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Volume 15 Issue 3

May June

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Post Assembly Reports

Delegate's Report, Spring 2007

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 may be 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 what 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 fully 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 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.

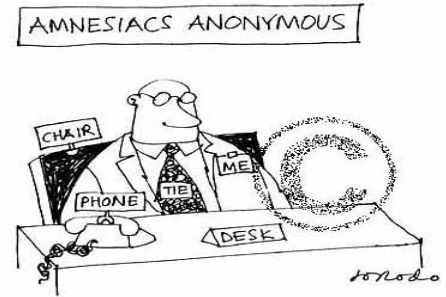
My primary committee assignment for the GSC is the Finance Committee. I also have a secondary assignment on the Archives Committee. I am happy to be serving on the Finance Committee. At the first Area 40 Assembly that I came to as a GSR, I sat in on the Area 40 Finance Committee meeting. We have to continually 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. 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

Just what the doctor ordered!



Area Chair/Alternate Delegate Report

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 40

800-NUM-BERS

Several years in the making, this spring your Area 40 assembly voted to approve the creation, funding and maintenance of a state-wide answering service. Hopefully this article can shed some light on the many moving parts that have been put into place based upon the recommendation of the ad hoc committee tasked with researching Montana's best options. This committee worked with DCM's, intergroup reps and answering service chairs, researched other area-wide and large geography answering services across the US and obtained contracts from top ranking answering service vendors across Montana and the US.

The vendor selected was AnswerNet, a

Montana business already being utilized by districts in Billings, Bozeman, Helena and Missoula. In part, this group was chosen because their equitable rates, billing structure, elimination of all surcharges and hidden fees, willingness to be trained, accessibility and passion for the work we do. 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).

The following is an outline describes the intended design of the Area 40 answering service:

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).

The trained answering service representative would answer within 1 minute "*Alcoholics Anonymous, how can I help you?*" and find out where the caller is look-

ing 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:

Looking for a meeting: Using the www.aa-montana.org website the answering service will look up the requested meeting information and use an on-line map to provide directions (meeting info is currently updated locally by individual districts).

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 who indicated they would be available at that specific time (AA contact info will be updated locally by individual districts).

If no scheduled contacts are available, the answering service will ring AA members in that town *not scheduled* to receive calls at that time.

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).

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).

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.

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).

AnswerNet will have real-time usage information available by district so local answering service committee members can track their calls and minutes.

Local districts can keep or purchase a local number for \$3 per month, if they wish.

The new 800# will be propagated in every phonebook in the state as "AA Alcoholics Anonymous Montana"

At the end of the month a master bill will be sent to the Area 40 Treasurer. Calls

originating from out of state will be billed to Area 40. Local district usage will be billed to the districts that are able/willing to be self-supporting.

Districts that cannot afford to pay their portion of the answering service will be paid by Area 40.

Separate invoices will be mailed or e-mailed directly to each district.

All calls will be billed at the flat rate of \$0.50 cents per minute.

With this new rate, Bozeman will pay slightly more but Helena, Missoula and Billings will see a reduction in their answering services costs.

The Area PI Chair will remain the principle contact to the answering service and the local district/inter-group answering service chairs.

The Area may at some point decide that this responsibility needs a dedicated Area 40 Answering Service Chair (similar to the webmaster position), but until the details of this service commitment are ironed out, the PI chair will serve in this capacity.

It is my hope that we will have a phone number selected and a memo out to all the districts/inter-groups outlining the details associated with billing, updating call sheets, 12-step call training, etc. by the end of June. In the interim, please let me know if you would like to meet or schedule a free conference call with the PI committee and your district/inter-group/home group to discuss any further details.

Feel free to contact me at pi@aa-montana.org.

The final results are in God's hands.

This process has made clear 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,

Sean B.

Your Area 40

Public Information Chair



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, on the table you have you 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 our 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 take minutes for you during your breakout sessions. I will need two copies of your minutes given to me when you are done with your committee reports of agenda items from the floor.

In December, Area 40 Archivist, Gerry Robinson, 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:

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

This motion was made, seconded, voted on and passed.

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 was made, seconded, voted on and passed.

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 was made, seconded, voted on and passed.

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

This motion was made, seconded,

voted on and passed.

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

This motion was made, seconded, 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.



RE: Area 40 Advisor Report

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



A Note from the Editor...

Please bare in mind the lengthy nature of these Assembly Reports. They are Edited here for special reasons. If you desire a report in it's entirety, please contact either myself (Raymona C) or Connie R Area Secretary for a copy.

Snippets from the Districts...**District 11**

Submitted by Rich K. - DCM

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.

District 12

Submitted by David R. - DCM

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.

District 23

Submitted by Joe P. - DCM

Greetings from District 23. We have only two registered Groups in our District. Makes my job pretty easy, especially since both Groups have active GSR's.

On March 17th we held a...potluck and open call-up meeting. After the call-up meeting we held a District meeting. We filled our Treasurer/Secretary position. We also discussed the Assembly Agenda items. A new Group is forming in Savage. They will hold their first meeting May 2nd 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. Our next District Meeting is scheduled for April 25th in the Lutheran Church Basement in Savage.

District 31

Submitted by Neil T - DCM

We have had two district meetings since the first of the year. Two more are scheduled prior to 2008. We will 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 a 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.

District 41

Submitted by Mary S - DCM

We started off with a GSR school workshop, potluck and dance. Our "Support Your Services" committee did a great job. 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. There was lively, and not so lively, discussions about the agenda items for our General Service Conference. We heard from Trustees alcoholic and non alcoholic as well as many other dedicated members

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.

District 42

Submitted by Michelle M. - DCM

District 42 has 8 groups in 8 towns. 7 of the 8 groups participate in the District. The last 3 weeks, the attendance at the Valier meeting has been great. 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. Carole B. is planning on being at our district meeting in May to go over the agenda process.

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.



District 51

Submitted by Doug M - DCM

We are still going strong with our regular meetings in Havre. Rocky Boy is still struggling with attendance. There is a meeting in Hays that is showing promise. Fort Belknap is alive and doing well. Chinoook still has their two regular meetings a week. They sponsored a potluck get-together with speakers on April Fools' Day. 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.

Last fall's mini-conference was a success. Planning is now underway for the fall mini-conference for October 6th&7th.

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.

Thank you to 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.

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

District 61

Submitted by Tim M - DCM

District 61 encompasses the towns of Helena, Townsend, Boulder, White Sulphur 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 participants.

The Twenty-Eighth of April we will be putting on a Corrections workshop at the Montana Club with a panel speaking both from AA and the Professional community. This workshop 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 the same day, we will host the Nineteen Annual Grapefest in Helena at the Wilson House from 1:30 until 5:30 with BillyJo D., our Area Grapevine Rep, and Andrew W., our Area 40 delegate.

The 52nd Annual Attitude of Gratitude will be held on November 17th at the Colonial Inn in Helena. We will be having meetings, speakers, and fellowship.

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.

District 71

Submitted by Richard P. - DCM

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.

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.

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/potluck 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.

We sponsor or help sponsor several meetings at the following 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 a part 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 registra-

tion 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 3rd 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

District 72

Submitted by Lori Fink - DCM

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 oppor-

tunities, 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.

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.

District 81

Submitted by Paula H. - DCM

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.

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. 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 week-end, 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.

Another challenge is getting GSRs to come to District. Hopefully, the GSR breakout session will help to get some ideas about this

District 91

Submitted by April A - DCM

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. In April, 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 most importantly, the hosting groups' members often attend our district meeting, something they might not do otherwise.

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 and was filled by Steve M. We are attempting to revive and strengthen our flagging committee structure, that will be our focus this rotation.

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

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. 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 for Districts 81, 93, and 91. Most of the Area chairs did not have a conflict of schedules and were able to make the event. 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....

District 93,

Submitted by John V — DCM

There are 13 groups with 30 meetings a week in the Bitterroot Valley.

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

In January, 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, I'm sure it will be in July again

A note from Carlene L

Greetings to Bill E and Area 40 Corrections folks:

The idea came 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 C. , past Class A trustee and long-time 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 been sober a long time.

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,

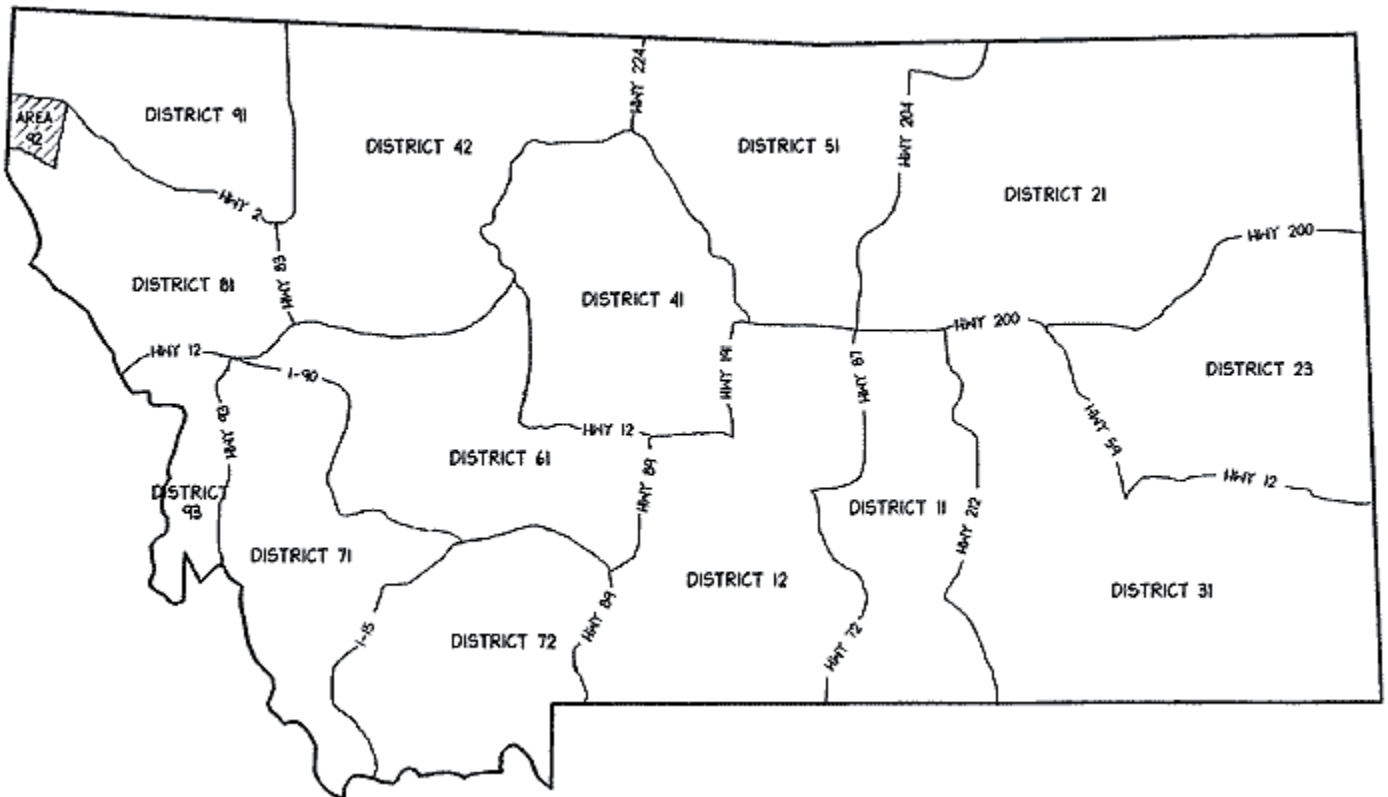
"You've got to really want to get sober in this town." At that time, it was the only place that was open 24/7 and the hot line phone was answered by the police department—they were supposed to answer "Alcoholics Anonymous", but sometimes they forgot.

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.

Carlene L

MAY 2007

- May 18 - 20 Spring Round Up - Copper King Inn - Butte, MT.
- June 2 - Area 40 Workshop - Elks Lodge - Dillon, MT. - 10:30 am
- June 2 - 19th Annual Grapefest - Wilson Hall - Helena, MT. - 1:30 - 5:30 pm
- June 2 - District Campout/Delegates Day Picnic - Barrett's Park - South of Dillon
- June 2 - EZ Duz It Golf Tournament - Whitefish, MT.
- June 8-10 - Founder's Day Campout - Tally Lake Campground - Kalispell, MT.
- June 15 - 17 - Swan Lake Campout - Swan Lake, MT.
- July 20 - 22 - Flathead Intergroup Campout - Emery Bay -Hungry Horse Reservoir - Hungry Horse, MT.
- July 27 - 29 - Valier Round Up - Lake Frances Pavillion - Valier, MT.
- Aug 17 - 19 - Lower Yellowstone Soberfest - Lion's Youth Camp - Makoshita St. Park - Glendive, MT.
- Sept. 22 & 23, Area 40 Fall Assembly – Yogo Inn - Lewistown, MT.
- Sept. 28 - 30 - Fall Round Up - Great Falls, MT.
- Oct. 6 - 7 - Fall Mini Conference - District 51 - Havre, MT.
- Oct. 26 - 28 - Women's Recovery Retreat - Flathead Lutheran Camp - Lakeside, MT.
- Nov. 17 - 52nd Annual Attitude of Gratitude - Colonial Inn - Helena, MT.



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