

THE TRIANGLE

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March 2006

AREA 40'S NEWSLETTER

West Central Regional Service Conference Report

There were 480 registered AA's at this year's conference at the Double Tree Hotel in Minneapolis Minnesota. The purpose of the conference is to develop greater unity among members, groups, and areas in the West Central Region: encourage the exchange of ideas and experiences, and to provide an opportunity for members to discuss pertinent upcoming general service conference agenda items.

There are three general sessions where topics are presented by delegate areas and followed with general sharing. There is much time dedicated to the discussion of the GSC agenda items. There were breakout sessions with rooms for topic discussion on DCM, Literature, PI/CPC, Delegate/Trustee, Newsletter, Archives, GSR, Grapevine, Corrections/Treatment, Area Officers. I attended the Newsletter breakout

in the morning. This is a brief synopsis of that session.

Discussion topics for the newsletter were on guidelines and publications policy, cost and distribution, calendar of events, sources for content material, anonymity protection, and getting material to the editorial staff by deadline schedules. Although, we have many differences in population, geography, and content of newsletters, we can all share borrowed information. There was an expressed interest in seeing the West Central Region bring back the regional newsletter and utilizing our regional directory to share our newsletters with other in our regions. With the newsletter and utilizing our digital media environment, there are concerns of anonymity, password protection, leaving off last names, utilizing generic emails, and being mindful that the printed word will be

reflected as AA. The sharing was diverse and informative.

I was asked by our delegate to moderate the afternoon session of the Grapevine. I found it extremely interesting. Here is a little of what I participated with:

The topics for discussion at the Grapevine breakout for this conference were background information and general Grapevine Inc. information requested by a recent newcomer to AA service, sharing of opinions on editorial licensing, filtering, and editing of the articles submitted for publishing in the Grapevine magazine, the Grapevine articles that are digitally produced and those already preserved in Archives and methods for sharing them, and our continued support of the LaVina, since it is not self-supporting. The Grapevine is a way of using the meeting in print with our spiritual principles to increase awareness

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WCRAASC Report Continued..

and exposure as a recovery tool.

Having sharing sessions with our region on the GSC agenda items helps present a good cross section of ideas on each item and allows for a more informed group conscience. With our district participating in a pre-assembly and having another district meeting before the

Area Assembly, I feel that we will be more prepared for the agenda items and the voting of our group conscience.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank District 11 for sending me to the WCRAASC. The total cost to the district was \$642.80. (This included airfare, a rental car, lodging, and meals for three days.) It is a great opportunity to be at

one of these service conferences. I appreciate more what AA has done for me and realize that the work I do under the service structure has kept me deep in the middle of my own recovery. I want to thank all of you for this opportunity.

Linda B., District 11 DCM

Letter to the Editor

Editor's note: I made a typographical error in the November/ December 2005 issue- Mea Cu'pa. Thanks much to Bob H. for his great clarification.

Hello Carole,

Just a quick note about the "Treatment Fact" in the November/December issue. Both Bill and Dr. Silkworth refer to **alcoholic addiction, not alcohol addiction**. Bill states that Dr. Silkworth works "at a Nationally prominent hospital specializing in **alcoholic and drug addiction**..." (page xxv Fourth Edition). Dr Silkworth (page xxvii) states "I say this after many years' experience as Medical Director of one of the oldest hospitals in the country treating **alcoholic and drug addiction**."

I realize that many say that this is the same thing and it is the trendy thing to say. Dr.

Silkworth and Bill W. were well-educated and gifted writers. Had they meant "alcohol addiction" they would have said it. Dr. Silkworth goes on in his contribution to the "Big Book" to explain what he means. This may seem like "nit picking" but our message must be clear. It is even more important at this time with all the problems we are having with "Singleness of Purpose". I believe that we must be especially careful with how we present things in our literature and publications.

This next part is just a personal belief. If alcohol were addictive imagine the magnitude of problems we would have in this world with the abundance of legal alcohol. If, for example, we were to put 10 people in a room and feed them alcohol for 30 days straight; upon leaving the room 9 would say "Thank God that is over " and the other 1 would say "Why did we stop?" Do the same thing with any

addictive substance and the results, I believe, would be quite different.

District 11 does an orientation at Rimrock Foundation in Billings the first Tuesday of every month. The biggest problem we encounter there is with the "Singleness of Purpose". When it is explained clearly and with quotes cited from AA literature, most fears and doubts are laid to rest. This has aided greatly to alleviate the growing misunderstanding about who can be AA members, and the difference between open and closed meetings.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to voice my belief. I just needed to say something about it.

Bob H., Past Delegate

A GSR's Report on WCRSC

Scott W. hooked me up with Area 40 C.P.C. Chair Lloyd B. for the 1780 mile trip to Minneapolis and back. We left Wednesday night right after Lloyd shared at my group and got back Monday morning. Three hundred dollars was the total cost of the trip which was less than a plane ticket.

I would like to start the rest of your report with a declaration which I first remember hearing at the Conference.

A DECLARATION OF UNITY: To this we owe AA's future, to place our common welfare first, to keep our fellowship united. For on AA unity, depend our lives and the lives of those to come.

Now for the Crickets, meaning I'm going to touch upon the 7th tradition. (Read on for an explanation of crickets.) I'm very proud that I can say that my Home Group is self supporting and contributes cash to District 11, Area 40, west central regional forums/conference and G.S.O. The cash in the basket also has a huge impact on an alcoholic's life in recovery. That alcoholic is me, the Recovery Group's General Service Representative (GSR). In the AA General Service Structure, the Groups are at the top of the structure, then the District, then the Area, then the Region, and at the bottom, the General Service Office (GSO). I heard time and time again from other GSRs that when they bring up the subject of the 7th tradition, the only sound in the back-

ground is of crickets. That is not the case here! But the matter goes deeper for an alcoholic like me. Life was down right desperate my first year in recovery, spiritually and cash-wise. It was explained to me many times the importance of putting what I honestly can in the basket, whether it's 5 cents or the equal to a six pack. That importance is ownership towards my membership in Alcoholics Anonymous. I must feel part of and to feel part of I must get out of self.

Our cash contributions to the basket enables AA as a whole to carry out our primary purpose. To carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. When I am able, I put in a dollar for me, a dollar for the person like me in that first year and a dollar for the still suffering alcoholic who hasn't made it here yet. If we as members have ANY questions about how and where the monies are spent, please see your group's treasurer. He/she will be happy to explain how the money is spent.

The attendance at west central was huge, 480 alcoholics registered out of duty and love for ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS. The West Central Region consists of 8 Delegate Areas, Montana, Nebraska, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Northern and Southern Minnesota. Within these areas, there are 154 districts and God really only knows how many registered and non-registered meetings are going on in the West Central Region let alone in the world of A.A. as a whole!

These 8 Delegates take our Area's voices to the General Service Conference (GSC) in New York City and they are getting ready to go again. In my group, I have posted the agenda for the GSC, which we went over and a lot of other material pertaining to our Region out in the lobby of our meeting place.

There are a few items that the GSC and our Delegate would like input from each group. There are four questions on page four and two agenda items to be discussed in the Treatment/Agenda Committee. Please contact your GSR or DCM for more information about these agenda items.

Back to the crickets, the ones in my head. There were times during the WCRSC, when I was asking myself, "just what in the heck are you doing here? You don't understand half of what's going on, the people around are being distracting, and you are spending your home group's money and you're scared to death to look someone in the eye for fear that they might see the crickets!" Then some alcoholic would speak the language of the heart, the talk only an alky can hear and I would be slammed back in my chair. ALCOHOLISM! That's why we're here. At times I was telling myself you're not made for this, do your time as GSR, JUST GET THROUGH IT AND NO-MORE.

You see, that was me talking and I was there for us. I was just a bit worried. I was given a hug with a kind eye by our Regional Trustee Chuck B. He thanked me for my service, choked me up. That enabled me to hear our Saturday

A GSR's Report on WCRSC Continued...

night speaker Trustee At-Large Dorothy W. Her message to me was to pray for the strength to stand and let God make the decisions.

The next morning, I once again expressed my concerns to Scott that I wasn't getting much of what was going on. He said simply 'yes you are'. District 11 DCM Linda B. pulled me up short when I asked her where the box for the 3 suggestion sheets was. She said simply "you're going to turn in your choices and not your home group's?"

I had to hear God's message

all the way from the Trustee At-Large, the West Central Regional Trustee, Area 40 Delegate and our DCM, that I was there for you, my home group and we deal in alcoholism. The whole world is judging us by our actions. Be an example of our primary purpose. Any of you who have experience can sponsor someone into service at any level. Anyone of us can be involved in these levels. We have paid our dues to be a member of ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS. We have the experience to do the WORK. Let God take care of the decisions.

We closed our meetings with

the responsibility statement and I would like to do so here.

I AM RESPONSIBLE. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there, and for that, I am responsible.

With God's help, I'm truly yours.

Cleve H., GSR, Recovery Group, Billings

Upcoming General Service Conference

Greetings everyone:

At each General Service Conference, Wednesday morning is set aside for discussion of the workshop topic. The topic for the 56th General Service Conference is "Passing It On in a Changing World". The attendees of the Conference are broken up into groups of approximately 15 people and we spend a couple of hours discussing the topic. I recently received a copy of some questions that will be utilized to facilitate the sharing session and would like to receive your input on the questions.

1. How does a changing world affect what your group is doing today to carry the A.A. message to newcomers?

2. Bill W. originally called the Traditions "Twelve Points to Assure Our Future." How are the Traditions fulfilling that purpose 60 years later?
3. How does your group convey that the responsibility for self-support includes giving of effort and time in addition to money?
4. What current issues do you feel affect A.A. that need to be talked about? Why do you feel they are important? What changes would you like to see as a result of these discussions?

If you choose to participate, I would like to receive your input by the Area Assembly. Again, if you so choose this may give you time

to discuss the questions at your Home Group, your District and such.

The amount of time spent at the workshop has come under question lately due to the amount of time it consumes during Conference week. However, this year's topic I believe is not only timely but has some real teeth in it. I look forward to sharing Area 40's conscience on the topic.

Thank you in advance for your input. If you choose not to have any input, that is okay too.
In Service,

Scott W.

Panel 55, Area 40

From Your Corrections Chair

For many years the Montana State Prison at Deer Lodge has held "AA Mini-Conferences".

This year there have been some changes made by the staff at MSP to these events and those changes are as follows:

1. **THE MINICONFERENCE IS OPEN TO CARDED SPONSORS ONLY!!!** In the past non-carded AA's could submit their names to attend, but this no longer will be true. Remember you are a carded sponsor only if you resubmitted your name last October after MSP reorganized their security procedures.

2. There will be only one mini-conference this year. It was originally scheduled to be on Saturday May 6, 2006. But the prison administration will probably not approve that date, so another Saturday, tentatively in mid June is being considered. I will spread the word of the date as soon as it is verified. As of now it is scheduled to be from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Please be there to check in at 9:00 AM.
3. This mini-conference will be a "Recovery Mini-conference" instead of an "AA Mini-conference" because members of NA and Four Directions (Native American 12 Step Pro-

gram) will also be there. The format will be similar with speakers from both the inside and the outside probably from all three fellowships, with time in between speakers for people to visit with each other. There will also be a lunch provided.

While I can say that personally I do not like any of these changes, I must accept the things I cannot change. And my hope is that enough carded-sponsors feel the same way and will attend this event to help carry the AA message of hope to the still suffering alcoholic.

God Bless,

Gary O.

The Loss of a Trusted Servant

On February 26, 2006, the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, and Area 40 in particular, lost a good and faithful servant with the passing of our friend Kevin Neumann.

Those of us who had the privilege of knowing and serving with Kevin were well aware of his tremendous sense of love and gratitude for AA, and of his great willingness to be of service in whatever way he could. It is with great love and gratitude that we remember our friend.

While Kevin had most recently served the Fellowship in the position of Area 40 Archivist, resigning at the beginning of this year due to his failing health, his service to AA and to the still suffering alcoholic started much earlier.

Throughout his sobriety, which began on November 11, 1991, Kevin was active with taking meetings into Montana State Prison and the Cascade County Jail. He got active in General Service as GSR for his first home group, the We Care Group in Great Falls. Kevin changed his home group to the 595 Group, where he remained as an active member until his passing. He became the Alternate DCM for District 41, and during the next service rotation served as their DCM. Kevin had to take a brief hiatus from this position after suffering a heart attack, but after a brief period of recuperation he resumed his duties and completed his term. During this time Kevin also had to suffer an endless amount of ribbing about how he was putting too much of his heart into his service work. With this, as with eve-

rything else he dealt with in recovery, he suffered gracefully. His next position was that of Area Archives Chairperson, and shortly before that service rotation was completed Area 40 selected him to be their Archivist.

Kevin served the fellowship well throughout his recovery, and did so always with a great sense of commitment, enthusiasm and humility. The Archivist position will certainly be filled at the upcoming Area Assembly, but the spot that Kevin occupied in many of our hearts will take a bit longer to fill. Please remember his wife Beate, and the rest of his family in your prayers.

If you wish to send a card to Kevin's family, their address is 2015 5th Avenue South, Great Falls, MT 59405.

Spring Assembly Agenda

Yogo Inn
Lewistown, Montana
April 8 & 9, 2006

Friday, April 7- Sapphire Rooms - AA meeting starting at 7:30 p.m.

(This meeting is held separately from the Assembly and is self-supporting)

Saturday, April 8

7:30/8:00 GSR's and visitors sign in with their District's DCM. (***DCM's please give the sign in sheets to the Area Secretary no later than 10:00 a.m.***)

8:00/9:45 **Welcome** – Serenity Prayer, Traditions, and Concepts
Roll Call – by Area Secretary
Orientation to the Assembly – Area Delegate, Scott Weiss
Reports from the Area Committee Members

Area Chair*
 Area Secretary*
 Area Treasurer*
 Triangle Editor*
 Area Service Chairs*
 DCM's*
 Standing, nonvoting service positions*

9:45/10:00 **Coffee Break**

10:00/12:00 **Standing Committee Meetings:**
 Archives/Structure—Kendall Room
 Corrections—Board Room
 CPC/Trustees—Employee Lounge
 Finance—Gypsum Room
 Grapevine/Policy & Admissions—Terrace Room
 Literature—Room 306
 Public Information/Report—Room 328
 Treatment/Agenda—Room 310

Workshop for those not attending committee meetings
 Led by past delegates

12:00/1:30 **Recess for Lunch**

1:30/2:30 **Workshop for those not attending committee meetings**
 Led by past delegates
Standing Committee Meetings
 (continued)

2:30/3:15 **Delegate's Report** – Scott W.
 (questions and answers)

3:15/3:30 **Coffee Break**

3:30/5:00 **Floor Assembly – Committee Reports/Motions and Discussion**

Archives/Structure - Dennis O.
 Finance - Sid G.
 Grapevine/Policy & Admissions - Gail M.
 Literature - Louise Mc.
 Corrections/Intn'l Conventions-Regional Forums - Gary O.
 Public Information/Report & Charter - Connie R.
 Treatment/Agenda - Lee G.
 CPC/Trustees - Lloyd B

5:00/7:00 **Recess for Dinner**

7:00/7:30 **Election for Area Archivist**

7:30/8:15 **Floor Assembly / Committee Reports-Motions and Discussion (Cont.)**

8:15/8:30 **Coffee Break**

8:30/10:00 **GSR Breakout** – Led by Past Delegates: Ask-it-basket questions and sharing

DCM Breakout – Led by Past Delegates: Ask-it-basket questions and sharing

Sunday, April 9

8:00/8:45

- **Roundup Reports: Fall 2005 Missoula; Spring 2006 Bozeman; Fall 2006 Billings**
- **Intergroup Reports**
- **Report from the West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference (WCRAASC) in Minneapolis MN – Conrad M.**
- **Report on the West Central Regional Forum**

Spring Assembly Agenda Continued..

8:45/9:15 **Past Delegate Sharing**

9:15/9:45 **Past Delegate Sharing**

9:45/10:00 **Coffee Break**

10:00/12:00 **Continue Floor Assembly / Committee Reports – Recommendations – Discussion, General Sharing**

ADJOURN / DRIVE SAFELY!!!

** Reports: 5-minute time limit with two written copies given to the Area Secretary.*

Floor comments are requested to take no longer than 3 minutes

Please note that the rooms this Assembly meets in have been designated smoke free by past action. The Yogo Inn has graciously placed ashtrays/receptacles just outside the outside doors. They have requested that smoking be limited to that area, the cafe portion of the dining area and the bar and that we not smoke in the meeting rooms, hallways or lobby area. Your thoughtful compliance and courtesy are appreciated.

The following is a list of agenda items and the Area Committees they have been assigned to for review. Most of the items come from the **General Service Conference (GSC)** and will be fully addressed at the GSC later this month. In addition, there are Agenda Items that pertain to Area 40.

The Committee Chairs should have received a list of agenda items with, in most instances, corresponding background information sometime in February. This information is then passed on to other members of those committees for research, review and discussion, in turn providing for a well-informed *conscience/decision*. If your Group has any comments, questions, and concerns or would like copies of any background information please contact the appropriate Area Committee Chair. Your DCM has the names, phone numbers and addresses of the Area Committee should you need them. (**NOTE:** the process by which items are submitted, dispersed, considered and brought to the Assembly is detailed in the **Area 40 Committee System Policies & Procedures** manual

which is available through your DCM).

The GSC items that were submitted to the committees for review will not come to the floor of the Assembly as *recommendations (a motion passed and seconded)* but will instead be addressed as an informed *sense of the committee/area*. The purpose of this is to insure our Delegate is provided with a sense of Area 40's informed group conscience and to help him in preparation for the upcoming GSC.

Review Concepts I, II, III, X, XII and Tradition 2 for a clearer understanding of the above process.

The following Committees/Committee agenda items are listed in order of presentation.

Archives/Structure – Dennis O.

Archives

1. Review Workbook.
2. Consider that the Conference Archives Committee annually review a list to be compiled by G.S.O.'s Archivist of proposed archival recordings (format to be determined by A.A.W.S.) to be produced for sale by A.A.W.S. so that the Conference might provide guidance prior to production.

Area 40 Agenda Items for Structure

1. Consider the recommendation that Area 40 adopt the policy of having an ordered list of past delegates for the Area 40 Chair to invite on a rotating basis to the Area Assemblies. All of the past delegates, with the exception of the Area Advisor, would be put on the list. The mechanics of the rotation would be the responsibility of the Panel 55 Area Chair. The Area Advisor would be added to the list at the end of each two-year rotation.
2. Consider instituting the policy that past delegates living outside Area 40 be put in the rotation for invitation by the Area Chair to Area Assemblies. These past delegates would be compensated for only those expenses incurred while in Area 40 with compensation not to exceed the average expense of past delegates living in Area.

Spring Assembly Agenda Continued..

3. Consider the recommendation that Area 40 adopt the revised Policy and Procedures Document dated 4/10/2005.
4. Consider the recommendation that Area 40 sponsor and fund two Area Workshops per year. The Area Advisor will serve as the Area 40 Workshop Chair. If an Alternate Workshop Coordinator is needed, it should also be a Past Delegate. The Workshop Chair/Coordinator will be responsible for dividing the state into four quadrants and establish a schedule of four workshops over a two-year period, one in each quadrant. The workshops would normally occur between May and October. The local DCMs involved shall be consulted about time and place, and topics to be covered. The Area 40 budget shall have a line item for two workshops per year with the workshop schedule to begin in 2007.

Finance – Sid G.

1. Discuss the draft "Finance Card" created by trustees' Finance Committee.
2. Discuss a proposal to replace the word "donation" with the word "contribution" in A.A.W.S. literature.
3. The pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix":
 - A. Discuss a request to add references about other A.A. information for group treasurers.
 - B. Discuss a request to remove the pie charts from the pamphlet.
 - C. Discuss a request to add an additional pie chart reflecting a 25/25/25/25% distribution.
4. Discuss requests to rescind the small-order freight charge policy instituted by A.A.W.S. effective 7/1/05.
5. Discuss requests to eliminate the discounts on volume purchases of A.A.W.S. literature.

Grapevine/Policy & Admissions – Gail M. Grapevine

1. Review contents of Workbook.
2. Consider a suggestion that A.A. Grapevine produce an anthology of La Vina stories in the year 2007 or later.

Policy & Admissions

1. Approve invitation for two observers to attend the 56th General Service Conference, one from G.S.O. Japan and one from G.S.O. Australia.
2. Review dates for the 2009 General Service Conference.
3. Review report from the General Service Board on feasibility of more balanced composition/structure of regions.
4. Review request that the Conference be mindful of balancing the number of odd and even panel delegates when decisions are made that affect delegate rotation.

Literature – Louise Mc.

1. Review the revised draft pamphlet "Too Young?"
2. Review the revised draft pamphlet "It Happened to Alice!"
3. Consider suggestion to revise the pamphlet "A.A. for the Native North American."
4. Discuss request for a review of language in A.A. literature that refers to the first 164 pages of the Big Book.
5. "Young People and A.A." draft manuscript:
 - A. Consider revised front matter.
 - B. Review stories.
6. Discuss requests to develop an intergroup/central office pamphlet.
7. Review trustees' Committee on Literature progress report on the Spanish-language Third Edition Big Book, *Alcoholicos Anonimos*.
8. Consider request to develop an A.A. history book covering the years 1955-2000.

Spring Assembly Agenda Continued..

9. Consider proposal that the pamphlet "Letter to a Woman Alcoholic" be discontinued.
10. Consider developing a pamphlet concerning Alcoholics Anonymous, religion and spirituality.

Area 40 Agenda Items for Literature

1. Consider instituting the policy that periodically, and as needed, the Area Literature Chair purchase enough *Big Books* and *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* in bulk to take advantage of free shipping, in order to have these books available at Assemblies, Round Ups, and other Area-wide events for resale to individuals and small groups at cost.

Corrections/International Conventions-Regional Forums – Gary O.

Corrections

1. Review the trustees' Committee on Corrections Progress Report on the Development of an Informational Media Presentation Introducing A.A. to Training Academies and In-service Training Programs for Corrections Personnel.
2. Consider the revised manuscript of *A.A. in Prison: Inmate to Inmate*.
3. Review contents of Kit and Workbook.

International Conventions-Regional Forums

1. Discuss addition of informational flyers to the Regional Forums section of G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site.
2. Discuss the Report on Restructuring and/or Increasing Regional/Special Forums from the trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums.
3. Review report on the 2005 International Convention in Toronto.

Public Information/Report & Charter – Connie R.

Public Information

1. Consider 2005 annual report from the trustees' Committee on Public Information regarding G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site.
2. Public Service Announcements (P.S.A.s):
 - A. Consider approving the proposed television P.S.A. "Testimonials" developed by the trus-

tees' Committee on Public Information.

- B. Review information on centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the television P.S.A. "Living in Chaos."
 - C. Consider centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the proposed television P.S.A. "Testimonials" at a cost not to exceed \$30,000, in addition to the work of local Public Information committees.
3. 2007 Alcoholics Anonymous Membership Survey:
 - A. Discuss how to get more area delegates involved in the distribution and collection of the 2007 A.A. Membership Survey Questionnaires.
 - B. Consider request to add the following categories to the "Length of Sobriety" section in the "2007 A.A. Membership Survey" pamphlet:
 - Sober between 11 - 20 years
 - Sober more than 20 years
 - C. Consider request to add "Domestic Partner" to the "Marital Status of Members" section of the 2007 A.A. Membership Survey Questionnaire.
 - D. Consider request to add a "Sexual Orientation" category to the 2007 A.A. Membership Survey Questionnaire.
 - E. Consider and approve the 2007 Alcoholics Anonymous Membership Survey Questionnaire.
 4. Consider request that the list of early symptoms derived from outside literature on page 17, item #19 in the pamphlet "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings," be replaced with a list derived from A.A. literature.
 5. Review report from the trustees' Committee on Public Information on Videos for Young People.
 6. Review contents of Kit and Workbook.

Spring Assembly Agenda Continued..

Area 40 Agenda Item for PI

1. Consider instituting the policy that an anonymity-protected version of the minutes from the Area Assemblies be posted on the Area 40 web site. The Area Secretary would be responsible for producing the anonymity-protected version of the minutes and providing it to the Area Webmaster.

Report & Charter

1. Review *The A.A. Service Manual*, 2005-2006 edition:
 - A. Review editorial updates to *The A.A. Service Manual*.
 - B. Discuss the discrepancy between the Conference Charter and *The A.A. Service Manual* regarding panel rotation of district committee members (D.C.M.s).
 - C. Consider a request to include a description of the duties of a district committee member chairperson (D.C.M.C.) on page S30.
 - D. Consider a request to restore the graphic "Service Structure Inside the A.A. Group" to Chapter 2.
 - E. Consider a request to insert an inverted triangle graphic similar to the one found in "The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated" pamphlet.
 - F. Consider a request to revise page S28 to more accurately reflect the number of groups in a metropolitan district.
 - G. Consider a request to add a descriptive sentence on the role of a trustee-at-large to the second paragraph on page S63 in the section "Trustees-at-Large."
2. Consider a suggestion to restore *The Twelve Concepts for World Service* by Bill W. to its original form as published in 1962.
3. Discuss General Service Conference *Final Report*.
4. Discuss A.A. Directories:
 - A. Consider a request to add/attach an explanatory letter regarding the appropriate

use of the A.A. Directories.

- B. Consider a request to revise the statement on page ii, located below the box "An A.A. Group."

Treatment/Agenda – Lee G.

Treatment

1. Consider both the scope and name of the Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities.
2. Treatment Facilities Kit and Workbook:
 - A. Review a summary of the results of the 2004 Treatment Facilities Committee Survey prepared for inclusion in the Treatment Facilities Workbook.
 - B. Review contents of Kit and Workbook.

Agenda

1. Review suggestions for the theme of the 2007 General Service Conference.
2. Discuss presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2007 General Service Conference.
3. Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2007 General Service Conference.
4. Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form.

CPC/Trustees – Lloyd B

CPC

1. Discuss the need for three short video segments that could be streamed on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site and directed to professionals in the employment/human relations, legal/criminal justice, and medical fields, with a total cost not to exceed \$60,000.
2. Discuss ways C.P.C. committees present A.A. to professionals, such as slide presentations, demonstrations of G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site or local A.A. Web sites, and the use of A.A. booths at professional events.
3. Review contents of Kit and Workbook.

Trustees

Spring Assembly Agenda Continued..

1. Review resumes for regional trustees:
 - A. Pacific Regional Trustee
 - B. Eastern Canada Regional Trustee
2. Review slate of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.
3. Review slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.
4. Review slate of directors of A.A. Grapevine, Inc.
5. Review report on the efficacy of the "Diversity Statement" currently being used in vacancy letters.
6. Review background material and experience pertaining to request that the selection process for Chairperson of the General Service Board be expanded to include past Class B trustees as candidates.
7. Discuss recommendation from the General Service Board to approve the revised Bylaws of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.
8. Discuss recommendation from the General Service Board to approve the revised Certificates of Incorporation of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.

On Cultivating Tolerance

During nine years in A.A. I have observed that those who follow the Alcoholics Anonymous program with the greatest earnestness and zeal, not only maintain sobriety, but often acquire finer characteristics and attitudes as well. One of these is tolerance. Tolerance expresses itself in a variety of ways: in kindness and consideration toward the man or woman who is just beginning the march along the spiritual path; in the understanding of those who perhaps have been less fortunate in educational advantages, and in sympathy toward those whose religious ideas may seem to be at great variance with our own. I am reminded in this connection of the picture of a hub with its radiating spokes. We all start at the outer circumference and approach our destination by one of many routes.

To say that one spoke is much better than all the other spokes is true only in the sense of its being best suited to you as an individual. Human nature is such that without some degree of tolerance, each one of us might be inclined to believe that we have found the best or perhaps the shortest spoke. Without some tolerance we might tend to become a bit smug or superior--which of course is not helpful to the person we are trying to help, and may be quite painful or obnoxious to others. No one of us wishes to do anything which might act as a de-

terrent to the advancement of another--and a patronizing attitude can readily slow up this process.

Tolerance furnishes, as a by-product, a greater freedom from the tendency to cling to preconceived ideas and stubbornly adhered-to opinions. In other words it often promotes an open-mindedness which is vastly important--in fact a prerequisite to the successful termination of any line of search, whether it be scientific or spiritual.

These, then, are a few of the reasons why an attempt to acquire tolerance should be made by each one of us.

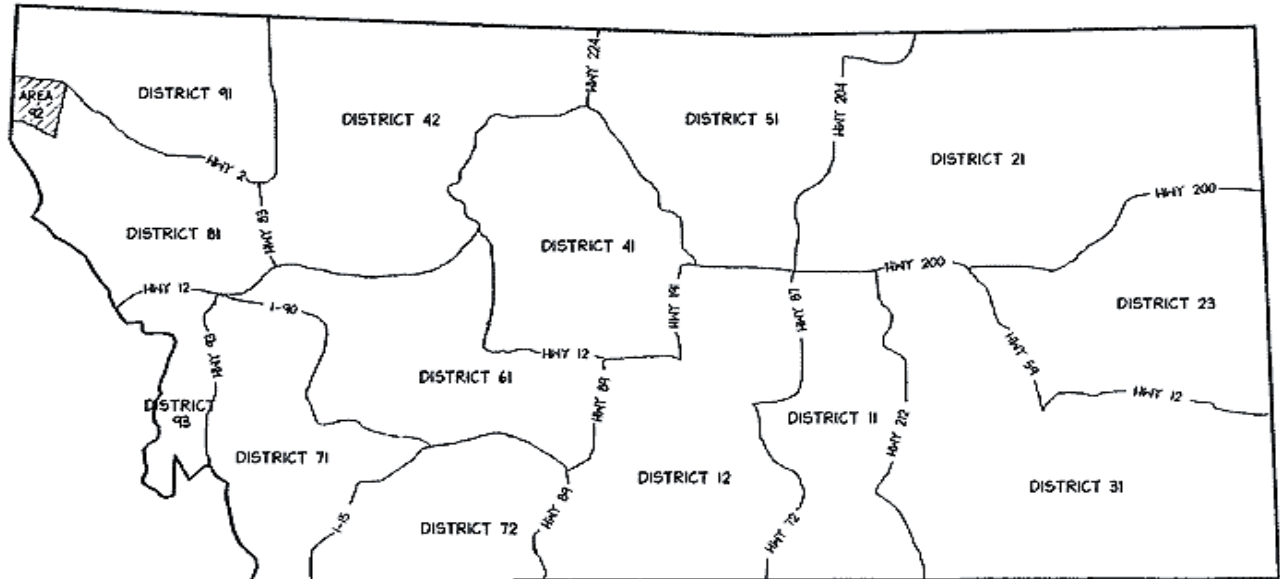
Dr. Bob of Akron

First appeared in Volume 1, Issue 2 of the Grapevine, July 1944

Overheard at Meetings:

"I may not always be the person I want to be, but I am the person I want to be more often."

"When you are NUTS, you're **Not Using The Steps**"



District 11—Billings

District 12—Laurel

District 21—Wolf Point/Glasgow

District 23—Glendive

District 31—Miles City

District 41—Great Falls

District 42—Cut Bank/
Choteau/ Shelby

District 51—Havre

District 61—Helena

District 71—Butte

District 72—Bozeman

District 81—Missoula

District 91—Kalispell/
Whitefish/ Eureka

District 93—Bitterroot Valley

Triangle Tidbits

- Thanks to all of you who submitted articles for this issue of the Triangle. The next Triangle issue will be a report on the Spring Assembly as well as the General Service Conference. If you would like to share your experience with us, please do so by submitting an article.
- The next issue will come out in the beginning of May. Deadline for submission of articles is April 30, 2006. Send to the address below.
- I'm still looking for "You might be an alcoholic if..." and "Overheard at Meetings" to use. Please send one in if you have one.
- If you are having an event and would like it listed, please provide the information to the address below.
- Check your subscription date located on the mailing label. If your subscription has expired, please mail \$10 to the Triangle at the address below. Checks should be payable to Area 40. If your group cannot afford the subscription, you will continue to receive a copy.
- The mailing list is continually being updated. If your group is not receiving the Triangle, please send the correct mailing address to the address below.
- The Triangle's address is 4522 Shasta Lane, Billings, MT 59101 or Triangle@aa-montana.org.
- Contributions to Area 40 should be mailed to Area 40 Treasurer, PO Box 495, Helena, MT 59624.

Calendar of Events

- **HAMILTON-Pre-Assembly– March 25–** Mary H. 777-4226
- **BILLINGS-Founder’s Day—March 25–** Sharron S. 698-8888
- **GREAT FALLS- Pre-Assembly– April 1–**Brian M. –452-2568
- **LEWISTOWN—Area 40 Spring Assembly– April 8-10 –** Andrew W. 777-5136
www.aamontana.org
- **BOZEMAN—Spring Roundup-June 2- 4—**Kurt W. 586-4635
- **BIG TIMBER- Beartooth Mountain Conference—June 23-25–**Jesse V.
www.Beartoothmountainconference.com
- **MILK RIVER, ALBERTA—Corn Roast—August 25-27—**Bud W. 424-2640
- **BILLINGS—Fall Roundup—September 8-10—**Don B. 656-0727
- **LEWISTOWN—Area 40 Fall Election Assembly—September 16-17—** Andrew W.777-5136
- **KALISPELL—Fall Refresher—Oct 14-15—**Paul W. 892-0278
- **SAN ANTONIO, TX—AA’s 75th Birthday Party—July 1-4, 2010**

If you would like your event listed here, please email the editor at Triangle@aa-montana.org or send it to 4522 Shasta Lane, Billings, MT 59101

We absolutely insist on enjoying life!
See you at the Spring Assembly!



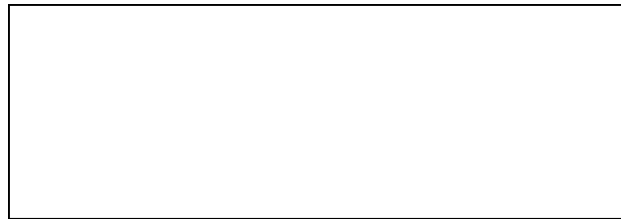
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