

The Triangle

Volume 13, Issue 4

May 2005

From Your Delegate—Just back from New York

I want to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be your contribution to the 55th General Service Conference. Simply, the conference was an event I hope to remember for the rest of my life. Each experience on my way down the service structure has had a profound change on me and this was no exception.

The conference was held in New York City from April 17th through the 23rd. There were 93 Delegates from North America in attendance. In addition there were staff from the General Service Office, non-Trustee Directors and Trustees of our two Corporate Boards: the Grapevine and Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, and Class A & Class B Trustees.

We met on the common ground of love and tolerance and the examples of those in attendance reflected those spiritual principles. I was honored to be counted amongst their numbers. It was obvious everyone in the room loved Alcoholics Anonymous.

If you want to hear the details of the conference, I will be giving a report at the several locations listed in the upcoming events section. If your District is not listed and you would like a report, drop me a line and I would be hon-

ored to come to your location and share the experience of the General Service Conference.

At our Spring Assembly I was given the “levity” to find a Trustee to attend our Fall Assembly to be held in Lewistown on September 17 & 18. That search is over and Linda Chezem, past Class A (non-alcoholic) Trustee will be joining us for the weekend.

Mary D. formerly of the Bitterroot Valley also sends her greetings. Mary now works at the General Service Office in New York, currently assigned to the Literature desk. Mary misses Montana and she wanted me to say Hi to everyone on her behalf. She is doing a great job at the Office and was in attendance at the Conference.

One other item I wanted to mention. Thank you to the groups and individuals who sent cards, letters and faxes to New York. Everyday my message light was blinking in the room and that meant I had mail. One morning, I picked up 16 pieces of mail prior to the start of a committee meeting. Everyone on the committee wanted to see the cards and we may

have started a little late that morning. Thank you again – the communication from home added to the experience in a very special way.

The agenda item to broadcast the flag ceremony at the International Conference in Toronto was approved. There will be ONE password issued for each Area.

The cost of the broadcast will be absorbed by the International Conference. The reason the broadcast is limited is due to a financial decision. The more passwords that are issued the more bandwidth that will be required to send the broadcast over an extranet communication link.

There is the internet for world wide use, there is an intranet that is a closed system used mainly in large offices, and then there is an extranet which is an expansion of an intranet. The broadcast will be on an extranet connection. In addition, the broadcast will be anonymity protected and be encrypted. The encryption will not allow the broadcast to be copied.

Having only one password for Area 40 creates a challenge. Where and who in Montana will get the

First Assembly	2-3
Triangle Tidbits	3
Area Chair Report	4
District 31	4
Literature Report	5
Districts 42 & 72	5
From the Webmaster	6
From the Archivist	6
From the Whitefish Group	7
District 81	7
Districts Map	8
Area Treatment	8
Calendar of Events	9

password? I have visited with the Area Officers to get their input and we came up with the following idea.

Any District that would like to put on an event to show the broadcast is welcome to put their name in the hat. Those Districts that express an interest by June 1st will be included in the drawing from the hat and will be given the password.

I know this is not a win-win situation for everyone. This is the first time for this type of broadcast and taking small steps into this type of broadcast seemed prudent.

Please contact me by email, phone, snail mail, or carrier pigeon by June 1st if your District is interested.

Scott W.

First Assembly

The articles below are in response to the editor asked people attending their first assembly to write about their experience.

I thought the Area 40 Spring Assembly was educational, well organized, the meetings were run efficiently, and the overall atmosphere was very positive.

Julie, GSR, Women in AA Group, Missoula

I am clean and sober by the grace of God. The Area 40 Spring Assembly was my first. By 10:00 am on Saturday, I was excited to be there. After sitting in a chair for two days, I see the importance of these assemblies. The pain in my backside is a small price to pay for the information I will bring to my group. I am the GSR of the Promises

"My experience at my first Area 40 Assembly was exciting, exhilarating, enlightening, exhausting, and confusing at times."

Group in Butte. We have about ten meetings per week. Thanks for the privilege to serve in this position.

Scott

My experience at my first Area 40 Assembly was exciting, exhilarating, enlightening, exhausting, and confusing at times. Ultimately, it expanded and enlivened my living in the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. It was great and I want to come back.

Julie, GSR, Sunshine Group, Missoula

I am so incredibly blessed to be in recovery and especially blessed to be a member of Alcoholics Anonymous. After attending my first Area Assembly in Lewistown this past weekend that feeling is completely cemented.

It all began on Friday night as my sponsor and I drove from Helena to Lewistown. The fellowship, love and bonding were evident as we traveled the miles.

She tried to prepare me for the weekend, but I had no idea what to expect. So, what and who is an Area Delegate? A floor motion is? And a Past Area Delegate is alive or "past" away? All the questions with no answers . . . yet.

Saturday morning was off with a BANG!!!! More than one hundred alcoholics in recovery along with unlimited coffee for a whole weekend seemed like a dream.

I attended my first committee meeting and was quite impressed with the attendance and the debate that ensued. We **ARE** a vocal lot that would become more evident as the day went on! I took as many notes as I could so I could construct some sort of a report to bring back to the District 61 CPC Committee, but this did prove to be difficult with the constant sharing.

The workshop that afternoon was informative and the first time I got to see and hear one of our past delegates, Loren, in action. He



Overheard at Meetings:

"The monkey is off my back, but the circus is still in town."

did a wonderful job conducting the event and I learned a lot from the group I was sitting with.

Now . . . it was time . . . to let the games begin . . . Committee reports and sharing. WOW!!! To see how the agenda items are debated at Area level is true democracy in action. We do have a voice (if we can muster enough courage to get up to the microphone). Needless to say I was quite impressed with the format, the structure and of course the different opinions of the individuals who shared. The whispered sharing at our table was quite fun as well - of course we had many comments that we would never have the courage to share.

First Assembly Continued..

When Sunday morning came, I can admit I was quite tired, but fulfilled in so many ways. Yet again I am reminded of how well I fit in Alcoholics Anonymous. I love this level of our Program and look forward to my continued activity in service work. Service work has been a huge part of building my foundation in recovery. I have 2 ½ years and I owe most of that time to being active and staying involved.

Thank you for my first, memorable experience at Area Assembly.

Janice K., District 61
CPC Committee Chair

Thanks to the Fellowship Group in Bozeman, I had an opportunity to attend my first as-

sembly as GSR. Admittedly, I didn't want to go, as I felt I was too busy with school. (In other words, I was too busy thinking about my little plans, schemes and designs). Well, something happened at this Assembly and I hope it continues to grow. After surrendering to being there, I began to participate (I crashed the Corrections Committee meeting) and caught fire. Next thing you know by the time the GSR Breakout finished at 10 p.m., I didn't want to go to bed. And by the end of the Assembly, I felt I had finally experienced a glimpse of what the concepts "love" and "service" mean. I hope to keep coming back....Thanks for the opportunity to share...

Pete F. Bozeman

My first assembly was one of the most cool experiences of my sobriety. It is great to see all us gathered together for the newcomer so that they may find their way in the rooms of AA. To hear the state conscience on different issues was incredible. I am the GSR for the Billings young people in AA, and I knew I would get asked this question, "Isn't young peoples part of NA or something its not AA right?" Well for those of you who are misinformed, young peoples groups are just as much a part of AA as any other group. It is like a men's or women's meeting. We define a young person as one who still has room to grow. So remember all who have

room to grow are welcome. But the incredible thing was to see the steps, traditions, and concepts in action. And it made me ask, Am I standing on all 3 legs of my stool? Do I still have room to grow? Yes. See ya at the fall assembly:)

Erik E.

"I have 2 ½ years and I owe most of that time to being active and staying involved."

Triangle Tidbits

- Thanks to all of you who submitted articles for this issue of the Triangle. Not all of them fit into the 12 pages! Keep reading, they might show up in coming issues.
- The next Triangle issue will be dedicated to Correctional Facilities. If you have experience either carrying the message into a correctional facility or being sober as a result of hearing the message in a correctional facility, please share your experience in a few lines or paragraphs with Area 40.
- The next issue will come out in July. Deadline for submission of articles is June 17, 2005. Send them by email to Area40Triangle@hotmail.com or mail them to Area 40 Triangle, 4522 Shasta Lane, Billings, MT 59101.
- Also send in your "Overheard at Meetings" and "You might be an alcoholic if...".

Area Chair Report to the Spring Assembly

Welcome to the Spring Assembly for 2005. I especially want to welcome all the new GSRs. I hope you find as much enjoyment in this opportunity to be of service as I have in my trips to Lewistown.

That is actually the first thing that comes to mind about the first part of this new rotation: it has been a lot of fun. Yes, there has been some work involved but the fun comes to mind first. I have exchanged a lot of email with Scott, Carole, and many of the committee chairs and DCMs. Scott sent me a copy of the agenda items for the General Service Conference as soon as he got them. I then used these to put together our agenda for this conference. I enjoyed the drive out to Rapid City with Lloyd and Mary. Lloyd drove the whole way out which gave me a chance to go through most of the background material. At the West Central Re-

gional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference in Rapid City, I became even better informed about the agenda items through all the discussions during the meeting, at dinner, and at the midnight snacks. I also learned that Area 40 is blessed with a large number of very active past delegates and that we do a good job of communicating within our area.

Since the WCRAASC, we have had 3 preassemblies over four weeks. The preassemblies in Missoula, Miles City, and Butte helped us become more informed on the agenda items and they gave me a chance to participate in the discussion on the items. We will discuss all of our agenda items here at this assembly but there are only a few that we might actually vote on. We will take a sense of the area on many of the items so that Scott can take that information with him to the General Ser-

vice Conference in New York where he will actually vote on many of these items.

I say "we" will discuss but my role as Area Chair is not to participate in the discussion but simply to keep order and keep things moving along. The job of chair is a privilege and part of that responsibility is for me to keep out of the discussions and not start putting forth my opinions from the podium. That is your job, all of you, from those of us who have been to many assemblies to new GSRs attending their very first assembly. Participate in the discussion. 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.

"I find that for each new day of sobriety that I get to enjoy, my debt to Alcoholics Anonymous does not diminish but instead continues to grow."

If you're new to general service, you'll find that we discuss many things. The longer your in general service, you'll find we continually reexamine how we do things. We put the time in to discuss the agenda items and examine how we operate because Alcoholics Anonymous is so important to us. I find that for each new day of sobriety that I get to enjoy, my debt to Alcoholics Anonymous does not diminish but instead continues to grow.

Thank you for this opportunity to be of service and to participate in AA.

Yours in love and service,

Andrew W

From District 31

Greetings from the far reaches of Eastern Montana and District 31. There are currently 9 registered groups, encompassing the towns of Jordan, Baker, Broadus, Forsyth, Colstrip and Miles City, and 29 meet-

ings active in District 31.

We are going to hold a workshop during the first half hour of our district meetings and plan to use the Traditions Checklist, available

through the Grapevine, for our format. It should be fun and informative. We also hope to have each of the Area Chairs come to our District for workshops at sometime over the course of the next two years. It's our

plan to include neighboring Districts and put together a worthwhile, enjoyable event.

In Service

Bill M, DCM

Literature Report

I had the opportunity to attend the WCRAASC in Rapid City, ND and was able to make it to 2 of the 3 pre-assemblies. All three of these gatherings were informative as well as enjoyable and the input from everyone, especially relative to the literature agenda was very much appreciated. Thank you for attending.

Tidbits from GSO I'd like

to share.

*The price of all books except Alcoholics Anonymous will increase \$1.00 on July 1, 2005.

*A 10% handling charge will be added to purchases under \$250.00 effective July 1, 2005.

*The Hebrew Big Book has been translated through Chapter Seven.

*The Big Book is being

printed in Farsi, Zulu, and Latvian.

*There are 7 pamphlets being printed in Singhalese.

*The Publications Department has announced the printing of the 25th millionth copy of the Big Book.

If you have any questions about the literature or the agenda items please let me

know or if you have ideas I welcome them also.

Thank you again for allowing me to be of service.

Louise M.

From District 42

District 42 extends our best wishes and support to the leadership of Area 40 during the upcoming two years of their service.

. The District is still taking a meeting into the Correction Facility

located in Shelby.

Last month we were fortunate to have Joe H come and present a GSR workshop. It was very informative and well received. Our thanks to Joe.

We have two events pending in the District. A "Spring Fling" hosted by the Conrad group, Saturday, May 14 and the "Mini-Roundup" hosted by the Lake Frances group of Valier the

weekend of June 29th - 31st.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Mike M

DCM

From District 72

The District 72 CPC committee is planning an additional correction workshop with local judges, parole officers and other corrections officers this year. Last year's event was well supported and enjoyed by both the professionals and AA members alike.

As of March 1, 2005 you can call 1-800-655-4069 and reach the Dis-

trict's answering service. This is expected to cost about \$20 per month more than the District is currently paying. The rationale behind the 800 number came from comments made by distant groups within the District where newcomers have to dial a long distance number to reach the hotline.

There was a sense

that newcomers in the outlying towns would not as readily call a Bozeman prefix to contact AA from their outlying town also. As part of the District's attention to the answering service, we are planning a 12 step call training event for both AirPage Communication and AA members on the 12 step calling list.

The PI committee has been placing ads in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle over the Christmas holidays and is planning on placing more ads with the toll-free number after the 4th of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas/New Years holidays.

Sean B., DCM

From the Area 40 Webmaster

We are still seeing a healthy increase in the traffic to our site. Since my last report in at the Fall Assembly 2004, our average monthly visitors has increased by a thousand to 4500 visitors per month.

I am also seeing a huge amount of downloads of the online flyers and Area documents. So I am encouraging your Groups and Districts to send me any flyers you have for any kind of AA-related event you might be hosting. I am seeing

an average of 90 downloads per flyer and, in some cases upwards of 500 downloads.

You will soon be able to email any Area 40 Committee Members from within our site. Look for this added feature from the 'area business' link on the left hand menu of the home page.

The Area's Newsletter, the Triangle, will now be available on the website as well.

I am looking forward

to suggestions from this Area of what other services the site can provide to the still suffering alcoholic. I encourage you to visit the site and see what added features you would like to see. Remember this is YOUR site.

After arriving home from the Area Assembly I had an email from our hosting service letting me know that they have upgraded the plan we currently use to include 500 email accounts, up from 50, and 1GB of hard drive space up from

100MB at no additional cost. So that's nice!

Yours in service,

Alex M

www.aamontana.org



**International
AA Convention
June 30—July 3, 2005**

**Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Visit www.aa.org**

From the Area 40 Archivist

For those of you who are unfamiliar with Archives, I would like give you a brief description of what I do as the Archivist. The primary job of the Archivist is the collection and preservation of Area 40's history. This includes oral histories via interviews, Area Assembly minutes, District minutes, Area activities such as roundups. We also assist local Archive committees in their effort to preserve our history.

Area 40's repository is located in Great Falls where I live. Because of

an expired lease and an increase in rent we were forced to move the repository to a much smaller room. I am currently looking for a new location. I realize that the repository might be moving in the next two years, but we must still provide for the proper preservation of our records. For future reference, I believe a climate controlled room or building of approximately 500+ square feet is needed currently to store everything and to provide a work area for the Archivist and his or her aides.

Since the last Assembly, I have been busy with the Ad Hoc committee on revising our Policy and Procedures document. I have passed out draft copies to all DCM's and the Area Chairs. It was suggested I do this so people would have a chance to look at what they will be voting on in the fall.

I have also received district minutes from various districts and I thank the District secretaries for their consideration. The storage of district minutes and flyers at the Area Archives

provides a backup for those districts with an active Archives committee and a repository for those districts that do not.

I wish to thank those people who have expressed an interest in Archives and who believe, as I do, that Archives is a vital tool in our 12 step work.

Kevin N.

From the Whitefish Group

Hello from the Whitefish Group.

The big news is we've moved after 40 plus years in the same location above the Toggery in the center of downtown Whitefish. The owner of the building bowed to necessity and plans to remodel. As so often happens in the program, when one door

closed, another opened, and we found a new home in the First Presbyterian Church only a block and a half away at 301 Central Avenue in Whitefish. We now have running water and restrooms!

Later we learned some of the first AA meetings in Whitefish were held in the same building. We truly came

home. The preparation for the move made us acutely aware of how busy our group has become.

The Whitefish Group holds 20 meetings a week. In addition to the 7am, 12:30pm, and 8pm meetings, there is a women's meeting and a men's meeting. Attendance has been increasing, with evening meet-

ings now averaging about 35 attendees.

In other news, the recently added newcomer packets have proved successful and a lot of our members are active taking AA into the jail and a rural treatment center.

Yours in Service,

Mary M GSR & Jake H Alt GSR

From District 81

Greetings from Missoula and all of District 81 which extends north to Polson, west to Thompson Falls and east to Seeley Lake encompassing approximately 33 groups. Many of these groups are very small and do not have a GSR. I've contacted almost all by phone and hope to make visits to them over the course of the summer.

Our District holds meetings the 3rd Sunday of each month where we generally have an average of 12 – 15 GSRs in attendance along with the District Officers and Chairs. Currently all of our service positions are filled with eager mem-

bers actively learning their new jobs.

In February, our district helped District 93 host a GSR school in Victor where Robbie S. shared her experience and oriented our new GSRs to their tasks.

A Valentine's Event with speakers, raffles, food, fellowship and dancing was held on Feb. 12th together with Al-Anon as a fund-raiser for the Fall Roundup. It was a smash hit.

District 81 hosted its first PreAssembly on March 12th with Districts 93 and 91. We have some dedicated service people in our Area because, even though it

was blizzarding in parts of the state, no one cancelled coming! Our delegate, Scott, gave an enthusiastic talk on the Assembly and the General Service Conference. The Area committee chairs led eight breakout sessions where we had some thought provoking discussions on the agenda items. I think we had a great turn-out and some good food, as well.

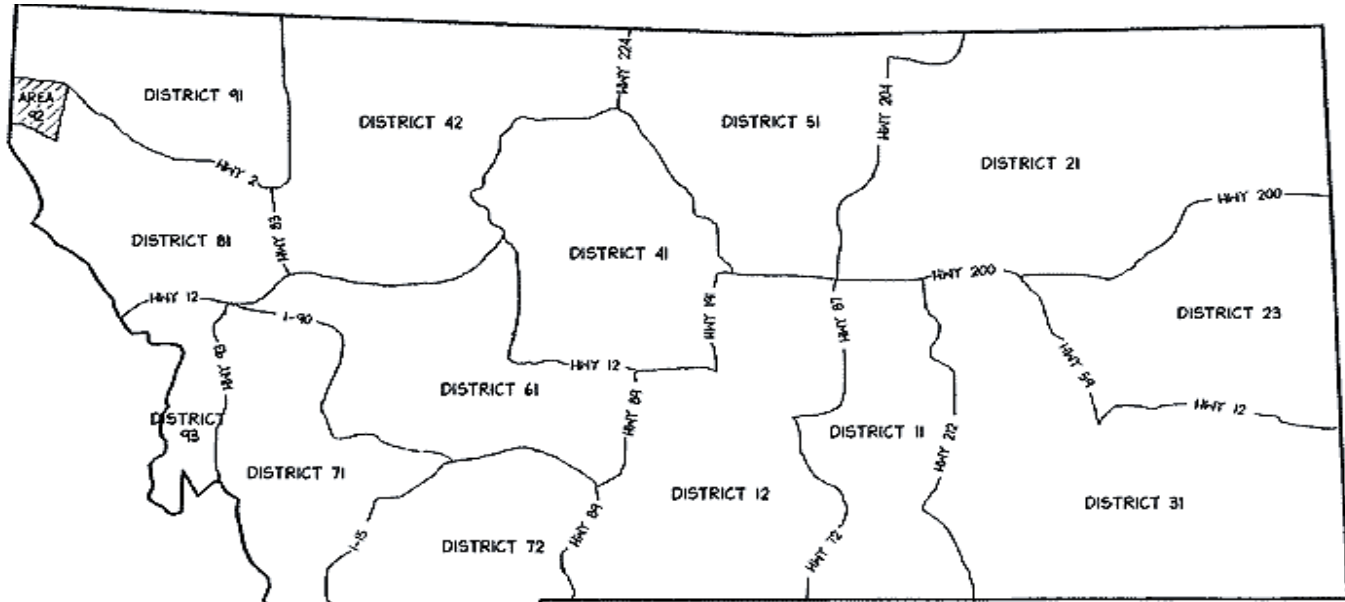
Our District finances are healthy as we enjoy good support from the groups and we finally passed the budget at our March meeting. AA members are regularly speaking in the treatment and mental health center, in the high schools and

are taking several meetings into the correctional facility weekly.

Our Roundup Committee is busy – but you'll hear that report tomorrow. Our next District event will be Founder's Day in June where we will hear Scott's delegate report, hopefully have a sponsorship panel, play softball and eat lots!

I'm grateful and honored to serve my District as DCM. And thanks to Alcoholics Anonymous for my sobriety.

Julie R, DCM



District 11—Billings
 District 12—Laurel
 District 21—Wolf Point/Glasgow
 District 23—Glendive

District 31—Miles City	District 71—Butte
District 41—Great Falls	District 72—Bozeman
District 42—Cut Bank/ Choteau/ Shelby	District 81—Missoula
District 51—Havre	District 91—Kalispell/ Whitefish/ Eureka
District 61—Helena	

From Your Area Treatment Facilities Chair

We have hit the ground running in treatment this season. A contact list of district treatment chairs has been sent to everyone in the Area. We are lucky enough to have treatment chairs in 9 out of 14 districts so far. We are hoping to hook everyone up to promote communication and make the sharing of experience between the districts easier.

The state has opened a new WATCH East program in Glendive. That program has a capacity of 40 beds and houses all the women sentenced to the WATCH program plus about 15 men at this time. We are helping them replicate the Bridging the Gap (BTG) program for graduates at that facility. Jim H. from District 31 says they are getting a great turnout for the 2 meetings a week.

We have also been in contact with the Mission Mountain School in Condon. A young woman there wrote GSO and they referred her to me. We are talking to them about what type of services we can provide them, probably just literature at this time plus BTG.

Currently we have two additional projects. One is developing a directory of all the facilities in the state. We would like to maintain a list of all the AA contacts, all the facility contacts and the guidelines for taking meetings into each facility. If we do not have a relationship with a facility yet, we hope to work with local AA's to follow up with each facility.

The other related project is to make sure staff at each facility knows about AA and to develop a packet of materials available to anyone leaving the facility. This packet might include flyers, pamphlets and local meetings lists or simply information about the Area 40 website so that staff know where to refer clients to get local AA information. —Lee G.

Calendar of Events

- **CONRAD—District 42 Spring Fling—May 14—Ralph S. 271-2974**
- **BILLINGS—Intergroup Representative Workshop-May 21-Sharron S. 256-9999**
- **LIBBY-Campout-June 3-5-Dave 293-4326**
- **COLUMBUS-Campout-June 3-5-Andy P. 860-0178***
- **MISSOULA-Founder's Day-June 11-Julie R. 829-0756***
- **BOZEMAN-Founder's Day-June 12-Peter H. 579-1164***
- **HAVRE-Campout-June 17-19-Leo B. 265-3680**
- **HELENA-Grapefest-June 25-Paul S. 439-8158***
- **TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA– AA's 70th Birthday-June 30—July 3-www.aa.org**
- **EUREKA-Campout-July 8-10– Mark M. 250-7856**
- **VALIER-Mini Roundup—July29-31-Everett K. 279-3639**
- **PINNACLE-Campout on the Mountain-Aug 5-7-George 888-5562**
- **BIG TIMBER– Beartooth Mountain Conference– Aug 5-7– Jesse V. 896-0499
www.beartoothmountainconference.com**
- **GLENDIVE-Lower Yellowstone Soberfest-Aug 19-21– Jim H. 939-0342***
- **MISSOULA– Fall Roundup– Sep 9-11– Kristi B. 370-5601 David L. 542-1588**
- **LEWISTOWN—Area 40 Assembly-Sept 17-18—Andrew W. 777-5136 www.aamontana.org**
- **GREAT FALLS– Regional Forum– Sept 30, Oct 1-2– Patty C. 453-3168**
- **KALISPELL—FALL REFRESHER– Oct 15-16—Clark P. 755-5294 or Angi H. 892-3852**
- **KALISPELL-Women's Retreat-Oct 28-30-Nancy W. 892-0278**

*Indicates the Delegate's report is part of this event.

If you would like your event listed here, please email the editor at Area40Triangle@hotmail.com or send it to 4522 Shasta Lane, Billings, MT 59101
