

April - May 2007

**Special points of interest:**

- From our Area Delegate
- Area 40 Spring 2007 Assembly Agenda
- Calendar of events



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# The Triangle



## Having Fun in Service

### *Having Fun in Service*

A number of folks from Area 40, including me, made it to the West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska. The conference took place March 2 - 4, 2007 and, due to the weather in that part of the country at that time, it was a challenge to get there. I was originally scheduled to arrive Thursday night but, after all flights from Minneapolis to Lincoln were cancelled for Thursday, I was rerouted and had to spend the night in Denver. My first reaction was to be worried about not making it to Lincoln in time for a delegates' meeting on Thursday night. After talking with our Area Advisor, Scott W., I learned that a lot of people were experiencing difficulty making it to Lincoln. I had to realize once again that it was not all about me. I made it into Lincoln around 1:00 pm on Friday and found out that I was only the third delegate from our region (out of 8) to make it to the conference. Many of the folks from the Dakotas, Iowa, and Minnesota were having a great deal of trouble traveling. A number of highways were closed due to blizzard conditions. Eventually many of these folks were able to make it to Lincoln for at least part of the conference.

The conference was informative and fun. There was much discussion of the agenda items for the General Service Conference and more general discussion in the breakout sessions. There was laughter at the conference as well. Charlie H., the host delegate from Nebraska, was laughing as I walked to the microphone on Friday night. Charlie was laughing because he knew that my job was to introduce the two presenters for that session, Lori F., DCM for District 72, and Paula H., DCM for

District 81, and that Lori and Paula were not in the room as I made my way to the microphone. Lucky for me, as I was introducing myself, Paula and Lori made their way into the room, fresh from the airport. Paula and Lori did a great job that night. Over the weekend, everyone was flexible about the schedule with many folks filling in for presenters who were unable to make it.

I believe that one of the places that "We absolutely insist on having fun" should definitely apply is in service. Our purpose in being at conferences like the WCRAASC, our Area Assemblies, and the General Service Conference, is to conduct the business of Alcoholics Anonymous. This process can be a lot of fun. I like talking to alcoholics (both sober and not) about Alcoholics Anonymous. The people I meet in service, like Scott, Charlie, and many others, help remind me to not take myself too seriously.

I'm going to close this with a piece of sad news. At the first Pre-Assembly in Kalispell, I found out that one of our members from the Bitterroot, Mark K., had committed suicide the previous week. I was deeply saddened by this news. My heart goes out to his family, his sponsor, and his other friends in the program. I always enjoyed Mark's enthusiasm for service. Mark always seemed to have fun carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous. I'll miss him.

Yours in love and service,

Andrew W.

Area 40 Delegate, Panel 57

## Grapevines WANTED:

1) WANTED:

Old Grapevine Issues

Colleen O'Connor with the Chemical Dependency Center (CDC) for Montana Women's Prison in Billings contacted me for Grapevines. She would love to get copies of the Grapevine for the women. If you have some copies you would like to donate, please mail them direct to:

Chemical Dependency Department

Montana Women's Prison

701 S. 27<sup>th</sup> St

Billings, MT 58101

Attn: Colleen



## Representing Your Group through *The Right of Decision*

Many folks will be attending their first area assembly in just a few weeks. In order to best prepare for this experience, GSRs and DCMs will have attended Pre Assemblies, read agendas and examined background information in order to be informed. Conversations with group members and business meetings will have been held to gather input from those they represent at the assembly.

All of this is very important and key to developing an informed group conscience. But there is one more element that might be new to some "first time" assembly attendees. As we prepare for the spring 2007 assembly for Area 40, take time to read Concept Three in your service manual.

In addition to reading this Concept yourself, be sure to share the principles of the Concept with your group or district. AA and indeed our informed group conscience do not work well when we instruct our trusted servants rather than inform them. Carrying instructions to the

2) Find Cool Conferences Through the Grapevine

I recently returned from attending the "Sobriety Under the Sun" 5th annual AA convention in Puerto Vallarta. O boy. Cold, snowed-in Montanans, do I recommend this wintertime convention to you! It was held the last weekend in January at the beautiful Krystal Resort; where it will again be held in 2008.

Don't speak Spanish? No problem, this conference is hosted by the local English speaking AA Serenity Group.

Typical to AA round-ups, there was a Friday night mixer followed by an AA speaker, then an Al-anon speaker. Saturday was filled with workshops and al-cathon. Imagine a Saturday night speaker in an open pavilion under the stars, with the ocean shore and sunset as the back-

drop. Of course there was dancing to the Los Bambinos under the stars as well. Sunday morning countdown with over 1,000 years of total sobriety, there was not a dry eye as the Drunk Monk finished his story.

But it didn't end there. How about an all day no-booze cruise on Monday? Complete with whale and dolphin watching, snorkeling, an AA meeting on a beach, horseback ride to a magnificent waterfall, and more dancing on the boat.

Watch the Grapevine for information on next year's Sobriety Under the Sun in Puerto Vallarta . . . or other exotic places to go to attend an AA conference.

Maybe I'll see you there next year?

Hugs, BilliJo D.

extreme makes the arrogant assumption that my insight and opinion on a matter is best for AA as a whole. I know when I came to this wonderful fellowship, all I really wanted was my own way! Thank God I have grown and service has been a huge training ground for me.

At the assembly, we participate in a full debate and the discussion of many facts that are not always available to us during local discussions.

The committee meetings and the floor assembly help create the informed group conscience. Our GSRs and DCMs who cannot act on their own conscience following this lively discussion is not a trusted servant but rather a messenger. As a voting member of the assembly, you will be asked to interpret and apply your own authority and responsibility to each particular problem or situation as it arises. This discretion is the essence of *The Right of Decision*. My experience tells me that we need not have even the slightest fear in granting this. Come informed, come well read,

come with input from others, come with questions and come trusting. Trust God, trust A.A. and trust each other. See you in Lewistown!

Robbie S.

Past Delegate, Area 40

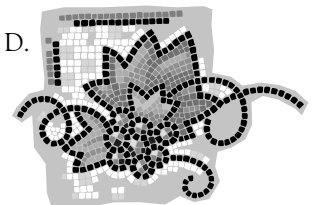
*Thank you* so much for your presence at the Pre Assembly in Kalispell. I always hope for larger attendance at such events, but the feedback from those who did make it was excellent. Your guidance and leadership were a big part in the success of the day. I even heard of several potential assembly visitors growing out of the enthusiasm created. That's what we do—we grow our own in service!

in love and service,

Robbie S.

(GSR stands for General Service Rep.)

(DCM for District Committee Member)



**YOGO INN  
LEWISTOWN MONTANA**

**APRIL 14 & 15, 2007**

\*\*\*\*\*

**FRIDAY - APRIL 13-** Sapphire Rooms

**AA meeting starting at 7:30 p.m. (This meeting is held separately from the Assembly and is self-supporting).**

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**SATURDAY SESSION – APRIL 14**

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, Andrew W.  
**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/Intn'l-Regional Forums ..... Terrace Room
- CPC/Trustees ..... Employee Lounge
- Finance ..... Gypsum Room
- Grapevine/Policy & Admissions..... Board Room
- 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**  
Led by past delegate Robbie S. – “Service and the Home Group”

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

1:30/2:30 **Workshop for those not attending committee meetings**  
Led by past delegate Ed M. – “Service and the Home Group”

**Standing Committee Meetings (continued)**

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

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

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

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

Literature \*\* - Linda B.

Grapevine/Policy & Admissions \*\* - BilliJo D.

Archives/Structure \*\* - Conrad M.

Finance \*\* - Curt K.

Public Information/Report & Charter \*\* - Sean B.

CPC/Trustees \*\* - Terry S.

Treatment/Agenda \*\* - Geoff D.

Corrections/Intn'l Conventions-Regional Forums \*\* - Bill E.

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

7:00/8:15 **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 SESSION – APRIL 15**

8:00/9:00 **\*Roundup Reports:**

**Fall 2006 Billings; Spring 2007 Butte; Fall 2007 Great Falls**

**\*Intergroup Reports**

**\*Report from the West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous**

**Service Conference (WCRAASC) in Lincoln, NE – Lori F.**

**\*Report on the upcoming West Central Regional Forum**

**\*Report from the ad-hoc committee on establishing an Area 40 800 number – Sean B.**

9:00/9:30 **Past Delegate Sharing** – Ed M.

9:30/10:00 **Past Delegate Sharing** – Robbie S.

10:00/10:15 **Coffee Break**

10:15/12:00 **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 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 come from the General Service Conference and will be fully addressed at the General Service Conference 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 General Service Conference 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 General Service Conference.
- 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.

## LITERATURE – LINDA B.

- Review trustees' Literature Committee progress report on the "A.A. for the Native North American" pamphlet.
- Consider a suggestion to add the following text from *The A.A. Service Manual*, "Financial Support: Current experience indicates that many groups provide financial support for their general service representatives to attend service functions" to "The A.A. Group" pamphlet and the "G.S.R." pamphlet.
- Discuss requests to develop an intergroup/central office pamphlet.
- Consider a suggestion to change the title of the pamphlet "Can A.A. Help Me Too?" subtitled "Black/African Americans Share Their Stories" to "A.A. and the Black/African American Alcoholic."
- Discuss a suggestion to revise the pamphlet, "The A.A. Member—Medications and Other Drugs."
- Review trustees' Literature Committee report on the Spanish-language Third Edition Big Book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*.
- Consider a request to produce a pamphlet to replace the discontinued "Letter to a Woman Alcoholic."

**GRAPEVINE/POLICY & ADMISSIONS – BILLIJO D.**Grapevine

- Consider suggestions for new A.A. Grapevine, Inc. items for production in the year 2008 or later.
- Consider requests to reinstate a section on the subject of alcoholism in the A.A. Grapevine.
- Review contents of Workbook.

Policy & Admissions

- Review dates for the 2010 General Service Conference.
- Review final report of the General Service Board Regional Composition and Structure Inventory Committee.

**ARCHIVES/STRUCTURE – CONRAD M.**Archives

- Review Workbook.
- Review the Final Report of the Subcommittee on Archives Recordings, and the “Sound and Video Access Policies.”

**FINANCE – CURT K.**Finance

- Discuss a request to increase the maximum annual contribution (or a one time bequest) that the General Service Board can receive from an A.A. member from \$2,000 to \$3,000.
- Consider two suggestions to add text regarding reimbursement for G.S.R. (general service representative) travel expenses from group funds to the pamphlet “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix.”
- Discuss a request to “Develop a communication plan for the purpose of increasing the level of group participation and self-support within the Conference structure.”
- Discuss a request “to eliminate volume discounts on literature orders.”
- Discuss a request “to incorporate shipping costs into literature pricing.”

Area 40 Agenda Item for Finance

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

**PUBLIC INFORMATION/REPORT & CHARTER – SEAN B.**Public Information

- Consider the 2006 annual report from the trustees' Committee on Public Information regarding G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site.
- Consider that the 2007 A.A. Membership Survey be conducted by area on a random basis as was done in the 2004 A.A. Membership Survey.

- Public Service Announcements (P.S.A.s):
  1. Consider approving the proposed television P.S.A. "A Force of Nature" developed by the trustees' Committee on Public Information.
  2. Review information on centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the television P.S.A. "Testimonials."
  3. Consider centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the proposed television P.S.A. "A Force of Nature" at a cost not to exceed \$30,000, in addition to the work of local Public Information committees.
  4. Discuss the 2002 - 2006 Conference Advisory Actions regarding replacement and production of P.S.A.s.
- Consider a suggestion from the trustee's Committee on Public Information for the development of a video for young people.
- Consider a suggested list of early symptoms of alcoholism forwarded by the trustee's Committee on Public Information, and derived from A.A. literature, to replace the list of early symptoms in item 19 on page 17 in the pamphlet "Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings."
- Consider a request to include "more information regarding the topic of anonymity of deceased members (posthumous anonymity)" in A.A. literature.
- Consider a request to change language in the flyer "A Message to Teenagers."
- Review contents of Kit and Workbook.

#### **AREA 40 AGENDA ITEMS FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION**

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

#### **REPORT & CHARTER**

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

- Review a suggested list of duties of a district committee member chairperson (D.C.M.C.).
- Review a description of metropolitan districts that more accurately reflects the number of groups in such a district.
- Consider a recommendation from the General Service Board that the following text be added to Chapter Nine in *The A.A. Service Manual*, where appropriate:
  1. "The intent of forming regions was to create a vehicle by which regional trustees could be added to the General Service Board and a way to provide a cross section of people who would serve A.A. as a whole – not in a representative capacity. To allow for a balanced rotation, elections of regional trustees are staggered in order that there may be a relatively even flow of new trustees coming onto the board. It was not until 1962 that the formal naming of regions occurred and a redistribution; and, soon afterwards the formation of new regions."
- Consider a recommendation from the General Service Board that the sentence, "Regional trustees bring to the board's discussions a regional point of view and experience that is invaluable," in Chapter Nine: The General Service Board, page S62 in *The A.A. Service Manual*, 2006-2007 Edition, be replaced so that the section reads:

1. "While no trustee can be said to "represent" a geographical section – all trustees represent only the Fellowship as a whole – regional trustees bring to the board's discussions a diversity of A.A. experience that is invaluable."
  2. Consider a suggestion to include the committee scope from each Conference Committee Composition Scope and Procedure document in the Standing Committee section in the Chapter on Conference Committees.
  3. Consider a suggestion that the last paragraph reading, "Any group or district of the Fellowship is free to use the symbol of a circle and triangle on newsletters, meeting schedules, or other A.A. material." be moved from S38 to S72 and inserted as a separate paragraph under "Trademarks, Logos, and Copyrights."
  4. Consider a request to add a paragraph titled "District Information," which includes references to the District Information Change Form (F-43) to Chapter Three.
  5. Consider a request to add an illustration of the "District Information Change Form" (F-43) to Chapter Three.
  6. Consider a list of suggested additional changes.
- A.A. Directories:
    1. Consider a request to have A.A.W.S. discontinue publishing regional directories (Canada, Western U.S., and Eastern U.S.).
    2. Consider a suggestion to add to the A.A. Directories (Canada, Western U.S., and Eastern U.S.) a separate subsection within the section "INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE MEETINGS" for listing "Online Intergroups" that request to be listed, and that online Intergroups thus listed provide an e-mail and/or Web site address to be included in the directories.
  - Discuss General Service Conference *Final Report*.

### **CPC/TRUSTEES' – TERRY S.**

#### CPC

- Review "Progress Report on Video Segments Directed to Professionals" from the trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment Facilities.
- Review contents of Kit and Workbook.
- Discuss ways of stimulating interest in C.P.C. service.

#### Trustees

- Review resumes of candidates for:
  1. Northeast Regional Trustee
  2. Southwest Regional Trustee
  3. Trustee-at-Large/Canada
- Review slates of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.
- Review slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.
- Review slate of directors of A.A. Grapevine, Inc.
- Review report from trustees' Committee on Nominating regarding the option of a Class B (alcoholic) trustee serving as chairperson of the General Service Board.
- Discuss recommendation from the General Service Board to amend the Bylaws of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., amended in April 2006.
- Approve the General Service Board's recommendation that the existing sentence pertaining to regional trustees in



the Bylaws of the General Service Board, Inc. (*The A.A. Service Manual, 2006-2007 Edition*, p. S110) which reads:

“Class B regional trustees are expected to contribute their time basically during the four periods of the year, viz., each three-day period ending on the day of each quarterly meeting of the trustees of the General Service Board, and, in addition, **to advise the Board with respect to regional views and opinions regarding policy matters.**”

be amended so that the sentence reads:

“Class B regional trustees are expected to contribute their time basically during the four periods of the year, viz., each three-day period ending on the day of each quarterly meeting of the trustees of the General Service Board, and, in addition, **to provide the Board their views and opinions regarding policy matters based on Fellowship-wide experience.**”

### **TREATMENT/AGENDA – GEOFF D.**

#### Treatment

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

#### Area 40 Agenda Items for Treatment

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

#### Agenda

- Review suggestions for the theme of the 2008 General Service Conference.
- Discuss presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2008 General Service Conference.
- Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2008 General Service Conference.
- Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form.

### **CORRECTIONS/INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS -REGIONAL FORUMS – BILL E.**

#### Corrections

- Consider the draft Informational Media Presentation Introducing A.A. to Training Academies and In-service Training for Corrections Personnel.
- Review contents of Kit and Workbook.
- Discuss ways of stimulating interest in Corrections Twelfth Step work.

#### International Conventions-Regional Forums

- Discuss and review 2020 International Convention Site-Selection Procedures
- Discuss concept and details of Local Forums as approved by the General Service Board.
- Discuss ways to encourage interest in Forums.

**APRIL 2007**

**April 14 - 15 Spring Assembly - Area 40 - Yogo Inn - Lewistown, MT**

**MAY 2007**

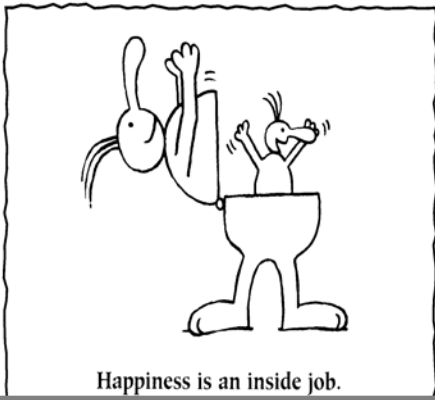
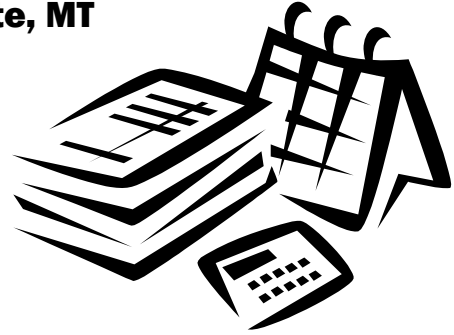
**May 18 - 20 Spring Round Up - Copper King Inn - Butte, MT**

**LOOKING AHEAD -**

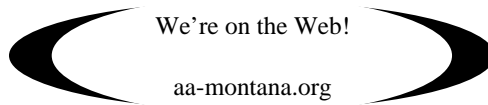
**Fall Assembly – September 22 & 23, 2007**

**The 2007 Great Falls Roundup is Sept 28-30th.**

**Dist. 91 Into Action Weekend - Feb. 22-23 - 2008**

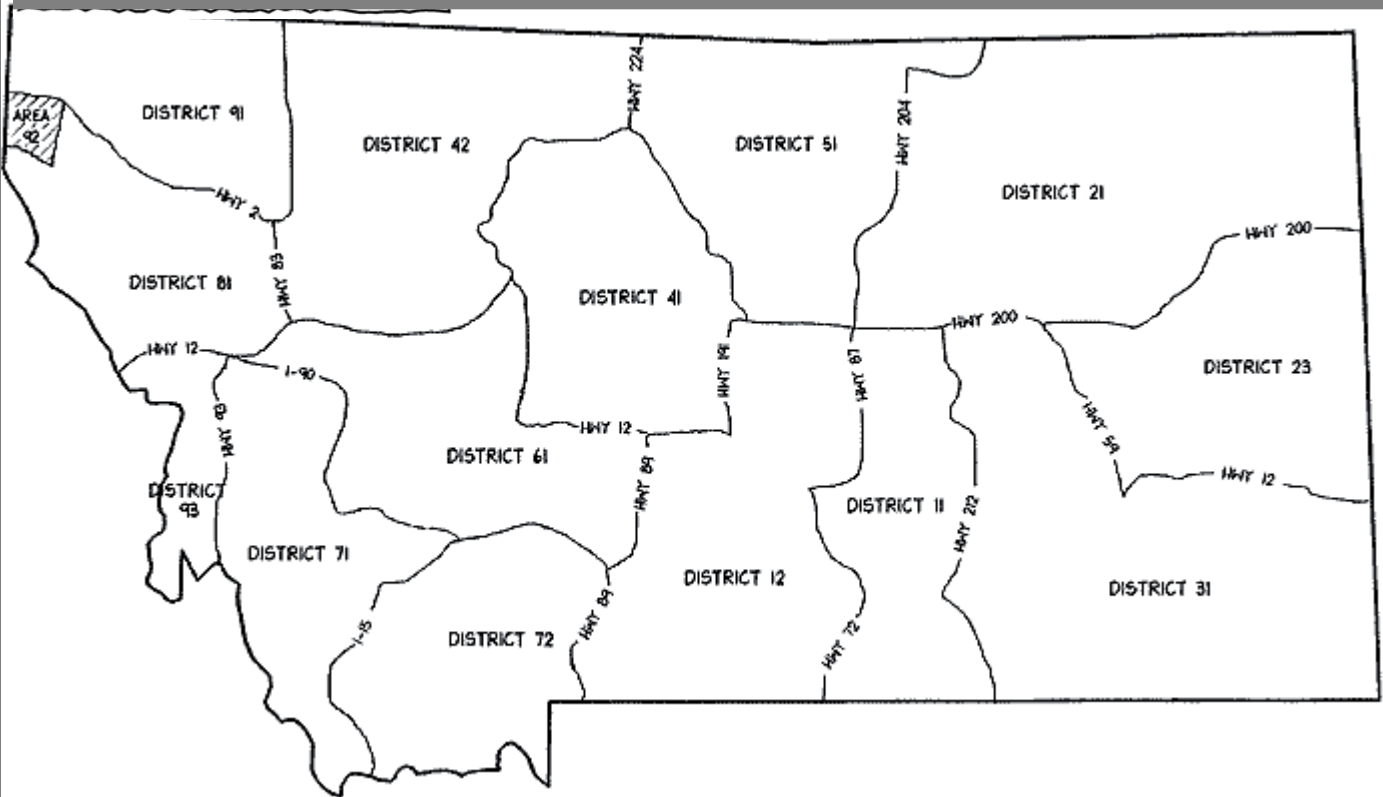


Happiness is an inside job.



Live and Let Live -  
Easy Does It -  
But For The Grace Of God-  
Think, Think, Think -  
First Things First

Read the first word of each of the statements to the left. It creates it's own phrase to live by. Source Unknown

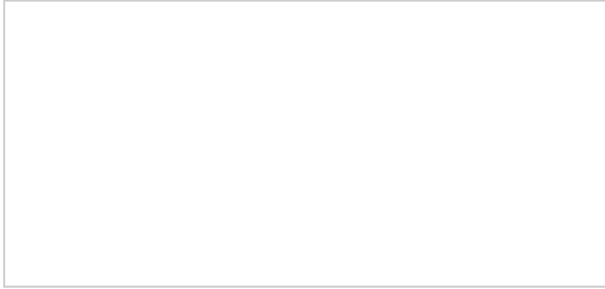




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