



### From Your Editor

Hi Everyone! My name is Sharon, and I am your Triangle Editor. I hope you will find this issue of the Triangle full of interesting news from the Assembly. Please remember that the information was current at the time of the reports, and may no longer be!

You will see as you read, we have an enthusiastic group of trusted servants, serving an Area of enthusiastic alcoholics. Groups and districts put a lot of effort into being prepared for this assembly. Our Delegate was able to get a sense

*(Continued on page 15)*

### Inside this issue:

- Area Chair Report **3**
- Archives Report **3**
- Corrections Report **3**
- CPC Report **4**
- Grapevine Report **4**
- Literature Report **4**
- PI Report **5**
- Treasurer Report **6**
- Treatment Re- **6**
- 1-888-607-2000 **7**
- DCM Reports **8**
- Intergroup Reports **12**
- Area Map **13**
- Calendar **13**
- Officers, Chairs, **14**
- DCM's
- Concepts Checklist **15**

### Spring 2009 Assembly: Walking the Path of Spiritual Progress

In Lewistown, at the center of Montana, at the Yogo Inn, almost 150 members of our Fellowship gathered for the 2009 Area 40 Spring Assembly, which convened on Saturday morning, April 18, at about 8:00 a.m. More than 100 of us were voting members: GSRs and DCMs (or their alternates or stand-ins); district representatives voting on various Area standing committees; the chairs of those committees and our Area officers, including our Delegate to the General Service Conference. The rest of us were past Delegates, non-voting Area committee members, members and chairs of standing district committees and other members of A.A. who wanted to be a part of the gathering.

It often seems that before we can be catapulted into the 4<sup>th</sup> dimension of living, we first must

experience anew, in different aspects of our lives, that piling up of our problems so that they seem astonishingly difficult to solve. This larger than average Assembly gathering was filled with enthusiastic women and men ready to work to assure that whenever anyone, anywhere, reached out for help with their alcoholism, the hand of A.A. would always be there. But the question has never been whether to help, but how to help.

We faced 67 separate committee agenda items, all but 4 coming from the 2009 General Service Conference Agenda. In addition to reports, workshops, breakouts and sharing, we had 3 hours, before and after lunch on Saturday, to complete the committee work on those 67 items. We then had 4 hours and 45 minutes on Saturday afternoon

and evening and Sunday morning for the committee chairs to present the 67 items, one at a time, to the assembled membership, for discussion and questions. That means we had slightly more than 6 minutes of assembly time per item for presentation, discussion and, when necessary, for Area action with a vote or with a showing of hands to give our delegate a sense of the Area on that item.

A large number of us were at our first Area Assembly. Perhaps even more daunting, virtually all of us who could vote were at our first Area Assembly in our current service positions! We had a suitable meeting room at a site with cooperative and helpful staff, but there were too many of us for the restaurant to feed as fast as we wanted, and there were technical

*(Continued on page 15)*

### Delegate's Report

My name is Carole B. and I am an alcoholic. I have the privilege of serving as your delegate this rotation. Since my election, I have had emotions swinging from feeling overwhelmed to confidence, from fear to excitement, and from concern to absolute peace knowing God is in charge. I think I have just hit the tip of the iceberg in the realization that God is in charge and we wouldn't be here if He wasn't. It is definitely not about me.

My first conference will be the 59<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference and therefore, I am a Panel 59 Delegate.

I began performing some Delegate duties in November first by visiting with Andrew in Missoula. I asked him many questions and then emailed him more when I got home. Next, the West Central Region Trustee, Ken B. from Nebraska, began conducting

conference calls with all the Delegates. The first call had Panel 57, 58, and 59 delegates on the call. It was great to have Andrew on that call. As a Panel 57 Delegate, he's a seasoned veteran.

A bit about our Trustee, Ken has been a great communicator. We have had three conference calls and a fourth is scheduled for Sunday afternoon. Ken has provided the minutes from both General Service Board meetings he has attended. I very much appreciate it.

Sometime in January, I received an email from a staffer at GSO. I was very excited to be included with the likes of Leonard Blumenthal, Jim Estell, and other servants of AA. That soon diminished with the ensuing hundreds of emails I have received since. I think that this level of communication can be good. I also think it can lead to much miscommunication.

So, I'm trying to look at the facts and not jump to my own conclusions.

Well, what have I been doing for you since January? It's been about getting in the car. January 16, I got in the car with Don and Linda B. We headed to Helena to conduct the Area Audit required every two years by the Area's Policy and Procedure manual. Curt K., Andrew, Terry S., Linda and I went through the Area's books. We are in good shape thanks to your efforts.

Next I got in the car with Terry S. and Tim M. to head to the West Central Regional Service Conference in Casper. We had a great time. Area 40 was well represented with 4 Area Chairs, 9 DCMs, 2 Past Delegates, several GSRs and Alternates, and several other trusted servants. We discussed the Gen-

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Delegate continued from page 1)  
 eral Service Conference agenda at length. Terry and I attended the Delegate's only meeting on Thursday night. Once again, I had made a judgment about one of the items on the meeting's agenda. That item was clapping to indicate you agree with someone speaking at the microphone. Prior to the meeting, I had thought there was absolutely no harm in expressing my enthusiasm on an issue. It was presented that it may also be squashing the enthusiasm of someone in the minority and that person may not feel confident enough to speak to their opinion. Friday morning and early afternoon, the Panel 59 Delegates were orientated by the Past Delegates from the Region. Friday evening Colby D., DCM District 11, and Libbie L., DCM District 91, did a fabulous job with their presentations. Howard L., Southeast Regional Trustee, gave the Saturday night talk. Past Trustees Gary K. and Chuck B were in attendance as well as several of the Area 10 - Colorado current and Past Delegates.

Tim was excited on the way home that I got a call from the Area 40 Toll Free number, 888-607-2000. I was excited to have a good cup of coffee.

Next I got in the car with Virginia R. and went to Columbus to do a PI Workshop for Tim who had double booked himself. My Conference Committee is PI so I was excited to hear how some of Area 40 feels about the Conference's agenda on PI and to talk about the 888-607-2000 number.

The next weekend I happened to be in Helena where a bunch of us got together for the first ever Pre-Assembly Conference Call. Thank you District 51 for coordinating this effort. This is certainly a cost saving way of doing a pre-Assembly. I am interested to know how many people were on the call. I am interested to hear what folks on the call thought of doing a pre-assembly by telephone. Our Trustee is also interested.

Next, I got in the car with my sister to head to Boulder for a Pre-Assembly. We did a side trip to Butte to see our brother who was recuperating from surgery. The Pre-Assembly was well attended and we had a great discussion of all the agenda items.

To get here, I got in the car with Virginia R. and Carol C., Brownbaggers GSR. If you're not getting in the car with someone, you're missing out.

In February, I downloaded the background information from GSO's secure site and then sent CD's out to Terry, the DCM's and the Past Delegates who requested them. The agenda is full. Ken passed along to the Delegates the agenda items tabled and not considered. Many agenda items are submitted each year and it's a big job to set the General Service Conference Agenda. Some background material suggests that

the Conference Committee on Agenda should be a year-round working committee to set the Agenda. This will be an interesting one to watch.

My Conference Committee, Public Information, has a full agenda as well. We've been warned to come prepared. I can't wait to meet Irene who currently sits on the PI desk at GSO. She's been very helpful thus far. In reviewing the background information, I got it. To keep this together, we need much work at the local level and at GSO. GSO can put out lots of Public Service Announcements but if no one answers the 888-607-2000 number how do prospective members find us? We may be moving 4 videos for the young people's project forward. These are very good.

PI provides guidance to the website, [aa.org](http://aa.org). Have you been on this site? Much, much information is available. You can even have them email electronic versions of Box 459, Markings, and other newsletters that are also available on-line.

I will fly out to New York on Friday. My friend Deborah, a former Helenaite, will meet me there. I will continue a tradition of having dinner on Saturday night with Mary D., a former Bitterrooter and now a GSO staffer. My sponsor, Carleen, will join us Saturday night. Lori G., Area 41 Delegate, has provided much needed information regarding proper attire. My clothes are not packed but are pressed and ready to go.

Then it all begins with the Delegate's only meeting Saturday night, the pre-conference on remote communities Sunday morning, joint Trustee and Conference Committee meetings Sunday afternoon, and the banquet on Sunday night. The Conference is scheduled to end Friday evening.

In the last month, two conference members passed away - our AAWS Trustee, John S. and Area 12 - Delaware Delegate Joe S. - a subtle reminder that being active in AA doesn't make us immortal or above life's problems.

If you wish to write to me while at the conference, please do so at  
 Carole B.

Crown Plaza Times Square Hotel  
 1605 Broadway at West 49th Street  
 New York, NY 10019

I will have my Blackberry and laptop but they won't be on during the conference. Your phone call, text message or email would be great to help me remember why I am there - for you.

I will return to Billings late on May 2. What's next? Get in the car! Delegate's reports are scheduled in several districts and it is my hope that I make it to all districts. Thus far, I have scheduled:

May 9 - District 11  
 May 17 - District 81  
 June 13 - District 51

June 20 - District 72  
 June 21 - District 93  
 July 26 - District 91  
 August 8 - District 12  
 August 15 - District 23  
 October 18 - District 51

DCM's, if you have not scheduled a Delegate's report, please get with me and we'll see when we can get it done.

The West Central Regional Forum is September 11-13 in St. Cloud, Minnesota. It looks to be a good time. Ken B., West Central Regional Trustee will join us for the Fall Assembly September 19-20. This assembly is typically devoted to conducting the business of Area 40. Terry S., our Area Chair, would love to have agenda items submitted for this by July 1.

A few words about the importance of being a GSR, this position is vital to the health of AA as a whole. If not for this communication link, your Delegate would not be able to carry the conscience of Area 40 to the General Service Conference. Likewise, the Delegate relies on communication with the DCM and GSR to provide information to the Fellowship. Thank you for serving your group.

GSO communicates directly with groups mostly by providing a copy of the newsletter *Box 459* which will now be published quarterly. Please make sure that your DCM has your updated group contact information. DCM's, please work closely with our Area Secretary, April, and our Area Newsletter Editor, Sharon, to assure the most up-to-date information is available. Sharon has worked very hard to attempt to get the most current information so that your group receives the newsletter. The information contained in the newsletter is very useful and fun to read.

I heard a well-known political figure say that AA is the only true democratic society. Everyone's opinion matters, period. We strongly believe in the minority opinion and it is your and my duty to assure that the minority opinion is heard. The voice of each member, be it that of a GSR, DCM, or coffee pourer matters. I can only take your collective conscience to the Conference if you communicate it to me.

One of my favorite things to do today is to be with you. Serving Area 40 has been one of the highlights of my life and I suspect this will be an experience of a lifetime. I appreciate your confidence in me even when I don't have confidence in myself. I really get that Alcoholic Anonymous is fragile and we are the ones who can make it stronger.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do to serve you.

Any questions?

In Love and Service, Carole B., Area 40 Delegate Panel 59

## Area Chair Report

Good morning, Area 40!

Welcome to the first assembly of the 2009-2010 Area 40 rotation. Carole has already asked about folks here for their first assembly—would everyone who is here for their first assembly in their current position—be it past delegate, delegate or other area officer, standing committee chair, DCM, GSR, voting district rep to a committee—all of us who are here to do our new job for the first time—raise a hand? All right! The point is, we are all new, and we will learn together.

First of all, let me give you the dates for upcoming Area Assemblies (our coming attractions). Bill W. told us that “one day at a time” refers primarily to the emotional life of the individual, not that the individual, the group, or A.A. as a whole should give no thought whatever to how to function tomorrow or even in the more distant future [As *Bill Sees It*, 284], so we can and should plan ahead.

The Fall 2009 dates are at the bottom of page 7 on our Spring Assembly's Agenda—September 19-20, 2009. In 2010, the Spring Assembly will be April 10-11 and the Fall Assembly will be September 11-12. For 2011, the Spring Assembly will be April 9-10 and the Fall Assembly will be September 10-11, unless that conflicts with the 2011 West Central Regional Forum, in Iowa—I still do not have the confirmed dates for that event, and if we are in conflict with it, I will try to move the Fall Assembly—the folks here at the Yogo are very cooperative.

Over the first few months of this rotation I have been sending e-mails and snail mails to the Area Committee Chairs and Officers, and sometimes to the DCMs, providing information in various forms, including copies of the new Area Policies and Procedures, contact lists for the 2009-2010 Area Committee, identification of voting members of Area Standing Committees, agenda and background information, and other such business stuff. I also sent invitations to this Assembly to the 3 active Intergroups in Area 40, and (as Carole told you) there is a time slot for their reports on Sunday (I know that one of the 3 Intergroups has accepted the invitation).

I didn't have to leave home to participate in the audit of our financial records, 'cuz it happened in Helena in January.

We have already had a vacancy in one of our Area positions. These things do happen, but we hope they only happen once in awhile. Following our Policy and Procedures, I consulted with the Area committee and then appointed Tim H. as our new Archives Committee Chair for this rotation. We had another highly qualified candidate

willing to serve, and I am keeping that person in mind should another vacancy occur. I have also participated in a CPC luncheon in District 71 and an Into Action Weekend in District 91. I am looking forward to next weekend's Spring Roundup in District 81.

I traveled to Casper, Wyoming for the West Central Regional AA Service Conference. The WCRAASC is a marvelous opportunity to find out more about the GSC agenda items, about how things are done and what is happening at the GSO and Trustee level of service, and to meet the folks involved in serve in our Region, at the GSO/Trustees and Area levels of service.

I sat in on District 51's teleconference preassembly, which is the first experiment with teleconferencing for any of our regular service meetings. I hope the folks who participated will provide their thoughts about that experience to District 51, and that this Fall we will talk about how that went and whether we should keep working on doing it.

I participated in the (as far as I know) only face to face preassembly in the Area, at Boulder Hot Springs, with folks from Districts 41, 61, 71 and 72, as well as a few Area folks involved. It was helpful.

Part of my job is to educate trusted servants throughout the Area on placing items on the agenda for the Area Assembly as well as the General Service Conference. Carole already said that I would “love” to have your agenda items for this Fall's Assembly by July 1, 2009. Let me say that differently. Under our Area Policy and Procedures, you've gotta get those agenda items, in writing, with any background material, to me by July 1, 2009. Do not expect to get an item on the agenda this fall if you miss that deadline. There just isn't any extra time to be late.

Beginning in May, I'm going to saddle up and start visiting business meetings around the Area. I'll be pestering you DCMs to confirm when your business meetings are held and which month would work best for my attendance and whether there is anything in particular I can do to be of service to you. If you have questions about agenda item preparation or anything else, call me, e-mail me, snail-mail me—let me know!

Send messages to Carole while she is in New York participating in the GSC, from Sunday April 26 through Saturday, May 2. Our past delegates have told us how uplifting it is, at the end of the very long days involved in the conference, to find correspondence from back home in Montana awaiting them. I have labels with the address, so see me to get some. Let's keep those cards and letters a'comin' in!

Thank you for the honor and the privi-

lege to serve as your Area Chair and Alternate Delegate.

Terry S., Area Chair/Alternate Delegate

## STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

### Archives Chair

Hi! My name is Tim H. and I'm an alcoholic and Area 40 Archives chair. I received a call from Terry S, our Area chair asking if I would be willing to serve as Area Archives chair because, for personal reasons, Connie R. would not be able to finish her rotation term. My thoughts immediately went to Connie and I realized how difficult her decision to step down must have been. I then remembered my sponsor's words from a long time ago; how important never saying “no” to an AA request would be to my sobriety. I am humbly honored to serve as the Area Archives chair and will do my very best to be of service to the fellowship of Area 40. In other words, I will try to do the job that Connie would have done.

I was able to take part in the Pre-Assembly teleconference put on by District 51. I thought it went well, was a great event and was very informative. I look forward to future events and I am willing to take part whenever asked. If I can be of service to your District, your home group, or to any member of the fellowship, please give me a call at 406-212-0161. I don't have email or access to it very often, so I guess we'll have to do it the old-fashioned way.

Why does an anonymous program need archives? Carl Sandburg explained “why” very well. He wrote that “whenever a society or a civilization perishes, there is always one factor present: They forgot where they came from.”

In service, Tim H., Archives Chair

### Corrections

Good Morning, my name is Mary and I am your Area 40 Corrections Chair and an alcoholic. I am very happy to be here this morning. Since January of 2009 I have been busy gathering names of corrections chairs in each district.

The check book and bank account for the Pink Can have been transferred to me and as of this morning we have a balance of \$,3563.18. It may sound like a large amount of money, but I realized that after several orders it goes pretty quickly. I have been receiving money from district pink cans and it is appreciated.

I was honored to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Corrections Workshop put on by District 61. They had an awesome turnout and each year it gets better and better. The food,

(Continued on page 4)



(Corrections continued from page 3) fellowship and speakers were excellent. The professional speakers that spoke were very supportive of AA and are clearly working with us. The AA speakers who shared their experience strength and hope had a message of depth and weight.

I participated on the phone "Pre-Assembly" call in March and attended the Pre Assembly in Boulder Hot Springs.

I made the orientation at Montana State Prison and have attended a few meetings inside. Thank you to Helena and Anaconda folks, You have shared your expertise and it has been most helpful. I am interested in hearing what each district is doing in *Corrections*. If I can be of service, please let me know. If I don't know the answer I will ask someone that does.

I look forward to working with my committee. Thanks for letting me serve.

Mary S., Corrections Chair

## CPC

My name is Virginia R. and I am an alcoholic. This is my first Area Chair position and I am delighted to serve. My first real service position in AA was as GSR for the Basic Twelve group in southern Minnesota. I was working as a housekeeper in a motel and scrimped and saved to buy an electric typewriter to make my reports more legible. As DCM in a Northern Illinois district, I began to learn how to use a word processor. Now, my first few months as the CPC chair have been eventful in that I am learning how to use my very first computer to send and receive emails and read disks. AA truly connects me to the world of other human beings! For those of you just beginning your AA service journey, CPC stands for Cooperation with the Professional Community and any of you is invited to sit in on our committee meeting.

I have gotten the opportunity to attend a few events since beginning my position. In January, I attended the CPC luncheon in Butte at which there was quite a successful turnout. There are other districts in Area 40 who have hosted such luncheons so if you are interested, help is available.

The Regional Service Conference in Casper at the end of February was inspirational to say the least. It is wonderful to get to meet enthusiastic alcoholics from the other states in the West Central Region.

The preassembly conference call in March was an innovative and enjoyable way to get us all together. I hope that we were able to give our delegate some food for thought and that we will continue to do so this weekend.

I would be delighted to attend any events your districts are planning or need

help planning. There is quite a need for education of many of the professionals who come in contact with us. The disease of alcoholism is widely misunderstood by many of those in the fields of medicine, law enforcement and social services. By bringing the news of the hope of recovery to these people, we are helping the still suffering alcoholic to find the doors to AA.

There are many agencies that find the plight and the path of the alcoholic to be frustrating to say the least. We have the opportunity to bring AA information talks to Child and Family Services, probation officers, Adult Protective Services, social workers, clergy and others. There are many professional conferences which welcome our presence and we have AA literature which specifically address these groups. I hope that you will bring back some ideas to your districts as you get the opportunity to visit with each other this weekend.

Yours in love and service, Virginia R.,  
CPC Chair

## Grapevine

First I would like to take this opportunity to thank Area 40 for electing me to the position of Grapevine Chair. I look forward to serving and anticipate that this term will be a lot of fun.

I met with my predecessor early this year and acquired the Area's collection of Grapevine materials and the display materials that are set up on a table. I have since then been in contact with the GVO and spent much time reviewing Grapevine materials. This research included a review of the growing library of tools and articles and audio material available online on our Grapevine's online resources. The AA website, [aagrapevine.org](http://aagrapevine.org), is a fascinating and helpful site and I encourage all AA members that have the resources to visit and use this resource and share this resource with other members, especially those that don't have online resources. I also have a handful of the March Grapevine which I shall be awarding to random people at this assembly. Say something really interesting and you might get one!

So far this year I have participated in the preassembly teleconference and would welcome any feedback from this event. It was useful, in my view, if it only forced me to review the agenda items in which the Grapevine committee is charged with reviewing. I also attended the Regional Service Conference in Casper and thoroughly enjoyed the highly charged atmosphere of passionate AA members with genuine concern about AA's future. It is always a wonderful and educational experience to be among so many trusted servants with a remarkable history of General Service. Topics of interest to

Grapevine followers this year include the "Gray Pages" and subscription guidelines for selling the Grapevine.

I have had calls, emails, and online chats with other Montana AA's interested in Grapevine issues and I welcome and encourage that to continue. I also have a Facebook presence, for those that know what that is, and all are encouraged to try to add me as a friend.

I plan to attend the Grapefest in Helena on June 13, and wish to thank the Helena folks for the invitation and I hope to see as many of you there as is possible. Now, in the spirit of the Grapevine, I have decided to create a project of sorts. The idea is taken from the Grapevine itself. Specifically, the idea comes from the section titled "If Walls Could Talk..." I am sure all of you have seen this. What I'd like is to create SOMETHING, and I'm not sure what it will be yet. What I request from as many groups as possible is to send ME a photograph of your meeting place. You can of course send me a photo but I'd prefer some sort of digital image, so email it to me at [grapevine@aa-montana.org](mailto:grapevine@aa-montana.org). I hope to have this project completed before this current rotation is finished. I'll let you all know more about exactly how the project will be presented and formatted. Remember; keep the confidentiality in the images!

Rich K., Grapevine Chair

## Literature

Hello. My name is Lori F. and I am an alcoholic. It is my privilege to serve as your Area 40 Literature Committee Chair. I would like to add my sincere welcome to all, especially those who are attending their first assembly. I hope that you will enjoy the experience as much as I did at my first assembly – and still do!

"Of all the plans Bill and Dr. Bob had discussed in 1937, the proposal to publish a book about the program was the most realistic . . . By setting forth a clear statement of the recovery program, a book could prevent distortion of the message. . . . [Bill] had a great fear that the message might be misunderstood by alcoholics in distant places. It was one thing to pass on the message face to face, when one could personally observe the other's reactions and be present to respond to objections, questions or confusion. In print, there was no second chance. What was printed on the page might well be the only information the suffering alcoholic would have access to. It had to be powerful – and thorough. . . .By April, 1939, Alcoholics Anonymous was a fellowship with its own basic text and program." These words were taken from Chapter Eleven in the book *Pass It On, The Story of Bill Wilson and How the*

(Continued on page 5)

(Literature continued from page 4)

A.A. Message Reached the World. They caught my attention for two reasons. First, the stated intent of publishing the book was to keep the A.A. message consistent and undiluted so that the precise method used by the pioneers of A.A. to achieve sobriety could be passed on to and used by millions of alcoholics in "distant places" and from Bill's perspective, distant times as well. Second, the Big Book is celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary this month. From the first printing in 1939 through December 31, 2008, the English language Big Book distribution was 29,444,743 copies. This number includes the hardcover, soft cover, large print and pocket versions. Throughout the many printings of the four versions, the first 164 pages remain virtually unchanged from the first printing for the simple reason that this 12 Step program of recovery works as well today as it did in 1939!

I would like to call your attention to the Literature Display at the back of the room. Please take a moment this weekend to have a look at the wealth of material available to you through the General Service Office. The books and audio-visual materials are for display only and not for sale. However, feel free to take a literature catalog and order form. You may also help yourself to a pamphlet or two. The comedian George Carlin posed the question: "When you make a sandwich at home, do you reach down past the first few slices to get to the really good bread?" Today I'm asking you not to reach past the first few pamphlets in the rack to get to the "really good pamphlets." The covers may be different, but the words inside are the same!

I hope that everyone in this room is in possession of "The A.A. Service Manual Combined with the Twelve Concepts for World Service," but if you don't have one yet, you will find them for sale near the literature display. They are \$2.50 each - please be self supporting and deposit your payment in the can provided. There are also a few large print service manuals available for \$7.50 each.

I have placed a packet of materials on each district table in hopes that it would reach the District Literature Chairpeople. Many of you are aware that the prices for books and booklets are set to increase starting July 1 of this year. I have put a list of the new prices in the packet as well as a literature catalog. The Big Book price will increase by \$2.00 making it \$8.00 (still a bargain!). The other books, including the service manual, will go up \$1.00, and booklets will go up \$.50. Now may be a good time for groups and districts to stock up on literature, hence the inclusion of the

catalog. New catalogs reflecting the change will come out in June.

Have you ever asked yourself, "Why should I care if my group uses conference approved literature? What difference does it make? What is conference approved literature anyway?" Luckily for you, I have included a handout, coincidentally named "Conference Approved Literature" in the packet which answers these questions and more. Please feel free to copy and distribute this valuable service piece.

The final item in the packet is an Area 40 Lending Library Checkout Form. Part of my job as Literature Committee Chair is to maintain a library of audio and video tapes which can be checked out by districts, groups or individuals. I encourage you to take advantage of this service, particularly if you have a workshop or fellowship event coming up. Check out the literature display to see what's available.

I want to mention two housekeeping items before I finish up. First, it didn't take me too long to screw up in my new position. In my article in the February Triangle, I said that the Big Book was available in 45 languages - it's actually 58! Second, I would like to get the contact information for all the District Literature Chairs (something I should have done already). If any are in attendance this weekend, please catch up with me during the assembly.

In closing, I would like to thank the previous Literature Chair, Linda B., for making the transition easy, and for being available to answer questions. I also want to thank District 51 for putting on the Pre-Assembly Teleconference in March and for inviting me to participate. The preparation for my portion of the presentation was invaluable in helping me to get ready for this assembly. Thanks for your attention and for allowing me to serve,

Lori F., Area 40 Literature Chair

## PI

I would first like to thank the Assembly for electing me to this position. It has been, and continues to be, a great opportunity for growth.

What have I been doing since the first of the year?

### 1-888 number

Stay tuned, I will be sharing on this in a separate report.

### West Central Region AA Service Conference (WCRAASC)

I attended the WCRAASC in Casper Wyoming February 27 - March 1 arriving there on Thursday evening in the company of Carole our Delegate and Terry our Area

Chair so they could attend the meetings on Friday prior to the start of the Conference.

A group of us attended the 917 N. Beech Street meeting on Thursday night and I not only got to be a part of some great AA sharing but also got to learn that where the meeting was being held was once a chicken coop and that the gentleman next to me was once the mayor of Casper.

The conference itself was an enlightening time; hearing the floor debate on all the agenda items; listening to the comments from four Trustees past and present, (which were put somewhat in a defensive position due to some of the agenda items and the floor sharing); attending breakout sessions on PI/CPC; the Saturday night speaker Howard L., Southwest Trustee did a great job. This also gave me a break from my day to day life of work and family to focus on the PI workbook, agenda items for PI and Reports & Charter, along with a few moments to check out the Harley and Yamaha dealerships in Casper.

### Phone conference preassembly

On March 21<sup>st</sup> I attended and shared in the first, (and personally I hope not the last) phone conferences to go over the agenda items that we will be going over this weekend. There were some technical issues, (we discovered just prior to the phone conference that dialing out of the local area from the location we were at had been blocked, so we had to go to plan B, using our cell phones). This made it hard to hear from both an incoming and outgoing perspective. Personally I looked at this as a positive since one of the reasons for preassemblies is to give the presenters a chance to "rehearse" prior to the assembly and we got that opportunity without much of an opportunity to be critiqued for content since .....well I think you get my point.

### Workshop in Lolo

On March 28<sup>th</sup> I was in Lolo to put on a PI/GSR workshop with former Delegate Mark S. for District 81 and 93. Much of my sharing was not my sharing at all but questions and comments on the 1-888 number. There was time remaining however to talk about what the PI committee does and does not do. I also felt privileged to get to share as a presenter along with Mark - Thank you Mark!

### Boulder Hot Springs preassembly

On April 5<sup>th</sup> I attended and participated in a preassembly at Boulder Hot Springs and hopefully it helped me prepare to present the agenda items this weekend. It also gave me the chance to talk some more about the PI committee.

Yours in Service, Tim M. PI Chair

**Treasurer**

Hello, my name is Linda B. and I am an alcoholic. Thank you for allowing me to be your Area Treasurer for the next two years. Welcome to everyone, especially to those who are attending their first assembly. Please ask questions and participate in the workshops and committee meetings. Questions and comments are necessary for a well informed group conscience. I have been asking plenty of questions from Curt, our outgoing treasurer. He has been very accommodating and is a wealth of information. Thanks, Curt.

The new address for Area 40 Treasurer is PO Box 21577, Billings MT, 59104. We need to inform our groups of the address change. I will have labels on the back table by the birthday envelopes for you to take home to your groups. The address can be found in the Triangle and I will see about having the address put on the area website.

Since starting this rotation, I've participated in the 2008 year end audit in Helena on January 17<sup>th</sup>. Carole B, Terry S, Curt K, Andrew W, and myself were present. The audit went very smooth. I participated in the first ever pre-assembly teleconference. Thank you to District 51 for hosting the event.

Area 40's 2008 year end balance was \$24,070.48. Area 40 under spent the 2008 budget by \$4,200. Did we do the work we set out to do? Did we do the services we could have done? With the economic turmoil and gas prices last fall, were we just prudent with 7<sup>th</sup> traditions funds or were we in fear of overspending? Our budget and the 7<sup>th</sup> traditions monies that our groups contribute to Area 40 are our means of carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

That being said, there are Area 40 financial reports on the table in the hall by the agendas and name tags. These reports will be included in the next Triangle. You will be able to see them on our area website also. Please share these with your home groups. The balance as of April 13, is \$23,655.56. The prudent reserve is \$10,303.00, the Archivist account balance is \$2,047.50, leaving us with an operating balance of \$11,305.06. The total income received this year has been \$8,652.70. Expenses paid through April 13<sup>th</sup> are \$7,843.48, leaving Area 40 with net income so far this year of \$809.22. Last year groups contributions were \$24,239.81. In the financial report you can see that group contributions to date are \$8,289.62. Our group contributions have been good the first part of this year. Thank you for your contributions. Typically, group contributions don't keep up with expenses the first part of the year. There are large expenses in the

BUDGET VS ACTUAL BY LINE ITEM - April 13, 2009			
	Jan 1 - Apr 13, 09	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
<b>Income</b>			
Individual contribution	\$0.00	\$40.00	\$80.00
Group Contributions	\$8,289.62	\$7,707.56	\$26,939.00
District Contribution	\$40.00	\$85.83	\$300.00
Roundup Contribution	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
7th Tradition	\$0.00	\$325.00	\$1,500.00
Triangle Subscriptions	\$300.00	\$243.33	\$1,100.00
Other Income (recouped from)	\$22.50	\$140.84	\$475.00
Interest	\$0.58	\$12.88	\$45.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$8,652.70</b>	<b>\$8,555.44</b>	<b>\$30,939.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Travel Expenses	\$4,278.99	\$7,527.00	\$19,634.00
Rent	\$1,245.00	\$1,441.67	\$5,500.00
Literature Expenses	\$267.76	\$171.67	\$600.00
Photocopies / printing	\$882.87	\$991.13	\$2,875.00
Dues, registration, fees	\$37.00	\$0.00	
Postage	\$168.38	\$76.90	\$300.00
Supplies	\$292.53	\$125.37	\$460.00
Telephone	\$400.50	\$347.76	\$1,220.00
Miscellaneous expense	\$270.45	\$218.58	\$350.00
<b>Total Expense *</b>	<b>\$7,843.48</b>	<b>\$10,900.08</b>	<b>\$30,939.00</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$809.22</b>	<b>(\$2,344.64)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
Archivist Account Reserve	\$2,047.50		
Prudent Reserve	\$10,303.00		
Operating Reserve	\$11,305.06		
<b>Total Cash on Deposit</b>	<b>\$23,655.56</b>		

\* This same information is provided by committee on page 15 of this issue.

first part of the year with the WCRAASC, the Spring Assembly expenses, and the Delegate expenses with the General Service Conference. We are on the right track, but please keep your group contributions coming in. We have a \$30,939 budget we approved at the last assembly. With so much discussion on self-support, we as individuals and in our home groups need to support those services we have voted to fund.

All agenda items for the Finance Committee are about self-support. The background information is large and represents a cross-section view from our fellowship on fully funding the General Service Office Services solely by group contributions. Discussion will be varied and informative. The final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole fellowship.

My question is - are we doing our part in self-support?

Thank you for allowing me to be of service, Linda B., Treasurer

**Treatment**

Area 40 treatment activities are in full swing. All but one district has a Treatment

Chair, and I am getting regular reports on activities from a few districts. Other districts have invited me to their functions. It is an exciting time!

District 11 (Billings) is looking for treatment committee members. Billings takes two meetings a week to the local psychiatric facility and an informational meeting to Rimrock.

District 41 (Great Falls) is taking meetings once a week to Rocky Mountain Treatment Center. Jim W is in communication with Gateway Treatment Center hoping to institute meetings there. So far Benefice has not been receptive to AA's approaches.

District 42 (Shelby) is continuing to improve communications with the treatment folks on the Blackfoot Indian Reservation.

District 51 (Havre) is continuing in its successful efforts to hold meetings at treatment facilities in that vast, unpopulated area. The hand of AA is certainly being offered, if not always taken.

District 61 (Helena) held the 3rd Annual Corrections and Treatment workshop for professionals April 4. Five AA speakers and four professional speakers shared their experiences at the well-attended workshop. A delicious luncheon was

(Continued on page 7)



(Treatment continued from page 6) served. Helena also takes meetings into MCDC the 2nd and 5th Saturdays of the month and members attended a Trainers training.

District 71 (Butte/Anaconda) held a pre-assembly April 5 at Boulder Hot Springs. Folks from Great Falls, Bozeman, Missoula, Helena, Anaconda and Butte attended. A delightful lunch was served. Butte was also represented at the MCDC Trainers training and is responsible to take meetings in the 3rd Saturday of the month.

District 72 (Bozeman) takes meetings into MCDC the 1st Saturday of the month and members attended the Trainers training.

District 81 (Missoula) takes meetings into Teen Recovery Center and the Providence Center twice a month each. Groups rotate that responsibility. A training for people interested in taking meetings into Teen Recovery was held in March. Also in March, Joseph became a local trainer for MCDC. Missoula will now take a meeting into the Butte facility the fourth Saturday of every month. Helena will help until Missoula becomes established.

District 91 (Kalispell) is very active with Pathways, Alternative Youth Treatment Center, and Wilderness Treatment Center meetings covered by the Whitefish, Flathead Valley Serenity, Canyon, By the Book, and Columbia Falls groups. Many thanks to all of you who make that happen. Ted, like all of us, is getting his feet under him and is working on Watch West and MCDC.

As for my activities: I was invited to both the pre-assembly tele-conference, hosted in Missoula by Dan K, DCM, and the pre-assembly at Boulder Hot Springs hosted by District 71. The fellowship in the hot springs was a great ending to a very nice day. I also attended the MCDC Trainers training, therefore I am prepared to train anyone who would like to go into MCDC, and get you in contact with the appropriate chair. I would like to thank Rob R, the MCDC liaison for his help. I was also invited to District 61's Corrections and Treatment workshop. It was interesting to hear about us from different perspectives. Lastly I have assembled a list of all treatment chairs in the state. If you want one, let me know and I'll see that you get one.

YIL&S, Paula H. Treatment Chair

**1-888-607-2000 Report**

The Area 40 1-888 number has given rise to many challenges in our Area. Some of these have been technical in nature; some have been along the lines of coordination and organization; but none of these

compare to the opportunity this has given us to grow in Unity. My second sponsor always started his sharing in a first step meeting with the same statement; the first word of the first step is "We". The spiritual significance of this tiny, two letter words continues to amaze me. I question if I will ever fully grasp and comprehend its full significances.

Now on to the numbers. In the fall of 2006 an ad-hoc committee was formed to look into the possibility and feasibility of implementing a statewide number. That study used the four largest districts in our area (Billings-District 11, Missoula-District 81, Helena-District 61, Bozeman-District 72) to come up with some numbers on call counts and the overall cost to these districts for their answering service. The table here represents the current "Statewide" call counts for the first quarter of 2009, the counts reported by the ad-hoc committee for the last quarter of 2006 and the savings by implementing the statewide service

There have been three reported complaints in the first quarter of 2009. These have been due to people calling and getting put on hold, (elevator music), or not getting connected to an operator at all.

Things that still need to be addressed to improve the service are:

1. If you become aware of a problem with the service please note the following;
  - a. What time the problem occurred
  - b. What the date was that it occurred
  - c. A brief explanation of what the problem was
  - d. Contact Debra Rogers, General Manager of AnswerNet Montana at;
    - Tel: 1-406-238-4607
    - 1-800-264-2338
    - efax: 1-800-230-9871
    - fax: 1-406-248-9371
    - email: [debra.rogers@answernet.com](mailto:debra.rogers@answernet.com)
  - e. Please contact the Area 40 PI chair at [pi@aa-montana.org](mailto:pi@aa-montana.org) or use the contact information on Page 14
2. The DCM's, and any District Answering service chairs that have requested a copy, receive a spreadsheet every month with the amount each District owes. The spreadsheet contains pages for all the

months dating back to the end of 2008. If you have not paid a previous month's bill, you need to go to that page to see what you owe for that month and also pay that amount. The last month is not a running total but just what you owe for that month. Mail your payments to:

AnswerNet  
735 Grand Ave.  
Billings, MT 59102

Please remember to note what District the payment is for on your check!

Month	Calls	Minutes	Patches	Cost
January	152	304	12	\$190.50
February	779	350	16	\$152.00
March	664	285	17	\$175.00
Base Cost (\$55 per month)				\$165.00
Totals thru March 2009	1595	939	45	\$682.50
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2006	3,962*	4,375	52*	\$1,959.00
Savings				\$1,276.50
<p>*The number of hits on the Area Website for meeting information has consistently gone up since the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2006 which may explain the reason for the decrease in call volume. What has stayed relatively the same however is the number of patch calls (someone being connected to an alcoholic) yet the price has been reduced and the coverage increased from four districts to all fourteen.</p>				

3. The last thing, and the most important, is that all of the Districts are responsible for keeping their contact information up to date. This is one of the benefits of the service. In communications with AnswerNet the Area Web Master and I discovered that they were using paper lists, and some of them have not been updated in as much as four years. The updates are accomplished by each District's Answering Service chair going to a secured area on the Area 40 website to enter the contact names they have gathered on the paper form, (also available for download from the area website), they have circulated throughout their district. If you have not already done so please contact our Area 40 webmaster Alex M. [webmaster@aa-montana.org](mailto:webmaster@aa-montana.org) for access to this secured site. Remember that your district gets billed .50 cents a minute so it behooves you to train your contacts to get the number of the caller and call them back to save your district from getting charged excessive amounts!

Thank You for listening to me, and letting me be a part of the "We"! Are there any questions?  
Tim M., Area PI Chair

## DISTRICT REPORTS

### District 11

January 2009 District 11 began its new rotation period with a full compliment of new incoming district representatives except for the District Secretary, who had been the previous District 11 Secretary. District 11 hosted a GSR school workshop in conjunction with District 12 in January to provide a forum and broad overview of the AA Service Structure for incoming GSR's, district service members and guests. The event was well attended and representative of the AA community in the two districts. The event was co-chaired by Carole B., current Area 40 delegate, and Scott W., past Area 40 delegate. Hand-outs regarding the AA service structure were provided.

Currently the PI/CPC committee has had the opportunity to present several informational events in the local community and an area hospital. These events were well attended. The PI/CPC committee is also seeking volunteers to assemble a list of local hotels to place AA pamphlets and meeting schedules for the surrounding areas.

During the last election District 11 created a new district liaison position to assist with the integration of the new toll-free hotline and ensure active phone contact lists are maintained and updated. Since this is a new position in the district, it was felt that there was a need to develop a job description to ensure continuity and success. District 11 has assumed the financial responsibility to the district's portion of the toll free hotline service from South Central Montana Inter-Group and made arrangements to reimburse them for previous expenses encumbered for our district. This item represents approximately \$1,200 of additional expenditure to the district's operating budget in addition to maintaining the current expenses for the service.

The Corrections Committee is working to ensure literature is made available to the local prison and city jail institutions. Currently several local groups are committed to taking meetings to both the men's and women's facilities and attendance and participation are good.

The Treatment Facility Committee ensures meetings are conducted twice a week at the psych center from the local group pool. The groups are selected from the hat each month for the upcoming month, thus ensuring rotation and diversity within the AA community.

The Archives Committee is actively scheduling and conducting interviews with AA members with 20 years sobriety or more

in order to capture their story of recovery on magnetic media as well as an opportunity to get other relevant historical information about AA in our district.

The Al-Anon Committee has established a local telephone number for the district and is also assembling a mailing to local church professionals for information regarding the Alanon Family Groups (AFG).

The Grapevine Committee is encouraging support throughout the district for participation in our meeting in print and access to the digital archives. Groups have been given registration and subscription information forms.

Billings will be hosting the 2010 Spring Roundup, May 14-16, 2010 at the Crowne Plaza.

Currently District 11 is self supporting, although there has been a slight decrease in group contributions. It is felt this is not unusual and we believe as we continue to provide additional opportunity to serve and carry the message the needed financial contributions will be present to ensure our financial obligations and commitments are met.

District 11 has seen a renewed spirit of participation to ensure our singleness of purpose. Meeting attendance throughout the district is increasing with only a few groups reporting decreased attendance.

Respectfully submitted, Colby D., DCM District 11

### District 12

Greetings Area 40, my name is Nick D. and I'm an Alcoholic and the D.C.M. from District 12.

Currently we have 10 groups in District 12: Absarokee Group, Absarokee; Clark Fork Group, Fromberg; Harlowton Group, Harlowton; Hays Group, Absarokee; Joliet Group, Joliet; Laurel Home Group, Laurel; No Name Group, Columbus; Now Group, Big Timber; Rock Creek Group, Red Lodge; Stillwater Group, Columbus.

Of the 10 groups 7 are active in our district. There are 32 meetings a week held in District 12. We hold our district meeting on the third Sunday of odd months at 4 pm at the Little Stone Church located at 205 E. 4th St. in Columbus.

Already this year, Districts 11 and 12 together put on a G.S.R. school in January that was well attended by both Districts. Thanks to Scott W. and Carole B. for presenting a very informative workshop, and to Colby D. for hosting this event. We also had a 800 number workshop at our March district meeting followed by a pot luck. That was also well attended and presented by Carole B., as Tim M. had a scheduling conflict—something about his wife, an anniversary and some reservation, but not exactly

in that order.

We hold two events a year to help raise funds for District 12. The first is the Mid Winter Social that was held on February 21 in Joliet. We had a great turn out for good food, fun and fellowship. We were fortunate to have Teresa and Curt K. from Helena as our speakers. I would like to thank them and everyone who attended and helped make this event a success. Our other event for the year is the Fireman's Point camp out on the Stillwater River. That is tentatively scheduled for August 8th and 9th. We will be having Carole B. give her Delegate report and a pot luck followed by a campfire meeting on Saturday night. Please come join us for fishing, rafting, fun and fellowship. We will have the Fireman's Point flyers available soon on the Area 40 web site, [www.aa-montana.com](http://www.aa-montana.com).

In closing I would like to thank District 12 and Area 40 for allowing me to serve in this rotation. I'm looking forward to seeing all of my friends and making many new friends, as I owe everything to you, the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, strong sponsorship and the grace of GOD!

In service, Nick D., DCM District 12

### District 23

Regards from the Sunrise District. I'm Mike M. and I am alcoholic. This is my first report as DCM. The past seven months have seen the District's groups remain steady: the Savage, MT Big Book Discovery Group; the Life Again Group in Glendive; the Welcome Home and the Monday Noon Groups in Sidney.

Glendive meetings are three days a week, with the Saturday evening meeting recently becoming a "candlelight" meeting.

Sidney's groups meet four days of the week between them, and continue to be stable with good growth in the numbers of attendance. Tuesdays and Sundays continue to be the most well attended meetings. Sidney is getting a few newcomers and some others who have been "out again", and have fortunately made it back. It has also been encouraging to see more motivated young people show up.

The Savage group is holding its own. Many people are traveling from Sidney to support that group and read from the Big Book every Wednesday.

We have had several District 23 Get-togethers at the Savage Community Center in Savage, MAT which has included Open Meetings, Potlucks, and Karaoke, which seems to be a draw for the younger folks. I would like especially to thank Tim A. for his DJ duties at these Get-togethers. Once in a while, we also throw in a District meeting.

(Continued on page 9)



(District 23 Continued from page 8)

Keep your eyes posted on the Area 40 website for upcoming events, as folks from North of Savage and North Dakota seem to be regular attendees.

Service work is being done on the home front by some of our newcomers, but, unfortunately, life is making it hard for them to come to the Assembly, so hopefully I will see them at the next one.

I would like to thank District 23 for allowing me to serve. I truly enjoy seeing old friends, making new ones, and the passion of AA I see at the assemblies. It helps my recovery immensely. Thanks You so much.

Respectfully Submitted, In Fellowship,  
Mike M., DCM District 23

### District 31

District 31 has a total of 24 meetings in the six towns. Attendance is variable but usually good and groups welcome visitors with open arms. There are meeting cards on the back table for our district.

A meeting has been started at the Miles City "halfway house" and is being well supported by the local groups.

Currently we have a camp out planned for the first weekend in June. It will be at the Far West Campground and Boat Launch on the Yellowstone River at Rosebud sponsored by the Forsyth groups and District 31.

Everyone is welcome to attend. There will also be a district meeting that weekend.

Thank you and God bless you all.

Respectfully submitted, Jim G., DCM  
District 31

### District 41

I'm Lee, alcoholic and DCM for District 41, Area 40. At this time, we hold District meetings in Great Falls, MT.

I am very grateful to serve as this rotation's District Committee Member. While this group of committee members is mixed with enthusiastic first time chairpersons it is also fortunate enough to have members who have served in other capacities at the District and Area levels. I have noticed this group is also supported by past chair members through facilitating helpful, knowledge concerning past actions. When I stepped up to serve I wanted to give back some of the benefits gained through unity and service. I am finding that I *continue* to benefit through this new line-up.

There are over 70 meetings a week with about two-dozen groups to choose from. A few of our long standing groups have closed their doors but new ones have opened as members moved to different, stronger groups. Some of these groups have added additional meeting times to our schedule and allow AA to grow.

So far in this rotation we have participated in the West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Conference in Casper, WY, and a Pre-Assembly in Boulder Hot Springs, MT. Our past DCM, Mary S., has taken a position as the Area Corrections Chair. She gave a great presentation at the Boulder Pre-Assembly, as well as a report for our first ever Teleconferenced Pre-Assembly (hosted by District 51). As fortune would work things out our District is on her committee. Very strong interest in this part of the service committees by our District Chairs, as well as past members, will certainly allow us to bring some strong cards to the Area Committee Table, and strengthen our endeavors.

We have increasing interest by several new to District participation groups with GSR's showing up at the District meetings. Some of these members join us this weekend with interest and support at the Area level. As anyone in any District knows, this is a chance to get to know your counterparts in other Districts and to continue to feel a part of the whole of AA. I trust that new relationships started here, within this structure, will allow us all to grow in the fellowship, and make this rotation one of great service to Area 40.

We will keep you informed about our upcoming Unity Campout.

Thank you, Lee T., District 41 DCM

### District 42

Good morning. We are still holding meetings in Browning, Chester, Choteau, Conrad, Cut Bank, East Glacier, Shelby, and Valier. The meetings are on the Area 40 website. District meets every 3rd Sunday.

The Lake Francis Roundup is scheduled for the weekend of July 24, 25, and 26.

We are still taking meetings into the CCA Prison in Shelby. It seems that our meetings are growing a little.

Please come and visit us if you get up that way. You can also check out the new wind farm between Shelby and Cut Bank.

In service, Gerald L., District 42 DCM

### District 51

District 51 has eight active groups, two inactive groups, and a couple of meetings held that are not connected to a group. One of the inactive groups has moved its time, day, and location to try to get started again; the other inactive group has decided to not be affiliated with AA. Four of the active groups have GSRs, three of whom are active in District. There are two daily meetings and on any given day a third

meeting is held somewhere. On Sunday the other meeting option is a jail meeting which requires prior approval. We have two speaker meetings a month; both groups are always looking for people willing to share their story of recovery. If you will be in the Havre vicinity on the third Sunday or on the last Friday night of the month, and are willing to speak, let us know.

All Committee Chairs and Service positions are filled and at least one committee actually has committee members! Our new CPC Chair plans to hold a first-ever or first annual CPC luncheon during the fall Havre AA mini-conference. The mini-conference dates are September 25-27. Our Grapevine Chair is sponsoring her sponsees into service by having them distribute old copies of the Grapevine. We have not had a Treatment Chair for at least two rotations, our new Treatment Chair is communicating with the two treatment centers located within District 51 on how AA can be of service to them. We have a tremendous PI Chair. All Committee Chairs have a heart for AA and are actively pursuing our 5<sup>th</sup> Tradition.

District 51 supports the toll-free AREA-wide hotline and has disconnected our local number and cell phone. This has resulted in a huge reduction in our monthly phone bill, thereby freeing up significant District funds to pursue other avenues to reach the still suffering alcoholic. This is why we can sponsor a luncheon for community professionals this fall.

For the first time in remembered history, District 51 sent their DCM to a Regional Service Conference. For that I thank them; it was a tremendous learning experience. And I thank Terry for asking me to give the report on the WCRAASC on Sunday of this Assembly.

District 51 held its first GSR school in February. It was well attended, and all in attendance learned something. The school was conducted by Joe H. from District 41.

We have moved our District Meeting site and time. Food being a bringer of people, we now hold our District meeting prior to the monthly pot-luck and speaker meeting held at the Alano Club on the third Sunday. Attendance has picked up. In May we will start to have someone share on a concept at our meetings.

District 51 also hosted the first-ever, first annual pre-assembly teleconference. Six of the fourteen Districts within our Area participated. All Area Chairs were able to share on their agenda items, there was time for questions and discussion, and the feedback was very positive. We have not received the bill from the teleconference company so we do not know the cost to our District yet; two Districts sent in 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition to help defray the cost. We would con-

(Continued on page 10)

(District 51 continued from page 9) sider hosting a teleconference pre-assembly again due to the reduction in travel expense, especially for the outlying groups and rural Districts.

Within our District, upcoming events include four camp-outs, held in June, July, August, and September. Be sure to watch the Triangle and the AREA website for those dates and locations. Last year we had visitors come from Colorado who learned of our party in the Grapevine. We have our Delegate, Carole, scheduled to visit us in October, and the mini-conference in September.

I believe we are a close-knit District. All groups have members who are active in the events held in the District. I am proud to service District 51 as their DCM.

Yours in service, BillJo D., DCM District 51

### District 61

I had the privilege and good luck in rotating in as DCM of a vital, lively district which was doing well when I got here, thanks to the untiring work of Tim M., my predecessor. The District has more than 100 regular meetings per week, with a lively rate of new meetings springing up as older meetings have quietly disappeared. There is healthy experimentation with new and different meetings: women's meetings, step and big book study meetings, and speaker meetings.

There are 27 or 28 groups which could send GSR's to District every month; in the past, 14 or 15 GSR's at a district meeting was considered a good turnout. At our last meeting, we had 22 GSR's in attendance and participating, as well as a healthy number of folks who just came for the entertainment.

Our 53<sup>rd</sup> annual Attitude of Gratitude last fall actually ran in the black without charging a registration fee; a committee is forming and plans are already underway to make this fall's event a success. We co-hosted both telephone conference and live, face to face Pre-assemblies in early April. The turnout was excellent, and I believe that the District 61 GSR's are as well-prepared for this Assembly as possible.

The District has strong connections with both the treatment system and with corrections. We are taking regular meetings into all three county jails, as well as the youth facility in Boulder, the Meth treatment facility also in Boulder, MCDC, the WATCH program, and Helena PreRelease center. On April 4<sup>th</sup>, we hosted our third Annual Treatment and Corrections workshop in Helena, with 110 professionals and alcoholics in attendance. This workshop had a profound affect on both the attending alco-

holics as well as the professionals – we really believe that this effort bridges a gap between the professionals who get an opportunity to see that the police officers, prosecutors, judges, prison administrators, treatment professionals and probation and parole officers are a vibrant, caring and integral part of recovery.

A signal event at the workshop occurred when successful graduates of the WATCH program were asked to stand. District Judge Dorothy McCarter, who sentences alcoholic felony DUI offenders to WATCH every week, was visibly moved by the number of sober men and women who stood in witness to the fact that this program works.

It is a privilege to be a part of the great bunch of recovering women and men who serve the communities of Helena, Boulder, Townsend, Lincoln and White Sulphur Springs. Alcoholism is a family disease; recovery is a community asset.

In Service, Tom D., DCM District 61

### District 71

My name is Kevin M. and I am the new DCM for District 71. We are blessed to have many correctional and treatment facilities to bring AA meetings to and, hopefully, "plant the seed". Being a DCM has been a great way to give back to AA and help other alcoholics in the way that AA has helped all of us when we walked into our first meeting.

Our district is located in southwest Montana and covers a large area. There are AA meetings in Anaconda, Butte, Deer Lodge, Drummond, Dillon, and many other small towns. There are 25 registered groups with a total of 83 registered meetings a week in our district. We hold our district meetings in Butte on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month at St. Anne's School at 8:10 p.m. Usually, around 15 people attend and we have all of our service positions filled.

I am grateful to be able to help carry the message into correctional and treatment facilities. AA meetings are held at Warm Springs, WATCH West and S.T.A.R.T. (which are located on the Warm Springs campus), the Butte jail, Montana Chemical Dependency Center (MCDC) which is in Butte, and the Montana State Prison (MSP). Weekly AA meetings include: a Warm Springs meeting on Tuesday at 6 pm; a WATCH program meeting at 7pm on Friday; Saturday mornings at the S.T.A.R.T. program at 9:45. Usually about 5-10 people attend. There are AA meetings at the Butte Silver Bow jail on Thursday from 7-9 pm. Every Saturday at 1 o'clock there are two meetings at MSP, one on the high-side and one on the low-side. Lastly, MCDC has AA

meetings every Saturday from 6 to approximately 7:30. Monthly AA meetings include: a Bridging the Gap meeting at the WATCH program on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 7 pm; a speaker meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 2:30 pm; a Bridging the Gap meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month at 7:15 pm at MCDC. Our district and District 61 hold a meeting on the first Saturday of every month at the prison. District 71 is a very active district that is devoted to service work. Therefore, at times things can get hectic, but somehow we always end up getting done what needs to be done.

On January 31<sup>st</sup> we held an AA professional luncheon in Butte at the War Bonnet Inn from 10 am – 2pm. We had 5 professional speakers that spoke about alcoholism in the field and what AA did for them. At the end there was a question and answer session that went well. Hopefully, every year we can get more professionals educated about Alcoholics Anonymous so that the still suffering alcoholic can find an easier path into AA. We had a great literature display that helped explain AA as a whole and I would like to thank Terry S., Peg H., and Teresa S. for helping make this luncheon a success.

On February 21<sup>st</sup> we hosted AA Day at St. Anne's Church Hall that went from 1 pm – 11 pm. Scott W. (past delegate) drove all the way over from Billings and gave an excellent GSR Workshop presentation. Thank you, Scott. There was a fantastic potluck that included K.O.A. chicken and barbecued ribs. Also, 25 people from the Connections-Corrections program (CCP) attended. They helped support the event by bringing two huge beautiful cakes. Also, there was an open AA meeting followed by a dance with a live band. All in all, it was a fund day with lots of sharing.

On February 28<sup>th</sup> we hosted a mandatory orientation to train AA servants on MCDC guidelines to, in turn, familiarize volunteers who are interested in attending AA meetings within the facility with these guidelines. MCDC will no longer have anything to do with hosting orientations; we will be responsible for this. There was a broad range of topics covered that included do's and don'ts, acceptable behavior and dress, appropriate discussion during AA meetings, and how to handle violations of signed policies. About 25 from District 41, 61, 72, and 71 attended.

And last, but not least, on April 5<sup>th</sup> our district, with the help of District 61, hosted a pre-assembly at Boulder Hot Springs from 12 to 4 pm. We had a pretty good turnout; I think about 35 people showed up and the weather couldn't have been any nicer. There was a ton of fabulous food, coffee, and ice cold water to tide us over and I

(Continued on page 11)

(District 71 continued from page 10) think we managed to get everything covered that we will be discussing this weekend. Lastly, I would like to thank Peg H. for all the wonderful baked goods, District 61 for help in making this a success, and to all the Area 40 chairs who showed up.

To sum things up, Tom S. (District Secretary), Peg H. (Alt. DCM) and I plan on attending most of the groups in our district to enlighten them about District 71 and to gain knowledge of how their groups function. Also, we plan on having a District Day sometime this summer at Washoe Park, hopefully a campout.

In service, Kevin M., District 71 DCM

## District 72

Quite a few new faces at District Meetings – rotation has brought in new GSRs, and some GSRs rotating into chair positions. I am happy to be rotating back into being involved at the District level.

District 72 ranges from West Yellowstone to the South, North to Wilsall, and West to Virginia City, East to Livingston. We have 89 meetings currently, in 13 towns.

So far this year, we were snowed out for our December meeting, so had a catch up meeting in January with reports from our outgoing trusted servants, and a GSR School by Lori F. for incoming GSRs.

In February, four of us from District 72 attended the West Central Regional Service Conference in Casper; I found it quite helpful in reporting back to my District in an informed way. I am planning on attending the 2009 Regional Forum in Minnesota. When I reported back that the 2010 Regional Forum topic is “Carrying the Message to the Native American Community”, that generated interest among our Native membership regarding participating in that Forum in some way.

We also had a number of District 72 members attend the Preconference Assembly meeting in Boulder, and again, I found that helpful in getting clarity on some of the more involved issues.

We have had very strong District attendance from our new GSRs- the enthusiasm is palpable, and it's been great to see such enthusiasm from new recruits. Also, our district chairs are keeping busy – we have busy treatment and institutions chairs, keeping meetings going into the jails, taking a meeting to pre-release group in Bozeman, and making trips to Butte and Deer Lodge to support those meetings. We have heavy attendance from WATCh program folks. Our Young People's meeting is thriving, which is good. We had a semester lapse in meetings at MSU due to a SNAFU in room reservations, but we now have a room reserved for

the next year, so we are set to resume M/W/F meetings on campus, which is great, because we have a lot of members in school or working at MSU.

I've started visiting our 89 meetings now, and am grateful to my employer who is letting me flex my schedule to go visit the distant meetings in our area.

We have a variety of upcoming events. Our Alano Club hosts quite a few events by groups, and our Young People's meeting is into its third year of having quarterly bonfire speaker meetings, which have had good attendance, even in the dead of winter. The next one is on May 2<sup>nd</sup>; Livingston is having a Traditions Workshop on May 16<sup>th</sup>; Carole is coming to give her Delegates report in June; the Pony Meeting has their annual picnic, I believe in July.

October 2-4, Friday, Saturday and Sunday is the Fall Roundup - Best Western Grantree Hotel - Bozeman

Yours in Service, Jennifer W., DCM District 72

## District 81

Greetings fellow Area 40 AA's, I'm Dan K. and I'm an alcoholic. I'm privileged and honored to be the DCM of District 81 and my home is in Missoula. Our district stretches west to Haugen and Thompson Falls, north to Polson, east to Seeley Lake and south to Missoula. We currently have 34 active groups on our schedule. There are 90 meeting opportunities per week on that schedule with 53 in Missoula and 37 in the outlying areas.

District 81 AA participation is awesome! We are blessed to have incredible enthusiasm both in meeting attendance and willingness to be of service. At a Sunday morning speaker meeting in Missoula, attendance averages 100 or more consistently. At the High Noon Group it's often times difficult to find a seat. The 8:00am Sunrise Group quite often numbers 80 or more. The Silvertip Group has had to expand to using two rooms instead of one. We've had many new groups continue to grow and old ones go through many great changes. The Missoula Group has had to share their meeting place space with a daytime homeless shelter and they have risen to that challenge very well. There isn't time to mention all our groups so I'll just say that we are very grateful to have such wonderful groups in District 81!

The fellowship of AA members in District 81 is also awesome! The AA family in our area is as diverse, loving, helpful and connected. We have a tremendous number of young people in our fellowship that help to keep us fresh and vibrant and we have lots of long term sobriety that helps to keep

us all growing. And there is so much variety in between that our AA family is very healthy. The fellowship of District 81 is a shining example of one alcoholic helping another just as Bill W. and Dr. Bob had hoped for!

I want to extend a very personal thank you to all the members of our District 81 fellowship who have given their time and energy to being of service to AA. Without you we could not stay glued together like we do. Service includes so many different things: meeting openers, coffee makers, group officers, GSR's, district chairs, individual sponsors, correction meeting sponsors, etc. You are so appreciated for all you do, thanks!

Since taking over as DCM we've been very busy in our district. Mike R., District 81 alternate DCM and I have been visiting the groups at a rate of three to four a month. At that rate we should get to all the groups at least twice in our rotation. I attended the West Central Regional Conference February 27-March 1 in Casper, Wy. and had a great time there. It was an experience I would repeat if I get the opportunity. It was especially nice to hang out with our Montana delegation that weekend.

Paula H. and I sat in on the pre-assembly teleconference on March 21 and enjoyed that experience. We had a cooperative District 93 and District 81 PI/GSR workshop in Lolo on March 28<sup>th</sup>. Our Area 40 PI chair Tim M. and our past Area 40 Delegate Mark S. were kind enough to do presentations at that workshop. It was a lot of fun and very informative, thank you both very much.

I am on the Spring 2009 Roundup committee and we have been very busy getting ready to have a great event for all of you April 24-26 in Missoula. I hope you are planning on attending and there are lots of registration forms and newcomer scholarship fliers on the back table for you to take with you. We are looking forward to our Area 40 Delegate Carole B. coming to Missoula on May 17 for our district meeting to give her Delegate's report after her return from New York. We are also planning our Annual Founder's Day Picnic for June 13 at Franklin Park in Missoula. We have a speaker/discussion panel before the picnic and a youngster/oldster softball game as a tradition. We've learned it's no fun if you don't have fun.

I'm grateful to be of service, happy trudging and God bless you all! Dan K., DCM District 81

## District 91

Greetings to all from District 91 in beautiful northwest Montana. Our district

(Continued on page 12)



(District 91 continued from page 11) covers the Tobacco and Flathead Valleys from Eureka on the Canadian border to Elmo on Flathead Lake. We are sober and well and excited to be thawing from a long winter. AA is thriving in our neck of the woods, and I feel privileged and honored to be a part of that.

There are approximately 21 registered groups in our area with 10 of these groups regularly attending our District meetings. These meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month at 3 PM. The location varies throughout the valley with different groups hosting each month.

The district meetings are chaired by the alternate DCM and include reports from each GSR, committee members, DCM and alternate DCM. We also include the concepts in each meeting. The short form of the concepts is read along with the steps, and the concept of the month is elaborated upon by a volunteer each month. I know that I have learned a lot from this process.

Our District voted to assist groups with financial need to send GSR's to Assembly this spring. My alternate DCM Sam B. contacted groups that weren't regularly at the District meetings and informed them of this opportunity. Unfortunately, we were only asked to assist 2 groups. I'm pleased we could help them, wish it were more. One of the many goals I have as DCM is to spread the joy of general service involvement and to increase participation at District and Area from our district's members. We'll keep working on it.

Our Delegate Carole B. will give her report to our district July 26. Time and location to be finalized soon. Stop by if you're in the neighborhood.

Our District's Into Action event in February was a great success. Great speakers (Donna H. and Chuck B.) great workshops and great potluck were enjoyed by many. Thanks to our Area Chair Terry S. for attending as well. I encourage all to attend next year.

I represented our district at the West Central Regional AA Service Conference in Casper, WY in February. It was very informative and a little bit scary. I was very impressed with the passion for AA that I witnessed. Of course I came back knowing lots more than when I started. I will also travel to St. Cloud, MN in September for the Regional Forum and I look forward to interact with GSO at that event.

There are numerous sober campouts planned in our outdoor paradise including my home group's Founders' Day campout at Tally Lake by Whitefish on June 12-14. Many of the campout details and dates are on the Area website. Our Intergroup also posts these on their website and has a flyer

for the whole summer. It is available at [www.aa-nw-mt.org](http://www.aa-nw-mt.org).

Thanks for allowing me to serve.  
Libbie L., DCM District 91

### District 93

Hello Area 40 Assembly, my name is Eric D. and I am an alcoholic. My sobriety date is July 29th, 2004. I think the district nominated and elected me DCM after I got up and went to the bathroom. When I came back-surprise! But I am grateful to be serving in this rotation and service has been a big part of this alcoholic's sobriety. Besides, my sponsor told me to do it!

We at District 93 are a team and our team consists of four officers (DCM, Alternate DCM, Secretary, and Treasurer) and ten District Chairs (Archives, CPC, Corrections, Grapevine, Literature, PI, Special Events, Tokens, Treatment, and Web Liaison).

District 93 starts at Lolo, which is 9 miles south of Missoula, and continues 50 or so miles and ends deep in the Bitterroot Valley at Darby/Conner. The District consists of 12 groups and 2 meetings with almost 100% participation at the District meetings every third Sunday of the month at the Victor Senior Center at 4:00 p.m.

Last month on March 28th we put on a GRS/PI workshop along with District 81. Thank you to Dan K., Tim M., Mark S., and all who participated. Our next big event will be the annual District 93 Campout on Father's Day weekend June 19th through the 21st. Our Area Delegate Carole will be giving her Delegate Report from New York lakeside Sunday morning at Painted Rocks Reservoir Campground. Flyers are on the table as well as a map on the back. All are invited and we have reserved most of the campsites. Look for the signs going up the West Fork off Highway 93 South.

Thanks goes out to many in the District, other Districts, and Area Chairs for helping me at what at first seemed like an overwhelming service position. I will be sure to stay in my chair during the next elections!

Yours in Service, Eric D., DCM District 93

### INTERGROUP REPORTS

#### Park County

We at Park County Intergroup are dedicated to carrying the message and providing fellowship events for the unity of the groups in the Park County area. We always refer to the A.A. Service Manual.

Park County Intergroup maintains a

phone information number, 406-223-6660, where we can give callers information on where the closest meeting is. We maintain a list of people to go on twelve step calls with the phone. We publish and distribute a meeting list of the meetings in all of Park County. We also put out a brochure called "Who Me".

We are planning a workshop in May on the Traditions. We had our annual corned beef and cabbage dinner last month. We are already geared up for our annual campout on July 10-12, 2009. At that we will have a potluck dinner at 5:30 pm with a speaker to follow at 7:30 pm. I brought flyers, or call Mark C. at 406-333-2321. We are expecting a big turn out this year, so now is not too early to register.

We also host an Alcathon on Christmas Eve through Christmas Day, and a party on New Year's Eve.

We have a medallion meeting every first Saturday of the month, where we give out medallions to whoever signs up for reaching a milestone in the last month. Then we have a speaker or callup meeting. We then have cake donated by a member (very good), and our business meeting follows, where we encourage every group in Park County to send someone, so we can plan what the groups want of us, while following the guidelines.

We now have a library of conference approved books in Park County and you can order any of the literature from us.

So other than not having a Public Information Committee and publishing a newsletter, we are fulfilling five of the seven things the Service Manual says we are to do.

Mary P., Park County Intergroup

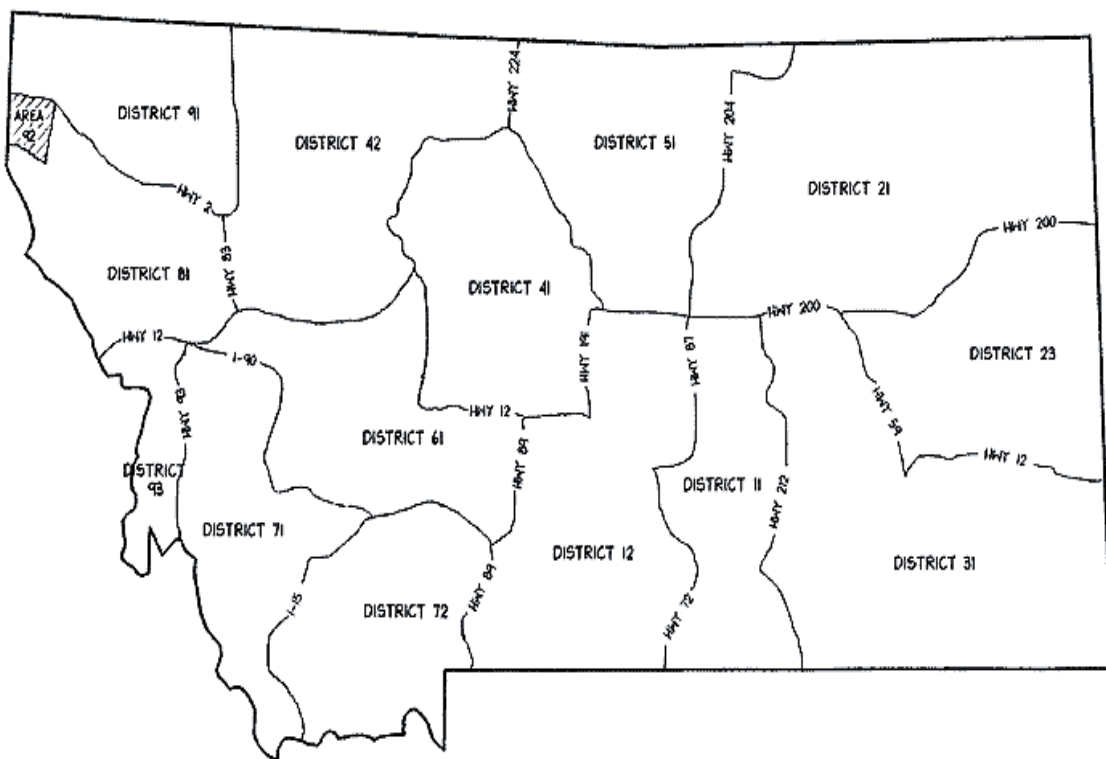
#### Self Support

Time for a split?

Send Area contributions to:  
Area 40, Inc.  
PO BOX 21577  
BILLINGS MT 59104

Send GSO contributions to:  
GSO  
PO BOX 459  
GRAND CENTRAL STATION  
NEW YORK NY 10163

- District 11—Billings
- District 12—Laurel
- District 21—Wolf Point, Glasgow
- District 23—Glendive
- District 31—Miles City
- District 41—Great Falls
- District 42—Cut Bank, Choteau, Shelby
- District 51—Havre
- District 61—Helena
- District 71—Butte
- District 72—Bozeman
- District 81—Missoula
- District 91—Kalispell, Whitefish, Eureka
- District 93—Bitterroot Valley



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**MCLEOD—Beartooth Mountain Conference—June 26-28—**[www.beartoothmountainconference.com](http://www.beartoothmountainconference.com)

**TALLY LAKE CAMPGROUND—Founders' Day Campout—June 12-14—**[aa-montana.org](http://aa-montana.org)

**HELENA—Grapefest—June 13—**[aa-montana.org](http://aa-montana.org)

**VIGILANTE CAMPGROUND(NEAR YORK)—Last Chance Group 23rd Annual Camping Trip—June 19-21—**[dcm61@aa-montana.org](mailto:dcm61@aa-montana.org)

**PAINTED ROCKS CAMPGROUND—Bitterroot Picnic & Campout—June 19-21—**[aa-montana.org](http://aa-montana.org)

**BOZEMAN—Founders' Day—June 20—**[dcm72@aa-montana.org](mailto:dcm72@aa-montana.org)

**AGENDA ITEMS DUE - FALL ASSEMBLY—July 1—Terry S.,** [chair@aa-montana.org](mailto:chair@aa-montana.org)

**PINE CREEK CAMPGROUND—Park County Intergroup Campout—July 10-11—**406-223-6660

**VALIER—Lake Francis Roundup—July 24-26—**[dcm42@aa-montana.org](mailto:dcm42@aa-montana.org)

**EMERY BAY CAMPGROUND—Flathead Valley Intergroup Campout—August 7-8—**[aa-montana.org](http://aa-montana.org)

**CAMP MARSHALL(WEST SHORE FLATHEAD LAKE)—Ray of Hope Camporee—September 4-6—**[dcm91@aa-montana.org](mailto:dcm91@aa-montana.org)

**ST CLOUD, MN—West Central Regional Forum—September 11-13—Carole B.,** [delegate@aa-montana.org](mailto:delegate@aa-montana.org)

**LEWISTOWN—Fall Assembly—September 18-19—Terry S.,** [chair@aa-montana.org](mailto:chair@aa-montana.org)

**BIG SKY—20th Annual Woman to Woman Big Sky Retreat—September 25-27—**[dcm72@aa-montana.org](mailto:dcm72@aa-montana.org)

**BOZEMAN—Fall Roundup—October 2-4—**[aa-montana.org](http://aa-montana.org)

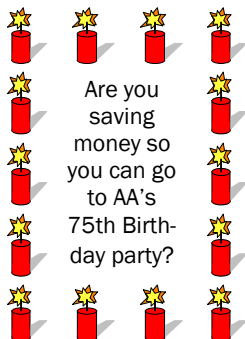
**LEWISTOWN—Spring Assembly—April 10-11., 2010—Terry S.,** [chair@aa-montana.org](mailto:chair@aa-montana.org)

**BILLINGS—Spring Roundup—May 14-16, 2010—Colby D.,** [dcm11@aa-montana.org](mailto:dcm11@aa-montana.org)

**SAN ANTONIO, TX—A.A.'s 75th Birthday Party—July 1-4, 2010—**[aa.org](http://aa.org)

**LEWISTOWN—Fall Assembly—September 11-12, 2010—Terry S.,** [chair@aa-montana.org](mailto:chair@aa-montana.org)

*If you would like your event listed here, please email the editor at [Triangle@aa-montana.org](mailto:Triangle@aa-montana.org) or send it to PO Box 542, Bozeman, MT 59771*



Are you saving money so you can go to AA's 75th Birthday party?

**AREA OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS, AND DCMS 2009-10**

POSITION	NAME	CITY	EMAIL	COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Delegate	Carole B.	Billings	<a href="mailto:delegate@aa-montana.org">delegate@aa-montana.org</a>	
AreaCh/Alt D	Terry S.	Helena	<a href="mailto:chair@aa-montana.org">chair@aa-montana.org</a>	
Secretary	April A.	Kalispell	<a href="mailto:secretary@aa-montana.org">secretary@aa-montana.org</a>	
Treasurer	Linda B.	Billings	<a href="mailto:treasurer@aa-montana.org">treasurer@aa-montana.org</a>	Del, Alt,
Archives	Tim H.	Kalispell	<a href="mailto:archives@aa-montana.org">archives@aa-montana.org</a>	DCMs-11, 71
CPC	Virginia R.	Shepherd	<a href="mailto:cpc@aa-montana.org">cpc@aa-montana.org</a>	DCMs-21, 51
Corrections	Mary S.	Great Falls	<a href="mailto:corrections@aa-montana.org">corrections@aa-montana.org</a>	DCMs-41,42
Grapevine	Richard K.	Billings	<a href="mailto:grapevine@aa-montana.org">grapevine@aa-montana.org</a>	DCMs-81, 91
Literature	Lori F.	Ennis	<a href="mailto:literature@aa-montana.org">literature@aa-montana.org</a>	DCMs-12, 31
Public Info.	Tim M.	Helena.	<a href="mailto:pi@aa-montana.org">pi@aa-montana.org</a>	DCMs-23, 93
Treatment	Paula H.	Missoula	<a href="mailto:treatment@aa-montana.org">treatment@aa-montana.org</a>	DCM-61
Triangle Ed.	Sharon S.	Bozeman	<a href="mailto:triangle@aa-montana.org">triangle@aa-montana.org</a>	
DCM 11	Colby D.	Billings	<a href="mailto:dcm11@aa-montana.org">dcm11@aa-montana.org</a>	Archives
DCM 12	Nick D.	Roberts	<a href="mailto:dcm12@aa-montana.org">dcm12@aa-montana.org</a>	Literature
DCM 21	Rob P.	Malta	<a href="mailto:dcm21@aa-montana.org">dcm21@aa-montana.org</a>	CPC
DCM 23	Mike M.	Sidney	<a href="mailto:dcm23@aa-montana.org">dcm23@aa-montana.org</a>	Public Info.
DCM 31	Jim G.	Miles City	<a href="mailto:dcm31@aa-montana.org">dcm31@aa-montana.org</a>	Literature
DCM 41	Lee T.	Great Falls	<a href="mailto:dcm41@aa-montana.org">dcm41@aa-montana.org</a>	Corrections
DCM 42	Gerry L.	Shelby	<a href="mailto:dcm42@aa-montana.org">dcm42@aa-montana.org</a>	Corrections
DCM 51	BilliJo D.	Havre	<a href="mailto:dcm51@aa-montana.org">dcm51@aa-montana.org</a>	CPC
DCM 61	Tom D.	Helena	<a href="mailto:dcm61@aa-montana.org">dcm61@aa-montana.org</a>	Treatment
DCM 71	Kevin M.	Anaconda	<a href="mailto:dcm71@aa-montana.org">dcm71@aa-montana.org</a>	Archives DR Grapevine
DCM 72	Jennifer W.	Bozeman	<a href="mailto:dcm72@aa-montana.org">dcm72@aa-montana.org</a>	Finance
DCM 81	Dan K.	Missoula	<a href="mailto:dcm81@aa-montana.org">dcm81@aa-montana.org</a>	Grapevine
DCM 91	Libbie L.	Kalispell	<a href="mailto:dcm91@aa-montana.org">dcm91@aa-montana.org</a>	Grapevine DR Archives
DCM 93	Eric D.	Lolo	<a href="mailto:dcm93@aa-montana.org">dcm93@aa-montana.org</a>	Public Info.
Advisor	Andrew W.	Missoula	<a href="mailto:advisor@aa-montana.org">advisor@aa-montana.org</a>	
Archivist	Gerry R.	Clancy	<a href="mailto:archivist@aa-montana.org">archivist@aa-montana.org</a>	
Webmaster	Alex M.	Helena	<a href="mailto:webmaster@aa-montana.org">webmaster@aa-montana.org</a>	



(Spring Assembly continued from page 1) problems with the sound system. We had long discussions at the microphones, in which divergent points of view were passionately and sometimes eloquently set forth. We also had confusion and uncertainty about what particular items actually meant and how we were to proceed.

Sometimes a "Joe and Charlie" comment applied to how we were proceeding: "We may be lost, but we're makin' good time!"

It was both the best and the worst of times (to steal a phrase from Dickens). We saw at least two of us return after visits to the hospital, to resume our participation in the Assembly despite illness and injury. Some of us lost our tempers, but then one of us made amends to the assembly from one of our working microphones, while many of us resumed cooperative efforts after our clashes.

On Sunday morning, with 2 hours left for completing our committee reports to the floor AND still to leave time for general sharing at the close of our business, we had completed 26 of our committee agenda items and still had 41 of the items to go. Lack of time, that was our dilemma.

In remarkable cooperative spirit, the participants, from the floor and from the microphones, continued to be painstaking, but did it faster. Perhaps we had learned much about the process on Saturday, maybe some of us were just getting tired, but somehow we completed our 41 items, with discussion, with votes and with shows of hand to give Carole a sense of how we stood on items. We had a brief general sharing session and came together in the Serenity Prayer. The Assembly ended just minutes before our noon closing time.

Bill W. wrote about participating in recovery. What he wrote can apply equally to each of our 3 legacies, including service. To watch A.A. members at an Assembly, helping each other, reaching out to work together instead of pulling separately in opposite directions, to experience the fellowship of this cooperative effort and to be part of that process. This is an experience you must not miss. Way to go, Area 40!

Terry S., Area Chair/Alternate Delegate

(Editor Continued from page 1)

of the assembly on those items that were most likely to involve a vote. We were clearly in favor of some, clearly opposed to others, and clearly divided on some! Be sure to attend a Delegate's Report meeting in your area to hear how the conference voted and to join in discussion about how to better serve the alcoholic who still suffers.

Reports from all of the Area standing committee chairs; the DCM's, except one

who was sick; and the Park County Inter-group are in this issue. Read the minutes which will be out soon for more detailed Financial Reports, Roundup Committee Reports, standing committee meeting reports, and breakout session reports.

I've had a couple of great AA weeks. After the Assembly, I joined over 600 alcoholics and Al-Anons at the spring roundup in Missoula. It was very successful. The free registration for newcomers attracted lots of new people and a good time was had by all.

The next issue of the Triangle will be a June-July issue. We'll have some information from the General Service Conference and will focus on how some of the decisions will help us better carry our message. Please send your articles by May 20.

Also in the June-July issue, the Triangle will start the process of taking its inventory. If you have any questions you would like to have included, please contact me. My phone number, mailing address and email address are on page 14.

If you are reading this and your group isn't receiving a Triangle, please contact me. I am working at getting the mailing list current. My goal is for every group to receive a Triangle, but I need your help getting the address list updated. Thanks.

Serving as the Triangle Editor is a great honor. I am having a good time with the job

and I am grateful to be able to serve.  
Sharon S., Triangle Editor

### Concepts Checklist

The Concepts Checklist is service material from the General Service Office for home groups, districts areas. Some of these discussion points were originally developed by an A.A. group and further developed by the trustees' Literature Committee to be distributed by the General Service Office.

**Concept V:** Throughout our structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.

- Do we encourage the minority opinion, the "Right of Appeal", to be heard at our home group, district committee meetings, area assemblies and the Conference?
- What does our group accept as "substantial unanimity"?
- Has our group experienced the "tyranny of the majority" or the "tyranny of the minority"?
- Does our group understand the importance of all points of view being heard before a vote is taken?

### Budget vs Actual by Committee

	Jan 1 - April 13, 2009	Annual Budget
<b>Expenses by Program/Committee</b>		
Spring Assembly	\$304.02	\$5,000.00
Fall Assembly	\$0.00	\$4,750.00
Regional Service Conference	\$721.07	\$1,800.00
Regional Forum	\$0.00	\$1,800.00
Regional Trustee	\$0.00	\$750.00
Delegate Expenses	\$3,376.44	\$5,889.00
Area Chair	\$233.42	\$1,000.00
Archives Chair	\$1,245.00	\$3,850.00
Corrections Chair	\$0.00	\$250.00
CPC Chair	\$64.20	\$250.00
GrapeVine Chair	\$0.00	\$250.00
Literature Chair	\$267.76	\$850.00
Public Information Chair	\$400.50	\$1,450.00
Treatment Chair	\$0.00	\$250.00
Secretary	\$0.00	\$300.00
Treasurer	\$467.56	\$400.00
Website	\$0.00	\$150.00
Triangle	\$748.51	\$1,950.00
Program Services - Other	\$15.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Program/Committee Expense</b>	<b>\$7,843.48</b>	<b>\$30,939.00</b>
% of year elapsed	28.33%	
% of actual to budget	25.35%	

**AREA 40 TRIANGLE**

PO BOX 542  
BOZEMAN MT 59771

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