

THE TRIANGLE

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2009

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FROM YOUR EDITOR

Hello Friends! Summer is flying by with lots of A.A. get-togethers (campfire humor on page 7). We'll soon be gathering in Lewistown for the Area Assembly September 19-20. The agenda is included in this issue.

There are two new groups in Area 40 and we welcome them on page 5. Perhaps some of you will get a chance to visit one or both and I hope we'll all get a chance to welcome them to the fall Assembly.

Please check your address block on the back page. The date (month-year) above the group (or individual) name is the subscription expiration date. If your subscription has expired, please consider renewing it! The subscription form is on the back page.

Thank you for allowing me to serve in this awesome, fun job.

Your editor,
Sharon S.

OPPORTUNITY FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

In 1958, Bill W. spoke about a particular General Service Conference that held hope and was filled with promise because it had trouble and "converted that trouble into an asset, into some growth, and into a great promise." *As Bill Sees It*, p. 82. Area 40's trusted servants, in this rotation, may well have a similar opportunity to turn trouble into an asset and into growth, and perhaps even into a great promise.

This fall in Lewistown, in addition to reviewing what happened at this year's General Service Conference, we have a bevy of "local" (Area 40) matters. We have questions about where to hold and how to host both a local forum and the 2012 West Central Regional Service Conference. We have agenda items about Area funding our Archives displays at group/district events, changing how we nominate our Area standing committee chairs, standardizing agenda items in a particular format, adding additional duties and qualifying requirements to some of our Area officers' job descriptions, and clarifying how Area funds the costs of our standing committee chairs and officers attending

pre-assemblies. In addition, we have further reports on our Area Hot Line, a report on an inventory of the Triangle's effectiveness and purpose, and the annual job of preparing our budget for next year.

Many of these matters could divide us. We could disagree, in good faith, about what is best for AA in Area 40. We could disagree, vehemently, about what will best serve the still suffering alcoholic. But, to paraphrase what Bill said in 1958, if our Assembly is ruffled, if individual participants are deeply disturbed, that will be fine. Just like the New England town meeting democracy upon which Bill modeled our formal service structure, friction of opposing viewpoints is the very method of operation upon which we proceed.

With the help of our Higher Power, we can arrive at a true group conscience on each of the issues we must decide. We prefer near unanimity, where everyone is comfortable with the outcome even if not all of us are in full agreement. We know that the good can be the enemy of the best, and sometimes it can be better to postpone a decision

instead of adjourning with a very unhappy minority. Here are some tools we might pray to keep in mind:

- Help us to listen instead of engaging in side conversations
- Help us hear with an open mind, before reacting
- Remind us to encourage newer folks to share
- May we speak up and share our concerns and questions – clearly and succinctly
- Let us hear all points of view and encourage any silent minority to speak
- Help us be wary of dominant personalities or powerful advocates and move slowly
- Please keep us from rash or rushed decisions – again, help us slow down
- Give us the strength to avoid pointing fingers
- Grant us the clarity not to take things personally
- Keep in our minds the truth – we are all here because we care about AA.

Terry S., Area 40 Chair/
Alternate Delegate

GREETINGS FROM OUR DELEGATE

Greetings Area 40!
September 11 – 13 in St. Cloud Minnesota, the West Central Regional Forum will take place. The preliminary schedule indicates it will be a very informative event. Ward Ewing, our

new Chairman of the Board, and Phyllis H., our new General Manager will be in attendance. There will be several workshops and sharing sessions. There will even be a skit on the 2010 International Convention!

Speaking of the 2010 International Convention, registration will begin this Fall on the website www.aa.org. Once registered, you will then be provided information on obtaining hotel reservations. San Antonio is a great place to

(Continued on page 7)

**YOGO INN
LEWISTOWN, MONTANA
SEPTEMBER 19-20, 2009**

Friday, September 18, 2009 - Sapphire Rooms

AA meeting starting at 7:30 p.m. (This meeting is held separately from the Assembly. This meeting is self-supporting. Expenses include room rent and coffee/tea.)

SATURDAY SESSION – September 19, 2009

7:30/8:00 GSR's and visitors sign in with their District's DCM. *(DCM's please give the sign in sheets to the Area Secretary no later than 10:00 a.m.)*

8:00/9:30 **Welcome** – Serenity Prayer, Traditions, and Concepts
Roll Call – by Area Secretary, April A.
Orientation to the Assembly – Area Delegate, Carole B.
Reports from the Area Committee Members
 Area Chair*
 Area Secretary*
 Area Treasurer*
 Triangle Editor*
 Area Standing Service Committee Chairs*
 DCM's*
 Area Archivist*
 Area Webmaster*

9:30/9:45 **Coffee Break**

9:45/10:45 **Delegate's Report** – Area Delegate, Carole B.

10:45/12:00 **Standing Committee Meetings:**

- Grapevine/Policy & Admissions Room 412
- Literature Snowy
- Public Information/Report..... Judith
- Treatment/Agenda Moccasin
- Archives/Structure Kendall Room
- Corrections/Intn'l-Regional Forums Terrace Room
- CPC/Trustees Room 310
- Finance Gypsum Room

(IF YOUR COMMITTEE FINISHES ITS BUSINESS DURING THIS SESSION, PLEASE NOTIFY THE AREA CHAIR OR SECRETARY)

Workshop for those not attending committee meetings

Led by Loren B., Past Delegate:

“Practicing These Principles in All Our ‘Service Affairs.’”

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

1:30/2:45 **Standing Committee Meetings** *(continued—see room assignments above)*

Workshop for those not attending committee meetings

Led by Earl F., Past Delegate:

“This We Owe to AA's Future”

2:45/3:30 **West Central Regional Trustee Sharing** – Ken B.

3:30/3:45 **Coffee Break**

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- 3:45/5:15 **Floor Assembly – Committee Reports/Motions and Discussion**
 - Grapevine/Policy & Admissions..... Rich K.
 - Literature..... Lori F.
 - Public Information/Report & Charter Tim M.
 - Treatment/Agenda Paula H.
 - Archives/Structure..... Tim H.
 - Corrections/Intn'l-Regional Forums Mary S.
 - CPC/Trustees..... Virginia R.
 - Finance..... Linda B.
- 5:15/7:00 **Recess for Dinner**
- 7:00/8:15 **Floor Assembly / Committee Reports-Motions and Discussion (continued)**
- 8:15-8:30 **Coffee Break**
- 8:30/10:00 **GSR Breakout** – Led by Past Delegate Earl F.: Ask-it-basket questions and sharing
- DCM Breakout** – Led by Past Delegate Loren B: Ask-it-basket questions and sharing

SUNDAY SESSION – September 21, 2009

- 8:00/8:30 ***Roundup Reports: Spring 2009 Missoula; Fall 2009 Bozeman; Spring 2010 Billings**
- *Intergroup Reports**
- 9:00/9:30 **Past Delegate Sharing** – Earl F.
- 9:30/10:00 **Past Delegate Sharing** – Loren B.
- 10:00/10:15 **Coffee Break**
- 10:45/12:00 **Continue Floor Assembly / Committee Reports – Recommendations – Discussion, General Sharing**

ADJOURN / DRIVE SAFELY!!!

*** Reports:** 5-minute time limit with two written copies given to the Area Secretary.

Floor comments are requested to take no longer than 3 minutes

AS OF MAY 1, 2008, THE YOGO INN IS A NON-SMOKING FACILITY INCLUDING THE STAIRS OF THE MAIN ENTRY WAY. YOUR THOUGHTFUL COMPLIANCE AND COURTESY ARE APPRECIATED.

The following is a list of agenda items and the Area Committees they have been assigned to for review. All items originate in Area 40 (including the items about review of what the General Service Conference did this last spring, which is our chance to look at whether we want to respond to any GSC action or inaction).

The Committee Chairs and DCMs were sent a list of agenda items with, in most instances, corresponding background information by July 15. This information is then passed on to other members of those committees and to GSRs in the districts and other interested members of our Fellowship for research, review and discussion, in turn providing for a well-informed *conscience/decision*. If your Group has any comments, questions, and concerns or would like copies of any background information please contact the appropriate Area Committee Chair or your DCM. Your DCM has the names, phone numbers and addresses of the Area Committee (which also appear in the *Triangle*) or you can email them through the Area's website www.aamontana.org should you need them. (**NOTE:** the process by which items are submitted, dispersed, considered and brought to the Assembly is detailed in the **Area 40 Committee System Policies & Procedures** manual which is available through your DCM and on the Area web site).

Review Concepts I, II, III, X, XII and Tradition 2 for a clearer understanding of the above process.

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

Grapevine/Policy & Admissions (GSC) – Rich K.

Grapevine

- A. Review the items on the 2009 GSC Agenda in Grapevine and the action or inaction upon each item.

Policy & Admissions (GSC)

- A. Review the items on the 2009 GSC Agenda in Policy & Admission and the action or inaction upon each item.

Literature – Lori F.

- A. Review the items on the 2009 GSC Agenda in Literature and the action or inaction upon each item.

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Public Information/Report & Charter – Tim M.

Public Information

- A. Review the items on the 2009 GSC Agenda in PI and the action or inaction upon each item.
- B. Discuss the status of the Area 40 Toll Free Hot Line.

Report & Charter

- A. Review the items on the 2009 GSC Agenda in Report & Charter and the action or inaction upon each item.

Treatment/Agenda – Paula H.

Treatment

- A. Review the items on the 2009 GSC Agenda in Treatment and the action or inaction upon each item.

Agenda

- A. Consider implementation of a standardized format for submission of Agenda Items to Area 40, including the following header items, to facilitate intent, benefits, funding, background, and reasoning for proposed change: “(1) Describe Your Proposal; (2) List the Primary Benefits to the Area; (3) Estimate of funding required; (4) Additional Background; (4) How did the Proposed Change come to be; (5) Why should the change be made; (6) Final Comment.”
- B. Review the items on the 2009 GSC Agenda in Agenda and the action or inaction upon each item.

Archives/Area 40 Structure & Policy – Tim H.

Archives

- A. Consider budgeting \$1000.00 per year to the Archives Committee, for defraying reasonable and proper expenses of the Archivist for travel and display of Area Archives at AA Functions (including group/district/regional events) within Area 40, limited to three (3) activities per year on a first come first serve basis by requesting group/district on a rotating basis.
- B. Review the items on the 2009 GSC Agenda in Archives and the action or inaction upon each item.

Area 40 Structure & Policy

- A. Consider modifying the Area 40 election procedure to require that all nominations for Area Standing Committee Chairs and for the Triangle Editor be made by the District Committee Members (or the alternate in the absence of that DCM), with each district making not more than one nomination for a particular position.
- B. Consider changing Paragraph G10.12 of the Area Policy and Procedures Manual to read “The Triangle Editor must be computer literate with knowledge of word processing software. If necessary, Area 40 will provide the Editor with a computer, printer, scanner and all software necessary to produce the Triangle.”
- C. Consider changing the last sentence in paragraph G 11.4 of the Area Policy and Procedures Manual to read “The Secretary must be computer literate with knowledge of word processing software.”
- D. Consider adding a guideline to the Area Secretary at G 11 of the Area Policy and Procedures Manual to read “The Secretary will serve as the Area Registrar and be responsible for updating GSO’s database, Fellowship New Vision (FNV). As Registrar, the Secretary will update group, district and Area information and work closely with each DCM to assure the Area groups are receiving correspondence from the General Service Office.”
- E. Consider adding a guideline to the Area Chair at G 13 of the Area Policy and Procedures Manual to read “Shall work throughout the rotation with the Area Standing Committee Chairs and the Triangle Editor regarding succession planning for the next rotation and with the Chairs and Editor will seek out persons interested and knowledgeable to stand for election in the next rotation.
- F. Consider adding a line item for pre-assemblies to the Area 40 budget, to defray the expenses of Area Officers and Chairs for participation in three (3) pre-assemblies each spring, one in each generalized portion of the Area – Eastern, Central and Western Montana – either face to face or by teleconference (per the host district’s preference for each pre-assembly each year, keeping in mind expenses), with the districts in each portion conferring and deciding whether to hold such a pre-assembly and, if it will be held, which district will host it.
- G. Review the Triangle inventory.

Corrections/International Conventions-Regional Forums – Mary S.

Corrections

- A. Review the items on the 2009 GSC Agenda in Corrections and the action or inaction upon each item.

International Conventions-Regional Forums

- A. Review the items on the 2009 GSC Agenda in IC-RF and the action or inaction upon each item.
- B. Consider responses to the passed recommendation, at the Spring 2009 Area 40 Assembly, that the Corrections Committee request a Local Forum on Corrections from the General Service Office to be held in the spring of 2011 in Great Falls, and that any district wanting to place a bid for location as well as suggest theme(s) other than Corrections for this Local Forum may submit same to our Area Chair by July 1, 2009.
- C. Consider including Miles City as a second location along with Great Falls for a 2 day Local Forum event for Spring 2011.

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- D. Discuss how Area 40 should begin preparing for the 2012 West Central Regional AA Service Conference (what deadline for districts to submit requests to host, how to research the appropriate guidelines, etc., and who will be responsible for early planning and preparation).

CPC/Trustees – Virginia R.

CPC

- A. Review the items on the 2009 GSC Agenda in CPC and the action or inaction upon each item.

Trustees

- A. Review the items on the 2009 GSC Agenda in Trustees and the action or inaction upon each item.

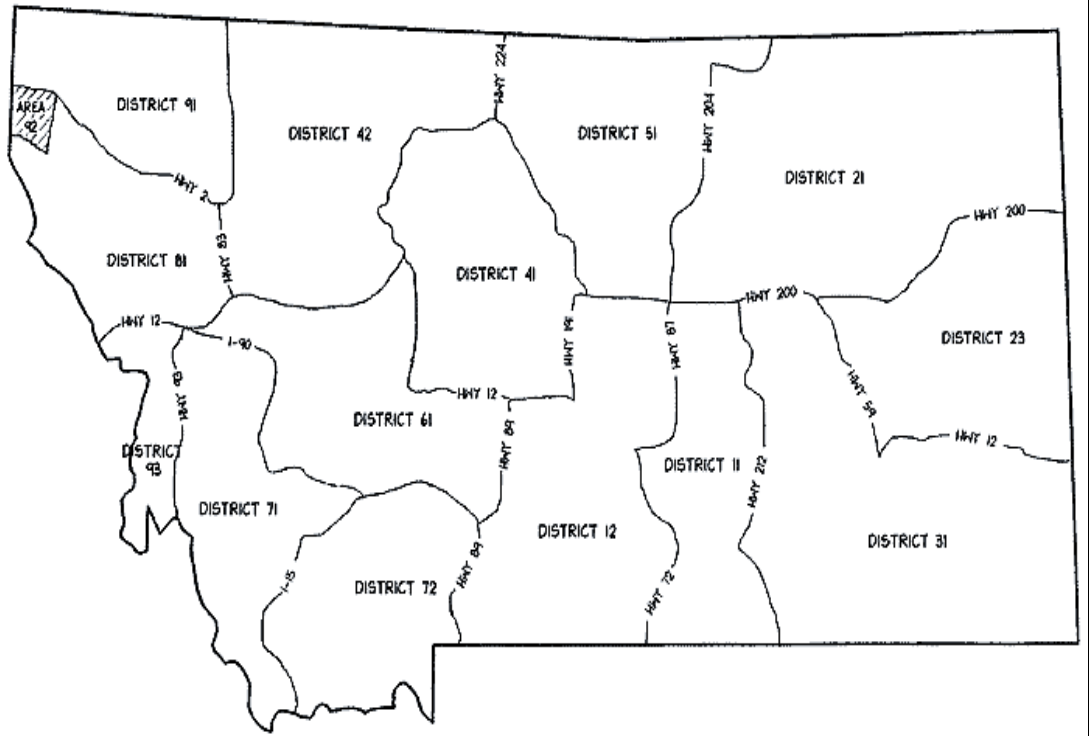
Finance – Linda B.

- A. Review the items on the 2009 GSC Agenda in Finance and the action or inaction upon each item.
- B. Prepare and propose the 2010 Area 40 Budget, with consideration of additional expenses incurred should any or all of the agenda items in other committees that have expense factors pass.

Spring Assembly - April 9-11, 2009

AREA MAP

- 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



WELCOME NEW AREA 40 GROUPS

Two new groups have recently registered with the General Service Office. Please join us in welcoming them!

Insanely Sober Women's Group - Helena, meets Saturday 11 am at the Wilson House 1376 Linden, GSR is Jo G.

New Hope Group – Poplar, meets Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 7 pm at 603 1/2 Court Ave; GSR is John D.



AREA OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS, AND DCM'S 2009-10

POSITION	NAME	EMAIL	COMMITTEE MEM-
Delegate	Carole B.	delegate@aa-montana.org	
AreaCh/Alt D	Terry S.	chair@aa-montana.org	
Secretary	April A.	secretary@aa-montana.org	
Treasurer	Linda B.	treasurer@aa-montana.org	Del, Alt,
Archives	Tim H.	archives@aa-montana.org	DCMs-11, 71
CPC	Virginia R.	cpc@aa-montana.org	DCMs-21, 51
Corrections	Mary S.	corrections@aa-montana.org	DCMs-41,42
Grapevine	Richard K.	grapevine@aa-montana.org	DCMs-81, 91
Literature	Lori F.	literature@aa-montana.org	DCMs-12, 31 DRs-91, 93
Public Info.	Tim M.	pi@aa-montana.org	DCMs-23, 93
Treatment	Paula H.	treatment@aa-montana.org	DCM-61 DRs-21, 41, 71
Triangle Ed.	Sharon S.	triangle@aa-montana.org	
DCM 11	Colby D.	dcm11@aa-montana.org	Archives DR Finance
DCM 12	Nick D.	dcm12@aa-montana.org	Literature DR Public Info.
DCM 21	Rob P.	dcm21@aa-montana.org	CPC DR Treatment
DCM 23	Mike M.	dcm23@aa-montana.org	Public Info. DR Archives
DCM 31	Jim G.	dcm31@aa-montana.org	Literature DR Corrections
DCM 41	Lee T.	dcm41@aa-montana.org	Corrections DR Treatment
DCM 42	Gerry L.	dcm42@aa-montana.org	Corrections DR CPC
DCM 51	BilliJo D.	dcm51@aa-montana.org	CPC DR Public Info.
DCM 61	Tom D.	dcm61@aa-montana.org	Treatment DR Grapevine
DCM 71	Kevin M.	dcm71@aa-montana.org	Archives DR Grapevine
DCM 72	Jennifer W.	dcm72@aa-montana.org	Finance DR Corrections
DCM 81	Dan K.	dcm81@aa-montana.org	Grapevine DR CPC
DCM 91	Libbie L.	dcm91@aa-montana.org	Grapevine, DR Archives, DR Literature
DCM 93	Eric D.	dcm93@aa-montana.org	Public Info. DR Literature
Advisor	Andrew W.	advisor@aa-montana.org	
Archivist	Gerry R.	archivist@aa-montana.org	
Webmaster	Alex M.	webmaster@aa-montana.org	

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visit and the host committee is excited to have the 60,000 plus alcoholics come for a visit.

The Fall Assembly is the weekend following the Forum. Ken B., our West Central Regional Trustee, will join us. He will be back from the summer General Service Board weekend and very willing to answer questions we might have for him.

I hope to see as many of you at the Forum and the Assembly.

Yours in Love and Service

Carole B., Area 40 Delegate

CAMPFIRE HUMOR

Heard around the AA campfire:

10. A plastic sheet on the bed can save a mattress.
9. You can drink 17 near beers on antabuse before getting sick— on the other hand, one might kill you.
8. Being homeless in Montana isn't bad until November.
7. U.S. marshals are authorized to shoot you in the back.
6. Anybody might get one DUI, not everybody gets 13 of them.
5. An aversion treatment might only work for green Gatorade.
4. A railroad bridge is quieter to sleep under than an interstate bridge.
3. Putting a shot of whiskey in your chew will mess up a Breathalyzer.
2. If your going to escape from a mental institution, do it before they give you medication.
1. I'm an alcoholic.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EMERY BAY CAMPGROUND—Flathead Valley Intergroup Campout—August 7-8—Larry P.

FIREMAN'S POINT (South of Columbus)—Fireman's Point Campout—August 21-23—Nick D., Sandy A .

WILLOW SPRINGS CAMPGROUND (Pintler View Scenic Route Hwy 1 W)—District 71 Delegates Day/Campout—August 28-30—Kevin, Jeff

CAMP MARSHALL (West Shore Flathead Lake)—Ray of Hope Camporee—September 4-6—Katrina

ST CLOUD, MN—West Central Regional Forum—September 11-13—Carole B.

LEWISTOWN—Fall Assembly—September 18-19—Terry S.

BIG SKY—20th Annual Woman to Woman Big Sky Retreat—September 25-27—Thora C.

HAVRE—Havre Mini Conference—September 25-27—Brigid F., BilliJo D.

BOZEMAN—Fall Roundup—October 2-4—Arch W.

LEWISTOWN—Spring Assembly—April 10-11., 2010—Terry S.

BILLINGS—Spring Roundup—May 14-16, 2010—Colby D.

SAN ANTONIO, TX—A.A.'s 75th Birthday Party "A Vision for You"—July 1-4, 2010—www.aa.org

LEWISTOWN—Fall Assembly—September 11-12, 2010—Terry S.

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?

Concept VI: The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.

- Are we familiar with how our General Service Board (G.S.B.) Class A and Class B trustees serve A.A.? Are we familiar with how our other trusted servants serve A.A.?
- Are we clear about the terms, "chief initiative" and "active responsibility"?
- Can we see a direct link to our home group?

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

Please send information on your upcoming AA event to:

Triangle@aa-montana.org

or

PO Box 542

Bozeman MT 59771

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION UPDATE

Watch your mail box for the registration packet (to be mailed in August); registration and housing reservations will open September 1

Area 40 Triangle
PO Box 542
Bozeman MT 59771

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TRIANGLE SUBSCRIPTION FORM

If you would like a subscription for yourself, a friend or your group, please return this form.

The cost of the Triangle is \$10 per year.

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Make checks payable to Area 40.

Group Name _____

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Number of subscriptions _____
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Subscription Information:

Groups are encouraged to be self-supporting for their Triangle subscription fee. Groups will receive the Triangle regardless of subscription status because of Past Actions of the Area Assembly.