

THE TRIANGLE

PRE-ASSEMBLY ISSUE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FROM OUR DELEGATE	1
FROM OUR DELEGATE CONT.	2
FROM OUR AREA CHAIR	2
FALL ASSEMBLY AGENDA	3
FALL ASSEMBLY AGENDA	4
AGENDA ITEMS	5
AGENDA ITEMS	6
AGENDA ITEMS	7
TREATMENT CHAIRS	8
AREA COMMITTEE	9

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **What to do with rusted servants**
- **Pre Assembly Report**
- **From our Area Chair**
- **Assembly Agenda**
- **Treatment Chair List**
- **Area Committee List**

FROM OUR DELEGATE

What To Do With Rusted Servants?

One of the enjoyable things about being delegate is that you get to correspond with a number of other delegates. Nowadays we do this almost exclusively by e-mail. Recently, John S., a panel 56 delegate for Area 3, Arizona, brought up the topic of past delegate responsibilities and asked all the other delegates, "What does your Area do?" Responses came from twenty-six delegates and the responsibilities of past delegates in different Areas ranged from "no responsibilities at all" to quite extensive responsibilities. I thought it might be interesting to share some of the responses with you, but before I do so, let me assure you that I am not advocating for any change in how Area 40 treats past delegates. Personally, I like the way we do things around here.

In the following, I have include quotes around anything that I have stolen verbatim (though the culprits will remain anonymous for the sake of the guilty).

Quite a few Areas (seven of the twenty-six) do not have any specific responsibilities for past delegates. They "just

put the past delegates out to pasture and call them 'rusted servants'." Or, as another delegate put it, past delegates "sit along the back wall and are expected to shut up and act spiritual." Even in Areas with no specific responsibilities for past delegates, the past delegates are often kept busy in informal ways. Some of these Areas have past delegates chair ad-hoc committees, conduct Traditions, Service Manual, and GSR workshops, or just help out as needed.

In a couple of Areas, the immediate past delegate is "promoted to magazine salesman." In other words, they rotate into the position of Grapevine Chair. There does not seem to be any choice in these Areas, even for rotating delegates that do not want to be Grapevine Chair, though one of the Areas that has this practice has been discussing the possibility of an opt out clause. In our Area, the Grapevine chair has worn an outfit covered in purple balloons to some service events in order to increase awareness of the Grapevine. I'm just picturing the delegates from these other Areas wearing purple balloons.

Many Areas have the immediate past delegate serve on a committee: on the Finance Committee in some Areas; on the State

Convention Committee in other Areas; on the Current Practices Committee in one Area; and on the Area Guidelines Review Committee in another. These commitments are for two years in some Areas and four years in other Areas. In some Areas, the past delegate is just a member of the particular committee and in other Areas, the past delegate is chair or co-chair of the particular committee.

A number of Areas have the immediate past delegate serve a two-year rotation as Past Delegate Advisor. The responsibilities for this position vary from Area to Area. See the footnote below for the responsibilities of the Area Advisor in Area 40, a position that Scott W. is doing a great job at the moment, and to which I aspire to in the next rotation. The coffee will not run out on my watch.

Six of the twenty-six delegates that responded said past delegates do have a vote at their Area Assemblies. In informal discussions with other delegates, whether or not past delegates have a vote does not seem to affect whether they attend Area Assemblies or not. That's nice

THE TRIANGLE

DELEGATE'S ARTICLE CONT.

because, as another delegate wrote, "it is just fun to have them around."

So there you have an informal and incomplete survey of what some Areas do with their past delegates. I want to thank all the delegates who responded. Just as each group is autonomous, so is each Area autonomous in how they decide to organize their service structure to best meet the needs of the Area. This

includes how they handle their "rusted servants."

Yours in love and service,

Andrew W.

Panel 57 Delegate

Area 40 Montana



Footnote:

¹In Area 40, the immediate past delegate serves as Area Advisor for a two-year rotation. This position involves making sure the coffee does not run out at Area Assemblies and, a recently added responsibility, organizing two Service Workshops each year. In addition, two past delegates are invited and supported to attend each Area Assembly (we have two a year) to share past delegate experience and lead workshops and breakout sessions.

FROM OUR AREA CHAIR

This year, one of the tasks at hand for the Fall Assembly is providing Area 40's candidate for West Central Regional Trustee. The Trustees make up the twenty-one member General Service Board for the US and Canada. There are seven Class A or non-alcoholic Trustees and fourteen Class B or alcoholic Trustees.

Eight of the Class B Trustees are regional trustees, one Trustee-at-large US, one Trustee-at-large Canada, and four general service trustees. The General Service Board acts very similar to a corporate board. Meetings are held quarterly over weekends as well as during the General Service Conference.

Chuck B. from Iowa is our outgoing West Central Regional Trustee and will be in

attendance at our Fall Assembly. Past Trustees include Fay B. and Bud G. from North Dakota, Ted S. and Joan S. from South Dakota, Carl B. from Wyoming, Dan B. from Iowa, Les L., Don F., James G. from Nebraska, and Don B., Don N. and Don P. from Minnesota.. You should see a trend here. We have yet to put a candidate forward from Area 40 that has been elected West Central Regional Trustee. So, I strongly encourage you to consider who in Area 40 fits the qualifications and would represent Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.

Qualifications:

1. Ten years of sobriety is recommended.
2. Experience in both Area and local AA service.

3. Background and willingness to make decisions on matters of AA policy.

4. Recognize that the Trustee serves the entire Fellowship, not just a geographic area.

5. Time available to attend Board meetings, Corporate Board (either AA World Services or Grapevine) meetings, and the General Service Conference.

Our Delegate, Andrew, will conduct the election utilizing the Third Legacy procedure. Candidates will provide their service history at the Assembly. Once we have chosen our candidate, Andrew will send their resume to the General Service Office.

In prayer, look around the Area. Visit with Past Dele-

gates and Past Area 40 Committee members. Encourage those interested attend the Assembly and stand for the position.

I look forward to seeing you at the Fall Assembly.

In love and service,

Carole B.

Area Chair

"We have yet to put a candidate forward from Area 40 that has been elected West Central Regional Trustee. "

Yogo Inn

LEWISTOWN, MONTANA

September 22 & 23, 2007

Friday, September 21- Sapphire Rooms

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

SATURDAY SESSION – September 22

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)

Workshops for those not attending committee meetings

The General Service Board & AAWS – Chuck B., West Central Regional Trustee

www.aa-montana.org – Alex M., Area 40 Webmaster

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

1:30/2:30 **Workshop for those not attending committee meetings**

Archives – Gerry R., Area 40 Archivist

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
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- 2:30/3:15 **Delegate's Report** – Andrew W. (questions and answers)
- 3:15/3:30 **Coffee Break**
- 3:30/4:15 **Election of Nominee for West Central Regional Trustee**
- 4:15/5:00 **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 **Speaker – West Central Regional Service Trustee – Chuck B.**
- 8:15/8:30 **Coffee Break**
- 8:30/10:00 **GSR Breakout** – Led by Past Delegate Mark S.: Ask-it-basket questions and sharing
DCM Breakout – Led by Past Delegate Bob H.: Ask-it-basket questions and sharing

SUNDAY SESSION – April 15

- 8:00/9:00 ***Roundup Reports:**
Spring 2007 Butte; Fall 2007 Great Falls; Spring 2008 Helena
***Intergroup Reports**
***Report on the West Central Regional Forum**
***Update of establishment of the Area 40 800 number – Sean B.**

***Report on the Area Workshops held in Dillon & Glasgow – Scott W.**
- 9:00/9:30 **Past Delegate Sharing** – Bob H.
- 9:30/10:00 **Past Delegate Sharing** – Mark 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 are Agenda Items that pertain to the Area.

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

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 Literature committee items discussed at the GSC, but no action taken or recommendations made. Consider forwarding to the General Service Conference Secretary a proposal to publish a hardbound edition of Daily Reflections.

GRAPEVINE/POLICY & ADMISSIONS – BILLIJO D.

GRAPEVINE

Discuss the status of Area 40 subscriptions to and participation in the Grapevine.
Review Grapevine committee items discussed at the GSC, but no action taken or recommendations made.

POLICY & ADMISSIONS

Discuss the effectiveness of the process of distributing the assembly agendas and background information.

ARCHIVES/STRUCTURE – CONRAD M.

ARCHIVES

Consider a request Area 40 fund the Area Archivist to attend either the 2008 or 2009 National Archives Workshop, depending on whichever is closest and/or the least expensive. Funding is not to exceed \$1,500.00.

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

Structure

Consider asking the Area Chair to appoint an Ad Hoc Committee charged with studying the Pre-Assembly concept currently utilized in Area 40. Ask the committee to review the purpose of these events, the funding of these events, and the contribution they make to the informed group conscience of Area 40. It is hoped that this study will determine the current usefulness of these events and guide for future direction for them.

Review the Policy and Procedure document for accuracy.

Review the Past Actions document.

Finance – Curt K.

Consider setting the Area 40 Prudent Reserve at 50% of the budget for “essential services” rather than 50% of the full Area 40 budget. (see attached “Essential Services Budget”)

Essential services would include:

The Spring and Fall Assemblies (budgeted to reflect the higher actual costs of the Spring 2007 Assembly)

Regional Service Conference and Forum for the Delegate only

Area 40’s share of the Delegate’s expenses set at the amount suggested by the General Service Conference (currently \$1,200)

Full funding for the Area Chair travel expenses to Districts and distribution of agendas and background material

Administrative expenses only for the Secretary, Treasurer, and Webmaster

Publication and distribution of the Triangle on a quarterly basis only

Review the financial status of the Area.

Recommend the 2008 Area 40 Budget.

Public Information/Report & Charter – Sean B.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Consider expanding the area 40 website to include dissemination of other materials such as reports from the annual General Service Conference, information coming from the General Service Board throughout the year, and other materials that might continue to improve the communication between all levels of the service structure.

Discuss the progress of the Area 40 800 Number.

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

REPORT & CHARTER

CPC/Trustees – Terry S.

CPC

Discuss ways of stimulating interest in C.P.C. service.

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

TRUSTEES

1. Discuss the process for electing a Regional Trustee.

Treatment/Agenda – Geoff D.

TREATMENT

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

Discuss the feasibility of putting together and maintaining a 12th-step call list for Area 40.

AGENDA

Corrections/International Conventions-Regional Forums – Bill E.

CORRECTIONS

Discuss the effectiveness of the pink can program.

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

Discuss the status of carrying meetings into correctional facilities in Area 40

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS-REGIONAL FORUMS

1. Discuss the 2010 International Convention.

SPRING ASSEMBLY – APRIL 12 & 13, 2008

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