



## The Excellent Third Legacy Voting Procedure

If you have ever attended an Area 40 Assembly during an election, then you have seen the excellent Third Legacy voting procedure in action. I call the procedure “excellent” because it helps us maintain unity and is one of the things that make the service structure of Alcoholics Anonymous different from other organizations. There may be other descriptions you would choose for this process but allow me to tell you why I think so highly of it. I’ll warn you now that the next paragraph contains some basic facts about the procedure and then I’ll express some of my opinions.

The Third Legacy voting procedure, which Area 40 uses for the election of the delegate, alternate delegate/area chair, treasurer, and secretary, is outlined on page S20 of the Service Manual, complete with a flow chart and everything. The procedure emphasizes substantial unanimity: for a person to be elected (not drawn out of the hat) they must receive two-thirds of the votes. The procedure takes time: it can require up to five separate votes for a single position. It may seem somewhat random to a newcomer to general service in A.A.: if there is no person with a two-thirds majority after the fourth or fifth vote the winner is chosen by drawing a name from a hat. If you will be attending the upcoming Fall Assembly (an election assembly), I encourage you to read this section of the Service Manual before the assembly (for those of you who are like me and spend too much time in front of a computer, you can view the

A.A. Service Manual at [http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org/en\\_pdfs/en\\_bm-31\\_05-06.pdf](http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org/en_pdfs/en_bm-31_05-06.pdf)). There will also be a workshop on the procedure at the assembly led by two past delegates.

Area 40 is blessed with many well-qualified people willing to participate in service at the Area level. We have a number of past delegates who have set the bar high in continuing to participate at the Area and Regional levels, and they have also been willing to serve at the national level. I hope this continues to be the case. During an election, there is often no single “right” person to choose but instead we have a choice between many good people willing to be of service to Area 40 (remember the warning above, this is all my opinion here). This is certainly true of elections for delegate during the time I have been involved in service in Montana. We have more people who are both qualified and willing to serve as delegate than we can ever elect to the position. It is easy to understand why if you talk to our current delegate, Scott W., or any of our past delegates. In addition to requiring a lot of work and a large time commitment, serving as delegate for Area 40 is a lot of fun and an honor and privilege. As Scott has told me, if you have the opportunity to serve as delegate, “You gotta do this.”

The Third Legacy voting

procedure ensures that we take the time to make this important decision for Area 40 and that everyone who stands for the position is treated equally. We hopefully avoid hurt egos (we are after all a bunch of alcoholics who can get their egos involved in anything, including A.A. service). I have seen the election of delegate for Area 40 be decided by a two-thirds majority vote and I have seen it be decided by a name drawn from the hat after five votes did not result in one person receiving a two-thirds majority. In my opinion, neither is more spiritual than the other. It is important that both are part of the procedure.

These are some of the reasons why I think so highly of the Third Legacy voting procedure. I hope you get the chance to attend an Area 40 election assembly and form your own impression of the procedure.

Andrew W.

Area Chair

Inside this issue:	
From Your Area 40 Delegate	2
MCDC Update	3
Carrying the Message through Literature	3
Fall Assembly Agenda	4-6
Rotation: A Step Forward in Growth	7
Area 40 Committee	8-9
District Map	10
Triangle Tidbits	10
Calendar of Events	11

### From Your Area Delegate

As we approach the Fall Assembly and the results of the election of the Panel 57 contributions to our Fellowship, I took a couple of minutes to reflect on the past two years. Please take a moment or two and review your contributions to our Fellowship as the personal inventory is an amazing exercise in humility.

The time, energy and resources that are committed to our Fellowship with ANY service position speak to a dedication to Alcoholics Anonymous. Service work to our Fellowship is anything that makes the message of hope and recovery from a hopeless state of mind & body possible.

Over the past couple of years I have spent endless miles, phone calls, emails, snail mail, and planning to be prepared and physically present at many commitments. Expenditure of any of those resources is nothing compared to the results in my life. Similar results have been obtained and received by countless members of our Fellowship in Area 40 who continue to give away what they have so freely received. Simply, thank you to everyone who has given of their time and energy to our Fellowship.

As I enter the last couple of months of your contribution to the General Service Conference, a couple of items have my attention and I would appreciate your input.

A few months ago I asked each District to review the possibility of a Class B Trustee (alcoholic)

serving as the Chairperson of the General Service Board. Up to this point in time, only a Class A (non alcoholic) has been in that service position. I asked each District to gather the District's conscience and be prepared to forward the information during the CPC/Trustees committee report at the Assembly. This item came forth as an additional consideration from the Conference Committee on Trustees, was then forwarded to the Trustees Nominating Committee and a sub committee was recently established to take up the task of constructing a letter to ask for responses from all present and past Trustees on this issue. In addition, each Delegate Area has been asked to respond by October 15 with our Area's group conscience on this issue.

At the 1962 General Service Conference, Bill Wilson put forth 7 items for consideration by the Conference. One of those items was the possibility of a Class B Trustee to serve as the Chair of the General Service Boards. At that time, three Class B Trustees were in our Fellowship and the remainder were all Class A Trustees. Each of Trustees wrote a response to Bill's proposal. The Class A Trustees all saw a benefit to enlarging the potential pool of candidates to serve as Chair and the Class B Trustees were not in favor.

The responses did not draw a dividing line and produce a divisive issue within the Fellowship. However, the responses did show

the care and concern of our Fellowship from the Trustees that were serving at that time.

I look forward to the discussion and debate at the Fall Assembly. I have personally put many hours and multiple conversations into research on this item and look forward to sharing the results of the investigation at the Assembly.

The second item I hope Area 40 will respond to was an Advisory Action that came forth from the 56<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference Literature Committee. Specifically, the pamphlet for the Native North American will be revised. There is a call for stories from Native North American members of Alcoholics Anonymous to submit their stories for the revision. Please have anyone who wants to submit their story contact me and I will forward the details. I do hope Area 40 will respond.

One last thought, please look at your commitment to serving our Fellowship. There is always room for more members to serve at every level. Are you participating in all three Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service to our Fellowship? I hope and pray everyone who has the time and resources will make themselves available to serve.

Scott W.

## THE TRIANGLE

---

### Montana Chemical Dependency Center Update

Back at the end of June I got a call from the Clinical Director at Montana Chemical Dependency Center (MCDC) complaining that one of our volunteers had spoken very inappropriately at the AA meeting the previous Saturday night. He was furious and demanded that we tell that member he would no longer be permitted to attend facility meetings. Before we could even contact the member, I got another call saying that the Chief Administrator had decided to terminate all AA meetings at MCDC. When I finally contacted the Chief directly I got an earful about the past transgressions of AA members at meetings and he was tired of dealing with our behavior. He thought those were terrible examples of how AA should be representing itself and he needed to pro-

tect his clients from such behavior. I had to agree with him, if the allegations were true.

Since that time, I have gotten repeated inquiries from AA members, wondering what happened and what is our status at MCDC. Folks have been mad at the facility, mad at our members, frustrated at the circumstances and, in standard AA fashion, offering to do whatever they could to help. Currently, I am working with District 71 and the MCDC staff to develop a proposal by which we might be able to return. This might be a long process; the wounds are deep and not quickly healed. But I am hopeful that we may be able to return sometime in the future.

Through this whole process I have been repeatedly reminded of

the saying that I might be the only example of the Big Book a new-comer ever sees. What an awesome responsibility. How many times have I been a bad example? How many resentments have I felt justified to act upon? How often have I said, "I'm only hurting myself?" In this case the list of 'harmed' includes clients, staff, willing AA's and the reputation of the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. I better re-double my own efforts to be the best example I can be, because I am far from being struck 'wonderful' even in Alcoholics Anonymous. So I think I'll keep coming back.

Yours in service,

Lee G.

Area Treatment Chair

### Carrying the Message through AA Literature

It was January of '86 when I was questioning my drinking and wondering why I couldn't stop. No one else seemed to drink like me; they could all remember the evening events and told me all about them.

He was a *responsible* man, (responsible = doesn't drink). This time it would be different and I knew he would help me not drink. I asked him a lot of questions about "not drinking" all the while I was drinking. I was searching for some answers to a problem but wasn't sure what the problem was.

I came home from work one day in March of '86 and on my table (strategically placed) were a

couple of AA pamphlets; must have been from that *responsible* man. I had never even heard of AA! I opened the pamphlet "AA for Women" and in the front were some questions. I could answer yes to almost all of them. It was at that moment I knew what my problem was. At that moment I began to find some answers and since that moment I haven't had to pick up a drink. **I will never forget my first introduction to AA and I hope I will always remember how important AA Literature is.**

No, that *responsible* man hasn't kept me sober. I have since found that "No human power can relieve our alcoholism," but in

Alcoholics Anonymous I have found a God of my understanding that relieves my alcoholism, friends I never dreamed possible, and an abundance of AA literature from pamphlets to books; from recovery pieces to service pieces to help guide the way.

Louise M.

Area Literature Chair

PS That responsible man and I have been married almost 20 years.

# Volume 14, Issue 6

---

## Fall Assembly Agenda

### Friday, September 15- Sapphire Rooms

AA meeting starting at 7:30 p.m.

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

### Saturday– September 16

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.*)

8:00/9:30 **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\*

9:30/9:45 **Coffee Break**

9:45/10:30 **Election Orientation/ Posting Nominees for Delegate**

10:30/12:00 **Standing Committee Meetings:**

Archives/Structure	Kendall Rm
Corrections/Intn'l-Regional Forums	Terrace Rm
CPC/Trustees	Employee Lounge
Finance	Gypsum Rm
Grapevine/Policy & Admissions	Board Rm
Literature	Room 306
Public Information/Report	Room 328
Treatment/Agenda	Room 310

(IF YOUR COMMITTEE FINISHES ITS BUSINESS DURING THIS SESSION, PLEASE NOTIFY THE AREA CHAIR)

### **Workshop for those not attending committee meetings**

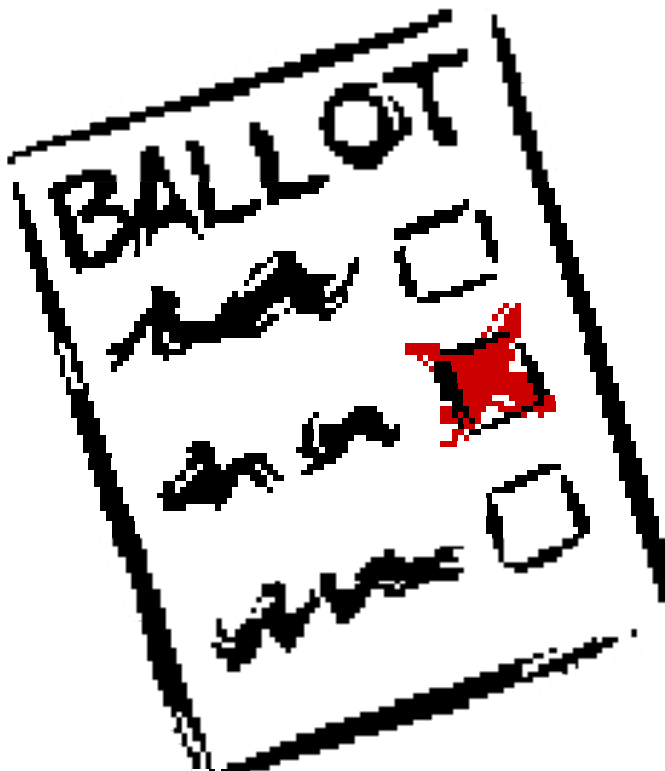
“The Third Legacy Election Procedure”  
Led by past delegates Loren Buettner and Bob Halvorson

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

1:30/5:00 **Elections:** Presided by Area Advisor, Earl Fink

\* Delegate, Area Chair, Area Treasurer, and Area Secretary are elected by Third Legacy Procedure as outlined on page s20 of the service manual.

\* Area 40 Service Chairs (CPC, Corrections, Grapevine, Treatment, Literature, Archives, Public Information) and the Triangle editor are elected by simple majority.



# THE TRIANGLE

---

## Fall Assembly Agenda Continued

(Should we end the elections before 5:00, we will move right into the floor assembly with committee reports.)

5:00/7:00      **Recess for Dinner**

7:00/8:30      **Floor Assembly – Committee Reports/Motions and Discussion**

Treatment/Agenda - Lee G.

Corrections/Intn'l Conventions-Regional Forums - Gary O

CPC/Trustees - Lloyd B

Archives/Structure - Dennis O

Public Information/Report & Charter - Connie R

Finance - Sid G

Literature - Louise M

Grapevine/Policy & Admissions - Gail M

8:30/8:45      **Coffee Break**

8:45/10:00      **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 – September 17

8:00/8:30      **\*Roundup Reports:  
Spring 2006 Bozeman; Fall 2006 Billings;  
Spring 2007 Butte  
\*Intergroup Reports**

8:30/9:45      **Delegates Report** – Scott W

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. All items are Agenda Items that pertain to Area 40 or are items that Area 40 may consider submitting to the General Service Conference for the following year.

The Committee Chairs should have received a list of agenda items with, in most instances, corresponding background information sometime in August. 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. A listing of Committee Chairs and DCM's names, phone numbers and addresses of the Area Committee are listed on pages 8-9. (**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 following Committees/Committee agenda items are listed in order of presentation.

### Corrections/International Conventions-Regional Forums – Gary O

1. Review Corrections committee items discussed at the GSC, but no action taken or recommendations made.
2. Discuss the status of carrying meetings into correctional facilities in Area 40.

### CPC/Trustees – Lloyd B CPC

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

### Trustees

1. Discuss the request that the selection process for Chairperson of the General Service Board be expanded to include past Class B trustees as candidates.

### Treatment/Agenda – Lee Gault

1. Review Treatment committee items discussed at the GSC, but no action taken or recommendations made.
2. Discuss the feasibility of putting together and maintaining a 12<sup>th</sup>-step call list for Area 40.

### Public Information/Report & Charter – Connie R

1. Consider the implementation of a state wide 800#. A new position, Area Answering Service Chair, structured similar to the Area 40 Webmaster, would be created to administer this program. District PI Chairs or District Answering Service Reps would ensure the Area 40 website is up to date and, if possible, that AirPage Communications gets an updated call list seasonally.

### Archives/Structure – Dennis O

1. Consider adjusting the Area Assembly Agenda to address financial concerns first, as much of the decision making the remainder of the Area Assembly weekend touches upon this committee's considerations.
2. Consider the suggestion that the Area 40 Archival Repository be moved to 38 Hibbard Way in Helena,

MT, and that Area 40 assume responsibility for paying rent in the amount of \$300.00 per month for this site.

3. Consider the suggestion that Area 40 adopt the proposed Policy and Procedure document draft dated July 15, 2006.

### Finance – Sid G

1. Recommend the 2007 budget.
2. Consider the suggestion that the Area Treasurer complete Area 40 form 990 information for the IRS such that details can be researched to protect anonymity before this document is required of Area 40.
3. Consider the suggestion that all miles driven on Area 40 business will be reimbursed at a rate of \$0.05 per mile in addition to actual gas expense effective January 1, 2007.

### Grapevine/Policy & Admissions – Gail M

### Grapevine

1. Discuss the status of Area 40 subscriptions to and participation in the Grapevine.

### Policy & Admissions

1. Discuss the effectiveness of the timetable for distribution of the assembly agendas and background information.

### Literature – Louise M

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

### 2007 Spring Assembly – April 14 & 15, 2007

# THE TRIANGLE

---

## Rotation: A Step Forward in Growth

*The following article was taken from the December 1999 Grapevine and is reprinted with permission.*

I will never forget my first experience with rotation. I'd been the secretary for my group, and I believed I'd piloted my little women's group with perfection for six months. "They have never had it so good!" I thought. But they did not seem to think so. They kept asking me when we were going to hold elections for a new secretary. After all, my six month term was almost up, and I had not once mentioned holding elections. Secretly, I was hoping they would tell me that, since I had done such a great job, they wanted me to continue. Certainly they could see that no one could possibly improve upon what I had been doing. I even fantasized how they would implore me to continue and then give me a standing ovation. It didn't happen. They elected someone new, and I was devastated. But I learned, and I have grown through many more rotations. Rotation is one of the most beautiful spiritual principles that we observe in Alcoholics Anonymous.

All of us trusted servants will rotate from the jobs we are doing, and other people will come in to take our places. One door closes and an-

other one always opens if we are spiritually on track, keeping our recovery programs strong and practicing the principles of love and service in all our affairs. Rotation allows us to grow in God's grace as we move on to other opportunities and permit others to share in the joys of service in Alcoholics Anonymous. It prevents us from becoming the experts that we once thought we were and from being so entrenched in a job that we get stale and unenthusiastic. Problems based on personalities are prevented; no power or prestige gets built up; no individual gets taken advantage of and imposed upon; and the great blessings of giving service are shared by more and more members.

Stepping out of an AA office that you love very much can be a real step forward in growth--a step into the



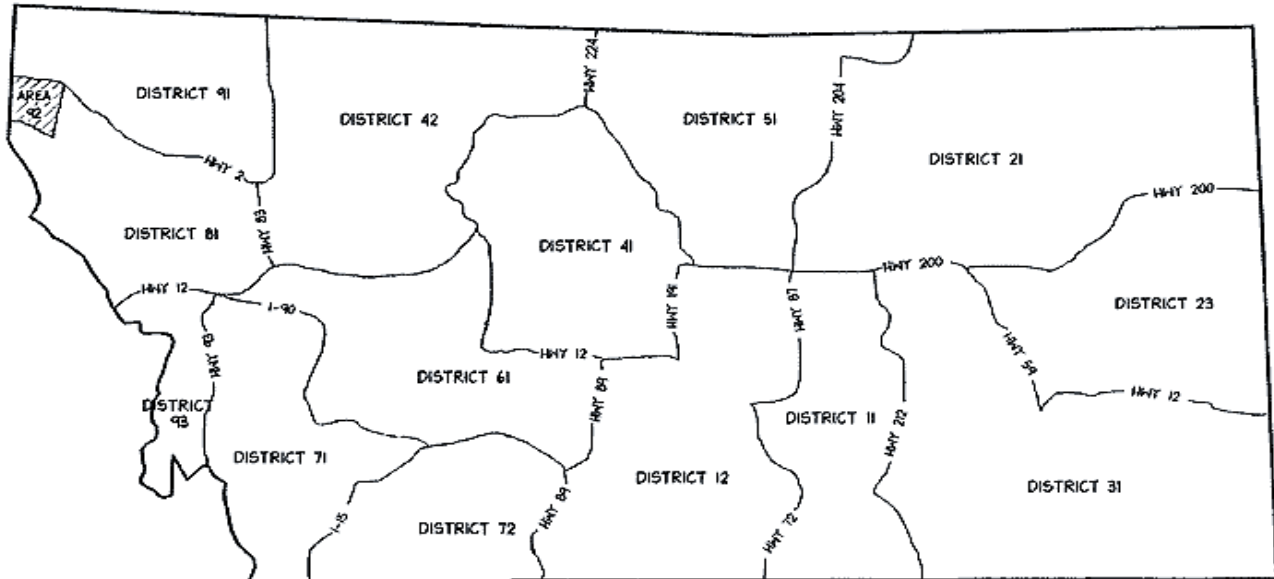
humility which is the spiritual essence of anonymity. Spiritual anonymity in AA means that we forgo personal prestige for any AA work that we do in order to help other alco-

holics. Rotation helps to bring us spiritual rewards far more enduring than any fame. With no AA status at stake, we have complete freedom to serve as we are needed, and we don't have to compete for any titles or praise. AA jobs aren't arranged upward like rungs on a ladder; they are all on the same level, the base of which is service to others--the foundation stone of our recovery through God's grace.

Service is to be shared willingly and gladly with others, but sometimes people do need help in learning to really step down. We remember that these people were often great servants; and whatever they did, they did out of love and devotion to the Fellowship. We should not forget our gratitude to them but should pry them loose gently if we can. And gently or not, we pry them loose anyway! This is a service that we owe to Alcoholics Anonymous. Each year, I believe more absolutely in the spirit of democratic idealism which shines throughout our Fellowship, and I realize that an important way to sustain this shining spirit is to pass on the torch of service to other hands.

Rotation is a catalyst for personal growth, a chance to learn again to surrender, with grace, to the wishes of our Fellowship. It symbolizes our Twelfth Tradition's reminder to always place principles before personalities, thus ensuring that the circles of love and service in Alcoholics Anonymous are ever widening.

Diane O.  
Cupertino, California



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 dedicated to the Fall Assembly report and Public Information. If you would like to share your experience with us, please do so by submitting an article.
- The next issue will come out in October. Deadline for submission of articles is September 22. 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](mailto:Triangle@aa-montana.org).
- Contributions to Area 40 should be mailed to Area 40 Treasurer, PO Box 495, Helena, MT 59624.



# THE TRIANGLE

---

## Calendar of Events

- **BILLINGS—Fall Roundup—September 8-10—Don B. 656-0727**
- **LEWISTOWN—Area 40 Fall Election Assembly—September 16-17— Andrew W. 546-2828**
- **HAVRE– Mini Roundup– October 6-8– Craig E. 945-3889**
- **KALISPELL—Fall Refresher—October 14-15—Paul W. 892-0278**
- **BOZEMAN– Inclusiveness in AA– October 21– Verna W. 582-0550**
- **FLATHEAD LAKE– Women’s Retreat—October 27-29-Ginger 212-4729**
- **HELENA—Attitude of Gratitude– November 18– Bill C. 439-9774**
- **LEWISTOWN– Spring Assembly—April 14-15– www.aamontana.org**
- **BUTTE– Spring Roundup– May 18-20, 2007– Gary O. 563-5789**
- **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](mailto:Triangle@aa-montana.org) or send it to 4522 Shasta Lane, Billings, MT 59101**

---

**We absolutely insist on enjoying life!  
See you at the Fall Roundup & the Area  
Assembly!**

---

---

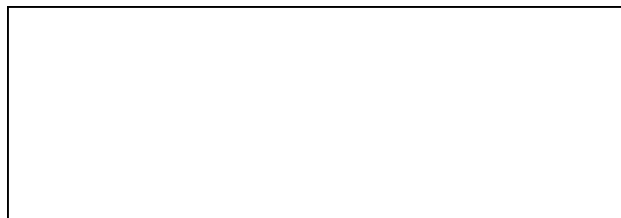
Area 40 Triangle  
4522 Shasta Lane  
Billings, MT 59101

Non-Profit Org  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Billings, MT  
Permit No. 452

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## **CONFIDENTIAL**



### **Subscription Information:**

Groups are encouraged to be self-supporting for their Triangle subscription fee. Groups will receive the Triangle regardless of subscription status because of Past Actions of the Area Assembly.

Individuals: If your subscription has expired, this will be your last issue of the Triangle.

### ***TRIANGLE SUBSCRIPTION FORM***

If you would like a subscription for yourself, a friend or your group,  
please return this form.

The cost of the Triangle is \$10 per year.

**SEND TO: Area 40 Triangle, 4522 Shasta Lane, Billings, MT 59101**

**Make checks payable to Area 40.**



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_