

AREA 40

THE TRIANGLE

Volume 16 Issue 1

JAN - FEB 2008

From Your Delegate

Greetings Area 40,

Welcome to the second year of our rotation of service. The first year seems to have flown by. I certainly enjoyed seeing many of you around the state and talking with all of you about AA. I am looking forward to another fun year and hope to see you all at assemblies, pre-assemblies, district events, campouts, potlucks, Founder's Day events, delegate days, and other AA events.

The first trip I will take this year as delegate is at the end of January. I am going to New York for the January meeting of the General Service Board. I have been invited to this meeting as chair of the General Service Conference Finance Committee. I will have the opportunity to sit in on the Trustee's Finance Committee meeting and hope to learn a lot in the process.

The final agenda for the 58th General Service Conference will be coming out early in February (after the January board meeting finishes up) and the background material for these agenda items will be sent

to the delegates in the middle of February. I will in turn make copies and send them to all the DCMs that requested copies, either on CD or paper. We'll get our first chance to discuss these agenda items with other AA members from all over our region at the West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference in Fargo, North Dakota, February 28 - March 2. The West Central Region includes Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, and North and South Dakota. A number of Area 40 DCMs have already informed me that they will be attending this conference. It is a great way to become better informed about the issues and to find out more about how general service is handled in our neighboring Areas.

The agenda items for the GSC will once again be the majority of the agenda items for our upcoming Spring Assembly, April 12 - 13 in Lewistown, Montana. Carole B., our Area Chair and Alternate Delegate, will be putting together the agenda for the assembly. Before we get to the

assembly we'll have a chance to discuss these agenda items at three pre-assemblies. The first pre-assembly will be March 8 and will be hosted by District 61. As of the date of this letter, the exact dates and times of the other two pre-assemblies had not been confirmed. Hopefully this information will be forthcoming shortly. At the Spring Assembly will go over all the agenda items, in depth in the committee meetings and in the general assembly. For the GSC agenda items, we will not take any action but I will ask Carole to ask for a sense of the assembly on a number of these items. This will enable me to represent Area 40 at the General Service Conference in New York as a more well-informed delegate. I have been told that each General Service Conference experience is different and I am looking forward to my second GSC which will be held April 27 - May 3 in New York.

Yours in love and service,
Andrew W.
Area 40 Delegate
Panel 57



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Service is the Key

Greetings from District 61,

This is a reminder that District 61 will be hosting a pre assembly on Saturday March 8th 2008 from 10:00am until 3:00pm at Boulder Hot Springs for districts 41, 61, 71, & 72.

We are requesting that the Area Officers and all Area Committee Chairs attend. Please note the attached flyer for details.

I am also taking this opportunity to ask the DCM's of these districts to put the word out to their districts that this important event is going to be held and to make copies of the attached flyer and distribute them within their districts.

I will also be needing an approximate head count by February 29thth of those attending and those that will be eating lunch at the resort.

For any Area officers or Committee chairs that are unable to attend please get back to me as soon as possible. What I am thinking we can do in those situations is have you coordinate with our district chairs that hold the same positions and give them the opportunity, with your help, to present the background material at the pre assembly.

Thank You for your attention to this and please send me any thoughts or concerns you might have.

Service, the Key to Harmony,

Tim M.
District 61 DCM



Contribute vs. donate

Greetings Area 40,

I have been taught by Past Delegates and other AA trusted servants that we make "contributions" versus "donations". I have also been taught by my Sponsor to look up words even when I think I know what they mean.

Here's the definition I found for contribute: To share responsibility for something or to share in effecting a result.

This made me think about my group. We have expenses to keep the meeting open: rent, lights, heat (or cooling), coffee, etc. We also have responsibilities such as meeting openers, closers, chairs, and a whole slew of other service positions. As the result of many people making these contributions, we have a place to have an AA meeting. In addition, my group shares responsibility for the Intergroup, District, Area, and General

Service Office (GSO).

In Billings, we have an Intergroup which maintains the AA answering service and bookstore. The South Central Intergroup shares responsibility for these very necessary functions among the AA groups in Billings. Our group contributes (see definition above) money to pay for the answering service as well as people to answer calls from those seeking help. We also provide manpower on a rotating basis for the bookstore.

Our group, like a lot of groups, shares responsibility in the Districts, Area, and GSO. We send representatives to the District meetings and the Area assemblies. The collective conscience of all participating groups decides what services we want these entities to provide. Then the groups make contributions or share the responsibility to make them happen.

The Regional Forums and Service Conferences that I have attended have had discussions about the 7th Tradition. Am I sharing this responsibility? My contributions then increased. Is my group doing its share for Intergroup, District, Area, and GSO?

Remember—I am responsible, when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA to be there. For that, I am responsible.

Thanks for letting me serve,

Carole B.
Area Chair/Alternate Delegate



GRAPEVINE

THANK YOU AREA 40!

At the fall assembly, I reported the 100 new subscription drive from Grapevine Headquarters. I just received the November report. Since the last report in June, AREA 40 is up 30 subscriptions! YEE HAW!

I know by the time we get the next report we will be up some more. District 72 is holding a Grapevine Drive the beginning of December. District 51 had a gratitude pot-luck in November at which two gift subscriptions were door prizes and two more subscriptions were ordered. An AREA Committee Chair member said he might give gift subscriptions to his

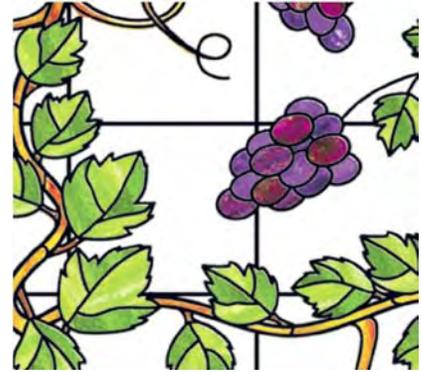
sponsees. What else is happening around the AREA?

Remember what Bill wrote in *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age* (p. 31) about the Grapevine, "(It is) our biggest and best means of communicating current A.A. thought and experience in staying sober, in hanging together, and in serving. . . . a lively and convincing means of introducing A.A. to the new or potential member. . . . (It is) the monthly mirror of A.A. in action. . . ."

I would like to hear from anyone who got sober or stayed sober because of the Grapevine.

KEEP UP the good work AREA 40!

Love in Service,
BilliJo D.
AREA Grapevine Chair



IN LOVING MEMORY...

Beloved wife, mother, teacher, friend, and mentor Robbie S. passed away on January 10 at 1:15 a.m. after a short battle with cancer. Robbie was a beloved past delegate of Area 40, who served on panel 46. She was a pioneer of Area 40, and under her watchful eye Area 40 came of age. She was a strong proponent of the committee system, and was one of the primary architects that brought it to and implemented it seamlessly into the Area 40 assembly. This process completely changed the operation of Area 40, and allowed it to progress into the efficient system that it is today.

The most endearing quality that Robbie brought to any situation was her thoughtfulness. She was often the voice of reason at the assembly, at the district, at the homegroup, and even as my advisor. I remember meeting with her shortly after my term had begun and explaining to her that I thought that the flow of information to Montana was too slow. Her reply

was, "Well, you are now the delegate. It's time for you to stop complaining and do something about it."

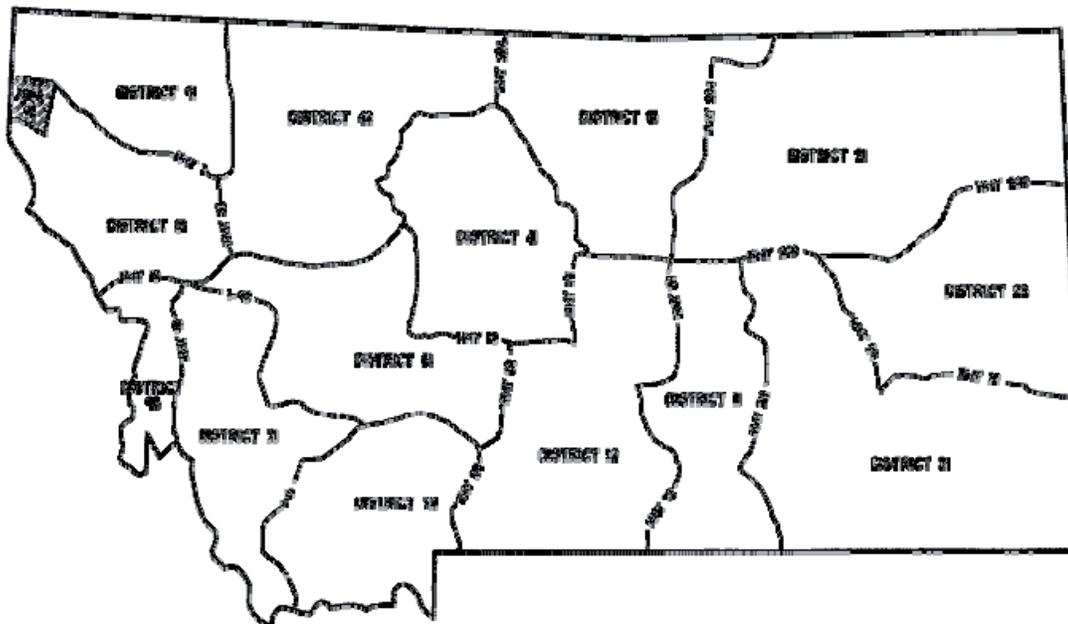
Robbie was surrounded by friends and family, in a room filled with cards and flowers when she passed. I had the privilege of visiting with her just before she died, and I can tell you that Robbie was not only a good example of how to live life to the fullest, but she also demonstrated how to die with dignity and grace. In fact, our last conversation was not about her pain, or the fear that she felt, but was about how she could make the transition easier for her husband Mark, her son Robert, and daughter Martha and her husband, Joe, and the two grandchildren, Sophia, and Blake.

Robbie leaves behind a legacy of love and service. She loved Alcoholics Anonymous and she truly loved service work. It was her enthusiasm and encouragement that lead many of us to general

service, and it was her example that helped motivate us to do our work well.

Eric D
Past Delegate (panel 48)





District 11 - Richard K. - DCM -
 District 12 - Steve G. - DCM -
 District 21 - Rob P. - DCM -
 District 23 - Joe P. - DCM -
 District 31 - Neil T. - DCM -
 District 41 - Mary S. - DCM -
District 42 - Gerald L. - DCM -
 District 51 - Doug M. - DCM -
 District 61 - Tim M. - DCM -
 District 71 - Richard P. - DCM -
 District 72 - Lori F. - DCM -
 District 81 - Paula H. - DCM
 District 91 - April A. - DCM -
 District 93 - John V. - DCM -

Non Voting Officers

Advisor - Scott W.

Archivist - Gerry R.

Webmaster - Alex M.

Contributions to Area 40 may
be mailed to:

Area 40 Treasurer

PO Box 1332

Helena MT 59624

UPCOMING EVENTS

Havre Annual Valentine's Party - February 16 - St. Mark's Episcopal - Havre, MT

DIST 91 - Into Action Weekend - February 22 & 23 - Kalispell Fair Grounds - Contact Lisa T. @ 862-0432

Recovery Group's Men's Retreat - February 22 - 24 - Cody, WY - Contact Brett H. @ 885-9292

DIST 12 - Mid Winter Social - February 22 - Joliet, MT - Contact Robert P. @ 322-8686

West Central Regional Service Conference - February 29 - March 2, 2008 - Fargo, ND - Contact Area 52 Delegate @ area52delegate@yahoo.com

DIST 61 - Pre Assembly - March 8th- Boulder Hot Springs - Contact Tim M. @ 406-448-3020

12th Pockets of Enthusiasm - March 14-15 - Helena, MT - Contact Tawnya G @ 459-5638

Spring Assembly - April 12-13 - Yogo Inn - Lewistown - Contact any Area Committee Member

Flyers and futher information may be found on the area 40 website - www.aa-montana.org

YOUR AREA 40 CHAIRS

Delegate	Andrew W.
Alternate Delegate, Area Chair	Carole B.
Secretary	Connie R.
Treasurer	Curt K.
Archives	Conrad M.
CPC	Terry S.
Corrections	Bill E.
Grapevine	BilliJo D.
Literature	Linda B.
Public Info	Sean B.
Treatment	Geoff D.
Triangle	Raymona C.



A Letter From Your Editor

Greetings Area 40

I just wanted to take a moment and catch you all up on how it is going with the Triangle.

I realize that for the first year of my rotation there were many mistakes and inconsistencies. I offer my most humble apology for this being the case. I am one human being making an effort to serve and unfortunately, I am not infallible.

Also, it is likely that many of you noticed there were only 7 issues that came out in the previous set of volumes. What follows is the explanation for this lack in number of issues published during the Volume 15 series.

Prior to the Fall Assembly I began having computer difficulties that arose from the computer experiencing a lack of recognition in power source from the electrical plug in. I managed to get through the assembly but following that, I sent a note to the Area committee expressing the difficulties I was having. It was my understanding that the power cord had a short in it. Carole B. ordered a new cord for me and after it was delivered, for a time, it seemed the problem was solved.

Unfortunately, this was not the case and after some time on line with a Dell Technician, it was explained to me that the mother board needed to be replaced but that the computer was still under

warranty so Dell sent a box for me to ship the laptop in and with in a matter of a few weeks, the laptop was returned to me in excellent working order.

The process of all this took more time that was anticipated and thus the lack in the publishing of the 8th issue.

Thank you for your understanding. You will receive 8 issues this year barring any other unforeseen complications.

Raymona C.
Area 40 Triangle Editor

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