charge is to keep the doors of AA open. Another important concept that I walked away with was that the illustration of our inverted triangle, reminding me that the groups and individual members are the loudest voice in AA.

There were several sessions of workshops on everything from chants and rituals in AA to the age old question of how to get people excited about service. It was a great opportunity for me and as I left, I felt a rekindling of the unity that AA provides for me and for all of us.

Thanks,

Mary S.
District 41 DCM

Update of Establishment of the Area 40 800 Number

See report in PI report

Report on the Area Workshops held in Dillon & Glasgow –Scott W

See report in Area Advisor report

Consolidation of the Evaluation Forms of Area 40 Workshop held in Glasgow, MT on May 5, 2007.

1) What is your current service position?

- 1 None at this time
- 2 GSR or Alternate GSR
- 2 District Committee Chair
DCM
- 1 Area Committee Chair
Other

2) How many “service workshops” (including this one) have you attended? 7.5 average of respondents.

3) What part of the workshop helped the most?

- All of it.
- It was informative in all parts
- All of it
- The change of address/position/etc info is available
- I did like the one at a time presentations – gave me a chance to hear each of the other presenters

4) In what way did it help?

- How to better carry the message and finding out what the follow up is
- I know more to share
- Gives hope
- Removed my resentment of GSO for not changing stuff – could be my fault
 - There are many different styles of alcoholic and different styles of sobriety – but passion and commitment to service are inspiring no matter how packaged.

5) Do you have any suggestions for improving the Area 40 Workshop?

- What was neat – no one know of this meeting and it worked out better than most – if it is odd it's God
- Maybe “changing” or expanding the information funnel to assure communications are being received?
- Run all committees in a row instead of breakouts
- We could do more to structure the presentations – set a time allotted for sharing and a ser time for questions/answers. More structure would prevent those going first from taking more than an equal share. And the old “a good meeting starts and ends on time”.

Past Delegate Sharing

Bob H. – Panel 42 delegate:

Bob shared what it was like when he became involved in General Service work. At that time the Area Chair was able to participate in the discussions. The pandemonium that was caused by this caused Bob to read the Roberts Rules of Order and implement them at Area. Since he was Area Chair, the chair now

chairs the meeting without, to the best of their ability, expressing an opinion verbally or by body language.

Bob and Joe H of Belt put together the Committee System based on the way GSC does their business. They felt that if they presented committee system it would not go very well so they asked Robbie S to present it. This was the start of communication with groups and New York.

Bob expressed concern because of the amount of GSR's attending Area is dwindling. When Bob was chair, 105 GSR's attended Area. (Fall 2007 only 83 registered GSRs).

Bob also expressed concern about the message we are sending newcomers. What are we showing newcomers? How are we carrying the message to the professionals? Are we making commitments and keeping them and then do we do any follow-up with them. He stated that the service structure is to find out how best to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

Mark S –Panel 44

Mark stated that people in service stay sober. Service helps him to think about something else besides himself.

He shared that his 1st meeting he went to the door was locked. Fortunately he went back when the door was open but he did drink again. Mark stated that we need to be at our home group for the newcomers. It isn't going to work for them if we aren't there for them.

Mark's 1st home group talked about service as part of recovery. Mark also heard about apathy in meetings. The idea that I'm just not getting what I need at the meeting, false. Mark stated that it isn't what we are getting from meetings but what are we bringing to the meeting.

Mark learned that if he thinks he doesn't have time for service, God will make the time for AA service. Mark just had to be willing. Talk about service with those you sponsor. Don't make it an option. Lead by example and sometimes you have to lead by the nose. Be a giant in service

SPRING ASSEMBLY—APRIL 12 & 13, 2008