



The Triangle

post assembly issue (1 of 2)

AREA 40

Volume 16 Issue 3

April - May 2008

Assembly Orientation

My name is Andrew W. and I am an alcoholic. Welcome to the Spring 2008 Assembly of Area 40. I am privileged to serve Area 40 as the delegate for this rotation. We are in the middle of this rotation and it seems like the time is just flying by.

I want to welcome all the new General Service Representatives (GSR) and everyone attending his or her first Area Assembly... Just as the newcomer is the lifeblood of an A.A. meeting, so too is the new GSR the lifeblood of the Area Assembly and the A.A. general service structure. Thank you all for your willingness to be of service.

I also want to thank the rest of you for coming back to Lewistown for another assembly. I want to thank all of the past delegates in attendance for continuing to show up and participate in general service.

The first thing that happens following this orientation is that members of the Area Committee will give their reports. This includes the...all of the district committee members (DCM). In Area 40 we are organized on a committee system based on the committee system used at the General Service Conference. Each DCM serves as a member of one of the Area 40 committees.

After all the reports this morning, we will have all of the standing committee meetings concurrently...The committee meetings are led by the Area Committee chairs except for the Finance Committee, which is led by the Area Treasurer. Each committee discusses the items on the agenda for that committee. Many of the items on our agenda are General Service Conference agenda items. We will not vote on these items but the Committee Chair will often take a sense of the committee on many of these items. Some of the items we will discuss in committee are Area 40 specific items. The committee will discuss these items and choose to make a recommendation or choose to take no action. When taking a vote in committee, only the members of the committee vote.

We're on the web!

www.aa-montana.org

One of my responsibilities as delegate is to attend the General Service Conference (GSC) in New York. I will be attending my second GSC later this month. The GSC is how A.A. as a whole in the U.S. and Canada get together to make decisions on matters affecting A.A. as a whole. As Concept II states, the GSC, "for all practical purposes, has become the actual voice and effective conscience of our Society." As an Area we are one link in the chain of communication from the groups to the GSC.

Following my report, we will begin our floor assembly where we meet as whole to hear the committee reports. The committee chair will present the committees report on each agenda item and then we will have a chance to discuss the item. Again, we will not vote on the items from the GSC agenda but I will ask the Area Chair for a sense of the Area on many of these items. The purpose of discussing these items and taking a sense of the Area is to help me be well informed when I go to the General Service Conference later this month. For the Area 40 specific agenda items, if the committee makes a recommendation on the item we will take a vote following the discussion. In order to be a valid vote we must have a quorum (two-thirds of the voting members present).

One piece of advice I have for everyone attending Area Assemblies is to be active participants. Take part in the discussions...In the interest of saving time, if someone else has already expressed your opinion, it is not necessary to repeat it. If, however, someone else has not expressed your opinion, please go to the mike and share it.

We ask all of the GSRs to sign in with your District Committee Member (DCM).

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COMING NEXT ISSUE...

POST ASSEMBLY REPORTS
CONTINUE! WATCH FOR;
SECRETARY REPORT,
ARCHIVE REPORT,
DIST. DCM REPORTS,
INTERGROUP REPORTS,
MORE UPCOMING EVENTS,
TRIANGLE REPORT...

JUST TOO MUCH TO PACK
INTO ONE GREAT ISSUE!

Orientation, continued.

Your DCM will turn the sign in sheet to the Area Secretary, Connie R....

Thank you all for being here. I hope you enjoy your weekend at the assembly.

Yours in love and service,

Andrew W.

Area 40 Delegate

Panel 57

(the contents of this article have been edited to save space)

Area Chair/Alternate Delegate

Good morning, my name is Carole and I am an alcoholic. I currently have the honor of serving as your Area Chair/Alternate Delegate. It has been revealed to me that I don't always show how grateful I am to serve Alcoholics Anonymous when discussing my activities. It is a huge honor to serve you and be a sober member. I am very grateful for this opportunity.

"I am very happy to have intergroups represented today..."

Since we last met at the Fall Assembly, I had a quiet remainder of the fall and winter. In January, I began thinking about this Spring Assembly and putting together the agenda. I asked myself why none of the intergroups within the Area have sent representatives to the two Assemblies I have

chaired. I decided to reach out to them and see if we might be able to have them join us. The response I got was very positive and it was fun visiting with representatives of the intergroups. Having a healthy, alcoholic ego, I found myself bragging about my accomplishment to Scott W., our Area Advisor.

He advised me that a Past Action states that an invitation letter will be sent to each intergroup within the Area. Of course I had to go home and look it up. There it was, plain as day from the Fall 1991 Assembly.

I am very happy to have intergroups represented today and I was wrong not to extend invitations to the previous Assemblies I have chaired. Please let me know what I can do to set the record straight, besides invite you to all subsequent Assemblies while I'm chair and train the

incoming chair to do the same.

Next thing I knew, it was February 1 and the agenda items for the Area were due. Soon after, I got the General Service Conference agenda from Andrew and I then put together the agenda you have before you today.

February 29 – March 2, I was in Fargo for the West Central Region AA Service Conference. It was a lot of fun to be there and it was very informative. On March 8, I had the privilege of attending the District 23's Not Quite Spring Yet Event, which included a district meeting. Then on March 15, I attended the Pre-Assembly in Missoula. I was scheduled to attend the District 21 meeting on April 6, but they preferred I not spread pink eye to the District. Good call! I hope to reschedule soon.

If there is anything I can do to help you in your Districts or Committees, please let me know.

John S., AAWS Trustee spoke at the WCRAASC. Two things he said have stuck with me. When looking at the Conference agenda items, consider how this affects AA as a whole rather than just my group or proving my point to another group. He also suggested we treat each other with the same love and tolerance we show a newcomer. We are often very hard on each other. These suggestions have made me think about how I act. I can do better.

Lastly, I have made mailing labels and placed them on the flyer table for you to take. Please get a card or write a note and send it to Andrew while he is at the General Service Conference. He will be working very hard and putting in long hours as your Delegate to the Conference and I'm sure he'd love to hear from the folks at home.

Thank you for letting me serve.

Carol B.

P.S. The date for the Fall Assembly is September 20-21, 2008. I gloated about being right but it turns out more humility by humiliation is necessary for my spiritual growth. I returned home and checked my correspondence with the Yogo and called this morning to confirm and make amends. The hotel will make reservations for this weekend if you put your name on their list before you left. However, I would call and confirm at some point in the near future.



Oh, I see you are reading your Triangle!

CPC Committee Report



My name is Terry S. I am an alcoholic. I have the honor of serving as your Area 40 CPC standing committee chair during this rotation. Since we met here last September, I have participated in a District 41 CPC luncheon in Great Falls last October 17, and in two pre-assemblies, in District 61 at Boulder Hot Springs on March 8, 2008, and in District 81 in Missoula on March 15, 2008.

As always, at all 3 events I found enthusiastic sober alcoholics who participated, contributed and shared. It's been great! I know that I've learned and grown from every one of these events,

and I hope that I was able to provide some information that was of service to the participants in each event.

I am sorry to report to you that I did not use all of my committee budget for last year. I'm sorry because that means I did not go to as many places and participate in as many events as you budgeted for me. I hope to go to more places and participate in more events this year.

I want to tell each and every one of you my understanding, which is that our Area committee chair budget is specifically meant to be used to cover the costs of doing my job.

My job description appears at Page 9 of the Area 40 Policy & Procedures Manual, and two of the stated purposes of the Area Standing CPC Committee are

- (1) To be an Area information clearinghouse about CPC and
- (2) To coordinate the exchange of ideas and resources between districts

In both these activities, my job is to concentrate on providing information about A.A. to those who have professional contacts with alcoholics.

In doing my job, I will continue to give you folks, after I visit you, copies of the expense reports I turn in to Kurt. If any of you feel it is appropriate, and can afford it, you are welcome to contribute to Area for part or all of the cost of my coming to participate in your event. I will not demand or even ask that you do so when you invite me to visit. That is NOT my understanding of how I am to use my budget.

So, it's part of my job to participate in any function, gathering, meeting, workshop or business meeting you might be having to which I can be of service as the Area CPC Committee Chair. I have a trip to Great Falls for their June 7 Founder's Day already planned.



I am hoping to get another invite to Valier for their annual weekend soirée on July 26-27. I'm hoping this year to make the District 12 Campout that I missed last August.

There are already other functions on the calendar—the Fall Roundup in Kalispell and 3 campouts in Havre in June, July and August. I'm asking you folks if I can be of service in any fashion for any of those functions or for whatever else you have going on. I really want to encourage you all—DCMs, GSRs, District Committee chairs, group members, other members of the fellowship—to let me know. If there is any way I can serve you, call me, write me, e-mail me—talk to me this weekend—but let me know, and I will do my best to respond as quickly and completely as possible.

Life is short, but it can be sweet. When we share our experience, strength and hope, there is still a world of satisfaction in the doing. Probably everybody here already knows the deep truth that when we give this away it is returned to us tenfold.

Thank you for letting me serve, and thank you for helping me serve.

Terry S.
Area 40 Standing CPC Committee Chair

Literature Report

Hello, my name is Linda B. and I am an alcoholic. I would like to welcome everyone to our assembly and especially to any newcomers or visitors. I enjoyed the first year of this rotation. (Boy, time goes so fast.) I updated and refurbished our literature stock, made some new displays, dusted off the traveling library, and compiled a current list of district literature chairs. Of course, just in time for preparing for the next rotation.

I will be looking for people to stand for the literature chair election coming up at the fall assembly. Please come see me if you are interested and I will give you an idea of the responsibilities. It is an awesome service opportunity.

I have Service manuals left over from the 2006-2007 year. They are the red cover booklets on the back table. I chose not to order service manuals because they will be outdated again so soon. I have prepared a sheet with the changes from the last General Service Conference. Included with the changes, I have copied the link so you can access the pdf. service manual document. I will be ordering new service manuals after this year's service conference and they will be available at the fall assembly.

There are new 2008 literature catalogs available

Literature Report Cont.

from our world services office. The new jacket covers are replacing the old style as the old pamphlets run out. There are some great discount packages available for treatment and corrections facilities. These have been available for many years, but haven't been utilized. They have a great value. For instance, the treatment package has 167 items for \$7.90. (What a deal!)

We have four agenda items this assembly. Our committee would welcome anyone to sit in on our meetings. As always, literature is a great source of carrying the AA message to the still suffering alcoholic. We will be discussing revisions, possibly suggesting changes, and re-visiting some familiar items from previous considerations.

I will be sending a display to our Spring Roundup in Helena in May. I am also available for any workshops that you might like to hold.

Again, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be of service.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda B.



DISTRICT LITERATURE CONTACTS

District 11 South Central Mt Intergroup- Bill M.

District 12 Ben G., Absarokee, MT

District 21 Joni McC. Wolf Point, MT

District 23 Scott W. Sidney, MT 59270

District 31 Neil T.

District 41 John R. Great Falls, MT 59401

District 42 Lee D

Gerry L. Shelby, MT

District 51 Jerry W.

District 61 Kyra S.

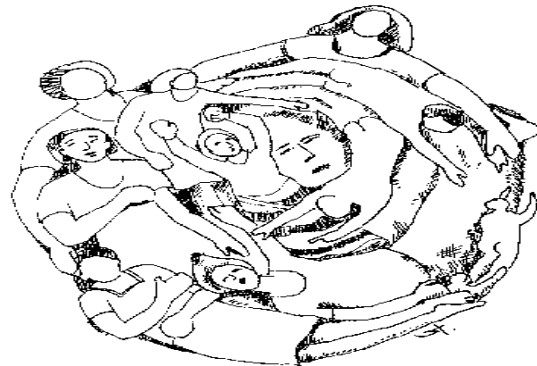
District 71 Betty P. Boulder Hotsprings, MT

District 72 Doug S. Bozeman, MT

District 81 Kelly M Missoula, MT

District 91 Brette D. Kalispell, MT

District 93 Pam S. Darby, MT



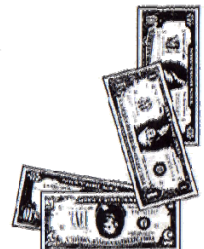
Treasurers Report

Hi everyone, my name is Curt K. and I am an alcoholic. Thanks to God, the actions of AA and sponsorship, I have been sober since July 22, 1993 and I am very grateful for that. And I also have the privilege of serving as your Area 40 Treasurer this rotation.

A special welcome to all of you who are attending your first Assembly – thank you for being willing to share your time and talents with AA.

And now about money... The Finance Committee Agenda for the General Service Conference this year has one item that presents a great challenge to our Fellowship. This item, submitted by our very own past Delegate and past Area Treasurer, Loren B., puts in front of us the issue of how our AA 7th Tradition is being used at the General Service Office; how big a role, if any, literature sales should play in supporting the work of the General Service Office, and what it means to be truly self-supporting. These are big questions and I look forward to hearing your perspectives and experiences later this weekend. But at the moment, I would like to bring question of self-support closer to home.

There are financial reports on the table outside the door of this room that show our income and expenses for the first three



Treasurers Report Cont.

months of 2008 and a full view of 2007. To put our current numbers in context, from 1999 to 2003 we spent about \$15,000 per year on average. Last year our expenses were over \$28,000 and our income was \$23,000, with group contributions making up only \$19,000 of that total. Of course, we can't keep up this pace of spending over the long run unless group contributions rise to meet our budget. We are self-supporting at the moment – groups in our Area contributed all the money we are spending over and above our current year income, but they did so in past years. So the money we are spending is our own 7th Tradition, but it's 7th Tradition from the past. We won't be able to keep up this pace of spending in the future unless groups give more.

We always have a decision to make as AA members and groups – give more or spend less. The good news is that groups in Area 40 have increased their contributions to the Area significantly in the first quarter of 2008. Of course, we don't know if this pace of giving will continue throughout the year or if it is short-lived.

I will be approaching the Finance Committee about a slightly different budgeting process for the Fall Assembly. I will suggest that I work with the Area Committee Chairs and DCMs to draft budget alternatives that will be sent to groups along with all of the other agenda items for the Fall Assembly. This will give groups a chance to discuss and consider the Area 40 budget as a whole before coming to the Fall Assembly. One of the limitations of our current budget is that it was created piecemeal. Each item we spend our money on was discussed and approved separately and simply added to an already full budget. And as we know, when it is so important to us all that the message of AA get out to more and more alcoholics in need, every idea to help do that looks good. So we approve almost every new project or budget item that comes forward. So my hope is that we can look at our budget as a whole at the Fall Assembly and make sure it reflects our priorities.

Finally, I would like to encourage each and every one of you to consider standing for an Area position this Fall. I have spoken to a number of well qualified AAs who could all do well for the Area in the Treasurer position. But we should have a slate of candidates five or six deep at each position. Then we have a true group conscience and the best possible servants for our AA work. Concept Nine reads: "Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety." So that is my hope for Area 40 and my hope for each of you as you consider how to share what has been so freely given to you in sobriety.

Thanks for letting me serve,
Curt K. - Area 40 Treasurer



Corrections Report

Hello Area 40,

I am glad to be at the assembly once again. It was a good trip from Bozeman, always fun to talk about issues within Alcoholics Anonymous with my friend Sean B. and my wife Courtney.

I have had a lot of opportunity to get out of myself since the last assembly. The pink can has been consistently receiving funds and dispersing literature to facilities. There was a month long spell where there was no activity and I was wondering what was going on out, there but it started to pick back up. I was able to come across 100 "Inmate to Inmate" books which I forgot to bring with me, but if you have interest in any for a facility in your district please let me know.

If you have any interest in starting a pink can in your group or need nay other information about the pink can please let me know how I can help. I have also brought a few copies of the pink can activity summary since the last Area.

I had the opportunity to go to the pre assembly in Missoula and after getting lost with my traveling buddy arrived to participate in a good discussion on the agenda items. I was not able to get to the Boulder pre assembly but want to thank Paul S. for standing in for Area corrections there. I was also invited to participate in a luncheon that district 61 put on for professionals in Helena. It was very good. Thank you District 61.

I look forward to discussing the agenda items at this assembly and talking with all my fellow alkys. If there is anything that I may be able to do to help in your district or group feel free to contact me anytime.

Hugs and kisses,
Bill E.

Contributions to Area 40

may be mailed to:
Area 40 Treasurer
PO Box 1332
Helena, MT 59624

Public Information Report

Greetings Area 40 trusted servants,

First of all, thank you Scott W. for covering for me last Assembly, the PI Committee Paula H. (Dist 81), Tim M. (Dist 61), Jan M. (Dist 11) and the District 21 rep. Thank you Alex M. (Area 40 webmaster) for your continued work and patience, Lance S (Dist 61 PI Chair) for coving for me at the Boulder Pre-Assembly and **most importantly** thank all of you here today, for actively participating in your recovery.

It's great to be back in Lewistown. It's sure to be another exciting Assembly. If this is your first visit to Lewistown for an Area 40 event – Welcome! We're glad you're here. Please, ask lot's of questions. It's essential to the survival of the program that's saved all our lives that we continue to work towards making sure that when someone reaches out for the hand of AA that we can be there.

The PI committee looks forward to reviewing all of the GSO PI and Report/Charter agenda items and reporting back to the Assembly tomorrow. In addition, we will be discussing the 800# (888-607-2000) and the web site (www.aa-montana.org). If you're interested in discussing any of these items, please join us in the new location, the Judith meeting room.

Over the past 6-months I have submitted dozens of requests to phone book companies across Montana to get our 800# published in your local directory. If you do not see the number in your phone book this spring, it would be helpful if your district's PI or answering service chair could call the company directly and ask them to provide a basic listing. If your district has an answering service chair, please let me know who this contact is. This person will need to have your District's groups complete an AA contact list and directly enter it onto the aa-montana website. We hope to have this up soon, but will be using paper forms if we run into any more technical glitches. For now you can send a contact list with phone numbers, gender and available times directly to AnswerNet.

On this note, we have been having billing issues with AnswerNet since the hotline went active. Many of you have still not received a bill. Here is what was sent to me this week from AnswerNet:

"The billing for each of the districts has not been totally resolved. We still have some reporting issues to deal with. First of all, we need to track the calls coming in on the toll free and subtract them from each district based on the time and date the call came in. It involves some sorting of data and we are still working on how to best capture that information and then translate that to each district based on previous reporting formats."

"It sounds like most of the toll-free calls originate from the Districts that used AnswerNet in the past. "



It sounds like most of the toll-free calls originate from the Districts that used AnswerNet in the past. These Districts' have been receiving bills. To this end, Helena reported a 50% reduction in cost. It was suggested to me that the Districts who have not received bills have not had much call volume to date. Hopefully the phone book listings will change this. Please provide the 888-607-2000 number as best you can throughout your districts.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service,
Sean B. - Area 40 PI Chair

Treatment Report

Hello everyone, my name is Geoff and I am an Alcoholic. First, I would like to welcome all who are here for their first Assembly.

Since the last Assembly, Beth S, Treatment Chair from District 71, reports that they continue to take meetings into MCDC (Montana Chemical Dependency Center) & Watch West. Meeting times are 6:00pm on Saturday for MCDC and 7:00pm Friday at Watch West. Districts 72 and 61 continue to help support district 71 with both meetings. Good communication between districts has proven to be helpful. BTG (Bridging the Gap) is going well and Beth is in the process of updating the contact list for District 71. Bob H and some volunteers from Dickinson, ND continue to help support District 23 at Watch East in Glendive.

Bob H reports:

Although there have been some changes due to new restrictions placed on the facility and the Parole System, everything is going smoothly. Since the "Family Members" at Watch East cannot be forced to attend AA, the attendance at the Bridging the Gap (BTG) meetings has dropped to about 20 or half of the 40 men and women locked up there. The remainder goes to other programs of their choice. The men and women that do voluntarily attend our meetings seem to be more open to information and ask more questions about AA. We now make sure that all those who fill out cards, for temporary AA contacts upon discharge from the facility, are giving us permission to send their names on to these contacts. It is very helpful, when AA members respond to these requests, to inform them that they got their name from BTG. We have had a few that were quite worried how someone got hold of their name.

We are able to have them start filling out their BTG cards up to 3 months before they leave. This would seem like ample time to get the contacts made but there remains a problem on our end of the system. This has improved over the last couple

Treatment Report Cont.

of years but it is still there. Please, please, please hand out the BTG cards to AA members who will follow through with making contact. It makes it so much easier for the people being released to get to that first AA meeting upon release, if they have had some communication with an AA member who will be there for them.

We have had a change in the meeting format because the facility has agreed to have the "Family Members" view the video "Hope" prior to our coming there on the second Friday of the month. This allows us to get through the BTG part of the meeting early and make an "Introduction to AA" presentation. This helps to prepare them for what they will find when they attend AA on the outside. This has been met with good interest and participation.

I would like to thank the volunteers from Dickinson, ND, who fill in when I can't make it. Due to their willingness we have had a presence there every month for the last two years.

Jim O., Treatment Chair District 72, reports that they have been taking meetings to MCDC on the 1st Saturday of the month, to Watch West on Fridays and have been taking some people to meetings from different facilities in Bozeman.

Mary R., District 61 Treatment Chair, reports that the Treatment/Corrections Workshop was a huge success and that they continue to take meetings to MCDC the 4th Saturday of the month.

I was invited in February, by District 41, to do a short talk on BTG at their District meeting. Unfortunately, I only made it to Broadview (about 50 miles out of Billings), when the car I was in overheated and we had to call for help. Thank you District 41 for the invite! Maybe we will try again? Alan, the Treatment Chair for District 41 reports Rocky Mountain Treatment Center has meetings on Sunday at 7:00 pm, Thursday at 7:30 pm and a Speaker meeting on Friday at 7:30 pm which I host and find speakers for.

Lots of newcomers and we sent out a few Bridging the Gap (BTG) contact cards from there for clients who want them.

Benefits west has a meeting on Sunday, Wednesday and Friday at 7:30pm

I've contacted both of the other treatment centers and given them packets on BTG. We called them several times and haven't heard anything back, nor have I gotten any contact cards from them.

I've gotten lots of contact cards from MCDC and had a few replies from them and some from Watch

Most of my involvement has been with Rocky Mountain Treatment Center. The clients are always expressing their gratitude for Great Falls AA.

In Billings, we continue to do an "Introduction to AA" presentation at the Rim Rock Foundation on the first Tuesday of the month. This helps the patients in treatment to better understand what AA does and does not do.

Thanks to all District Treatment Chairs for your service to Alcoholics Anonymous in Area 40! If you have anything new or old to report pertaining to treatment in your district, please feel free to let me know. Good communication between Districts and each other helps us to "Carry the Message" and "Bridge the Gap." DCM'S; If you have any changes for your Treatment Chairs please let me know as soon as possible so I can add them to the Treatment Chair Contact List. Best to

If I can be of service in your District in anyway, please feel free to let me know and I will do my best to help - provided I don't overheat or boil over!

Thank you for allowing me to be of service,
Area 40 Treatment Chair
Geoff D.

A Grapevine Note

Sam's Great Idea

Sam B., GVR Extrodinaire, and I rode back from lunch Saturday during the AREA Assembly. Sam shared with me a GREAT IDEA. Many jails do not allow the Grapevine due to it's staples holding the pages together. Of course, there is the July issue without staples. And there are the dedicated workers who painstakingly remove staples from issues to give. We talk so much about the magazine itself that we often overlook the other publications from Grapevine.

Sam recommends: Emotional Sobriety, The Best of Bill, and Spiritual Awakenings.

In Our Own Words is another book that may appeal to many incarcerated.

Hugs,
BilliJo



West Central Regional Service Conference Report

How do I paint a picture for you of the WCRSC in five minutes or less and make you feel like you're in it?

Well I thought a good place to start is by telling you what the West Central Regional Service Conference (WCRSC) is. It is a gathering of the eight Areas in the West Central region of the United States which, from a geographic standpoint, amounts to Iowa, Northern Minnesota, Southern Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming. The purpose of the conference is to develop greater unity among members, groups, and the Areas of the West Central region; to encourage the exchange of ideas and experience, and to provide an opportunity for members to discuss pertinent aspects of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The event is hosted by the different Areas on a rotating basis and this year the event was held in Fargo North Dakota at the Best Western Doublewood Inn. It began at 7:00pm on Friday February 29th and closed on Sunday March 2nd at noon. The Theme for this year was "Communication and Participation - The Key to Unity and Self Support". There were 273 registered members in attendance.

The Friday night and Saturday night sessions lasted past 10:00pm on both nights with ice cream and fellowship afterwards. On Saturday and Sunday the day started with a 7:45am and 7:00am meeting respectively.

The agenda consists of General Sessions which are held as a large group where the delegates from each Area get a chance to present the agenda items that were assimilated at GSO that came from individuals, groups, districts and Areas throughout the United States and Canada. This serves multiple purposes. It not only better informs the members at the conference along with giving them the opportunity to share their opinions, but also gives the delegates a sense of our members feelings on the topics along with a dress rehearsal, if you will, prior to attending the General Service Conference later this Spring in New York city.

Different Areas also have members from their Areas put on presentations to the entire body with this year's topics consisting of: "Self Support" - Northern Minnesota, "Unity" - Nebraska, "Communication & Participation" - Wyoming, "Love & Tolerance, Now More Than Ever" - South Dakota.

There are also smaller breakout sessions for each Area committees where you can share experience among each other.

The West Central Regional Trustee, Chuck B. was also there to give his last report of his four year rotation along with Dorothy W., trustee at large, and Jack S. who is a trustee on the General Service board and sits on the Finance committee at

GSO and was a former director of the Grapevine. Jack was also the Saturday night speaker telling his personal story. If you don't know what a Trustee is, think along the lines of - Super Delegate.

That in a nut shell is what the WCRSC is and what went on there from a 10,000 foot level.

To truly appreciate the picture, allow me if you will, to focus it down to what happened to one Alcoholic who attended, me.

I met our Area Finance chair Curt K. at the Helena airport on Friday morning to board our five hour flight. To begin it got out of Helena an hour late. We flew from Helena to Minneapolis where I read the background material along the way in the cramped seating on the plane. They don't feed you anymore on short flights so upon arriving at the Minneapolis airport I set

" Things that come to mind about what I heard and experienced there were: First off the level that people care about, and are willing to do for our fellowship, "



out to find lunch. I settled on a restaurant called Friday's since it was Friday and they were serving fish, which is an outside issue so I won't go into that. I later boarded the hour flight from Minneapolis to Fargo and took my seat in the next to the last row of the plane. The cabin crew was just about to close the door to leave and I was sitting there all delighted that no one was sitting next to me and I could lay out the background material on the next seat and finish my reading when a gentleman in a dark blue pinstripe suit came down the aisle and preceded to take over the empty seat beside me. I greeted him as warmly as I could but was thinking one more minute and the door would have been closed and my seat/desk would have been mine to finish up my review of the agenda material. We shared a few general

comments and he then looked at me and asked, "You're not by any chance headed to the West Central conference are you"? I smiled and said yes at which time he said he was also and that his name was Jack. As it turned out this Jack was the Jack I mentioned above in the section on Trustee's. He was flying in from Washington DC and almost missed his last connection. What a way to get reminded that my first inclination to perceive a situation as bad is often not the case at all. I now had a walking talking encyclopedia next to me of the agenda items I had yet to review.

We arrived at Fargo and I retrieved my luggage and waited for my cab with the district 72 DCM Lori F. who just arrived as well. What's Fargo like in February, its cold, It's windy, and it is all so flat, but I was very happy to be there! In the cab on the way to the hotel I met another member of our fellowship from Nebraska.

WCRSC Report Cont.

That night I had supper at the hotel with our Area delegate, our past delegate another delegate from somewhere, Curt our Finance chair, and Jack from the plane who needed no introduction. Throughout dinner I couldn't help but keep thinking how does a drunk from Anaconda Montana end up in Fargo North Dakota having dinner with the high caliber of people such as these in a fancy hotel? I think it has something to do with action.

I did not sleep much Friday night or Saturday night for that matter, not only because the hours available were short, but also because my excitement about being a part of this were so high.

Things that come to mind about what I heard and experienced there were; First off the level that people care about, and are willing to do for our fellowship, Bill W.'s litmus test on if we should do something in AA, Is it Spiritual, Is it Necessary, Contributions are up the last two years, 7.5% last year and approximately 13% in 2006.

I also learned that many people do not share the same thoughts on things as I, and when it comes to the grey pages in the Grapevine this was almost painfully apparent but I had fun sharing on the topic none the less. In any case I've experienced that I can still respect and even like the people who disagree with me.

The thing that concerned me the most was a story a young Mexican fellow told from the microphone in the General sharing session during the discussion on funding other countries to come to the general service conference. He said that in Mexico there are two GSO's and that one of them is notorious. He said they will have newcomers stand on one foot for 24 hour in an attempt to break their will and people have died during this process. I don't know about you, but it left me with little doubt if we should fund this effort.

This fall we will be voting in new members to the 2009-2010 rotation. So if you are currently just mulling over the idea or perhaps the idea doesn't even exist about standing for a position I would like to close with this. A question in the Ask-It-Basket of a service workshop I was a participating in asked if service work in A.A. has benefited me in my career. I hope my

report has better answered this question than the short time I had available then, that it has not only benefited me from a career standpoint, but in every area of my life.

Sincerely,
Tim Merhens
District 61 DCM



Delegate's Report

My name is Andrew W. and I am an alcoholic. I am privileged to serve as your Delegate for this rotation. It has been a busy and exciting year. I have enjoyed the opportunity to participate in general service as your delegate at the General Service Conference, at the General Service Board meeting in February, at regional conferences and a regional forum, and all over Montana last year. I strongly believe that participation in service is fun and I look forward to another exciting spring and summer of travel.

Shortly after last fall's Area 40 Assembly, I had the opportunity to attend an Area Assembly of Area 92, Eastern Washington in Wenatchee, Washington. It was an enjoyable and educational experience. I was given a chance to sit on a panel with a lot of past delegates. I also collected ballots during their elections. In Area 92, elections results are tabulated by a bunch of past delegates (most of whom are not from Area 92) in a back room. Then they have a motion to destroy the ballot after each round of voting. It was interesting to see the differences like these but also to see the similarity in the love for Alcoholics Anonymous.

At the end of January, I went to New York City to attend the meeting of the General Service Board. I was delighted to see all the familiar faces of the other committee chairs, the GSO staff and the trustees. This meeting is one of the quarterly meetings of the board and the board invites the chairs of all the General Service Conference Committees to attend. We were given an orientation to the weekend and then we each had an opportunity to meet with the secretary of our respective committee. I met with Don M., the Chief Financial Officer for GSO and the secretary for the Conference Committee on Finance. We had a formal dinner and open A.A. meeting on Saturday night as part of the weekend. I also was able to sit in on and participate in the meeting of the Trustees' Committee on Finance. All the delegate chairs were also able to observe the other committee meetings and the full meeting of the Board. Seeing this whole process in action, I am both happy to be able to participate in it and amazed at the amount of time and energy everyone puts into it, from assemblies like this one to the General Service Board meetings.

At the end of February, a number of folks from Area 40 were able to attend the West Central Regional Service Conference in Fargo, North Dakota. Thankfully, the weather was much better this year in Fargo compared to last year in Lincoln, Nebraska. This year we were actually able to hold our Delegates meeting on Thursday night before the WCRAASC started on Friday. It was fun to be one of the

Delegate's Report Cont.

"experienced" delegates and to see the new delegate get their feet wet. The conference was once again a great opportunity to have our first discussion on the GSC agenda items, participate in breakout sessions, and to enjoy some good fellowship with A.A. members involved in service from around our region. We had pretty good participation from Area 40. If you have the opportunity, I would recommend attending a WCRAASC.

Between the trip to Fargo and now, we have had two pre-assemblies in Area 40. On March 8 we met in Boulder and on March 15 we were in Missoula. The pre-assemblies gave GSRs the chance to become a little bit better informed about some of the items on our agenda for this assembly so that they could take some of this information back to their groups. We will have more discussion on the pre-assemblies when we hear the report on the ad-hoc committee concerning pre-assemblies.

That brings us to this Spring Assembly. We have a number of issues in front of us that require our attention, both Area 40 specific items and items from the GSC. I encourage everyone to discuss these items so that we may come to a well-informed group conscience on these items. Some of the items may seem unimportant, some of them may seem familiar, but taking the time to discuss these issues is part of our commitment to make sure we don't "louse this thing up."

What's coming up for me? I have a weekend to catch my breath before heading to New York again on April 26th for the 58th General Service Conference. I have been told that each conference is different. I look forward to this one and seeing all the people I met last year. This weekend goes a long way in helping me prepare for the GSC. I appreciated all the time that we put in here when I was at last year's GSC. I also appreciate all the cards I received from you all. The address of the Crowne Plaza Times Square Hotel is

Crowne Plaza Times Square Manhattan
1605 Broadway
New York NY 10019

I already have several delegate's reports scheduled for this year. In May, I'll be at the Spring Roundup in Helena on the 17th and (possibly) in Victor for a District 93 meeting on the 18th. I'll be in Great Falls for a District 41 meeting on June 4th. On June 7th I'll be in Helena for the Grapefest during the day and then in Dillon to meet with District 71 in the evening. I'll be in Bozeman to visit District 72 on June 14th. These are the ones I

know for sure. I hope to have many more scheduled before we are done this weekend.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for allowing me to serve as your delegate to the 58th General Service Conference and thank you for your attention! Any questions?

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

"What's coming up for me? I have a weekend to catch my breath before heading to New York again on April 26th for the 58th General Service Conference"

Up Coming Events

MAY 16 -18 - SPRING ROUND UP - COLONIAL INN - HELENA, MT - STEPPING STONES TO RECOVERY

MAY 23 - 25 - GOPHER STATE ROUND UP XXXV - BLOOMINGTON, MN

JUNE 20 - 22 - BITTERROOT PICNIC & CAMPOUT PAINTED ROCKS ST PARK - SOUTH HWY 93 - MT

JUNE 20 - 22 - LIONS CAMPGROUND - HAVRE, MT

JUNE 27 - 29 - BEARTOOTH MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE - MCLEOD, MT - www.beartooghmountainconference.com

JULY 18 - 20 - PAGERS CAMPGROUND - HAVRE, MT

JULY 25 - 27 - LAKE FRANCIS ROUND UP - VALIER, MT

AUGUST 8 - 10 - INTERGROUP CAMPOUT - EMERY BAY, HUNGRY HORSE RESEVOIR

SEPTEMBER 20 & 21 - LEWISTOWN - AREA 40 FALL ASSEMBLY - ELECTIONS

SEPTEMBER 26 - 28 - FALLROUND UP - KALISPELL, MT

OCTOBER 11th - HOW Group Annual Workshop - BOZEMAN, MT

NOVEMBER 29 - INTERGROUP THANKSGIVING FEAST STILLWATER GRANGE HALL - KALISPELL, MT

- NEXT YEAR -

APRIL 24 - 26 - SPRING ROUND UP - 2009 - MISSOULA

OCTOBER 2-4 - FALL ROUND UP - 2009 - BOZEMAN

FOR OTHER EVENTS, SEE ALSO
www.aa-montana.org

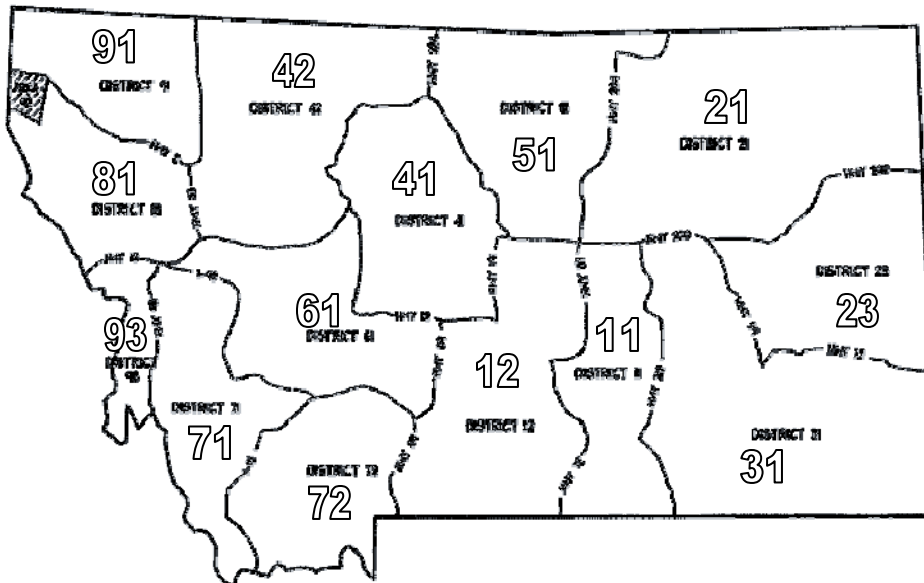
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