

AREA 40 SPRING ASSEMBLY 2007
APRIL 14 & 15, 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. Kelly read our 12 Traditions and Dennis 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 at Area. There were 105 voting members present and 157 total participants at this Spring 2007 Assembly. Thanks to everyone for coming.

Orientation to the Assembly –Andrew W. Area 40 Delegate

Orientation to the Assembly, Spring 2007

Welcome everyone. My name is Andrew W. and I am an alcoholic. I am both excited and privileged to serve as your Delegate for this rotation. We come together as an Area to take the responsibility statement to the next level. “When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.” It helps me to keep that in mind during our Assemblies.

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.

I want to especially welcome all the new General Service Representatives (GSR) 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. Just as the newcomer is the lifeblood of an A.A. meeting, so too is the new GSR the lifeblood of the Area Assembly and the A.A. general service structure. Thank you all for your willingness to be of service.

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. In case those of you who are here for the first time are thinking how different you are from these people, I want to assure you that many of us were once GSRs. I too was once a newly elected GSR in Area 40. I came to my first Area 40 Assembly wondering why we had to spend all weekend in Lewistown. I have since grown to love the Area 40 service structure and coming to Area Assemblies in Lewistown. I hope you get out of involvement in general service as much as I have. I will warn you that a liking for general service can be contagious.

In Area 40 we are organized on a committee system based on the committee system used at the General Service Conference (I’ll have a little more to say on the General Service Conference in a moment). 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. Many of the items on our agenda are General Service Conference agenda items. We will not vote on these items but the Committee Chair will often take a sense of the committee on many of these items. Some of the items of we will discuss in committee 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. As Concept II states, the GSC, “for all practical purposes, has become the actual voice and effective conscience of our Society.”

As an Area we are one link in the chain of communication from the groups to the GSC.

Following my report, 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. Again, we will not vote on the items from the GSC agenda but I will ask the Area Chair for a sense of the Area on many of these items. The purpose of discussing these items and taking a sense of the Area is to help me be well informed when I go to the General Service Conference next week. For the Area 40 specific agenda items, 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).

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.

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!

I would like to welcome everyone to the first assembly of the 2007-2008 Area 40 rotation. I would especially like to welcome those of you here for your first assembly. Who’s here for their first Assembly?

My work in this position began before the New Year scheduling the 2008 and 2009 Area Assemblies. Those dates are April 12-13, 2008, September 20-21, 2008, April 18-19, 2009, and September 19-20, 2009. We’ll get there one day at a time.

I sent the incoming Area Committee Chairs and DCMs a welcome package which included a letter, copies of the new Area Policies and Procedures, and a contact list for the 2007-2008 Area Committee.

Then I went on the road. I have been to the meetings of District’s 11, 12, 31, 72, 81, and 93. I have also participated in District 91’s Into Action Weekend. My charge has been to educate trusted servants

throughout the Area on placing items on the agenda for the Area Assembly as well as the General Service Conference. I have handouts which illustrate the process in the back of the room. In May, I'm planning on attending Districts 41, 42, 51, 61, and 71. I would love to schedule visits to Districts 21 and 23.

Additionally, I traveled to Lincoln, Nebraska for the West Central Regional AA Service Conference. I arrived late like everyone else because of the weather. Then March Madness began. No, not college basketball but the District sponsored pre-assembly meetings. These meetings give AA members who may not get a chance to attend the assembly an opportunity to discuss the items on the agenda. They also help prepare the Area Chairs for their committee meetings to be held later this morning. I was fortunate to be able to attend all the pre-assemblies.

This weekend, we will be discussing the agenda for the General Service Conference and two Area 40 agenda items. My role will not be to participate in the discussion but to keep order and us on schedule. Your job will be to share with us your comments, questions, and concerns. If your thoughts on the topic have been expressed by someone else, then there is no need to share them again. If, however, you have a point to make that has not been expressed or if you have a question that has not been asked, then please do go to the microphone and add it to the discussion.

Gary P. from Omaha commented at the Service Conference that similar issues were being discussed 20 years ago. From reading the past actions of the Finance Committee, we've been discussing some of these issues for over 50 years. Not unlike my character defects – continual diligence is needed to keep AA carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

Lastly, I have an issue needing your attention. Our Area Delegate, Andrew, will be attending the General Service Conference as our voice. He will be putting in very long days and it will lift his spirits to hear from us, the alcoholics of Area 40, throughout the week. Therefore, I have printed labels with Andrew's address in New York for you to take, put on a card, letter, etc and mail it to him.

Thank you for this huge opportunity to serve.

Carole B.
Area Chair/Alternate Delegate

Area 40 Treasurer—Curt K.

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

And now about money. Many of us needed an overhauling there. But above all, we tried to be sensible on this question. It's so easy to get way off track. Here we find human opinions running to extremes – absurd extremes, perhaps. One set of voices cry that money is a lust of our lower nature, a base necessity of the material world. Then we have the voices who cry for money and more money; who bewail the institutions of accounting and prudent reserves; who think that most of the troubles of AA are traceable to money causes. They think we do not have enough of it, or that it isn't the right kind. They see its significance everywhere. One school would allow man no flavor for his fare and the other would have us all on a straight pepper diet. We want to stay out of this controversy. We do not want to be the arbiter of anyone's economic conduct. We all have money problems. We'd hardly be human if we didn't? What can we do about them?

I hope those of you fellow Big Book purists out there will forgive me for this shameless adaptation of pages 68 and 69, but the paragraph I just misquoted ends with the question we should ask ourselves

throughout the weekend. What challenges does Area 40 face and what can we do about them? Money (specifically our 7th Tradition) is a resource – a tangible representation of the gratitude that AA members have for their sober lives. Our money is a means to an end. The end is our Twelfth Step and on page S1 of your *Service Manual*, Bill Wilson spells out the great range of actions and services that make up 12th step work in our fellowship.

If we can view money more as a useful tool and less as a thing of emotion, we may be able to be more sensible on financial questions. I have every confidence in the group conscience of AA at all levels – our home groups, our Districts, our Area, our General Service Conference, and our General Service Board. And we have the opportunity to apply that group conscience to money matters here this weekend.

To aid in our discussions, I have printed copies of the Area 40 financial statements through the end of March – which are available on the literature table by the door and on the registration table outside the door. We have an ambitious budget for 2007 of slightly more than \$30,000. We have bumped our prudent reserve to over \$15,000 accordingly. This left us with an operating balance (above the prudent reserve) of about \$8,600 to start the year. In the first three months of 2007 we took in \$4,600 in revenue and had expenses of \$8,700. So as of March 31 we have about \$21,000 in net assets remaining, roughly \$15,000 of that is the prudent reserve, our operating balance is at \$4,500 and the Archivist Account is around \$1,500.

So what do the numbers mean? From my perspective as your Treasurer, group contributions will need to pick up fairly significantly over the next few months to meet our budget for the year, or we may need to re-evaluate our budget priorities. If we believe we need more financial resources to meet a particular need, then we can seek more contributions toward meeting that need and/or shift resources from other areas we have decided are less crucial. If we do decide to rethink our budget, we should FIRST focus on deciding collectively what services we believe are most needed by the alcoholics we seek to help, THEN apply our resources accordingly. As is always the case, we need to thoughtfully consider what our priorities are for Area 40 service.

As I have suggested throughout my report, as we face the challenges and questions of how to use our 7th Tradition resources to serve AA, we will do well to be sensible and reasonable. Our group conscience is our collective expression of God's will, so let's go to work in that spirit. We can trust the process and Area 40 will be taken care of.

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

Area 40 Secretary – Connie R.

Hello everyone, my name is Connie R. and I am an alcoholic. I have the pleasure of being your Area 40 Secretary. It has been quite a change for me since I am not as busy preparing for area as I have in the past. I wish to welcome all who are new to Area Assembly. Like everything else I have found in Alcoholics Anonymous, this can be a good experience or a bad one depending on my own willingness to experience new things. If you don't understand something, ask questions.

DCM's, you will find on the table the voting members list. Please fill this out and return to me by the end of the 1st break. This establishes the total 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.

As many of you have noticed, I have added some of my own touches to this Spring Assembly. Courtesy of the Archivist and Area 40 Archives, there were several name badges available for use. We can continue to use the badges so when you leave please either leave the badges on the table or I will have a box to collect them on the back table Sunday morning.

This is a first time for all of us in our current positions, 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 conscious 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 or 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 had requested the reports be sent to me prior to area. I thank all of you who sent me your reports. For those who still need to deliver their report, please hand in two copies to me, 1 for myself and the other for Raymona, our Triangle Editor.

Committee Chairs please be sure to have someone takes minutes for you during your breakout sessions. I will need two copies of you minutes given to me when you are done with your committee reports of agenda items from the floor.

In December, Area 40 Archivist, Gerry R., realized that the approved site for the Archives was not going to happen. Gerry requested that a poll of the Area Committee be taken for the approval to have the archives moved to 324 Fuller, Helena, MT with a lease of \$300.00 per month. A poll was taken and of the 26 voting members, 18 responded. The result was 17 in favor with one abstaining. The Area 40 Committee poll passed.

The following are motions from our Fall Assembly 2006:

- 1) The Public Information Committee unanimously recommends to pursue implementing the 800# in Area 40, utilizing an Adhoc Committee to obtain contract proposals with answering services throughout Montana for consideration at the 2007 Spring Assembly.

This motion voted on and passed.

- 2) Archives/Structure Committee recommends that the Area 40 Archival Repository be moved to 38 Hubbard Way in Helena, MT, and that Area 40 assume responsibility for paying rent in the amount of \$300/month for this site.

This motion voted on and passed.

- 3) Archives/Structure Committee recommends that Area 40 adopt the proposed Policy and Procedures document draft dated July 15, 2006, with the addition of a table of contents, and the two additional paragraphs added to the Secretary's position description."

This motion voted on and passed.

- 4) Finance Committee recommends Area 40 to file form 990S beginning with the year 2007.

This motion voted on and passed.

- 5) Finance Committee recommends that all miles driven on Area 40 business be reimbursed at \$0.05 per mile beginning January 1, 2007.

This motion voted on and passed.

- 6) Finance Committee recommended 2007 budget.

This motion voted on and passed

I look forward to this weekend were I can meet new people and re-establish old friendships. I hope all of you have a great weekend.

Yours in service
Connie R.

Area 40 Archives—Conrad M.

Hello, my name is Conrad M.. I am an alcoholic. My home group is the Tobacco Valley Group in Eureka, Montana. Welcome to the spring 2007 assembly. Whether this is your first or your 31 assembly, this is my first assembly as the Area 40 Archives / Structure chair person. Yes, I am excited and nervous. Later today we will be looking at two items on our agenda for archives at the General Service Conference in New York. I was able to attend preassemblies in Billing, Bozeman, and Kalispell this spring, but to date, I have not had the privilege of giving a workshop at your district but I do look forward to my first one so give me a call and lets dig into the past and present to assist in our primary purpose, "to carry the message of alcoholics anonymous to the still suffering alcoholic." You can find my phone numbers and snail mail listed in the Triangle. Please don't rely on an email to or from me as I am not so hot with the blanking computer.

In Service,
Conrad M.

Area 40 Corrections—Bill E.

Hello Area 40,

I am very excited to be here and to be apart of area 40 business again this assembly. It is also very good to see my fellow travelers and service junkies. I started out my term as your corrections chair in a hurry. It was great to answer questions about the pink can right off the bat. I am very grateful to Gary O. for all the input and experience on the position, being your previous corrections chair. I would also like to thank the groups who have been participating in the Pink Can program. If you are interested in being involved in supplying correctional facilities with AA literature than please see me this weekend and I would love to share the information on how the program works or any other questions. I have ordered literature for some facilities but have not been in contact with many because of no responses to my efforts. If you have a facility in your district in need of literature please contact me and let me know, after all we have funds for that purpose in the pink can program.

I would also like to offer up many other opportunities to be of service in corrections as we have an abundance of opportunity. A new addition to the correctional facility meetings around the state is the START program at Warm Springs, which is for guys on parole from MSP who have been having difficulty staying sober. We have AA's going there at 10 am every Saturday. There is no orientation required just an ID at the facility will get you in. The meeting is very similar to the Watch program.

There is also an orientation scheduled for May 19th at Montana State Prison for anyone interested in taking meetings in there. That meeting is also every Saturday and if you are interested I have some registrations for orientation with me along with information on where and who to send them to. The prison will do background checks and let each individual know if they are okay to come or not. However, it is a time consuming process so please get them sent in as quickly as possible.

I would thank those who have received temporary contacts and forwarded them to me, and those AA's I have contacted about being a temporary contact for an inmate being released to their area. I would like to ask all the DCM's to take a temporary contact sign up sheet in the back and see to it that your corrections chairs get them filled in, as we need contacts in every district. Any questions about the program please email me.

I got to participate in both the Billings and Bozeman pre assemblies and am looking forward to discussing the corrections items in committee this weekend. I would also like to encourage everyone to check the list in the back and fill in your districts corrections chairs name and where to get a hold of them please.

I was at the Bozeman county detention center a couple months back and I will never forget the conversation I had with a man who asked me to sponsor him. The words are burned into my consciousness "Don't forget about me, Don't forget about me."

Please, if you are thinking about correctional work or are currently involved. Don't forget about us!

Yours in Service,
Bill E.

Area 40 Cooperation with the Professional Community—Terry S.

April 14, 2007CFALL AREA ASSEMBLY CPC COMMITTEE REPORT

My name is Terry S. — I am an alcoholic. It is my privilege and pleasure to serve, during this 2-year rotation, as chair of your Area 40 standing committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community. Since January, I've read my job description and the service manual, and have been gathering, reading and trying to understand the material my predecessor, Lloyd B., provided. Also I've been going through the new workbook and kit I received from the GSO and the background material for the GSC and Area Assembly agenda items. I'm a little overwhelmed and confused, but a new service position is always a chance for spiritual growth!

All three of our preassemblies were fun - meeting folks from around the state and enjoying the excellent hospitality of the hosting districts. Districts 11, 72 and 91 all did great jobs of arranging the sites and providing support for those events - thank you, one and all! Sharing about the agenda items, hearing your questions and comments, I've learned a lot, and hope you did, too. I look forward to hearing more about what you folks think during this assembly, in the committee meetings and on the floor of the assembly.

At the preassemblies I asked the folks from the participating districts, "How can I be of service to your districts and groups, by showing up to share at any district or group functions, or by finding and relaying to you any information about CPC matters, or in some other way?" I'm gonna repeat that today. Recovery comes from one alcoholic sharing with another. That's where the rubber meets the road. All of our service committees work to carry the message of recovery in AA to suffering alcoholics.

We can't share with still suffering alcoholics who aren't in touch with us. We can't tell them what it was like, what happened and what it is like now until we find them or they find us. Until then, they can't decide whether they want what we have, and are therefore willing to do what we have done to get it. Without newcomers, achieving our primary purpose is a lot more difficult. In furtherance of our 12th step work, we need to tell our prospects who and where we are.

Now, in CPC, we offer information about AA to professionals. Once they have that information, they can pass it on, when they think it's appropriate, to the folks whose houses they build, whose health problems they treat, whose children they educate, whose prayers they lead, and so forth. Some of those professionals eventually find us for their own alcohol problems. Some send us coworkers with alcohol problems. That's great, that's gravy - those are newcomers, too. But we're telling professionals what we do and don't do, and telling them how to find us locally, so they can send us some of their clients, their patients, their supervisees, their customers, as our newcomers.

To that end, I'm hoping to hear from you folks this weekend - DCMs, GSRs, district CPC committee chairs, and the rest of the members of the Fellowship who are here: What are you doing in CPC? What is working in your groups and districts, and what you are having trouble with? What can I do to be of service to you? I want to know what you need, to be able to help you with it, and I want to know what is working for you, to share that with others around the Area.

We've got two Area workshops coming up in May and June. Please help me to show up at those workshops with as much information as possible about what is happening in our Area in CPC at all levels — we can share that info in the workshops. We can “prime the pump” a little so that those workshops are filled with sharing about what we are doing and what more we could try to do in CPC and all other kinds of service.

So please talk to me. Catch me up here on breaks, or outside when I'm smoking cigarettes, or during meals, or any time you see me, and tell me what's happening. I'm new up here at the front table, and I really want to know how it's going back home for you folks, where the work of recovery is being done. While you're at it, tell me when I can come to your district and participate in what you are doing.

Life is far better sober, and I want to pass it on. Thanks for allowing me to serve.

Terry S., Area 40 CPC Committee Chair, 2007-2008

Area 40 Grapevine—BilliJo D.

Good Morning, My name is BilliJo D. and I am an alcoholic. By the Grace of God and the Fellowship of AA, I have been sober since July 23, 1989.

I'm excited to serve Area 40 as the Grapevine Chair. Three and a half months into this rotation and, oboy, the fun!

Last month I saw Dan H. from Whitehall, who nominated me for this position, and thanked him. He said, “You thanked me in September at the Assembly.” I said, “I know. But that was before I started playing in the position. Now that I've started to serve. . . I want to thank you again.” And I want to thank Area 40 for the opportunity.

The background information I received was partially very clear and partially very confusing. God blessed me with the opportunity to ride with Andrew W. from Missoula to Kalispell for the first Pre-Assembly. Poor man. How exhausting to have someone to non-stop ask him questions. But thankfully he is kind and gracious, and answered all my questions. I now feel much more confident in this position.

I also attended the Pre-Assemblies held in Billings and Bozeman. It is gratifying to me to see so many people around the state with a deep appreciation and downright love for the Grapevine. That makes my job easier.

The Grapevine Committee has five items to review this weekend. Three are in regards to the Grapevine and what could or should be published or printed. Two are in regards to Policy and Admissions, reviewing upcoming dates and reports.

I would welcome all who would like to join the committee in room 201.

I would also like to offer for wearing for an hour, my “Bunch of Grapes” shirt so lovingly suggested by Linda Black.

Thank you.
BilliJo D.
Area 40 Grapevine

Area 40 Literature – Linda B.

Literature Report

Hello, my name is Linda B., and I am your Area 40 Literature Chair. I would like to welcome everyone to the Spring 2007 Area Assembly.

We, of Alcoholics Anonymous, are more than one hundred men and women who have recovered from a seemingly hopeless state of mind and body. To show other alcoholics *precisely how we have recovered* is the main purpose of this book. So began the Forward of the First Edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*, printed in April 1939, (sixty-eight years ago this month). This milestone marked A.A. becoming a Fellowship with its own basic text and program. Our Big Book continues to be the primary tool for carrying the A.A. message of hope to any alcoholic who wants to stop drinking.

Today, as in the early days of AA., the message of recovery from alcoholism is carried by one alki talking to another. However, since the publication of the first edition of the Big Book, literature has played an important role in spreading the A.A. message and imparting information about A.A.’s diversity of services and shared experiences. A newcomer, walking into a meeting for the first time may be given a meeting list, basic recovery pamphlets, or the Big Book. When the newcomer walks over to the literature table or rack, what do they see? An inviting display of fresh A.A. Conference-approved books, pamphlets, and meeting lists, with a friendly member standing by to help? Or do they see ragged little piles of musty materials and nobody there to sort things out? How does your group look?

A growing regard for the importance of A.A. literature to the recovery of each and every member has given rise to a renewed emphasis on district and central office representatives. The results are indicated in the fact that the General Service Office is now in touch with over 440 active literature chairpersons. If you are a newly elected literature chairperson in your group, district, Intergroup, or area, GSO wants to hear from you. I have an information sheet that can be filled out and mailed to GSO. You then would be sent a welcoming letter from the Literature desk at GSO and other information on A.A. publications, news and notes, and periodic information on new items from the Publications Department. I also have paperwork for those who would like to have their events posted in the Box 4-5-9 Bulletin for upcoming events.

Some of you may be new to this assembly and not have the benefit of knowing all the material that is available to you through the General Service Office. At the back of the room is a literature display. The books and tapes aren’t for sale, but the pamphlets are available to anyone free of charge. What is the difference is between Conference-approved literature and service material? Conference-approved describes written or audiovisual material approved by the Conference for publication by GSO. This process assures that everything in such literature is in accord with A.A. principles. Conference-approved material always deals with the recovery program of Alcoholics Anonymous or with information about the A.A. fellowship. Conference approval assures us that a piece of literature represents solid A.A. experience. Any Conference-approved booklet or pamphlet goes through the agenda process, during which a variety of A.A.’s from all over the US and Canada read and expresses opinions at every stage of development. All Conference-approved items comes to a vote at the General Service Conference after the

Literature committee has discussed, reviewed, or made recommendations to the conference. Service material is available to A.A. members upon request. The A.A. Guidelines are an example of service material. A large portion of the material differs from Conference-approved literature in that it has not come about through Conference Advisory Action. It is produced when there is a need for readily available information on a specific subject or in a specific format. Service material reflects A.A. group experience as well as specific and timely information that is subject to change. Staff members at the General Service Office are able to make changes to a service piece, also. To obtain service material, contact the General Service Office or check out their website at www.aa.org

Our purpose at this assembly is to go over the agenda items for the upcoming General Service Conference. Our committee will meet to discuss, review, and consider seven different agenda items. We will bring a report back from our committee on these items. Then, the whole of the assembly will discuss these. I have attended 2 out of 3 of Area 40's pre-assemblies. The general sharing was lively on some of the items and I'm sure we will be able to give our delegate, Andrew, a sense of Area 40's group conscience on these agenda items. One last thing, there are new Service Manuals for sale at the back of the room. There is a can for you to put the \$2.50 in. There are a few of the old manuals for sale for \$1. The additions to the new service manual can be noticed by a black line in the margin of the page the change was made on.

Thank you for allowing me to be your Area 40 Literature Chair and for the opportunity to be of service. I will enjoy participating at the first Area Workshop, May 6th in Glasgow. I have a pretty open calendar and would love to be invited to your district to give a Literature workshop.

Yours in service,
Linda B.

Area 40 Public Information –Sean B.

If the first few months of being your Public Information Chair are any indicator of things to come, the next two years should yield many lessons. It's been an exciting adventure so far organizing the Area 40 1-800-number ad hoc committee, traveling to pre-assemblies and getting up to speed on Alcoholics Anonymous public information matters with GSO, Area 40 and many of the districts and inter-groups.

Before I proceed any further I want to thank our Delegate, Area Chair, former Delegates, Area DCMs, GSRs, Inter-group reps, members of Alcoholics Anonymous and the Area 40 appointed ad-hoc committee for all their assistance. This group spent the first month and a half of the new year working diligently on the 800-number to compile comparisons, contracts and concerns that crafted the agenda item that is before you this weekend. I especially want to thank Julie R. from Missoula, Doug M. from Havre for the many hours and late nights that went into this project. We hope that your questions and concerns can be addressed with all that has been included in the packet. If not, there are several newly trained answering service experts in our midst. The PI Committee is composed of Tim M. Helen DCM 61, Paula H. Missoula DCM 81, Brandon N. DR 11 Billings and another District Representative from District 21 Plentlywood. The committee is more than willing to address any PI agenda questions or concerns.

After the 800-number decision is made it'll be time to get to work providing Districts PI Chairs with the information needed to reach the still suffering alcoholic. DCMs please let me know who is handling PI in your District so I can get in touch. If you would like to discuss the 800-number further, it is my hope that we can take a few small steps towards reducing the Area's travel budget by organizing conference calls instead of traveling cross state. The ad hoc committee found this strategy to be highly effective and productive.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

Area 40 Treatment – Geoff D.

April 14, 2007

Since the fall assembly and as your in coming area 40 Treatment chair, my first task was to update the area 40 Treatment Chair contact list for all incoming district treatment chair positions. With the help of the districts DCM'S the contact list has been completed. Thanks to all the DCM's for all there help.

I will continue to maintain and updated list and pass it on. If there is a change in your district as to your treatment contact, please let me know as soon you can so we can continue to bridge the gap.

The Watch West meetings are going well. Districts 72 and 61 continue to help support District 71. The meetings are on Fridays at 7:00pm with a bridging the Gap presentation once a month on Wednesday.

Watch East continues to have meetings Fridays and Sundays at 7:00pm. Some AA's from Billings and Dickinson ND are helping to support District 23 to carry the message into the facility. Bob H continues to do the Bridging the Gap presentation.

MCDC has their meetings at 6:00pm on Saturdays. Bozeman, District 72 and Helena, District 61 help support District 71 by rotating Saturday meetings. The Bridging the Gap presentation got off somewhat of a slow start with one presentation being missed. I contacted Ted H., District 71 Treatment Chair. We contacted Steve King, Clinical Director for MCDC. I am happy to report we are back on track with the next BTG presentation being on April 22nd. The Bridging the Gap presentation is on the 3rd Sunday of every month.

Ted H has since resigned as District 71 Treatment Chair.

I talked with Richard P District 71 DCM and Craig R will be helping out as the Treatment contact for District 71.

We also talked with MCDC staff about having another orientation and they agreed that it was time for another one.

The orientation will be on Friday May 18th the weekend of the Butte roundup from 4:00pm to 5:00pm at MCDC. For more information contact Richard P District 71 DCM.

I was able to attend two of the three pre- assemblies. In the Treatment breakouts there was a lot of really good sharing of experience strength and hope on the Treatment agenda Items. This process has helped me to not only be better prepared for the assembly; it has also helped me to better understand my responsibilities and duties as your area 40 Treatment Chair. Thank you to all who was able to attend.

I am looking forward to attending the two area workshops in Glasgow and Dillon Hope to see there.

Thanks for allowing me serve,
Geoff D.

DCM Reports

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. New committee members have jumped into their roles and are enthusiastically began attempting to fulfill their service commitments. 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. Recently our District 11 Alternate DCM was among a strong contingent that attended the West Central Regional Service Conference and arrived home with renewed enthusiasm. Many groups are reporting increased attendance, and a new group is in the process of being formed in Roundup. We also hosted a preassembly on March 24th with a fantastic turnout and great discussion of upcoming issues. Upcoming events include a Founders Day on June 9th featuring a pot luck dinner and dancing at the Shrine Auditorium. Also a campout is planned at Cooney Reservoir on July 13th through the 15th

District 12—David T.

District 12 has 9 functioning groups with an estimated number of approximately 80 attendees. Seven groups regularly participate in the district. Three groups do not participate. We are anticipating a new Group from Broadview, MT. The district is financially sound and retains no debt. There are currently no district workshops planned.

Active and Non-participating Groups

1. Absarokee (8-12)
2. Big Timber (?) NP
3. Clarks Fork Group (3-4) Fromberg
4. Harlowton (8)
5. Joliet (14)
6. Laurel Home Group (24)
7. Red Lodge Groups
 - a. Rock Creek Group (12)
 - b. Principles Not Perfection Group (10) NP
8. Stillwater Group (10) Columbus
9. No Name Group (3) Columbus NP
10. Broadview may soon join 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)

We currently have two committees;

1. A Grapevine Committee
2. A Corrections Committee

We recently lost our Treatment Center Committee and our Secretary. Both of the individuals who were serving in these capacities, performed a wonderful service for our district and for AA as a whole.

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

In Service,
David R. DCM

District 21-- Dave G.

No one present from District 21

District 23-- Joe P.

Greetings from District 23. We have only two registered Groups in our District. Makes my job pretty easy, especially since both Groups have active General Service Representatives.

On March 17th we held a not quite spring yet potluck and open call-up meeting. There was a good turnout, lots of good food and fellowship. After the call-up meeting we held a District meeting. We filled our Treasurer/Secretary position. We also discussed the Assembly Agenda items. The Area officers have done a wonderful job of keeping our District informed. It is nice to feel a little more prepared.

A new Group is forming in Savage. They will hold their first meeting May 2th at 7:30 p.m. in the Lutheran Church basement.

The Lower Yellowstone Soberfest will be held again the third weekend of August, the 17th, 18th & 19th at the Lion's Youth Camp in Makoshika State Park at Glendive. Admission is 7th Tradition. Hope to see a bunch of you turn out for a weekend of fun, fellowship, serenity and growth.

Our next District Meeting is scheduled for April 25th in the Lutheran Church Basement in Savage.

I would like to thank District 23 for this opportunity to serve and am looking forward to seeing old friends and making some new ones this weekend. Thank You.

District 31-- Neil T.

We have two district meeting since the first of the year. Two more are scheduled prior to 2008. We meet in Miles City. Both meetings were well represented by Miles City Groups. Also in attendance were reps from Forsyth, Colstrip and Jordan. Our Treasurer indicated we had \$328.13 in our account as of January 21st. Our main topic of discussion... the 800 number of course!

Visits to Baker indicated that one person holds meeting Thursday evenings at the Lutheran church, but it is best to call ahead (to the pastor).

The following currently have no representatives in District 31; Broadus, Ekalaka and Baker.

Carol B from Billings was a welcome visitor to our second meeting. She provided valuable information as well as clarification to issues at hand.

Inaccuracies or omissions to this report are strictly the fault of the author.

Sincerely yours,
Neil T., DCM

District 41-- Mary S.

Hello, my name is Mary and I am an alcoholic and DCM from district 41. I would like to welcome all the new faces from my district to Area Assembly, we are very happy that you are here.

Our district has been busy. We started off the New Year with a GSR school workshop, potluck and dance. Our Support your Services committee did a great job. It was well attended and we appreciate those from out of town who facilitated the workshop. At our district meetings we have filled all our positions except male hotline and many chairs have quite a few people on their committees planning and preparing for all the hard but fulfilling work ahead. Our Area committee chair Carol B. will be visiting our district meeting in May and we are also planning a Founders Day Picnic along with a delegates report coming up very soon.

My district sent me to the West Central Regional Service Conference in Omaha, Nebraska. It was a great experience to see AA work at another level, with people from all over our region. There was lively and not so lively discussions about the agenda items for our General Service Conference and I learned so much. We heard from Trustees alcoholic and non alcoholic as well as many other dedicated members, we have an incredible program of recovery.

Members of district 41 look forward to attending two great events, The Clancy 12 step Study in May and the 2007 Fall Round-Up in September. Come and join us and thanks for allowing me to serve,
Mary S., DCM, District 41

District 42-- Michelle M.

District 42 has 8 groups in 8 towns. 7 of the 8 groups participate in the District. Attendance has been fluctuating just a bit for each group. The last 3 weeks, the attendance at the Valier meeting has been great. Thanks to all the surrounding group members who have attended. Valier has changed their meeting time to 7:00 pm. & Shelby has changed all their meetings to 7:30 p.m.

Duane C. and Milan A. have been bringing meetings into the Crossroad Correctional Facility in Shelby. Patients of the Blackfeet Treatment center in Browning are able to attend meetings in Cut Bank.

All but two of our district chairs are filled.

Prior to our district meeting in March, we had a potluck with Joe and Jeanie H from Belt attending. Immediately afterwards, Joe put on a GSR school, which was well attended by the District. Thank you very much, again Joe.

Carole B. is planning on being at our district meeting in May to go over the agenda process. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

Darrell H will serve as the Archives Standing Committee member.

Valier will be having their roundup this year July 27-29 at the Lake Frances Pavilion in Valier. Hope to see you there. Fliers are on the table.

A big thank you goes to all the groups in the district that helped get Darrell and myself here.

Thanks District 42 for allowing me to serve

Michelle M., District 42 DCM

District 51-- Doug M.

A big hello to the other fellowships, out there. We are still going strong with our regular meetings in Havre. Stiff Rocky boy is still struggling with attendance. There is a meeting in Hays that is showing promise. Fort Belknap is alive and doing well. Chinook still has their two regular meetings a week. They sponsored a potluck get-together with speakers on April Fools' Day. We fooled John Barleycorn with a large turnout. Guest speakers were Ted from AA and Nancy from Alanon.

The third step group has been having their regular third Sunday potluck and speaker meeting. We like to have out-of-town speakers so, if you're interested; please contact someone from that group. We have had speakers from Valier, Malta, Billings, and of course Havre. We love to hear others share their experience, strength, and hope. The meals have been wonderful. It's been a great time for the AA family group. Last fall's mini-conference was a success. Planning is now underway for the fall mini-conference for October 6th&7th. We are still working on a theme. If past success is any indication of the future it will be an enjoyable time for all.

On May 5, 2007 those in-service from Northeast Montana and central Montana and maybe eastern Montana will meet in Glasgow for workshops covering the areas of service in our districts. A big thanks to Scott W. for getting this arranged.

I would like to thank the other districts for sending their meeting minutes to us. I have been putting them in their respective folders at the Alano club. People actually read what others are doing.

Our cell phone, chairperson Mandy F. has done a terrific job in handling the phone and people who answer the phone. Her list of people who answer the phone is good for the next several months.

Before I quit writing, I would like to thank all those in district 51 for their continued support. We had been averaging 8 at district meetings.

Sincerely in sobriety,

Doug M, D. C. M. district 51

District 61-- Tim M.

The theme of the 2007 West Central Regional Conference in Lincoln Nebraska was "Our 12th Step Responsibility – Are We Going To Any Length". Well I can't speak for anyone else on this, but in District 61 the answer to this question is a strong - affirmative!

- District 61 encompasses the towns of Helena, Townsend, Boulder, White Sulfur Springs and Lincoln Montana. Within that area, there are approximately 100 meetings a week, at almost any time of the day, provided by twenty-six active groups.
- At the district level all but one of our district committee positions, the archive chair, is currently filled. At our monthly District meetings we have been averaging around 35 participants, fourteen GSR's, fourteen committee members and a handful of innocent bystanders and well-wishers.
- The literature committee maintains a district literature store that is open every Saturday from 11:30 until 1:30.
- On March 16th and 17th "It's In The Book" group sponsored The Eleven Annual Pockets of Enthusiasm with great speakers from out of state and around 250 participates.

- The Twenty-Eighth of this month we will be putting on a Corrections workshop that will be held at the Montana Club with a panel speaking both from AA and the Professional community. What is also great about this workshop is that it was a combined effort between four committees, Corrections, Public Information, Cooperation with Professional Community and the Workshop committee. What a demonstration of unity! Flyers are on the table.
- On June 2nd we will be participating in the first Area 40 Sponsored Workshop in Dillon. On that same we will also be hosting the Nineteen Annual Grapefest in Helena at the Wilson House from 1:30 until 5:30 with BobiJo our Area Grapevine Rep and Andrew our Area 40 delegate. Flyers are also on the table for the Grapefest.
- The 52nd Annual Attitude of Gratitude will be held on November 17th at the Colonial Inn in Helena. We will be having our usual great meetings, speakers, and fellowship and the foods not to bad either. Flyers are on the table.
- The Spring 2008 Roundup will be in Helena. The committee is well under way already selecting the Theme, Location and all of the speakers. Flyers will be forthcoming on this.

Thank you again for this opportunity to serve. I am more and more, less and less, able to worry about me and judge others because of it, and for that added peace in my life. I am internally grateful!

Tim M.

District 61 DCM

District 71-- Richard P.

My name is Richard P. and I am an alcoholic! I am also your District 71 committee member.

Our district has been busy preparing for the upcoming 2007 Montana Spring Roundup, the theme is, Extravagant Promises, We Think Not. We are preparing for the Area 40 Service Workshop and our District Campout and Delegates Day Picnic.

The Montana Spring Roundup will be held May 18—20 at the Copper King Hotel and Convention Center in Butte. Registration forms are available here this weekend and you must pre-register by May 10 for meals. If you need any additional information, please call our chairperson, Marcy D. at 563-6714.

The 2nd of 2 annual Area 40 Service Workshop will be held in Dillon, June 2, at the Elks Lodge. There are four Area 40 districts involved. They are 71, 72, 61, and 93 Flyers are available here this weekend. I would like to personally thank our Area Adviser, Scott W. for all his help in getting this workshop off and running and for putting together our flyer. Scott has done a great job in getting all of the districts involved and keeping us well informed. It should be a fun and information filled day for all attendees.

Our District Campout/Delegates Day Picnic will be held June 2-3 following the workshop, at Barrett's Park just south of Dillon, on the banks of the historic Beaverhead River. We have the campground and pavilion reserved from noon Sat. thru Sunday. We will have a steak-fry/pot luck Sat. night followed by an open AA campfire meeting.

Camping is free and camp sites are on a first come first serve basis. The weather that time of the year can be unseasonable so come prepared for anything. Sunday June 3 at noon we will have a pot luck picnic. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided by district 71. At 2 pm our Area 40 Delegate, Andrew W. will give his General Service Conference report. Also, a cribbage and horseshoe tournament will take place

during the weekend. If like to fish, float, swim or just lounge around, it's all available at this quiet/remote campground. All are welcome, so come join us for fun, fellowship and food. A flyer and more information will be available on the Area web site soon.

Our district also offers plenty of opportunities for AA service. We seem to have an abundance of detention and treatment facilities. We sponsor or help sponsor several meetings at these institutions. Every Saturday at 6 pm there is a closed facility meeting at MCDC in Butte. You must complete an orientation before attending these meetings. We tentatively have an orientation scheduled for Friday afternoon May 18 in Butte just before the Spring Roundup. Contact our AA facility coordinator, Craig R. at 723-4710 or our area treatment chair, Geoff D., at 861-3968 or the Area web site for more information.

The Montana State Prison at Deer lodge has an AA meeting on Saturdays at 10 am. Again you must attend an orientation and have a background check before attending. A prison orientation is scheduled for May 19th at Montana State Prison. If you are interested in being apart of AA in the institution you must fill out a registration form and return it to the prison as quickly as possible so they can do the background check and get back to each person individually before the May 19th date. Contact Gary O. or Bill Eves, our Area Corrections chair for registration forms or you can find them on the area web site.

There are meetings at WATCH Wednesdays at 7 pm and a speaker meeting the Yd Wed. at 2:30 pm. There are meetings at Warm Springs on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and a new meeting at START, a detention center at the old Silver Bow County jail at Warm Springs. Those meetings are at 10 am on Saturdays. Call Gary O. at 563-5789 for more information on these meetings. Connections Corrections Program in Butte has a meeting every Friday at 7 pm. Call Fred P. at 782-9250 for more information. I along with all of the District 71 committee would like to personally thank the surrounding Districts for their continued sponsorship, support and participation with these institutional meetings

I look forward to working with the Area 40 committee and the other DCM in the state over the next 2 years and hope to see you soon at one of our many upcoming AA functions and/or meetings. With the help of Alcoholics Anonymous, my Higher Power, and you members of this life saving program, I believe and trust that this opportunity to serve will remain manageable.

Yours in Service,
Richard P., District 71 DCM

District 72-- Lori F.

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

District 72 is located in Southwest Montana with Bozeman as our "hub." We currently have 42 registered groups and approximately 5-6 unregistered groups that hold meetings. We have 82 meetings a week ranging far and wide in Belgrade, Big Sky, Bozeman, Emigrant, Ennis, Gallatin Gateway, Gardiner, Livingston, Manhattan, Paradise Valley, Pony, Three Forks, Virginia City, West Yellowstone and Wilsall.

Our District Meetings are the last Saturday of each month, except November and December when we meet once between the holidays, usually the second Saturday in December. Our May through September meetings are hosted by groups in cities outside Bozeman to encourage participation throughout the District. Our meetings have been well attended, averaging about 28 people. All of our 4 Officer and 9 Committee Chair positions are filled, and many of the chairs have assembled committees. Sadly, we will

soon have to elect a new Alternate DCM as Pete F. will resign effective April 28. I am confident that a willing soul will step up and fill this important service position.

District 72 offers many service opportunities, from being a Bridging the Gap contact, to being listed with the hotline, to taking meetings to correctional facilities and treatment centers. The District also publishes monthly meeting lists, assists groups in literature purchases and puts on an annual luncheon for professionals.

District 72 has had a busy first quarter, starting with our first ever GSR school held on January 13th. On February 3rd, the Park County Intergroup invited our Literature Chair, our Alternate DCM and me (and our Area 40 Delegate, Andrew W.) to participate in a service workshop in Livingston. Thanks to the District, I was able to attend the March 2-4 West Central Regional AA Service Conference in Lincoln, NE. Then it was our turn to host the Pre-Assembly which rotates between Districts 41, 61, 71 and 72. It was held in Bozeman on Saturday, March 31, followed that evening by our District Meeting. All of these events were lots of fun as well as being informative and, at least for me, motivational.

We are eagerly looking forward to the Area 40 Workshop that our Area Advisor, Scott W., is helping to organize for Districts 61, 71, 72 and 93 to be held June 2, 2007 in Dillon, MT.

Yours in service, Lori F., District 72 DCM

District 81-- Paula H.

I have to tell you that it was with fear and trepidation that I accepted the job of DCM for District 81. And it is just that, a part-time job.

We started the year with a GSR workshop at our first District meeting, January 20; co-hosting with District 93. Robbie S and Mark S came down from Kalispell for the presentation. We had a large turnout. Many thanks to them for their insightful information on how to do service work! I have heard many great comments on how useful it was.

I want to thank Carole B, Area 40 Chair, for her visit to our District in February at our second District meeting. She has done such a tremendous amount of work getting Area committees in order and preparing for Area Assembly, I couldn't believe she was already out-and-about visiting Districts. It was terrific having her inform us about how to address our concerns and suggestions to the General Service Conference.

March was a busy month. Besides trying to get the District Committee Contact List up-to-date, I attended the West Central Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska the first weekend, the Pre-Assembly in Kalispell the second weekend and District meeting the third weekend. The Conference was a cross between a Regional Forum and an Area Assembly.

We are having a couple of challenges in District 81. One is filling all our Committee positions. We combined PI and CPC, but still have Literature and Archives to fill. Some of the groups are filling their own orders and sharing with other, smaller, groups. Maybe this is a better way to go as it fosters co-operation.

The other challenge is getting GSRs to come to District. I look forward to the GSR breakout to get some ideas about this.

Yours in love and service, Paula H., DCM

District 91-- April A.

District 91 is in northwestern Montana it is made up of approximately 18 groups. We normally meet the last Sunday of each month at 3PM. Our District meetings rotate throughout the district being hosted by a different group each month. This month we will be in Columbia Falls, hosted by the Canyon Group. The movement of our district meeting allows us the opportunity to see others' meeting places, gives us an opportunity to experience parts of our district that are remote but also very beautiful, but most importantly, the hosting groups' members often attend our district meeting, something they might not do otherwise. In district 91 we feel this is a win/win situation.

Since September we have elected all our chair positions. Due to some recent changes, however, we currently have one position open, Treatment Chair. Our non-voting Intergroup Liaison position recently vacated due to Rebecca S's move to Helena (our loss, Helena's fortunate gain) was filled by Steve M. Many of our current trusted servants are new to District service; this brings a new spark and enthusiasm to our district committees, which reinforces in my mind the need for rotation in service. Others of us have been around district service for a while which brings a consistency and knowledge of our District's history so that we might be able to offer insight as to why we made past decisions do things the way we do. We are attempting to revive and strengthen our flagging committee structure, that will be our focus this rotation.

District 91 sponsored the Christmas Alcathon at the Alano club in Kalispell for all those alcoholics in need of a meeting on Christmas. 24 hours of meetings is just right on Christmas.

We started off the new service rotation with what we call GSR School presented by Mark and Robbie S. This is really a service school for anyone new to general service and for those of us who need a refresher, not just for GSR's.

Our annual into Action weekend was a success and well attended. I must admit, I am not speaking from personal experience as I was home battling Bronchitis. For all I know they took the budget and had a big party-- well, that's kind of the same thing anyway. Carole B and Jim C were our speakers for the event. We also had a "Meet the Area Chair" breakfast on Saturday morning.

District 91 sent me to the WCRAASC in Nebraska. It was fun, informative and a lot of work.

District 91 had the pleasure of hosting this year's Pre-assembly event or Districts 81, 93, and 91. Most of the Area chairs did not have a conflict of schedules and were able to make the event. Overall attendance was good, although I would have liked to see a better turnout of GSR's from District 91. That can be a focus for the next pre-assembly. As usual District 91 is gearing up for the summer months by having campout after campout. The first on the list is the annual Founders Day campout around June 10th Followed by the Emery Bay campout and then Camp 32, ect, ect....

I will leave the rest of the year to happen and report upon the next time we meet this fall.

In Service,
April A.
District 91 DCM

District 93-- John V.

My name is John and I am an alcoholic and DCM for District 93. There are 13 groups with 30 meetings a week in the Bitterroot Valley that carry the message of hope to the still suffering alcoholic.

District 93 sent me to the WCRAASC in Lincoln NE last month. As I found myself unemployed during March I took a Vacation and miss attending pre-assembly's.

In Jan District 81 & 93 put on a GSR workshop for the new GSR rotation and I would like to thank Mark and Robbie for the information they shared with us all.

District 93 is planning a campout at Painted Rocks again this year but being a new DCM it has slipped my mind at district and I'm sure it will be in July again.

Yours in service, John

Area 40 Advisor—Scott W.

My name is Scott W, I am an alcoholic. Privileged to serve as the Area 40 Advisor. Thank you Madame Chair for the opportunity to give this report.

By past action of this Assembly, Area 40 will sponsor two Area Workshops in 2007 & 2008. The planning stages of the workshops started this past December with numerous emails and conference calls. Per the past action, the topics to be covered were determined by the participating Districts.

The first workshop will be held in Glasgow at the Club House on May 5. I want to thank the DCMs from the Districts for the help: Doug M from District 51, Dave G from District 21 and Joe P from District 23.

The second workshop will be held in Dillon at the Elk's Club on June 2. And again I want to thank the DCMs for their assistance: Richard P from District 71, Tim M from District 61, Lori F from District 72 and John V from District 93.

Both workshops will start at 10:30am and will have a potluck. Fliers for both events are available on the table in the back of the room. The Area Committee Chairs that have been invited were notified via email a few months ago and today received a packet of information for the workshops.

I do hope to see as many people as possible at the workshops. We are hoping to show how Area workshops carry the AA message of recovery through service and about service. I enthusiastically encourage you to attend one or both workshops.

Planning for next year's Area workshops will start this fall. The workshops for next year will be in the Southeast corner and Northwest corner of Area 40.

In Loving Service,

Scott W.
Area 40 Advisor

Area 40 Archivist—Gerry R.

Area Archivist
2007 Spring Assembly Report

Good morning my name is Gerry R. and I'm an alcoholic, and I have the privilege of serving Area 40 as its Archivist. Welcome to old friends, new friends and soon to be friends, especially those here for their first Area Assembly. To begin, let me say that this has been an exciting past six months for the Area 40 Archives. I don't know if the archives themselves are that excited about it — but I sure am!

Last fall, Area 40 approved a move of the archival repository from Great Falls to a new location on Hibbard Way in Helena. After the Assembly I contacted the property manager of the new site to make final arrangements for our lease. Unfortunately, he wanted to make some major changes to our verbal agreement which prompted me to seek another site for the repository. Another site was located at 324 Fuller, about a block away from the first location. I then requested Andrew W., who at that time was the Area 40 Chairperson, to poll the Area Committee on whether or not they would authorize this change of location. The committee did approve the change, and on January 30th of this year the Archives were moved. While the Fuller location is not as ideal as the Hibbard Way site, it still provides adequate space and security for the same lease amount that was authorized by Area 40 last fall. The lease is for five (5) years and is very flexible in our favor, allowing us to cancel with two (2) months notice after the second year. There are modest increases beginning in the third year which will raise the monthly payment to \$350.00 by the fifth year. I have a copy of the lease with me this weekend, if anyone wishes to review it.

The move itself was, like any AA move, a marvel to behold. I learned a long, long time ago that, due to their extensive experience with geographical cures, recovering alcoholics are the best movers in the world. For the record, and contrary to a few observations made by people who's anonymity I will protect, I never once doubted that this fellowship was capable of getting the job done. I did, however, doubt my own ability to coordinate the affair. Suffice it to say that I learned yet another lesson in "Together we can accomplish that which we cannot do alone." After weeks of worrying about the huge task that I was asking volunteers to do, it took only an hour, in Great Falls, to completely load a 26 foot rental truck to within a half-inch of its back door, and a half-hour, in Helena, to unload it. I tried to personally thank everyone involved in the move, and I must say a special thanks now to Lee T. who organized the Great Falls crew, and to past delegates Earl F. and Scott W. who both traveled great distances to help out on both ends of the move. Thanks to everyone's efforts, the collective experience strength and hope of the Area 40 Fellowship remains safe and secure.

The material is all slowly finding a home at the new location, but sorting through and organizing an archival collection of this size is a long tedious process. I have been able to respond to some small requests for research on items, but have yet to fully explore a couple larger requests made by the current Delegate and Area Advisor. I hope to find more time for those after finishing preparations for a display for the Spring Roundup in Butte.

Speaking of displays, if you notice, I have a small service oriented display behind me here today. Its intent is to provide everyone, especially those of you who are new to General Service work, an opportunity to get a sense of the history that you're involved in this weekend, as well as presenting some sources of help available to you in your service positions.

Speaking of help, I need yours. Due to the ill health and eventual death of my predecessor Kevin N., as well as the transition between our terms in this position, there is a strong need for many records dealing with the last two service rotations. The Archives needs hard copies of some General Service

Conference reports, Service Manuals, Triangles, and Grapevines, as well as District records for business meetings and event flyers. If you have any of this information yourself please see me this weekend, and if you know someone else who does, please refer them to me when you get the chance. It is very important that we obtain this material.

Speaking of obtaining material, I was very excited last Fall to receive from Geoff D. our current Area 40 Treatment Chair, some original issues of what I'm sure is Montana's very first AA newsletter, entitled AA Musings, dating back to 1947 and 1948. Thank you again Geoff for this wonderful piece of AA history. After determining how to best protect and preserve these true treasures I hope to be able to display them at an upcoming event.

Speaking of upcoming events, if you have one and would like an Archives display there, please contact me well in advance to ensure my availability and allow me time to prepare the display.

As always, thank you all for allowing me to be of service.

Gerry R.
Area 40 Archivist

Area 40 Webmaster—Alex M.

Webmaster Report for the Spring Area Assembly 2007 <http://www.aamontana.org>

As of my last report at the Fall Assembly, we have had over ¾ million hits on our website.

The main attraction to the site is still the list of online meetings accounting for over ¾ of the traffic. I would like to thank the volunteers in each District that have made a commitment to update their respective meeting list. It is a huge service to the Area, your District and most importantly, the still suffering alcoholic in need of a meeting.

As usual the flyer downloads are very popular as well. The flyer for the Spring Roundup in Butte alone has seen over 650 visits since it was first put online back in October of last year. Copies of the Triangle, our Area Newsletter, have been in the top 15 document downloaded from the site.

I have spent some time updating the look and feel of the calendar and the area business sections to hopefully make them easier to use.

Don't forget that as the owners of the website each and everyone of you can suggest and make changes to the functionality of the website.

Concerning the 800 number agenda item, the PI committee wanted me to let you know that I do have the ability to create a layer of security or two, to allow each District the ability to manage the hotline volunteer list.

Catch me during the breaks if you would like a tour of the website. I would be glad to show you what is currently available.

Yours in service,
Alex M.

Standing Committee Meetings

Literature—Linda B.

The Literature committee was represented by Michelle M., DCM-42, Thora C., DR-41, and Scott W., DR-23. There was no one present from District 21. I would like to thank Nick M. from District 61 for taking such wonderful notes. There were 12 fellow AA's that participated in our committee meeting with visitors from districts 11, 61,71,81,91, & 93. We started our committee meeting with the Serenity Prayer and got down to the discussion of the agenda items.

1. Review trustee's Literature Committee progress report on the "A.A. for the Native North American pamphlet. As of January 16, 2007, 36 stories have been submitted. Stories can still be submitted until June 30, 2007. The literature committee reviewed the report and acknowledges that the extension of the deadline for the stories will provide a greater opportunity for diversity of stories from the many tribes that are present in the U.S. and Canada. There are guidelines for anyone interested in submitting a story at the Literature table.

2. Consider a suggestion to add the following text from The A.A. Service Manual. Financial Support: Current experience indicates that many groups provide financial support to their general service representatives to attend service function" to "The A.A. Group" pamphlet and the "GS.R." pamphlet. It is the consensus of the committee that this addition seems appropriate to these pamphlets. Much of our literature is repeated in other service pieces and pamphlets. This addition does not have any cost factor involved with it

3. Discuss request to develop an intergroup/central office pamphlet. Much discussion was present upon this agenda item. The committee acknowledges that intergroups have a vital role in carrying the A.A. message. However, we feel that there is sufficient information available about intergroup/central offices in A.A. Conference-approved literature and service material. As the structure and function of these offices vary throughout the U.S. and Canada, it is the consensus that, where a need may exist for an intergroup/central office pamphlet, that need can best be met locally.

4. Consider a suggestions to change the title of the pamphlet "Can A.A. Help Me To?" subtitled "Black/African Americans Share Their Stories" to "A.A. and the Black/African American Alcoholic". The committee is in favor of this title change. It is in keeping all A.A. pamphlets with direct, straightforward titles. **Andrew, Area Delegate requested the sense of the Area and the sense of the Area agreed with the change.**

5. Discuss a suggestion to revise the pamphlet "The A.A. Member-Medications and Other Drugs. This pamphlet was last revised 22 years ago. It is the consensus of the committee that it is time to look at revisions. **Andrew, Area Delegate requested the sense of the Area and the sense of the Area agreed with the revisions.**

6. Review trustee's Literature Committee report on the Spanish-language Third Edition Big Book, Alcoholicos Anonimos. 173 stories submitted, 32 have been selected by the sub-committee. The review looks great.

7. Consider a request to produce a pamphlet to replace the discontinued "Letter to the Woman Alcoholic". It is the consensus of this committee that another pamphlet is not necessary. It might be more appropriate to look at new revisions to "A.A. for the Woman. There are many pamphlets that contain information for the woman alcoholic. **Andrew, Area Delegate, requested the sense of the Area and**

the Area felt it was not necessary to produce another pamphlet to replace “Letter to the Woman Alcoholic”.

Grapevine/policy and admissions—BilliJo D.

Grapevine Committee met in Room 201. We had four committee members and eight District GVR’s and lovers of the Grapevine in attendance.

Our first item of business was to consider items for production in 2008 or later. The sense of the committee was affirmative for both the publication of “Old-Timers Corner” and Rule #62” anthologies.

The second item was whether or not to reinstate a section on the subject of alcoholism in the Grapevine, similar to the formerly published “Grey Pages.” The sense of the committee was negative. **Andrew, Area Delegate, requested the sense of the Area and the Area felt that we should not reinstate the Grey Pages.**

Third item was to review contents of the Grapevine Workbook. Lightly reviewed, the sense of the committee was “it looks good.” No changes suggested.

Our next item was to review the dates for the 2010 General Service conference. We had two choices of weeks in April. The sense of the committee was to prefer the second choice of April 25-May 1 because the first week included a Jewish holiday and due to the fact, it also may conflict with AREA 40’s traditional weekend for our Area Assembly.

Our last item was to review the final report of the General Service Board Regional composition and Structure Inventory Committee. We did not receive the final report to review. So, we did not do so. However, we did discuss the background material. We believe that this item is possibly of great importance to AREA 40. The 2006 report states in part, that “the committee accepted with appreciation the report from the General Service Board on the feasibility of more balanced composition/structure of regions. . . .the procedures are included in the “Suggested Guidelines for Changing Regional Boundaries” accepted by the 1996 General Service conference.” We look forward to the possibility of reviewing the final report perhaps during the fall Assembly.

Business accomplished, we also discussed Subscriptions and Submissions. We brainstormed ideas of how to promote the Grapevine around the state; not only subscriptions of the magazine but also of the other materials that the Grapevine publishes. Please see the display.

We talked about distribution of old Grapevines.

We also discussed the upcoming (Grapefest held in Helena on June 2. I will conduct a Writer’s Workshop. I and all GVR’s are available to any and all meetings and district hosted events for such things as chairing Grape Meetings, displays, and/or presentations concerning what the Grapevine has to offer. We’re here to serve. Use us.

Thank you.
BilliJo D.
AREA 40 Grapevine.

Archives/structure—Conrad M.

1. Review Workbook.
Question on whether this is service material or conference approved
Question on changes to Researchers card page 39 on its purpose
Question can this material be adapted to the local level—yes.
Comment on applicability of changes to anonymity protection statement being added to release form.
Comments—Montana not mentioned enough.
Notes on grammar errors page 7—Oral Histories Kit
Comment on page 8 “Please excuse the intrusion of my Letter.”
Deed of Gift discussion—District 11 Example
2. Review the final report of the Subcommittee on Archives Recordings, and the “Sound and Video Access Policies.”
Summation: Copyright restrictions do not allow sale & distribution of this material as recommended last fall, however listening stations and professional transcription services for a fee will be provided.
Risk Assessment—3 good points
 - o Triangle of most & least risky alternatives for material access
 - o Statements “Never intentionally go against the law...”
 - o Explanation of “not for profit reproduction”

Finance—Curt K.

Reviewed “statement of financial position”

Looks like Group contributions are on slight decline and Area 40 is not flush like it has been the last few years.

Group contributions need to increase to meet this year’s budget, but there is no reason to panic

Agenda Items

1. Discuss a request to increase the maximum annual contribution (or a one time bequest) that the General Service Board can receive from an A.A. member from \$2,000 to \$3,000.

-Should maybe be increase to \$5000 to help AAWS be self-supporting

-Increased from \$1000 to \$2000 in 1999

-We seem to make this increase about every 8 years

-28 people contributed \$2000 last year

-Could be an opportunity for some people to show more gratitude

-Committee is in favor of the increase

Floor discussion-

-Is this change for change sake? We can contribute through 7th tradition. Contributions are tax deductible.

Sense of Area was taken and agreed to the increase.

2. Consider two suggestions to add text regarding reimbursement for G.S.R. (general service representative) travel expenses from group funds to the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix.”

-It’s a good idea

-Committee is in favor

Floor discussion: It might be a good idea to help get GSR's here and the group supports them. We can't make the groups send GSR's to Area. This is a suggestion not law. Sense of Area was taken and agreed with adding text.

3. Discuss a request to "Develop a communication plan for the purpose of increasing the level of group participation and self-support within the Conference structure."

- Need a plan to be fully self-supporting
- It's wrong to say AA is not currently self-supporting; we are self supporting through group contributions & literature profits –We (AA members) buy our own literature
- We, as a fellowship, need to decide if we want to be self-supporting only by group contributions, if so, we can do it, one way or another.
- In Concept XII, Bill calls Literature profits, in effect, contributions
- If 100% of Groups contributed, it could be a disaster for tax status
 - What would we do with all that money?
- It's more important that an AA meeting is there than whether that group is paying its fair share.
- There is already a plan; it's already laid out in the service manual & pamphlets.
- Yes, the information is already out there but it's not working so what do we do?
- Mention it in format of Home Group meetings. Probably lots of groups out there that don't know what it means to be self-supporting at GSO, a plan would be good.
- We need to be clear on what is the intent of the plan, what is our ultimate goal.
- People don't want to talk about this in meetings.
- Sponsors can help pass on contribution info.

Floor Discussion: This is an ongoing inventory that needs to be taken. A dollar has been the standard contribution since the beginning, perhaps we need to increase our contribution, maybe the cost of a beer? \$5.00 7th tradition is not unreasonable considering what sobriety has given me. A group only needs to contribute \$131.00 per year to be self supporting for the mailings and support they receive from GSO.

Sense of the Area agreed that a communication plan be developed

4. Discuss a request "to eliminate volume discounts on literature orders."

&

5. Discuss a request "to incorporate shipping costs into literature pricing."

Items 4 & 5 discussed together:

- 80% of orders are under \$250 and account for only 20% of revenue
- A vigorous "no" on both items, print the cheapest possible Big Book
- If we don't give discounts, we make more profits
- It's not fair that one person or group should have to pay more for the same service.
- We don't need to micromanage this.
- The intent is to make the Big Book price to \$7.00.
 - We would lose money on individual orders but make money on large orders.
- This is how we buy everything else in the world
 - 10 for \$1 or 1 for \$1.25
- May be we should make responsibility locally, have large groups help out small groups.
- People are more concerned with volume discounts than shipping—volume discounts are not fair.
- Area 40 pink can program doesn't buy enough books to get volume discount.

Item 4 vote:	committee	yea 1	nay 4
	Entire group	yea 2	nay 8

Item 5 vote Committee yea 1 nay 4
Entire group yea 2 nay 8

Floor discussion:

- Gives inner group a discount
 - Hazelton gets discounts and they charge more for the Big Book
 - Making money is not the issue
 - Charge every one shipping
- Sense of Area on items 4 & 5 was against both.**

Area 40 Agenda Item for Finance

1. Discuss the consideration of amending the Area 40 budget to include \$1,500.00 for the Area 40 Treatment Chair to purchase Big Books for the needs of the area's treatment centers.

This item did not come out of Treatment Committee but the committee discussed the financial aspect of the 800 number.

- that would be a contractual agreement between Area 40 & Answering Service.
 - Should there be contracts between Area 40 and Districts?
- Great Idea for smaller Districts.
- Good idea to cover entire state with a hotline
- it looks like the cost shouldn't be any more than what certain districts are already paying
- Should Area 40 provide an answering service that serves only small communities?
- Don't let the camel's nose in the tent!
- Many reservations about Area 40 being in this contractual obligation.
- Districts can be billed individually for \$7.50 each
- Cost to be \$1,000 - \$1,200 per month = \$14,000 per year
- To offset cost maybe we could set up a 900 number
 - Call your sponsor for \$1 per minute ☺
- New prudent reserve would be \$22,000.00
- Is this crossing a line between Area & Groups?
 - Is this something that should be left to local districts?
- Maybe we should try it for a year to see how it works.
- As Montana keeps growing cities like Billings may eventually drop out

No floor discussion.

Public Information/Report & Charter—Sean B.

1. Consider the 2006 annual report from the trustees' Committee on Public Information regarding G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site. **No discussion**

2. Consider that the 2007 A.A. Membership Survey be conducted by area on a random basis as was done in the 2004 A.A. Membership Survey. **No discussion**

3. Public Service Announcements (P.S.A.s):

a. Consider approving the proposed television P.S.A. "A Force of Nature" developed by the trustees' Committee on Public Information. **No PSA to review**

b. Review information on centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the television P.S.A. “Testimonials.” **No Discussion**

c. Consider centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the proposed television P.S.A. “A Force of Nature” at a cost not to exceed \$30,000, in addition to the work of local Public Information committees. **Committee agreed**

d. Discuss the 2002 - 2006 Conference Advisory Actions regarding replacement and production of P.S.A.s. **No discussion**

4. Consider a suggestion from the trustee’s Committee on Public Information for the development of a video for young people.

Consideration-division on the issue-real issue. Young people video- clarifying what the video is- loosely defined 11-35 yrs, submissions will be new video. Committee was in favor of 4 to 0. **Floor discussion: What would the cost of producing the video? \$20,000.00. Sense of Area was to develop the video.**

5. Consider a suggested list of early symptoms of alcoholism forwarded by the trustee’s Committee on Public Information, and derived from A.A. literature, to replace the list of early symptoms in item 19 on page 17 in the pamphlet “Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings.”

Changes be made to the drinking symptoms (identifying). Question about the need for change. No literature available to show replacement text. **Floor discussion: Change language in the description of what is an alcoholic to match our literature rather than the National Center on Alcohol and Drug Addictions description. Sense of the Area agreed with the replacement of the list.**

6. Consider a request to include “more information regarding the topic of anonymity of deceased members (posthumous anonymity)” in A.A. literature.

There is a letter from someone who is upset because of obituary statements. It is the family’s choice. We can’t dictate to the family. **Floor discussion: Sense of area did not agree with placing a statement in the literature.**

7. Consider a request to change language in the flyer “A Message to Teenagers.”

Needs updated. No discussion/no objections. **Floor Discussion: Sense of Area agreed with changing language.**

8. Review contents of Kit and Workbook. **No Discussion**

Area 40 Agenda Items for PI

1. The Area 40 Ad Hoc Answering Service Committee asks the Assembly to consider rejecting, approving or amending the answering service structure and answering service vendor choices provided by the Ad Hoc Committee to be implemented by your Area Public Information Chair.

Fall 2006 Fall assembly failed to support the 800 number in Area 40. The Adhoc committee had conference calls which worked real well for contacting all the DCM’s. 10-15 people were involved in the calls. The calls found that the participants of the conference calls didn’t want design service but wanted

Area to design the service. The recommendation was TCI-Handles many services, handles many services already, have contacted all providers, at an average takes 2 years with no negativity, small issues addressed. A concern stated was non-AA members doing service. 4 districts currently have AnswerNet, memo was issued, no minimum, no maximum, .50 per minute for existing, if it fails its easier for districts already in place.

How it works: Person calls in to a router press 1 for meetings information, press 2 for anything else. A trained Answering service Tech will handle the call. It can be confusing with so many hotlines, then the closest available person (alcoholic).

Billing: provide district self supporting responsibility, end of month district would be billed or be billed directly, Service ill put number in every book in Montana. Extra \$20.00 for a vanity number.

Issues: Keeping the call list current, local controls, finding meetings on the Web, Web list must be updated regularly.

Districts can keep their lines for and additional \$3.00.

A vote was taken in the committee to support AnswerNet as the provider and structure as presented in proposal. Committee unanimously voted on this.

Floor Discussion:

The Public Information Committee makes the following recommendation:

Implement an Area 40 800 number, utilizing the services and contract from AnswerNet. To be implemented by The Area 40 Public Information Chair.

Discussion;

-If district is not able to pay is the Area going to pay?

If Area decides this is the place we want to spend we can afford it.

-I there a contract? Yes, month to month.

-Adhoc committee talked to several areas throughout Canada and US and none of those who have the 800 # felt it was a mistake.

-The 800# can reach the smaller districts but is it self supporting?

-Concern that we need to have alcoholics answer the phones.

-Is this out sourced and answered in English?

-Law enforcement ect can be patched to the corresponding district chair? Sean wasn't sure how that works now.

-What is the start date? The recommendation needs to be clarified.

-What is Area's contractual obligations.

-Many districts cooperate with Alanon for their answering service also how will this affect them?

*****It was determined that the committee would reconvene Sunday morning with a rewritten recommendation clarifying the recommendation.**

Sunday morning floor discussion:

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.

- Will district have to pay in advance? Payment by districts will be a “good faith”. Area will not become a debt collector.
- Implementation will work with current answering services.
- PI Committee has done the home work on this. We must remember the most important thing with the Answering Service and Meetings is that we are the stockholders.
- Will the number be listed in the phone book and what about an acronym? Yes it will be listed and an acronym will cost an addition \$20.00 per month.
- How will districts pay the bill? For an additional \$7.00 a bill can be sent separately to each district.
- Can the bill be sent in real time? Yes
- Encouraged by the experience of other Area’s with 800#
- District 12 is willing to pay.
- Suggested acronym – MTAA. Needs a total of 7 numbers.

Vote was taken and the recommendation passed 96 for with 7 opposed. A minority opinion stating that “calling for question” happened when there were still people wanting to comment. This stopped discussion. A voting member for the recommendation got up and requested a reconsideration of the vote. A vote on whether to reconsider was taken and it failed with a 23 for reconsideration and 70 opposing reconsideration.

Motion to implement and 800# passed.

Report & Charter

1. The A.A. Service Manual, 2006 - 2007 Edition:

a. Review a suggested list of duties of a district committee member chairperson (D.C.M.C.). Not relevant to Montana

No floor discussion

b. Review a description of metropolitan districts that more accurately reflects the number of groups in such a district. No discussion

No Floor discussion

c. Consider a recommendation from the General Service Board that the following text be added to Chapter Nine in The A.A. Service Manual, where appropriate: “The intent of forming regions was to create a vehicle by which regional trustees could be added to the General Service Board and a way to provide a cross section of people who would serve A.A. as a whole – not in a representative capacity. To allow for a balanced rotation, elections of regional trustees are staggered in order that there may be a relatively even flow of new trustees coming onto the board. It was not until 1962 that the formal naming of regions occurred and a redistribution; and, soon afterwards the formation of new regions.”

-Not a representative of capacity

-This brought a lot of heat amendment by doing this we can’t be individual regions.

Floor discussion: Sense of area agreed with the consideration

d. Consider a recommendation from the General Service Board that the sentence, “Regional trustees bring to the board’s discussions a regional point of view and experience that is invaluable,” in Chapter Nine: The General Service Board, page S62 in The A.A. Service Manual, 2006-2007 Edition, be replaced so that the section reads: “While no trustee can be said to “represent” a geographical section – all trustees

represent only the Fellowship as a whole – regional trustees bring to the board’s discussions a diversity of A.A. experience that is invaluable.”

-Fellowship as a whole amendment

-This was a change to the service manual being discussed by 3 groups policy & procedure- move to one group talked with Dorthy “was no conspiracy” try to clean this up

Floor discussion: Sense of area agreed with consideration

e. Consider a suggestion to include the committee scope from each Conference Committee Composition Scope and Procedure document in the Standing Committee section in the Chapter on Conference Committees.

-Each time a scope from committee is printed they want a scope included

Floor discussion: Sense of area agreed with consideration

f. Consider a suggestion that the last paragraph reading, “Any group or district of the Fellowship is free to use the symbol of a circle and triangle on newsletters, meeting schedules, or other A.A. material.” be moved from S38 to S72 and inserted as a separate paragraph under “Trademarks, Logos, and Copyrights.”

-Any group is free to use triangle

Floor discussion: Sense of area agreed with consideration

g. Consider a request to add a paragraph titled “District Information,” which includes references to the District Information Change Form (F-43) to Chapter Three.

-District information change form

Floor discussion: Sense of area agreed with consideration

h. Consider a request to add an illustration of the “District information Change Form” (F-43) to Chapter Three.

-Illustration to change form

Floor discussion: Sense of area agreed with consideration

i. Consider a list of suggested additional changes.

-consider DCM sobriety be 4-5 years

Floor discussion: none

2. A.A. Directories:

a. Consider a request to have A.A.W.S. discontinue publishing regional directories (Canada, Western U.S., and Eastern U.S.).

-AA world directory discontinued out of date

-by published its costly and wrong

-cost about \$100,000 for directories

-suggest to limit published amounts

-will it kill intergroup

-has used directory, no computer, its invaluable, groups should have one

-has gone to a list and no meeting so it needs to be current

-Is this falling under 1% of helping people

Floor discussion:

-should be available

-maybe charge for

-some concern that the directories are being used to scam people
-directories are being used by treatment centers to refer people when they get out.
-some of us don't have computers, this is how we can find a meeting
Sense of Area was to keep the directory

b. Consider a suggestion to add to the A.A. Directories (Canada, Western U.S., and Eastern U.S.) a separate subsection within the section "INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE MEETINGS" for listing "Online Intergroups" that request to be listed, and that online Intergroups thus listed provide an e-mail and/or Web site address to be included in the directories.

-Internet is not a group
-could the directory tie to the 800 number
-intergroups requested to be in directory

Floor Discussion:

-Last item wanted to discontinue directory now they want to add the internet.

Sense of Area was split on this item.

3. Discuss General Service Conference Final Report

CPC/Trustees—Terry S.

Your Area Standing CPC committee met this morning, with 13 people in attendance. Thank you, Lori N., District 81, for taking notes. Thank you to the 4 other voting members of the Committee, Richard K., DCM D. 61, Brigid F. (pinch-hitting for the D. 51 representative), Richard P., DCM D. 71, and Tom D., D. 61 CPC Committee Chair, for your good work, preparation and participation. Thank you also to the other 7 participants, Mike, Bud, Fred, Wade, Mary, Joe and Kelly, who all participated, shared and helped get the agenda work finished.

CPC Agenda 1:

We reviewed the progress and direction this project, which was previously approved, appears to be going. Some of the same concerns that previous assemblies expressed were mentioned,—but progress and direction seemed okay, as far as we could tell without seeing the segments already recorded. The videos are not intended to replace or compete with local CPC service work, but to pave the way for our local efforts.

~

CPC Agenda 2:

The conference committee members will have the changes, we did not. We had nothing to review. If you are a district CPC committee chair, your district should buy you the current workbook and kit (for \$12.00) if you don't have a current one. And I would really like to have your contact information when I leave here tomorrow.

CPC Agenda 3:

We discussed it at some length, and our suggestions are:

1. Do something exciting, something eye-catching. Have luncheon for professionals, for example, and use your local AAers to meet, greet and visit with the professionals as well as having a short AA presentation. Include a panel of professionals familiar with AA as a resource for their customers or clients.
2. Hold AA meetings in the professionals' bailiwicks, to pique their interest.
3. Bring an informational panel about what we do and don't do to the professionals (health care office during lunch break, teachers' lounge, school board meeting was suggested, too)--bring it to them.

4. Professional training—PDs, social workers, chamber of commerce seminar—most professionals now have organizations with annual meetings, workshops, etc. A panel on what we do and don't do can fit in—some professional organizations may even give the professionals who attend credit for continuing education.
5. P1 takes panels and other presentations to the customers—the students in a school, from middle school to college, for example—CPC can offer information to the professionals who serve the customers—the teachers or professors, guidance counselors, administrators, to stay with the school example.
6. Recruit shamelessly within your groups. Make the committee meetings enthusiastic. Have more ideas for things to do than people to do them, so that any new attendee can be asked if they came because they have a service idea they wanted to try, and, if not, offer them at least one that they can start working on, to report back at the next meeting.
7. Use the Kit and Workbook—it is full of proven tools—it is a repository of our experience in this service area.
8. DPHHS (just as an example), is filled with social workers who deal with specific problems in our state that often have a connection to alcoholism—child and elder abuse, public aid problems, disabilities of all kinds—we can be a resource for them, and we can let them know.
9. Business leaders in the Montana communities are plugged into those communities, and can be remarkable resources for CPC, in spreading the word about who and where we are, identifying who we should be contacting to offer information about AA, and even supporting us in getting the attention of the potential professional contacts.
10. 12-step your own professionals, dentists, doctors, accountants, etc. The ones who don't provide services to their customers (that are traditional avenues to AA) often have employees and partners who might benefit from checking out AA.
11. HAVE FUN. If I am not enthusiastic and committed to the service work, I am not likely to get somebody else interested in joining in.

Trustee Agenda 1:

The folks voting for the trustee positions will have the resumes. We do not. Nothing to review.

Trustee Agenda 2:

Trustee Agenda 3:

Trustee Agenda 4:

We have the names, and no information with it, about the folks on the slates. If you are interested, the 2006 Final Report of the 56th Annual GSC, starting at p. 76, has a brief biographical paragraph about each of our trustees as of last year, and you can match the names on the slates to the bios.

Trustee Agenda 5:

We spent some time on this, in case Andrew wanted a sense of the Area. This question was raised by Bill W. in 1962, and has been back repeatedly. Our thoughts, after reviewing the report, were as follows: we always could select an alcoholic trustee as chairperson of the GSB, but we never have, because we (the Board members, who act for us) have only actually considered non-alcoholic trustees. Everyone agrees we should have the best person for the job each time the job is open. 3 out of the 5 voting committee members and 9 out of the 13 of us (with one “not sure”) think we should actively look at our eligible alcoholic trustees as well as our eligible non-alcoholic trustees, to select the best chairperson of the GSB. After 45 years of asking the question, “are we ready to take this responsibility,” we are. The minority believes the current method is working very well, and we are still getting excellent chairs, who are assets to us in encouraging openness to AA in USA and Canada, so let's wait and not change what is working.

Trustee Agenda 6:

We discussed it. Looked okay to us.

Trustee Agenda 7:

“Approve” is not among the usual verbs defining an agenda item. We thought that approve” included the possibility of disapproval, so we talked it over. We largely agreed on two things. First, Concept III clearly contemplates that our trusted servants should always vote their informed consciences about what is best for AA, even if the AA entity that selected them feels the other way. Second, whether the change is made or not, our regional alcoholic trustees will always reflect the people who selected them, and will express the regional views and opinions of those who selected them. We recognized the concern that regional views and opinions are important to those who hold them (like us), and that this item appears to be a reaction to our regional realignment suggestions last rotation, and the concerns of this region that under representation denies us having one of “our” alcoholic trusted servants selected as a trustee at large, the committee members unanimously favored approval of the amendment, and the rest of our participants were 7 in favor, 1 not sure, none opposed.

That’s it.

Treatment/Agenda—Geoff D

1. Review a summary of local sharing regarding use of the video Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous.
2. Review contents of Kit and Workbook.
3. Discuss ways of stimulating interest in treatment facility Twelfth Step work.

Area 40 Agenda Items for Treatment

1. Consider amending the Area 40 budget to include \$1,500.00 for the Area 40 Treatment Chair to purchase Big Books for the needs of the area's treatment centers. No action was taken by the committee.

Agenda

1. Review suggestions for the theme of the 2008 General Service Conference.

Five suggestions from the committee:

- 1.) Unity, Recovery and Service: Living Our Three Legacies Together
- 2.) “Keeping It Simple” How Best to Carry the Message
- 3) Our Great Reality — Experience, Strength and Hope
- 4.) One Alcoholic Working with Another — a Personal Responsibility
- 5.) Back to Basics Our Primary Purpose

2. Discuss presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2008 General Service Conference.

Five suggestions from the committee:

- 1.) Are We Losing Newcomers?
- 2.) Sponsorship
- 3.) Home Group: One of the Foundations of Our Sobriety
- 4.) Principles Before Personality
- 5.) Recovery and Hope for the Newcomer

3. Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2008 General Service Conference.

Five suggestions from the committee:

- 1.) The Home Group Importance
- 2.) From Wet to Spin Dry — How to Reach the Newcomer
- 3.) Our Primary Purpose
- 4.) Service: We Carry the Message
- 5.) Good Changes, Bad Changes

4. Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form.

Corrections/international conventions/regional forums—Bill E.

1. Consider the draft Informational Media Presentation Introducing A.A. to Training Academies and In-service Training for Corrections Personnel.

See Exhibit A

Floor discussion: Sense of Area agreed with the consideration

2. Review contents of Kit and Workbook.

-suggested to add sponsorship pamphlet

3. Discuss ways of stimulating interest in Corrections Twelfth Step work.

No Floor Discussion

International Conventions-Regional Forums

1. Discuss and review 2020 International Convention Site-Selection Procedures

No Floor Discussion

2. Discuss concept and details of Local Forums as approved by the General Service Board.

No Floor Discussion

3. Discuss ways to encourage interest in Forums.

No Floor Discussion

DCM Breakout 2007 Spring Assembly

1. How do you handle a person who is on the hotline that is robbing and using perversion toward incoming calls?

- Tell the Answering Service to take the person's name off of the list.
- A male was taking calls from newcomer women the District established a woman answering service co-chair and the man stopped.
- Don't allow AA's to hide behind anonymity to use the answering service to be a predator.
- Confront the person
- Should have guidelines and screen who is taking calls
- We don't punish in AA, alcohol does the punishing
- If there is illegal behavior, seek legal advice.
- Newcomers have to be the priority, the group has to step up and take action.
- Ask GSO for shared experiences

2. How do you handle complaints that “one group is running the District” even when the complainers won’t stand for office?
 - Principles over personalities
 - It doesn’t work to try to tear down the active group
 - We should all be so active
 - Service people flock together so it’s not surprising that they’re all in one or two groups.

3. What do you do about a very strong group that is unwilling to participate in service and with financial support?
 - AA cannot enforce the traditions upon the groups
 - Each group is autonomous
 - GSO could enforce by striking the group from the group directory, or from being a registered group.
 - Have the DCM visit the group and ask if there is anything that the district can do for the group
 - Make district so attractive that they will want to participate.
 - Ask if they would be willing to host a district meeting
 - Tell them that district is going non-smoking
 - Bring one person from that group to assembly or district

4. A group kicked out a disruptive person for a year. Does a group have the right to do that?
 - The person was off topic a lot, lots of profanity, bragging about 13th stepping
 - GSO has information about this
 - Another group did a similar thing – had a business meeting and asked the person to leave for a year
 - Have other group members surround the person in the meetings
 - The group needs to be responsible
 - We are not kicking people out of AA, just not allowing them in a specific meeting for a period of time
 - Chairperson needs to keep the meeting on track
 - We need to restrain ourselves in controlling others
 - Read the book “AA horror Stories”
 - There are no hard and fast rules

5. Is there an Area 40 non-profit tax ID number for the groups to use?
 - No
 - Finance guidelines tell how to get one – it’s a simple process
 - Having a tax ID Number does not make the group a non-profit entity

6. How do we strengthen committees at the district level and get more GSR participation?
 - Bribe with Doughnuts
 - Visit the groups
 - Tried to assign the GSR’s to committees – did not work but it did work in another district (District 51)

- Asking for volunteers isn't working
- Make it an expectation
- Have non-GSR's serve on the committees
- Make sure the committee chairs are holding regular committee meetings
- Have the district committee chairs ask for help
- Have events, like "Grapefest", that the committees have to put on
- Have specific jobs for the committee members

7. Is there any experience writing job descriptions for committee chairs?

- District 61 has them
- District 81 has them
- These make the DCM's job easier
- District 61 had an ad-hoc committee do the work
- Use Area 40 Policies and Procedures manual
- Use the Service Manual

GSR Breakout

Lead by Mark S. & Robbie S., Past Delegates

1) Is the Lord's Prayer used to close most meeting throughout US?

Yes-a tradition that's carried forward

Christy – We've used several prayers – now using the 7th step prayer. Our group votes on it.

Larry-Most close with the Lord's Prayer. Our group deleted it. Lord's Prayer too controversial. We close with the Serenity prayer.

In Military- been around. Lord's Prayer mostly in Montana but other places use other prayers.

Larry –Seattle, New York, Salt Lake – my experience is it is not used

Fred – What I'm hearing is it's up to the group conscience. I do feel good with saying the Lord's Prayer

Bob – Our chair decides at each meeting what the prayer will be.

Robbie – Contact GSO with this or other questions and they will give you the shared experience. Call or email. GSO is not eh AA police, though. Staff members are assigned to each region. They are hired but rotate positions every two years. This is a service provided to you as a member of AA.

2) What is the suggested split to District/Area/GSO for a group's 7th tradition?

Katrina – A large portion goes to District, then Area, then GSO

60% District, 30% Area, 10% GSO

Geoff – There's a pamphlet.

Mark – Pie Charts – his conference has someone recommend to remove the charts. Some people think the pie chart is mandated. It is only suggested.

Pamphlet does talk about group conscience. Discuss it often.

Robbie – Splits are suggested because you always take care of your group expenses first like sending GSR to Area. District is the next layer out and there are fewer people doing the work. Area has more people & GSO too, so suggested split is less. Splits are suggested only – pay attention to which entity may need your funds. My group does not split on standards. We vote every time. We send money after a discussion. Power of the purse – tighten the purse if you don't agree with what an entity is doing – okay but let them know why you're doing it – other wise they may think you just forgot.

3) How can I get my group more interested in service?

Larry – I lead by example. I do the work.

Mark – sponsor my guys into service. I strongly suggest they do service work. Our members go to business meeting – it's not optional. It is not politics.

Alex – I got involved and asked the group to help. Used successes with the suggestion for more involvement. Recharges my batteries.

Clay – Explaining how service work keeps me sober relieves my fears & anxieties. Explaining it.

Pat – Someone asked me to help them out. I got some serious eye contact

Doug – Our district has lots of service opportunities. They ask who can do it. I volunteer my group.

Paul – Lead by example. When I started in corrections I sought volunteers for jail meeting myself. It kept me sober

Kelly – If we don't show up at business meetings twice, we lose the position.

Judd – We couldn't fill positions until we offered food. People have misconceptions & fears about service jobs, so we explain jobs well. All our positions are filled now.

Eric – Birthday & bring it up as a topic – service

Mark – People who do service work stay sober. Avoid apathy by being involved.

Geoff – Have you ever meet someone in AA who has no idea about service? Its important to get the word out. Communicate. People have fears about going into jails, psych wards. Help them. I didn't know how to make coffee, someone showed me. He didn't tell me, he showed me. I'm not sure of the AA railroad. Workshops help.

Marilyn – Prison meeting, I had two years, thought I was a big shot. Others had 16 years. Someone took me to prison meeting & I was hooked. Also had sponsor take me on circuit speaking.

Peg & chicken story

You participate, I'm committed

Alan – long term person who didn't really do service. A guy I sponsored suggested I get into service. AA sets you free.

Robbie – Please remember there are many forms of service. This is general service. Not all people do general service, but they may do other types, setting up chairs, etc. There's service at other levels. Three legacies – recovery on bottom, flat line sobriety if that's all you have. In my group some people have only jobs within the group. It's all service. We need people doing all the jobs.

Sometimes we need to create jobs, like greeter, very important job. Jobs make people feel a part of. Washing cups is a great job for newcomers, they don't have to look at anyone (they may be afraid). Butt Picker is a good job.

- 4) Why is the 7th tradition on Sunday instead of Saturday when everyone is here?

Procedures thing

Suggest to Area Chair.

But many of us are committed to be here until it's over.

- 5) Doug – How do we integrate the addict into our meetings?

Every group's code is love & tolerance.

NA in billings is week. Most addicts are alcoholics.

Robbie – Hot topic, custom of introducing oneself as an alcoholic is just a custom. Some places don't do it. Some people tell you what they've been told, like from treatment centers. Dual diagnosis “and a”, spend time one-on-one with people.

Katrina – I'm an alcoholic but used meth. I can relate to any topic about being addicted

Judd – If you need a meeting, you need a meeting, a drug is a drug.

Robin – Our group is autonomous. We do a group inventory to get input about anything, singleness of purpose.

Libby – I'm an addict and an alcoholic. I didn't know where to go but if I had been asked to leave an AA meeting, I don't know where I would have gone. Difference about being physically addicted. I used everything as an addict. I'm glad the alcoholics let me stay until I could figure out what I was.

Laurie – I first went to AA but hated it. Then went to NA, didn't use drugs but couldn't stop drinking. I got very passionate about singleness of purpose & cut people off. I now try to help all people in meetings. I'm learning & growing.

Greg – Our meeting is closed & we asked people to introduce themselves as an alcoholic. AA is the original program.

Sam – I did a lot of drugs and I sponsor a lot of guys who do drugs, I refer some of them to NA. cooperation with NA.

Kelly – I went to both NA & AA & wanted to be unique. A guy who introduced himself at our group as an addict, wanted a job, other flipped out. He left AA. I think it's important to make people feel welcome.

Jeff – It doesn't matter what else I have, I am an alcoholic. If you're not an alcoholic, AA is not for you. The Book of AA describes and alcoholic. Going through the book might help someone discover their alcoholism.

Pat – We all have the same problem

Blue card that explains requirements & discussion of alcohol.

Clay – Alcohol & dope work the same for me. Gambling is now doing the same, sets up a craving. I've been to NA but found AA worked better for me. I found out I was an alcoholic after someone took me through the book.

Pat – I appreciate opinions but I'm an alcoholic & that's all I know about.

Johnny – there are people who are afraid of drug addicts. Drugs & alcohol are different. You can't help someone who you don't understand.

Larry – I didn't know what was wrong with me when I came to AA. My sponsor said we'd find out by going through the book.

Robbie – Thank you for sharing. Get numbers of other GSRs. Share experience, strength & hope.

Mark – Allow anyone to attend open meeting. If it's closed confine comment to alcoholism.

Roundup Reports

Fall 2006 Roundup Report--Billings

The Fall 2006 Roundup was a success. We had a net Profit of 2005.97. The Committee decided to split the profit as follows:

Al-Anon \$381.13
Spring 2007 Roundup Seed money \$1200
Area 40 Archivist \$300
South Central Intergroup \$168.73
District 11 \$562.42
Area 40 \$196.84
GSO \$196.85

We decided to increase the seed money from the Traditional \$1000 to \$1200 due to the increasing cost to get the upcoming Roundup Committee's going. Hopefully this will be able to continue. Since the Roundup was successful without having a Saturday night Banquet, Maybe there is some smaller communities that would be able to hold these functions instead of the same locations having them all the

time. I would like to thank the Committee for making this a Great Roundup and all the people that attended in Billings.

Thank you for this time
Yours in Service
Don B. Fall 2006 Roundup Chair

Spring 2007 Roundup Butte

Butte roundup is ready to be held May 18th thru 20th at the Copper King Hotel & convention Center. “Extravagant Promisses??? We think not...” is the theme for the round up. We have a great line up of speakers beginning with Tom B. of Butte, Friday night AA speaker, Veronica W. of Butte, Alateen speaker, Larcine G. of Hawthorne, CA, Al-Anon speaker, Matthew G., Native American AA speaker, Beth G. of Ohio, Saturday night AA speaker, and finishing off with Sister Maurice of New York, Sunday morning AA speaker. This should be a great time for all. Cut off for a meal is May 10th, so get your registrations in soon. I will be happy to take any this week end if you need me to.

In Service
Richard P.
Dist 71 DCM

Fall 2007 Roundup Great Falls

“Trudging the Road of Happy Destiny” is the theme for the Fall Roundup in Great Fall. The event will take place September 28, 29, 30, 2007 at the Heritage Inn. We have great speakers this year with April A from Kalispell, Tim T of West Lake Oh and Bob D of Las Vegas. Highlights of the roundup will be the Old-timers meeting, Alanon skit, Delegates report, a dance with “Cold Hard Cash and lots of marathon meetings. Pre-register by September 1s for the reduced rate. Please see me if you have any questions or would like to register this weekend.

Yours in service
Patty C.

Intergroup Reports

Flathead Valley Intergroup Report to Area Assembly — April 14, 2007
Greetings from Flathead Valley Intergroup;

Flathead Valley Intergroup represents the AA groups throughout District 91. Our monthly newsletter is mailed to group reps from Poison to Eureka and any others who request it including folks in District 14, northern Idaho and northwest Montana and one guy in Kansas who likes to know when we’re having campouts in Montana.

We provide the answering service and district meetings list to help carry the message and let folks know where our meetings are and why we’re here. The answering service handles 50-100 calls per month, either providing meeting information or connecting the caller with a recovering alcoholic. We update our meeting schedules every 4 to 6 months and are in the process of investigating a format change.

Our annual campout and pig roast was well attended last year, as usual. The campout this year will again be at Emery Bay on the east shore of Hungry Horse Reservoir the weekend of August 3-5. We’ve scheduled speakers Saturday night and Sunday morning and discussion meetings throughout the weekend.

Our Intergroup Newsletter provides a roster of campouts and activities as we know about them throughout the summer. If you have an activity, picnic or campout throughout the year that you'd like us to know about, send the information home with one of our folks or get our address from them and mail it later.

Our annual Thanksgiving feast; valley wide sobriety birthday party and dance night was a pretty big deal with lots of folks, lots of food and lots of fellowship. Our entertainment was Special K productions, the same guy who played for the 2005 Spring Round-up in Kalispell. That celebration will be happening again this year, the Saturday night after Thanksgiving, November 24th, probably at the LaSalle Grange Hall.

The 2007 New Year's Eve Alkathon was also well attended at the Alano Club in Kalispell.

We've had our meetings at the Veterans' Home in Columbia Falls off and on for somewhere in the neighborhood of the last 25 years. The April meeting, the 26th, will be our last meeting there, as they are going to do some remodeling on the Chapel and won't be having public meeting facilities following the remodel. We'll most likely be moving our meetings to the Alano Club in Kalispell, and will continue to meet the last Saturday night of the month...business meeting at 6:30, birthday celebration at 8:00 pm.

We continue to have representation at district meetings and at Area Assembly and some of us will be involved in helping with the 2008 roundup in Kalispell.

Yours, In Service,

Alida W., Chairman, Flathead Valley Intergroup

Submitted by Peggie J., Secretary/Newsletter editor, Flathead Valley Intergroup

Report from The West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference (WCRAASC) in Lincoln NE

West Central Regional AA Service Conference Report 4/15/07

The WCRAASC was hosted by Area 41 in Lincoln, NE this year. The weather was stormy and just about everyone in the Region had trouble traveling. Earl and I had our share of problems, starting with a phone call with a recorded message changing our plane reservations 12 hours before we were supposed to leave because of "anticipated bad weather." Being good alcoholics, we went to the airport Thursday morning anyway and our powers of persuasion succeeded in angering an airline employee so much that she ended up telling us that it was not possible to get to Lincoln that day. Never tell an alcoholic that he can't do something. Long story short, through five flight changes and perseverance, we flew to Minneapolis, caught a late flight to Omaha, rented a car, drove to Lincoln and arrived at the hotel, bleary-eyed and cranky, just before midnight. We showed her!

"The purpose of the WCRAASC, is to develop greater unity among members, groups, and areas of the West Central Region; to encourage the exchange of ideas and experiences, and to provide an opportunity for members to discuss pertinent aspects of Alcoholics Anonymous. Recovery, Unity and Service should always be the primary purpose for each conference. The thought of how we can better serve Alcoholics Anonymous should never be compromised."*

This was a weekend filled with sharing, "spirited" discussion, laughter and tears. This year's conference theme was "Our 12th Step Responsibility – Are We going to Any Length?" Four general sharing sessions chaired by the Delegates from Area 24 (Iowa), 52 (North Dakota), 40 (Montana) and 36 (Southern Minnesota) were scattered throughout the weekend. The topics were "Inclusiveness in AA; Our 3rd

Tradition,” “Our Primary Purpose; Practicing these Principals in all of our Affairs,” “Humility and Responsibility; Are We Resting on Our Laurels?” and “Spiritual Value of our AA Dollars.” Because of travel difficulties, some presenters had to step in at the last minute and wing it, but all did a fine job.

As people trickled in during the weekend, from a Friday night total of 196 to a Sunday morning total of 254, we began our review and discussion of the 2007 General Service Conference agenda. There are no votes or decisions made at this conference; members were given the opportunity to share opinions on the agenda items just like we do at this assembly. Although there were often widely divergent opinions, and passions sometimes flared, the delegates from the eight areas in our region likely got a pretty good idea of the “sense of the region” on most items. In addition to Chuck B., our West Central Regional Trustee, we were fortunate to have Dorothy W., Trustee At Large, and Gary K., Southwest Regional Trustee, in attendance. They, along with the many past delegates there, had valuable input, helping to clarify some of the agenda items. A few of the agenda items which inspired the most discussion were the request to develop an intergroup/central office pamphlet, a suggestion for the development of a video for young people, and a recommendation to change existing wording in the Service Manual and the Bylaws of the General Service Board regarding the definition of regional trustees.

On Saturday afternoon we each had the opportunity to participate in two hour-long breakout sessions. The first four were DCM, Literature, PI/CPC, and Delegate/Trustee. The second break-out sessions were GSR, Archives, Grapevine, Corrections/Treatment, and Area Officers. Those attending each breakout chose four to six topics for discussion. I have examined notes from several Area 40 “reporters,” and also the official minutes from each session. Without oversimplifying I can say that all of the topics at each session revolved around the central theme of “How can I (or we) do a better job in my position, and a better job of carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic?” The following topics taken from the breakouts illustrate this: **Literature** “What is a good inventory?,” **DCM** “How can I generate more participation at the District?,” **Grapevine** “How can we increase Grapevine subscriptions?” and **PI/CPC** “How does the Area provide info to districts and where do the districts go to ask for help?” I will be happy to make copies of the minutes of all the breakout sessions for anyone who would like to know more.

For the Saturday evening Open AA Speaker Meeting, it was our privilege to welcome Leonard Blumenthal, the Chairman of our General Service Board and Class A Trustee. His “story” about how he came to be involved in our fellowship was both humorous and moving. I found myself in awe of how dedicated a non-alcoholic can be to this fellowship, and I am grateful for people like Leonard and our other Class A Trustees who make astounding personal sacrifices of their time so that I, and others like me, can live. I heard a memorable quote worth sharing during Leonard’s talk: “One of us is not smarter than all of us.” I hope to remember this phrase every time I am tempted to let my ego get in the way in my service work. Questions and answers from the Ask-It-Basket followed the speaker meeting. I realized once again that problems and challenges in AA are not unique to my group or my district and that the experience shared at conferences like this is invaluable.

I’d like to thank all the people that helped me with this report - April A., Curt K., Paula H., Carole B., Bruce B., and Larry, and also Conrad M. who is just now finding out that I referred to his report from last year for ideas about what to include in mine. I would like to thank District 72 for sending me to the conference, Andrew W. for asking me to confront my fear and present a topic, Carole B. for helping me to continue to confront my fear by asking me to give this report, and all of you for allowing me to be of service.

Yours in service, Lori F., DCM District 72

*From the 2007 WCRAASC program booklet

Area 40 Ad-Hoc Committee on Area 40 800#

Date: Thursday, February 01, 2007

To: Area 40 Membership, GSRs, Intergroup Reps, DCMs and Assembly

From: Area 40 800# Ad Hoc Committee

Re: Spring 2007 Assembly Answering Service Agenda Item

The following pages contain the summarized work of your Area 40 answering service ad hoc committee. This group was assigned to research and detail the creation, funding and maintenance of a potential state-wide answering service.

Here is the specific motion that was passed at the 2006 Fall Assembly:

The Public Information Committee unanimously recommends to pursue implementing the 800# in Area 40, utilizing an Ad hoc Committee to obtain contract proposals with answering services throughout Montana for consideration at the 2007 Spring Assembly.

With an initial deadline of February 1, 2007 this group had to work quickly to collect all the information necessary to make an informed decision. The committee decided on three primary efforts: 1) contact as many Montana DCM's, intergroup reps and answering service chairs as possible to discuss their concerns, needs and desires, 2) contact other area-wide and large geography answering service chairs across the US to research how they are managed, paid for and utilized and 3) research and obtain contracts from answering service vendors across Montana and the US that can provide meeting information, patch calls to local AA contacts and do so in a professional, flexible, equitable manner for the Area, districts and groups.

Despite the detail oriented and conscientious efforts of this ad hoc body there will inevitably be a few unanswered questions from the Assembly floor. It is our hope that these materials will work as a foundation from which the 800# will be built. The Area 40 Assembly is encouraged to reject, approve or amend the following answering service structure and answering service vendor choice to be implemented by your Area 40 Public Information Chair.

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.
 - i. 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.

Answering Service Vendors:

The following pages contain the sample contracts requested by the Assembly. These can be signed as drafted or amended by the Area. This packet also contains estimated cost comparisons, copies of the ad hoc committee's minutes and summaries of current and projected answering service usage.

There are three answering services in Montana: AnswerNet, Matthews and Horizon. Two Matthews numbers were called: one was disconnected and another was an armored car service.

Horizon had several various small fees and assessments that bumped up our cost of service to nearly twice AnswerNet, who is providing a no minimum, no maximum \$0.50 per minute flat rate. In addition, their emergency answering services were reported to regularly have long hold times due to understaffing and contain mistakes. This is important when considering the variety of tasks we are asking the service to perform (i.e. research meeting requests, map and provide directions, make multiple patch calls, be trained to complete an anonymous, respectful call and to 'read between the lines' of a caller's request so that they can be quickly connected to another alcoholic if they appear to be new or having a rough time).

All five of the attached vendors were selected from dozens of inquiries and interviews. Two of the services appear to be our strongest prospects: AnswerNet and Total Quality Communications (TQC).

TQC offers a low initial price of \$700 for the same service that AnswerNet has agreed to for \$1,000, although the fine print in the TQC contract allows for the account to be changed from a per call rate to a per minute rate of \$0.85 if the calls chronically exceed 3 minutes. This would put Area 40 in a difficult position as our max projected volume of 2,500 minutes would cost over \$2,000 a month. TQC has assured us this contract change is not likely, but they would not remove this clause from the contract (although it was negotiated from 2 to 3 minutes as our average call is currently 2.7 minutes). The AnswerNet bid is not a public rate plan and is only offered to AA Montana in order to retain AA as a client. AnswerNet commented that AA's calls are the most appreciated and that the staff is dedicated to their role in what we do.

The final results are in God's hands. Things change and every contract has renegotiation clauses that could, at some point, result in a financial hardship. That said, this process has made clear that there are equitable alternatives available and that a regular inventory of the services we provide will help ensure we are best managing AA's assets and most effectively helping the still suffering alcoholic.

Yours in service,

Your Area 40 Answering Service Ad Hoc Committee
Sean B., Bozeman Julie R., Missoula Doug M., Havre Heidi F., Billings

Area 40 Delegate's Report – Andrew W.

My name is Andrew W. and I am an alcoholic I am both excited and privileged to serve as your Delegate for this rotation I am a Panel 57 delegate. The number 57 stands for the number of the General Service Conference (GSC) in my first year as delegate. Thus, this year's GSC will be the 57th one. That means there are a lot of delegates who have gone before me.

This is my first delegate's report and I have been warned by a past delegate that this maybe the most difficult to write. We have only just begun this rotation and I am excited about what lies ahead. I have a lot of eager anticipation about the upcoming General Service Conference and presenting my delegate's report on the GSC around Area 40. Sometimes my head gets in the way when I start being fearful about the possibility of not meeting my responsibilities as delegate. I just have to remember this is not about me.

General service in A.A. is about what we do together to help carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

Upon learning that I was a newly elected delegate last fall, my sponsor gave me a reading assignment. This was to re-read "A.A. Comes of Age" and the Service Manual, including the Conference Charter and

Bill's introduction and discussion on the Twelve Concepts. In December I drove out to Billings to spend some time with Scott W., our previous delegate, and Carole B., our incoming Area Chair. Scott and I had a full discussion about I could look forward to as the incoming Area Delegate. One piece of advice he had was to enjoy this opportunity to be of service. I frilly intend to do so.

Let me tell you a little about what I have been up to as your delegate so far this year. In January I met with Scott, Carole, and both our incoming and outgoing Area 40 Treasurers, Curt K. and Sid G., in Helena to conduct an audit and exchange of the Area 40 treasury. In February it was my pleasure to participate in a service workshop in Livingston put on by the local Intergroup. There was a lot of discussion on the importance of general service work in carrying the message to the alcoholic who is still suffering. While the correspondence from the General Service Office started in January, it increased in February. The GSC background material came to me on a CD in mid-February. I made copies of the CD and hard copy print outs for all the DCMs who requested copies and shipped them out. I apologize to District 42 for inadvertently forgetting to send a copy of the CD to their DCM, Michele M. I later corrected this error after Michele pointed out to me that she had not received the background material.

The first weekend of March, a number of folks from Area 40 were able to attend the West Central Regional Service Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska. Due to the weather, it was a challenge to get there. Luckily most of the folks from Area 40 who had planned on going to Lincoln were able to make it to the conference though some of us were slightly delayed. I ended up spending the night in Denver along the way but it was good just to get to Lincoln. When I arrived around 1 pm on Friday, only three out of the eight delegates from our region had made it to Lincoln. It is a tradition at the past and present delegates meeting on Friday of the WCRSC to spend some time giving the new delegates tips about the GSC and to answer any questions they might have. This year I was the only new delegate who was in attendance at the meeting. The past delegates focused on me and gave me a number of tips on New York and the Conference. By the time the conference was over, seven out of the eight delegates from our region had made it in. Even our West Central Regional Trustee, Chuck B., was stuck in Iowa for a couple of days before making it to the conference on Saturday. We were fortunate to have another Regional Trustee, a Trustee-at-Large, a Class A Trustee, and a past West Central Regional Trustee in attendance at the conference. The conference was a great opportunity to have our first discussion on the GSC agenda items, participate in breakout sessions, and to enjoy some good fellowship with A.A. members involved in service from around our region. On Friday night I was relieved to see Lori F. and Paula H. come running into the room as I was walking to the podium to introduce them as our presenters for that session. They had just come to the hotel from the airport. On Saturday night, we had the pleasure of having Leonard Blumenthal, Class A Trustee and Chair of the General Service Board, as our speaker. A.A. is blessed to have an excellent and dedicated friend such as Leonard.

Between the WCRSC and now, we have had three pre-assemblies in Area 40. On March 10 we met in Kalispell, on March 24 we were in Billings, and for the last pre-assembly on March 31 we were in Bozeman. Each Pre-Assembly is organized collaboratively between three or more districts. I find the are-assemblies to be a valuable tool for increased discussion on the agenda items and to introduce more people to general service in Area 40. I think we need more discussion on the Pre-Assemblies themselves. I encourage the DCMs and the organizers of the all pre-assemblies to talk to each about the pre-assemblies. Find out how they are handling pre-assemblies in different places. Pre-assemblies have evolved somewhat spontaneously in Area 40. We often examine how and why we do things in A.A.'s general service structure and the pre-assemblies should not be exempt from this process. Are the pre-assemblies serving the needs for which they are intended? Should we be handling them any different? I encourage you to ask your districts these questions.

My wife, Sherry, and I will be leaving for New York this coming Friday, April 20. On Saturday, we already have plans to have dinner with Mary D., a former Bitterrooter and current GSO staff member.

There is a Delegates meeting on Saturday and then the General Service Conference starts on Sunday and runs through the following Friday. If you would like to reach me during the conference, you can write to me at:

Andrew W.
Crowne Plaza Times Square Hotel
1606 Broadway at West 49th Street
New York, NY 10019

I will also have my cell phone with me (_____) as well as my laptop (_____). I will be turning my cell phone off during the GSC meetings and I will not be bringing my laptop into the GSC meetings. During the GSC, I want to be focused on the Conference. I will check both my cell phone messages and my e-mail message at the end of the day.

My primary committee assignment for the GSC is the Finance Committee I also have a secondary assignment on the Archives Committee I am happy to be serving on the Finance Committee At the first Area 40 Assembly that I came to as a GSR, I sat in on the Area 40 Finance Committee meeting. We have to continually strive in A.A. to handle our finances based on the spiritual principles in the Traditions and Concepts. I believe it will be a growing experience for me to serve on the Archives Committee. It has already caused me to think more about archives in general I have been thinking about the importance of archives in helping us not to forget the past and also how our archives can be a service tool. I have already had some initial discussions with our Area 40 Archivist, Gerry R., about a possible project for us to collaborate on.

Upon returning from the conference, I look forward to giving: my delegate's report on the General Service Conference in every district. To date, I have six reports scheduled. The first will be on May 18th at the Spring Roundup in Butte. In June, I will give my delegate's report on June 2 in Helena for District 61, on June 3 in Dillon for District 71, on June 9 in Missoula for District 81, and on June 30 in Great Falls for District 41 On July 28 I will be in Valier for a camp out and to give my delegate's report for District 42. I encourage every DCM to contact me if your district is not one of the ones I mentioned. I will be out of the country from June 12 through June 24 and July 1 through 7.

This coming September we will meet again for our Fall Assembly. This is a non-election Fall Assembly and by tradition we invite the West Central Regional Trustee to join us for that assembly. Carole has already contacted Chuck B. and he will be joining us at the Fall Assembly in September. The non-election Fall Assembly is a good chance for us to focus on matters directly related to how we operate in Area 40. We can also consider items that as an Area we may want to pass on for consideration at the 2008 General Service Conference. If you have any items you, your group or your district think Area 40 should consider, contact our Area Chair/Alternate Delegate, Carole. The deadline to get agenda items to Carole for the Fall Assembly is typically July 1. In addition, Chuck B., will be rotating on as next spring and so this fall we will need to nominate a candidate from Area 40 for West Central Regional Trustee. You can read the qualifications for this position in the Service Manual and you can also ask Chuck B. about what exactly it entails to be a Trustee. Please be thinking of qualified candidates for nomination this fall.

I want to say a few words about the importance of each GSR representing his or her group at the Area Assembly. Before coming to this Assembly I heard a GSR express the opinion that it was not that important for GSRs to attend the Assembly in Lewistown because they will hear about what goes on here at the next district meeting and, besides, there was nothing that was going to be discussed at the Assembly that directly effects their home groups I do not share this opinion I believe it is very important for all the GSRs to be here this weekend (I also happen to think it is a lot of fun to spend the weekend here). In order for this wonderfully democratic society we have in Alcoholics Anonymous to function properly we

need participation at all levels. We also need communication to be a two-way street between the groups, the GSRs, the DCMs, the Area Committee, the Delegate, the General Service Conference, the Trustees, and GSO. I think it is great how are Area requests that the delegate share information about the GSC around the Area by giving delegate's reports around the Area. I think the communication from all the GSRs and DCMs to me as delegate is just as important. I also think that what we do here affects all of our home groups. Sometimes we think that each group is autonomous while forgetting that it is with the exception of matters affecting A.A. as a whole. The continued health and well being of our general service structure is a matter which affects us all.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for your support. Many people in Area 40 have been very generous with words of encouragement and offers of any help I might need. I appreciate all the good thoughts. I am extremely grateful for this opportunity to be of service. Once again it is proving true that any time I am able to give of my time and effort in service to A.A., I get so much more back in return.

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

Past Delegate Sharing

Ed M.: My sobriety birthday is August of 1973. I came to my first Assembly in 1974, and have attended many Assemblies since then. When I was serving as Panel 38 Delegate, we were the last group of Delegates to have the General Service Conference in the Roosevelt Hotel, and have lunch with Lois Wilson before she passed on.

Jumping off of an aircraft carrier at 3am does not make any of the 6500 crew very happy. It is very hard to retrieve anything out of the water from the deck of a ship like this, and I'm not so sure they wanted to leave me there. A friend—who had not been around for a couple of months—had been in treatment, and invited me to an AA meeting. However, it took me two more years of drinking before I joined AA and stayed.

I remember the way the Assemblies use to be handled. There was a lot of yelling and screaming at each other but we always hugged when we were done and went home as friends. Assemblies and all types of service work have always been an uplift for me. Thank You!

Robbie S.: Thank you Carole for asking me to share today. It is a pleasure to watch the growth of the committee system here in Area 40. The committee system allows Area to process a lot of information in a short time. The amount of background information that was put out for this assembly alone would be overwhelming for each individual to process. The area use to have an agenda write meeting, which was a "secret meeting" and only those invited were allowed to attend. The Area Chairs did an excellent job on their reports and standing committee reports.

I learned to handle things with strong sponsorship and an active home group. Are we helping people to be able to answer four questions: 1) Who is your sponsor? 2) What is the name of your home group? 3) What step are you working today? 4) What service work are you doing?

Do you know what is in the literature? When you hand out a pamphlet do you know what is in the pamphlet? The GSR is the guardian of the Service Manual. To be able to guard our service manual you must know what is in it. Read "AA Comes of Age", to grasp the history of AA and the important work that went into the structure of AA. Do you want to know what will be on the agenda next spring, read the

Conference Report that will come out this fall. It is the minutes of the General Service Conference that Andrew will be attending in April. It explains what happened to the items we discussed to day. Other readings to know what is going on in AA are Box 459, Markings, and About AA. Use the Traditions checklist, Concepts checklist and the Grapevine for meeting topics or to work with sponsees.

Invite Area Committee Chairs to your district to learn about what is going on in the Area, Region and GSO. The uninformed leading the misinformed can only be avoided if you ask questions. Make sure you know and understand what you heave heard.

Agenda Items for Fall Assembly comes from you as a member of AA and your home group. What is your home group concerned about. The item about charging for shipping came from our Area. A group in Butte had a concern about small groups being charged for shipping so they presented an item to their district. It came to Area and passed. It was placed on the GSC Agenda and did not make it out of committee but a floor action brought it back up for further consideration and so it is on the agenda again this Spring.

We need to ask ourselves are the pre-assemblies working or not. It began in district 91 to help inform the groups of what was on the agenda. It has grown from there but is it serving the purpose that it was intended?

We need to ask are we doing the best we can for Area. Should we be looking at the way we nominate committee chairs for the elections? Can we expand the use of the website?

Andrew will be in New York the end of April. When you go home send out a card to him right away, it takes time for the cards to reach him and the support is important to him. When he returns he is scheduled to give his delegates report, be sure to attend and hear what he has to say.

Conference themes are a good source of topics for workshops, special events and roundups. Use them to encourage the participation of your district.

FALL ASSEMBLY—SEPTEMBER 22 & 23, 2007

Thank you for allowing me to serve
Connie R., Area 40 Secretary

EXHIBIT A

Thursday, April 12, 2007

Greetings to Bill E and Area 40 Corrections folks:

The idea comes from the GSO agenda item on introducing AA to Law Enforcement and Correctional training facilities—this was an item on the Spring Assembly agenda in the spring of 2005. The Montana State Law Enforcement Academy (MLEA) is in district 61, located in the Helena valley. If you've never looked at their website of offerings and the sheer numbers (2,000 plus per year) and types of law enforcement people they train each year, it's very impressive. Their website is located at <http://www.doj.mt.gov/enforcement/training.asp>. They train Adult and Juvenile Corrections/detention Officers, Public Safety Communicators, Highway Patrol, Motor Carrier Services Officers and Adult and Juvenile Probation Officers and Adult Parole Officers.

We wrote a letter to the MLEA administrator in July of 2005. It has been quite the process getting hooked up—he's a very busy guy—and I don't have the best follow-through. Last April, Linda Chezem, past Class A trustee and longtime judge, was in Helena to present at a non-AA conference and she and I spent an hour with the MLEA administrator. He wanted a listing of all the Montana AA Hot Line numbers that he could put into a business card format and pass on to all trainees for their use. We also provided him a copy of the tape ~It sure beats sitting in a cell," which he agreed he could and would show trainees when he had a 15 minute slot available, He was not willing or able to do more than this—he doesn't have time to provide "required" training and this isn't required by law. MLEA provides alcohol breathalyzer certification training to all trainees, so law enforcement officers become very aware of the connection between alcohol and traffic related incidents. He acknowledged there is a disconnect among law enforcement people that other incidents, such as domestic violence, are also heavily alcohol related. He also recognizes that the trainees at the MLEA are high risk for alcoholism themselves—he has a father who died of alcoholism and a brother who's long time sober.

I plan to be in contact with him about every 6 months to see how things are going and to update any AA hot line changes. By the by, a statewide 800 number would be very beneficial for this purpose—to have one number to call for the whole State would be much simpler than figuring out what number to call for what town. So, your local hot lines may get calls from potential members referred by law enforcement and/or from law enforcement officers themselves. Don't freak out. I remember the first time after I got sober that I was out of town—I was here in Lewistown for a work meeting. When I called the AA number to get meeting information, the man who answered the phone, said "Lewistown Police department." I swallowed hard and thought, You've got to really want to get sober in this town." At that time, it was the only place that was open 24/7 and the hot line phone was answered by the police department—they were supposed to answer "Alcoholics Anonymous", but sometimes they forgot.

This could be a great opportunity to serve law enforcement in the state, to carry the message to a large pool of potential members and, for some of us, perhaps a living amends. Please contact me if you have questions, concerns or suggestions. Thanks for allowing me to serve.

Carleen L.

e-mail: _____

phone:• _____