

October 2009

Volume 17 Issue 7

The Triangle

Not a Glum Lot

Receiving an 'arrrrr' from the Area Delegate during roll call for the Area 40 Fall Assembly, the secretary found all officers and area chairs present and 14 districts represented, Captain Pirate Delegate Carole informed us it was International Talk Like a Pirate Day and we had a lively interactive assembly orientation with prizes for people who were able to remember what some of the AA acronyms mean! Ask your GSR or DCM if they were one of the lucky ones who received some pirate booty.

Sprinkled with a bit of pirate-speak that brought smiles to our faces, the area officers, committee chairs, DCM's, Archivist and Web master gave their reports. The Delegate then gave her report. The standing committees met and concurrent workshops were conducted by past delegates for members and visitors not participating in a committee meeting.

Our West Central Regional Trustee shared and GSR and DCM breakouts ended a long day!

Sunday morning included past and future roundup committee reports, intergroup reports and sharing by past delegates.

Standing committees reviewed General Service Conference action/inaction on related agenda items and, with two exceptions, took no action. The finance committee decided to develop a survey as a result of conference advisory actions from the trustees' Finance Committee.

The assembly passed motions to:

- implement a standardized form to use to submit Agenda Items
- include \$500 in the Archivist budget for travel to district events
- add Registrar responsibilities to the Area Secretary guidelines
- request a 2 day Local Forum on Corrections for the spring of 2011, to be held in Great Falls and Miles City
- pass the 2010 Area 40 Budget

The assembly took no action on the following items to:

- modify Area 40 nomination procedures
- require computer literacy for the Triangle Editor and Area Secretary
- include succession planning for the next rotation for the Area Chair
- add a line item for pre-assemblies to the budget

The assembly took no action on a motion from the CPC committee regarding General Service Board vacancies.

Committees discussed the following items with decisions to proceed:

- The Finance Committee will develop a survey to respond to the Trustees' Finance Committee recommendations to gather

(Continued on page 15)

Sold Out

AA's, Al-Anons, and Alateens from around the state gathered together for the Fall 2009 Roundup in Bozeman October 2-4. Over 400 people registered by Friday evening and the hotel's meeting capacity was maxed!

A great time was had by all. There were great speakers, panels, marathon meetings and, of course, food and dance! Thanks to the committee for all the enthusiasm and gratitude in action!!

Area Wins Bid

The membership body of the National AA Archives Workshop (NAW) selected Area 40 for its 15th annual event in September 2011.

NAW is committed to helping Alcoholics Anonymous Archivists work within the service structure of Alcoholics Anonymous and honor the spiritual principles of our Fellowship. The workshop is an open, service oriented event hosted on an annual basis by a host committee chosen through an open bidding process.

(Continued on page 15)

Finance Survey

In response to the action of the 59th General Service Conference, the Trustees' Finance Committee is gathering input from the Fellowship for review by the 2010 Conference Committee on Finance. The input is being sought regarding literature profits and communication with the Fellowship regarding finance.

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Abundance	3
Committee Report Highlights	4
Past Delegates Share	5
Area Chair Report Highlights	5
Committee Chair Report Highlights	5-8
Workshops	8
DCM & GSR Breakouts	8-9
Area Map	9
Roundup Reports	9
DCM Report Highlights	9-12
Flathead Valley Intergroup Report	12
Welcome New Groups	12
Calendar of Events	13
International Convention Update	13
Wanted: Host City for 2012 WCRAASC	13
Corrections Service Opportunity	13
Area Officers, Committee Chairs, DCM's	14

From your editor:

Arr, me hearties! This post-fall assembly issue is packed full!

Area Chair, Committee Chair, DCM, and Committee Reports are highlights only. See the minutes, which are posted on the Area web site, for the full reports.

The next issue will focus on Corrections. I invite you to share your experience carrying the message (or receiving the message) in this way. Please submit articles by November 9.

Pull up a chair, get a cup of coffee, and read away!

Thanks for allowing me to serve in this awesome job!

(Finance continued from page 1)

The Fellowship is being asked two questions regarding literature profits: 1. If we continue to use literature profits to fund services, should there be a limit? 2. If there is a limit, how do we continue to pay for services if there is a shortfall in contributions? (see "Self-Support of the World Services of Alcoholics Anonymous" below)

We are also being asked to discuss additional ways for the Trustees' Finance Committee to communicate with the Fellowship and to include the ideas as background material for the agenda for the Conference Committee on Finance for the 60th General Service Conference.

The Area 40 Finance Committee is assisting the Area Delegate in gathering this input. A survey has been developed with both yes/no and discussion questions. Please take the time to take this survey. You may either take the survey electronically by emailing delegate@aa-montana.org or print it out, fill it out and send it to our Area 40 Treasurer at PO Box 21577, Billings, MT 59104. Your input is much desired.

We would like your responses to some preliminary "yes/no" questions:

1. Do you know what services and functions the General Service Office provides for our fellowship? Yes No
2. Do you believe we should continue to strive to fully support GSO functional expenses through our voluntary contributions, and also continue to use literature profits to cover GSO functional expenses if and when our voluntary contributions fall short? Yes No
3. Do you believe we should set a limit on the amount of literature profits we will use to cover GSO functional expenses when our voluntary contributions fall short? Yes No
4. Do you believe we should start decreasing each year the amount of literature profits we use to cover GSO functional services, so that in 10 years we are not using any literature profits to cover GSO functional expenses? Yes No
5. Do you know what your home group contributes to District, Area, and GSO? Yes No
6. Would you be interested in participating in a 7th Tradition workshop? Yes No

The finance committee is gathering input from our Fellowship through discussion of additional ways we can communicate about self-support. Here are some hard facts for all of us to look at and discuss with each other and our groups.

Discussion Questions

1. Does my group believe the 7th Tradition is a principle of participation in carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic?
2. How does my group utilize our 7th Tradition Contributions? What can my group do to increase self-support?
3. Does my group have good communications about 7th Tradition Contributions received and how that money is spent?
4. How is the relationship between spirituality and the 7th Tradition expressed in my group?

General Service Office Functional Expenses		
	2006	2007
Cost per member per year	\$6.32	\$6.49
Cost per group per year	\$141.31	\$146.18
Number of members reported	1,308,712	1,314,552
Number of groups reported	58,539	58,340
General Service Office Income		
Contributions		\$6,526,002
Interest		\$4,845
Literature Profits		\$3,015,813
		\$9,546,660
Percentage of GSO Functional Expenses Paid with Contributions and Paid with Literature Profits		
Contributions		76.52%
Literature Profits		23.48%

Self-Support of the World Services of Alcoholics Anonymous (previously adopted General Service Board Policy)

The A.A. spiritual principle of self-support enables us to pursue our primary purpose of carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic with a shared sense of responsibility for our lifesaving work and without interference or financial dependence on outsiders. From our Fellowship's earliest days, the expenses of the General Service Office, and the world services provided by it, have exceeded the amount derived from contributions of AA groups and members. As a result, providing these needed services has necessarily been supported in part by income from the sale of AA literature. It is the policy of the General Service Board that income from literature sales should only be in amounts required to allow continued provision of vitally needed services and maintenance of a prudent reserve fund. We hope that the day will come when AA groups and members, through their contributions, will be able to fund fully the services provided by the General Service Office. If that is achieved, revenues from literature sales will only be needed in amounts necessary to cover the actual costs associated with literature production and to maintain a prudent reserve fund.

Abundance/What More Can We do?

Good Afternoon, My name is Carole B. and I'm an alcoholic. I have the honor of serving as your Panel 59 Delegate. I am very glad to be with you again.

From this morning's reports, you know that typically the reports of the Area Officers, Chairs, and DCMs provide information regarding the activities on behalf of AA since we last met in April. This morning I want to theme my report around a word and I would like you to consider a question throughout this weekend.

The West Central Regional Forum was held in St. Cloud Minnesota September 11-13, 2009. I have a friend that lives in Minneapolis so I got to see her before and after the Forum. She mentioned to me that her word for the year is *abundance*. My sponsor taught me to look up words and *abundance* is an extremely plentiful or over-sufficient quantity or supply. Thus my word for this report is *abundance*.

Sunday night my friend had a cook out and I met a member of the Central Pacific Group. He asked me why I thought our membership had leveled out. I gave him my opinion but it has left me thinking. My question – *what more can we do for the still suffering alcoholic?* I would also like you to consider *what are we doing to assure AA's future?*

The week following the Spring Assembly, I headed to New York for the General Service Conference. I must say, it was a rather tough week made much more easy by the support of Area 40. The cards and letters you sent me helped me more than you could possibly imagine. *Abundance.*

Throughout that week we looked at ways we could help carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous. By attending the West Central Service Conference, the Pre-Assemblies, and the Spring Assembly, I arrived in New York very well prepared. *Abundance.*

The theme of the Conference was "Our Commitment to Carry A.A.'s Message – Enthusiasm and Gratitude in Action." We were eased into it on Sunday and then hit the ground running on Monday. I am assigned to the Public Information Conference Committee. We had much work to do and we were asked by the PI Staff Member to come prepared. Everyone on my committee came very well prepared. *Abundance.*

Monday and Tuesday consisted of committee meetings, Area highlights, presentations, a general sharing session, and a trip to GSO. Staff members escorted conference members to GSO. My escort, Valerie O, made the train ride and walk to the office very enjoyable and informative. Valerie has worked for GSO for over 17 years and recently was named the Publications Director. *Abundance.*

GSO is located at 475 Riverside Drive very near the Hudson River and Columbia University. I had been to GSO twice before and knew the building was called the Interchurch Center. I did not know that the building is owned by the Rockefeller Foundation which leases the space to AA and other non-profit entities at a significantly reduced rate.

On Wednesday, we held the workshops, selected Bob H. as the Region's nominee for Trustee-at-large U.S., and then elected the Southeast Regional Trustee, the East Central Regional Trustee, and Trustee-at-large U.S. Page 75 of the Final Conference Report lists the newly elected Trustees and a short biography. Our Trustees are fine trusted servants. *Abundance.*

Then the Committee reports began. Since our assemblies are based on the committee system of the General Service Conference, I felt very much at home with the process. However, it seemed like there was lobbying and a bit of unrest among some of the Delegates and Trustees. We had agreed to a process on Sunday and then it was asked for blind ballots to be available. This began a much too long discussion of why they were needed and unfortunately, set the tone for the remainder of the Conference. Bill said and I quote "we shall always be threatened by menacing forces within and certainly in the world of great peril in which we live today, by menacing forces with out. So the prime problem of AA is how to survive then grow and prosper." Unquote. *What more can we do for the still suffering alcoholic?*

For the remainder of the week, we stayed late and got there early, but it didn't seem like a big deal to put in long hours. We approved many recommendations, which I think will help us carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

If you turn to page 6 of the Confer-

ence report, you will find the Advisory Actions or approved recommendations made by the standing committees. After the Conference, I put together a document available at www.aa-montana.org. This lists all the agenda items, the action taken by the committee, and the action taken by the Conference.

- The workshops for the 2010 Conference will be taking the Conference's inventory.
- The CPC video directed to professionals was approved.
- The pamphlet "Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" will be revised.
- The Trustees will gather information from the Fellowship regarding literature profits vs. contributions. (More about this later)
- Those not attending the 2010 International Convention can view the opening ceremony in an Internet broadcast.
- "AA for the Native North American" was approved.
- The Young People's Poster and Young People's Video were approved.
- The membership survey will be conducted in 2010.
- The revised video Hope was approved.
- The Finance Committee asked the Trustee's committee on Finance to: "Gather input from the Fellowship on the following for review by the 2010 Conference Committee on Finance:
 - 1) If we continue to use literature profits to fund services, should there be a limit?
 - 2) If there is a limit how do we continue to pay for services if there is a shortfall in contributions?"

I think this is along the lines with my trip to Glendive in my new car. My question was how much over the speed limit can I go without being stopped? The answer is 10 miles per hour and I was breaking the law. By the way, your money is in good hands. Linda would not pay the ticket.

John T., Area 63 Delegate said it best at the Regional Forum. I paraphrase: if we don't like literature prices going up and we don't like using literature profits for AA services, send GSO money. The prudent reserve has a cap and when we reach that cap, the AAWS Board is forced
(Continued on page 15)

Committee Report Highlights

Archives/Structure

The Archives/Structure committee, along with several other AA members, discussed the agenda items. The committee recommended a budget for the Archivist to cover travel to make the Archives collection more available to members around the state.

No action was recommended after review of the GSC actions/inactions on 2009 agenda items for Archives.

The committee took no action on several agenda items regarding changes to policy and procedures for nominations, computer literacy requirements for certain positions and succession planning. They did recommend changes to the Secretary guidelines.

The Triangle Inventory was reviewed and no action recommended.

Cooperation with the Professional Committee (CPC) / Trustees

All voting members (Donna-21, Marylor-81, BilliJo-51, Duane-42) and a few other members reviewed the 2009 agenda items for CPC and Trustees.

Ways to use the Grapevine to carry the message when doing CPC work were discussed. Ideas included taking a single magazine or subscription to a professional, "losing" a Grapevine in a doctor or lawyer's office, and inviting Grapevine representatives to participate in local CPC presentations.

Activities of District CPC committees were discussed including a district draft letter for communication with professionals. The group discussed how to attract people to CPC work who are not strong in use of technology. A self-contained PowerPoint AA information talk for professionals was also reviewed.

The committee discussed the 3 trustee vacancies and the additional workload for the remaining 19 trustees. They recommended that the General Service Board develop contingency plans for filling vacancies if the number of serving trustees falls below 19.

Corrections/International-Regional Forums Committee

The committee reviewed each item on the 2009 GSC Agenda taking no ac-

tion.

The committee also considered responses to the spring assembly, recommending that a Forum request be submitted for the Spring of 2011 to be held in Great Falls and Miles City.

Finally, preparation for hosting the 2012 West Central Regional Service Conference was discussed. The committee will solicit bids to be submitted to the Area Chair by February 1, 2010 and host city selection to take place at the 2010 Spring Assembly.

Grapevine/Policy & Admissions

Committee members Rich K. (Chair), Brad G.-71, Libbie L.-91, Gary E.-61, and Dan K.-81), with several visitors, reviewed the items on the 2009 GSC agenda for the Grapevine and Policy & Admissions. No recommendations were made.

The committee discussed ways to build excitement for the Grapevine. These ideas included building poster boards, making flyers for groups, group subscriptions, jail subscriptions, literature tables, and website exposure.

Literature

Nick D.-12, Neil T.-31, Mary M.-91, Deb C.-93), and Lori F. (Chair) and a few other AA members reviewed the GSC action/inaction on 2009 agenda items. The committee noted that their recommendations from the Spring Assembly were in agreement with 6 of the 10 GSC items. No action was recommended on any of the items.

The committee also discussed the policy on the Lending Library. Since there have been virtually no requests for video and audio cassettes, the committee will prepare an agenda item for the spring assembly regarding elimination of the audio and video cassettes from the lending library.

Public Information (PI)/Report & Charter

Four voting members, Tim M. (chair), Jim -51, Eric -93, and Mike-23 and 8 others reviewed all the PI and Report and Charter agenda items. Most actions/inactions agreed with the spring agenda recommendations.

The group also discussed the 1-888 number. Flathead Valley Intergroup is considering drop-

ping their 1-800 number, but has concerns. Workshops and/or orientation are available and may help resolve some outstanding concerns.

The group watched the Young People's video.

Treatment/Agenda

The Treatment committee reviewed the GSC items and had no resulting recommendations.

A recommendation was developed to propose a format for submitting agenda items for future assemblies.

Treasurer

The committee (Carole B., Terry S., Jennifer W.- 72, and Doug-11) reviewed a lot of information and had a productive discussion and exchange of information and ideas. Jennifer took detailed notes which are to be included in the assembly minutes.

The committee reviewed the 2009 GSC agenda items on finance. No recommendations were made. However, the committee did decide to survey the members of Area 40 in relation to both Finance advisory actions. That survey is in this issue and on the Area web site. Please take a few minutes to complete it and return the results to the Delegate.

The committee also prepared the 2010 Budget for approval by the assembly.

2010 BUDGET	
	Budget
Group Contributions	
All other Income	
Total Income	\$31,232.25
Spring Assembly	\$5,000.00
Fall Assembly	\$4,750.00
Regional Service Conference	\$1,800.00
Regional Forum	\$500.00
Regional Trustee	\$0.00
Delegate Expenses	\$5,739.00
Area Chair	\$500.00
Archives Chair	\$4,703.25
Corrections Chair	\$250.00
CPC Chair	\$250.00
GrapeVine Chair	\$250.00
Literature Chair	\$795.00
Public Information Chair	\$2,050.00
Treatment Chair	\$250.00
Secretary	\$300.00
Treasurer	\$400.00
Website	\$170.00
Triangle	\$3,525.00
Area Workshops	
Program Services - Other	\$0.00
Total Program/Committee Expense	\$31,232.25
Prudent Reserve	\$10,410.75

Past Delegates Share

Loren B., Panel 51 Delegate, had a plan. It included missing his 3rd assembly in 6 years, until he got the phone call inviting him to join us. He maintained his record and shared the experience of always coming away enthusiastic and loving everyone.

Loren talked about supporting AA: subscription to the Grapevine (17 years), participation in the birthday plan, and giving time (the hardest!). He also shared about his early experiences as a delegate, not agreeing with his fellows and how hard it was to state his position and stand by it, in spite of the fear!

Loren served 3 years as Delegate as a result of changing of our rotation from even to odd panels. He got to serve on the literature committee when the 4th edition of the book was published. The book is 70 years old, is printed in 58 foreign languages, and the 30 millionth copy will be printed this year.

Earl F., Panel 53 Delegate, celebrated 20 years of sobriety September 23. Earl came to Montana from Indiana where he got sober and spent his early sobriety. A friend said, "Get in the car" and they were off to a correctional facility and he (Earl) was the speaker!

He didn't want to serve as Delegate. It didn't seem possible with a full time job, sponsorship, girlfriend, and pets, but found it is about time management: if you are willing, God makes the time...and, such a good time!

A word about road trips...travel around the state, then and now, visiting AA districts and groups is a part of Earl's life. He would travel 150 miles to a bar and stop at every one along the way, surely he can drive some distance to get to a meeting, visit with his AA community. Mingling with our fellows, getting to know our neighbors promotes unity.

There are many other ways to participate in AA: giving \$1 (or \$3.65) per year of sobriety to GSO (and other AA entities if you wish). When I am active in an AA family, time is not a problem.

Area Chair Report Highlights

Terry S., Area Chair and Alternate Delegate, issued a welcome to the second assembly of the 2009-2010 Area 40 rotation.

See the calendar for dates for upcoming events. You can make your reservations now for the Spring Assembly. Our

group reservation number is #GA0032.

Please be sure to submit your agenda items by February 1.

Districts 41 and 61 have included Terry in business meetings.

District 21 has a new DCM, Joe G.

Terry encouraged everyone go to the mike to ask questions or make comments that had not been covered. Sharing thoughts, feelings and ideas improves our ability to offer our recovery program to any and all alcoholics who might want it!

Committee Chair Report Highlights

Archives Chair

Tim H. reported conversations with members of the fellowship about the Archives Committee agenda items. He was pleased to know that the Fellowship is paying attention to what we do and was looking forward to an open-minded and informative discussion of the topics.

Tim participated in the August conference call, and thought the glitches made it that much more interesting. This forum of exchanging information works well, but, for Tim, does not replace the face to face meetings that require taking the time and making the effort to show up and be a part of. The other thing missing from the conference call is the break where we continue to exchange information over a cup of coffee. That can be as informative, sometimes more informative, than the sessions themselves.

Tim hasn't visited any groups or districts, but asked for invitations to do a workshop on Archives. Since he hasn't done any, he's very interested to see he'll come up with!

Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) Chair

Virginian R. has the privilege of chairing the CPC committee, which she claims is one of the 'funnest' committees.

Virginia participated in the August conference call and encouraged everyone to participate in one if they have a chance. She is willing and able to visit any of the districts to help with CPC projects or workshops.

She also attended the West Central Regional Forum in St Cloud and enjoyed hearing about the work going on at the General Service Office to enable us to help the still-suffering alcoholic.

CPC luncheons are being planned in District 51 and 72. In October, she has been invited to participate in the CPC luncheon in Great Falls.

Corrections Chair

Mary S. is the Area 40 Corrections Chair. She reported a Pink Can balance of \$4,189.84. Drop her an email to order literature for any correctional facility. Pink Can contributions should be sent to:

Area 40 Corrections
1325 3rd Avenue North
Great Falls, MT 59401

The Montana State Prison's (MSP) next orientation will be held in a couple of months. Contact Mary if you are interested in attending. There have been some inquiries about a Mini Conference being held at MSP, but nothing is being planned right now.

A new meeting has been opened for the men in the work dorm. It requires at least one more volunteer per Saturday.

Volunteers are needed for the 5th Saturday of the month. These volunteers would come in as a speaker and would need to be carded sponsors. Contact Mary if you are interested.

Mary gave a Corrections Workshop at District 41's Founder's Day Gathering at Ryan Dam in Great Falls. She would like to do more, please contact her.

A lot of effort has been focused on the agenda items regarding the local forum and the upcoming West Central Regional Service Conference. Hopefully, work on planning these will begin after this Assembly.

Grapevine Chair

Rich K. expresses his gratitude to Area 40 for allowing him to serve as the Area Grapevine Chair.

He attended the Grapefest in Helena in June. The genuine friendliness and hospitality of AA's in service was delightful. The event renewed his enthusiasm for the Grapevine mission and AA as a whole. If you have not been to the Grapefest, put it on your AA calendar for next year.

The Grapevine has great resources including books such as "Voices of Long-Term Sobriety", "Beginners' Book: Getting and Staying Sober in AA" and audio tapes such as Spiritual Awakenings, Emotional Sobriety, and Attitude Adjustment. Topics including sponsorship, working with wet drunks, service work, the twelve steps, and

(Continued on page 6)

Committee Chair Report Highlights Continued from page 5

(Grapevine continued from page 5)

a litany of other very helpful items are covered. Please don't shortchange the newcomer or yourself by missing what the Grapevine has to offer. You can order books and material directly or online at www.aagrapevine.org.

Literature Chair

The Literature Chair, Lori F., welcomed all, especially those here for their first assembly.

She shared the following, written by Bill Wilson and found in the first paragraph of our service manual: "Our Twelfth Step – carrying the message – is the basic service that the A.A. Fellowship gives; this is our principal aim and the main reason for our existence. Therefore, A.A. is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die."

The summer flew by with no invitations to lug the incredible literature stash hither and yon. Lori would love to participate in any event if you think she could be of service. She did participate in one of the conference calls.

Lori did not place a literature order prior to this assembly. It was doubtful that the new service manuals would be printed in time for the Assembly and there is a good stock of pamphlets at this time. There are a few of the 2008-2009 service manuals left for \$2.50. There will be new service manuals for the Spring Assembly. The manuals can be ordered through your district or intergroup. The 2009-2010 Catalogs are available on the GSO AA Website www.aa.org.

The 2010-2011 A.A. Directories will not be published this year, and the 2008-2009 Directories will continue to be distributed.

A digital subscription of *Box 459* is now available at no charge by visiting GSO's AA Website to subscribe. *Box 459* is GSO's quarterly "news and notes" bulletin with Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer issues.

GSO requests that all Literature chairs who would like to receive information by email to provide the following contact information: email address, full name, group service number and position. Please send the information to the Records Department at records@aa.org. Lori would appreciate a copy as well.

Please send it to literature@aa-montana.org.

Public Information (PI) Chair

Tim M. reported that the online contact system to be used by AnswerNet was implemented in early August, thanks to Alex our Web Master, the districts that entered their contact information and to AnswerNet for upgrading their computers.



The new contact system will help people get in contact with AA in your district and supports our three legacies, especially unity.

There have also been many emails; three were repeated in Tim's report:

1. We are getting many calls for information in our District but the bill from AnswerNet is not reflecting it.
 - AnswerNet does not bill us separately for the calls for meeting information; they are included in the base monthly charge.
2. Are we getting charged \$84 a month more for the service than we were originally told by AnswerNet?
 - We are now getting charged \$84.05 a month to have the 1-888 number listed in the yellow pages. DEX charges AnswerNet for this service and AnswerNet passes it on to us.
3. Can we include AI-Anon contact numbers in the online entry system?
 - The passed motion was to implement and maintain an AA statewide answering service. A motion would need to be passed at the Assembly to include AI-Anon numbers. A floor action Sunday morning to this affect could liven things up a bit!

There will be a PI/1-888 workshop in October in District 71 and another in District 11 in November.

Treatment Chair

Paula H. gave a status on MCDC in Butte. Everyone wants to know when we get to go back.

She received an email for Dave Peshek, the Administrator of MCDC in August stating that all outside providers of service to MCDC are still on hold. Policy and guide-

He ... anticipates resuming meetings (MCDC) by the end of the year

lines have been prepared, but have not been approved and finalized. Once the policy has been finalized, everyone will be contacted in writing with an offer of the opportunity to attend MCDC, provided they are able and willing to comply with the policy. He thanked Paula for her inquiry and AA's willingness to carry AA's message to the patients and anticipates resuming meetings by the end of the year.

Paula reported information about Bridging the Gap (BTGWW) from Janine B., who is the coordinator for BTGWW which serves as a clearing house for all BTG contacts in the United States. To find a contact, just go to btgww.org and you can request a contact or central office. BTGWW also puts out a newsletter and conducts an annual workshop. There is also a resource library

The Treatment Committee is compiling a list of treatment centers, both in- and out-patient, in their respective districts and is including the names of Bridging The Gap Chairs. Communication with Districts 11, 51, 81 and 93 is happening regularly. Paula stated her appreciation for the contact and feedback.

Mary C-M, the BTG coordinator for eastern Montana, has been working hard to get contacts for folks coming out of Watch East. Figuring out which district can be challenging, even when comparing the map of the Area 40 and the map of Montana.

Paula was disappointed to have missed the sole event she was invited to attend during the summer. Work schedules and commitments made it necessary to regretfully decline.

Paula is registered for the International Convention and fondly wishes that everyone could go to experience the inspiration and opportunity for service.

Treasurer

Linda B. welcomed everyone and restated our purpose: to participate in the business of our area and support the service structure in carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous. She reminded us that this is where our voice is heard and the microphone is the place to ask questions.

The Treasurer, along with the Finance Committee, oversees Area 40 finances,

(Continued on page 7)

Committee Chair Report Highlights continued from page 6

(Treasurer continued from page 6)

keeping accurate records, collecting contributions, paying expenses, and reporting to the groups the current financial picture of Area 40.

Linda thanked the Spring Assembly for its generous 7th Tradition contributions of \$1,214.77. This was largest amount received from any assembly. Once again, the power of the purse has spoken.

Packets were distributed to each DCM. Included in the packets were thank you letters to each group that made contributions to Area 40. Ninety-four groups, two districts, and one individual contributed money so far this year totaling \$20,754.74. Groups were encouraged to check to see that the contribution amount in the letter agrees with the group records. Any discrepancies can be reported to Linda.

Some contributions are still being mailed to the wrong address. The address for Area 40 contributions is: Area Treasurer is PO Box 21577, Billings MT 59104. When sending contributions, including group information and your group service number with the contribution will help insure proper accounting.

Copies of the financial reports were available along with budget worksheets.

The checkbook balance is \$28,531.99 which includes a \$10,813 prudent reserve and \$2,073 in the archivist account, leaving an operating balance of \$15,645.99. Income to date through September 13th is \$22,910.19 with expenses of \$17,250.32 leaving us with a net gain of \$5,659.87.

Your 7th Tradition contributions are supporting our expenses this year. While we are supporting our current expenses, we are not on target for supporting the 2009 budget. The actual expenses are significantly different than the projected budget. We are not spending our budget in most of our committees. The budget was approved at the 2008 Fall Assembly as the amount of money needed to provide and support Area 40 services. There will be estimated expenses of \$7000 for the remainder of this year, so realistically we will be having expenses of about \$25,000 this year.

Linda continued, voicing concern regarding the discrepancy between the amount budgeted for services deemed essential and necessary in Area 40 and the support of those services. If the expenses this year were close to the projected budget, we would be using our prudent reserve to pay for expenses. She asked the voting members to consider and discuss whether it time to trim our budget consistent with our contributions?

In closing, she indicated that she was confident that there would be thoughtful discussion and that we will come to an informed decision in passing the 2010 budget.

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

BUDGET VS ACTUAL BY LINE ITEM		
January 1 - September 17, 2009		
	Actual	Budget
Income		
Individual contribution	\$40.00	\$80.00
Group Contributions	\$19,315.55	\$26,939.00
District Contribution	\$1,399.19	\$300.00
Roundup Contribution	\$0.00	\$500.00
7th Tradition	\$1,214.77	\$1,500.00
Triangle Subscriptions	\$780.00	\$1,100.00
Other Income (recouped from)	\$160.10	\$475.00
Interest	\$0.58	\$45.00
Total Income	\$22,910.19	\$30,939.00
Expenses		
Travel Expenses	\$9,085.98	\$19,634.00
Rent	\$3,809.32	\$5,500.00
Literature Expenses	\$267.76	\$600.00
Photocopies / printing	\$1,974.01	\$2,875.00
Dues, registration, fees	\$37.00	
Postage	\$229.28	\$300.00
Supplies	\$457.93	\$460.00
Telephone	\$975.19	\$1,220.00
Miscellaneous expense	\$413.85	\$350.00
Total Expense	\$17,250.32	\$30,939.00
Net Income	\$5,659.87	\$0.00
Total Cash on Deposit	\$28,531.99	
Prudent Reserve	\$10,813.00	\$10,813.00
Archivist Account	\$2,073.00	\$5,100.00
Operating Balance	\$15,645.99	

Budget vs Actual by Committee		
January 1 through September 13, 2009		
	Actual	Budget
Expenses by Program/Committee		
Spring Assembly	\$4,463.63	\$5,000.00
Fall Assembly	\$0.00	\$4,750.00
Regional Service Conference	\$721.07	\$1,800.00
Regional Forum	\$636.90	\$1,800.00
Regional Trustee	\$0.00	\$750.00
Delegate Expenses	\$4,696.26	\$5,889.00
Area Chair	\$382.47	\$1,000.00
Archives Chair	\$2,820.00	\$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	\$827.32	\$1,450.00
Treatment Chair	\$37.45	\$250.00
Secretary	\$53.25	\$300.00
Treasurer	\$500.16	\$400.00
Website	\$143.40	\$150.00
Triangle	\$1,495.03	\$1,950.00
Area Workshops	\$127.92	
Program Services - Other	-\$7.75	\$0.00
Total Program/Committee Expense	\$17,229.07	\$30,939.00
% of year elapsed	71.67%	
% of actual to budget	55.69%	

Committee Chair Reports continued from page 7

Triangle Editor

Six issues of the Triangle have been published this year, and Sharon expressed appreciation for all the Area officers and committee chairs, DCM's, GSR's, and A.A. members who contributed articles.

Upcoming issues will focus on particular areas of service.

Groups (and individuals) are encouraged to subscribe to the Triangle, for \$10 a year. By past motion, groups receive the Triangle whether they subscribe or not. Currently, 84 groups, or about 30%, have paid subscriptions. There are 16 paid individual subscriptions. Approximately 300 copies are mailed. They go to all groups with a valid address, the DCM's, the Area Committee, and West Central Region Delegates, the West Central Region Trustee and individuals with a current subscription.

There are currently 23 groups on the list with invalid addresses. It is an ongoing process to keep the mailing list as up to date as possible. Lists were distributed to all DCM's for review.

Thanks were given to those who participated in the Triangle Inventory. The results were to be reviewed by the Ar-

Webmaster

The database of AA members for use by Answernet is completed. There are 443 members from 38 cities in 8 districts available to take calls. Three districts are in the process.

The Area website will have a completely new look, top to bottom, incorporating the newest standards. It will be easy to use and 1 click away from the meeting schedule. Look for it by the end of the year.

Workshop: This We Owe to AA's Future

Earl F., Past Delegate Panel 53, gave a presentation on "This we owe to AA's future." About 36 people attended this great workshop. Earl pointed out that we have 1.2 million current members, about 7/10ths of 1 percent of the population. About 4 percent of the world's population is alcoholic – why aren't there more people here?

Participants formed groups and discussed the following inventory questions:

- How can we increase or improve communications between us (me, the group, the fellowship) and the still suffering alcoholic?
- How can we make our fellowship more attractive to the still-suffering alcoholic?
- With new technology available, how do we keep it simple?

A good series of discussions flowed from these questions, with some good concrete suggestions (e.g., make sure people know where to find meetings, including local law enforcement) and use technology as a support, but not a substitute for face-to-face talk and a cup of coffee.

Workshop: Practicing These Principles in All Our Service Affairs

Loren B., Past Delegate Panel 51, gave an interesting and informative workshop on "Practicing These Principles in All Our Service Affairs." Thirty-eight people attended. Loren started the workshop with an interactive orientation to service for people who are new to the Assembly or to service. The group talked about what a panel is, what service really means, and what principles guide our efforts. (Interesting facts: Bill Wilson got sober December 11, 1934; Bob Smith got sober June 10, 1935, and Bill Dotson - the man in the bed - got sober June 26, 1935 - a mere two weeks and two days later.)

Participants then broke up into groups and considered questions from the Traditions Checklist and the Concepts Checklist (both available on aa.org).

DCM Breakout

Nineteen people participated in the DCM Breakout, sharing experience, strength and hope on the following questions:

Question: What are some ideas for getting more people to attend and participate in district meetings and the area assembly?

Responses: Invite people; reminder calls; email agenda; follow up with absentees; sponsorship; get to group business meetings; provide encouragement and support to individual district committees by attending meetings; go to all meetings in the district; encourage and invite people to serve; share rooms at assembly; remind people to reserve rooms in Lewistown (at 1st district meeting after assembly)

Question: What activities does your dis-

trict do to foster and grow participation and service?

Responses: Luncheon with panels of professionals and AA; "meet your district" workshop; recognize general service versus social activities

Question: How effective have Traditions Workshops been in your district?

Responses: Location and food affect participation; invite Area Committee Chair(s); call them something else (Living with the Traditions; Traditions in Personal Relationships, Sex and the 9th Tradition)

Question: How or what can be done to involve or encourage non-participating groups to participate in district meetings and area assembly?

Responses: Directly invite these groups; let them know their different or unique perspective is important; put something controversial (money) on the agenda; do not coerce; communicate caring; have fun; car pool; take district meetings to remote areas of district

Question: What are persons doing as DCM to visit other groups in their district?

Responses: Share information; ad hoc committee about what district does and money; letter to groups asking what they need from the district committee; treasurer sends thank you notes for contributions (contributions have doubled); move district meetings to other venues; call groups, ask them to host district meeting; include Intergroup in district activities; create a liaison between intergroup and district; invites and calls groups and tries to be of service to the groups; organize road trips to meetings (introduce self at meeting as DCM with offer to answer questions after meeting)

Question: How much does a DCM need to defend or protect district chairs; how much management is needed? Are DCM's AA police?

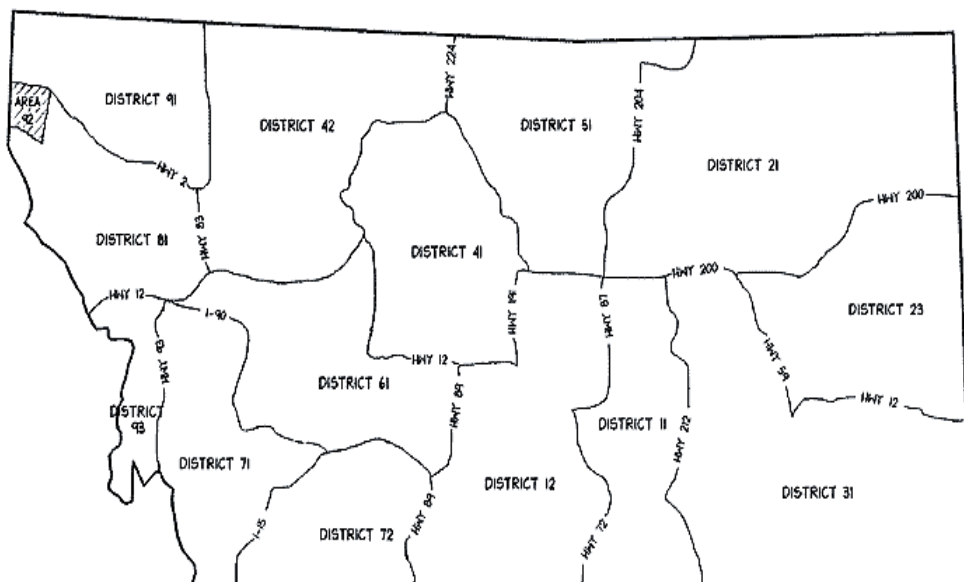
Responses: Reach out, ask how to be of service (rather than show up or resign); when you stick your head above the crowd, get ready to have a shot taken; communication is important; came to AA to take, remained to give; when critical, walk a mile in their shoes..

GSR Breakout

The GSR's had a lively Ask-it-basket session, sharing experience, strength and hope on the following questions:

Question: What are we doing as a group to get people from treatment facilities to

(Continued on page 9)



- 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

DCM Report Highlights

District 11

Colby D., District 11 DCM reported challenge and opportunity. There is steady and consistent participation at the regular monthly district business meetings, with 7-9 (about 40%) GSR's attending. All committee chairs are filled and they are working hard to add volunteers. The District has plans to hold a Hotline Workshop, on "How to take 12th step phone calls and requests".

The PI/CPC committee has had several informational sessions in the community facilities specializing in addiction and alcohol abuse. They also provided meeting lists and schedules at local hotels and campground facilities. The Billings Crisis Center has inquired about a meeting also.

The Corrections Committee is using "Pink Can Funds" to provide literature to the local prison and city jail. District members continue to discuss use of The Pink Can, as not all members agree. Local groups take and make meetings available to both the men's and women's correctional facilities; attendance and participation are good.

The Treatment Facility Committee uses the local group pool to coordinate meetings which are held twice a week at the psych center. 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.

The AI-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 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; Johnny B. will be providing a full report at this Assembly.

The District is experiencing a cash short fall due to reimbursing South Central Montana Inter-Group for previously

(GSR continued from page 8)

visit our meetings and to encourage members to use restraint of pen and tongue when negative opinions and attitudes about treatment exist?

Responses:

- Take meetings to pre-release and treatment facilities
- Sponsorship, shake the new person's hand
- Specific people chair meetings with specific topics, call on treatment center people

Question: Who takes charge and says something if a group or district officer or committee person isn't showing up?

Responses:

- Group conscience to have 2 members talk to the person, ask "what can we do to help?"
- Policy: miss 3 in a row and your are done, DCM makes the call
- Policy: miss 3 meetings (not show or report), will call; if no legitimate reason the person is dismissed

Question: What can be done about using non-conference approved literature in a meeting in spite of group conscience?

Responses:

- Have a group inventory

- Start a new group

Question: Are the Traditions being broken if AA has a public garage sale for fund raising?

Responses:

- AA events should be self-supporting
- Would constitute outside contribution

Question: What can be done about a male member sponsoring new women?

Responses:

- Old timer men should talk to him

Roundup Reports

The 2009 Spring Roundup in Missoula was a great success. There were 625 registered (444 AA's, 101 AI-Anons, 51 double winners, 15 Alateen, and 14 guests) from 13 different states. There were 305 at the Saturday night banquet. The free registration for newcomers with less than 6 months of sobriety drew 56 people.

The seed money was returned to district groups and forwarded to Bozeman. The District divided the remaining \$3000

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued on page 10)

DCM Report Highlights continued from page 9

(District 11 continued from page 9)

paid Area 40 Hotline expenses. An Ad Hoc committee is reviewing the District's operating expenses and budget and has asked the DCM to present its findings to the local groups with emphasis on helping them become better informed about District versus Intergroup expenses. We are confident that funds to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic will be present.

Most district groups report that meetings are well attended or growing.

District 12

Nick D., the DCM from District 12, reported that the District has 10 groups. Thirty-two meetings are held among Absarokee, Fromberg, Harlowton, Joliet, Laurel, Columbus, Big Timber, and Red Lodge.

Seven of the groups are active at the district level. The District meeting is on the third Sunday of odd months at 4 pm at the Little Stone Church located at 205 E. 4th St. in Columbus.

The District held its second event of the year, the Fireman's Point Camp Out on the Stillwater. There was a good turnout and Carole presented her Delegate's report. The Mid Winter Social will be coming soon, so keep a look out for more information.

Nick expressed his appreciation for being able to serve. Attending the Regional Service Conference and Forum, he saw how important it is to be an informed AA member and be able to share that information with the GSR's. To hear the message at the home groups around the District is amazing. It works! It really works.

District 21

Donna, GSR from the Malta group reported that AA's in the district have been busy with a number of activities including BBQ's and campouts through the summer.

District 23

District 23 DCM, Mike M., reported that the groups in Savage, Glendive and Sidney remain steady. There are meetings 3 days a week in Glendive, 4 days a week in Sidney, and 1 day a week in Savage.

There will be a District 23 Get-Together at the Savage Community Center in Savage, MT. It will include Fun, Fellowship, a District meeting, an Open Meeting, Potluck, and Karaoke on October 31.

The Lower Yellowstone Sober Fest was held in August at the Lion's Youth Camp at Makoshika State Park. We had a lot of fun, fellowship and good food and Delegate Report. Thanks to the Life Again Group!

Scott W., our District Secretary/Treasurer has hooked Mike up and he's entered "virtual reality". Good Bye Pony Express.

Mike expressed appreciation to his District and for the passion of AA he sees at the assemblies.

District 31

Neil T., Alternate DCM, reported that meetings are going on in Jordan, Baker, Forsyth, and Miles City. The District is looking for ideas for attracting more participation.

District 41

District 41 includes Great Falls, Fort Benton to Cascade, and Fort Shaw to Lewistown. The DCM, Lee T., reported focus on the home group and unity.

A few meetings have become, or are considering becoming, new groups. The participation at the District level has been wonderful. The members have been willing to accept and participate in the challenges of helping carry the message.

There were summer barbecues, campouts, and various get-togethers. Our unity is strengthened and recovery is further assured.

Relationships within the fellowship are growing, like an ever growing home group. The Area Assembly is like that, too. We "keep coming back"!

The District looks forward to the decision concerning hosting a Special Forum.

The conferences calls have become events strengthening and increasing unity within the District. A map is used giving a visual to go with the voice on the line!

The Area Chair, Terry S., attended the last monthly District meeting, and the

Delegate, Carole B., came to the last barbecue of the season and gave a Delegate's Report. It was a first time to attend a Delegate's Report for 80% of those attending.

Lee conveyed his thanks to everyone for allowing him to participate and for their support and interest.

District 42

Gerry L. offered greetings from north-central Montana. Summer was busy with lots of good meetings and fellowship. The Valier Group Lake Francis Roundup was well attended with lots of good food and fellowship.

There are meetings in Browning, Chester, Choteau, Conrad, Cut Bank, Shelby and Valier, as well as the CCA prison in Shelby.

Gerry closed with an invitation to visit and a chance to see the impressive sights of the Wind Farm.

District 51

Billjo D. serves as District 51 District Committee Member. The District has a lot of fun. There were 4 sobriety campouts, with people from as far away as Oregon.

The meeting on Rocky Boy in Box Elder is active again with 3 or 4 regular members plus "road tripping" visitors every week. There are now 9 groups in the District and 3 meetings that are not affiliated with a group. There are 25 AA meetings held each week.

As a result of a request from the former Director of Hi-Line Recovery in Havre, a new meeting - the Wednesday Noon Open Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous has been meeting at Hi-Line Recovery in Havre since July.

Two meetings in Phillips County have had a group conscious and have expressed a desire to change back to being a part of District 51.

Upcoming events in District 51 include the annual Havre AA mini-conference and a CPC luncheon. The change to the 1-888 number helped our District tremendously. We now have the funds to do more 5th Tradition work. The luncheon will be free to professionals but AA and AI-Anon members will pay for their lunches. Videos available on-line from GSO will be shown and there will be a couple of 10 minutes speakers.

For the first time in a long time, our Delegate is coming to give the report in October.

(Continued on page 11)

DCM Report Highlights continued from page 10

(District 51 continued from page 10)

A Corrections Workshop is being planned for the winter with the objective to get more people signed up to take the meeting into the Detention Center.

District 51 is a great place to live with active AA in all of the three legacies: recovery, unity, and service.

District 61

Tom D. is glad he's an alcoholic and doesn't care who knows it! He's also the DCM for District 61. He welcomed newcomers and first-timers, admitted it looks a little confusing, and suggested asking for help which will be useful, friendly and freely given.

District 61 is having a great year. It started with great momentum from the previous committee.

The third annual Corrections and Treatment Workshop was held in April with over 100 participants, about 70% to alcoholics. The other 30% were professionals who walked out of the workshop convinced of one significant fact: AA works.

As a result of this workshop, an increasingly large number of people newer in AA go into the institutions to carry the message of long term recovery after enforced treatment is over. A number of the secured institutions have become much more relaxed and trusting, and have substantially relaxed the sobriety and adjudication requirements.

Also, the workshop has allowed a number of professionals to hear our sobriety stories and to understand how important, if often unrecognized, their contributions have been and continue to be.

Another major benefit is that 40 or more AA members participated in this workshop and carried the enthusiasm and energy back to their home groups.

There are over 30 registered groups in District 61, with an average of 24 GSR's attending District meetings. There are over 100 meetings with 21 or more AA meetings a week in Helena. There are lots of choices - men's, women's, discussion, call-up, step study, and traditions meetings. A small group meets once a month just before the District meeting to read and discuss the Concepts.

There was a GSR School this summer, and plans are underway for the 55th An-

nual Attitude of Gratitude. Hopefully, the National Archives Conference will be in Helena in 2011 and the Fall Roundup that year is also being considered.

The District started out the year with too much money, but that resolved itself, as it usually does.

All of our service committees chairs are occupied, and we're working hard to grow new leadership. One of the great things about AA is that, about the time we get to understanding a service job, it's time to turn it over to someone else.

It is an honor and a privilege to play whatever role it is that a DCM plays and Tom stated his appreciation for the support he's received from everyone.

It's a good time to be sober, and to be carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholics—there are still plenty of them out there.

District 71

Kevin M., DCM, reported meetings in Anaconda, Butte, Deer Lodge, Drummond, and Dillon.

District 71 is home to many 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).

The District had a campout in August with a Delegate's Report. An inventory is being considered.

District 72

Jennifer W. is the District 72 DCM. The District ranges from Wilsal to Virginia City, Gardiner to West Yellowstone, Three Forks to Livingston. There are 39 groups with 89 meetings in 13 towns.

It was a busy summer. Groups and individuals hosted campouts and barbecues. The Young People's group is very active and puts together lots of activities, also.

Gerry, our Archivist, found that the first Bozeman meeting was held in August 1948, and a big AA birthday party is planned for next year.

Jennifer attended the Regional Forum and was enthusiastic about all the information she learned there and commented that it is quite remarkable that we belong

to an organization that sends its staff out to communicate with us.

District 81

Dan K. serves as the DCM for District 81 which has meetings in 16 communities: Alberton, Superior, St. Regis, Haugen, Plains, Hot Springs, Thompson Falls, Noxon, Frenchtown, St. Ignatius, Ronan, Pablo, Polson, Clinton, and Seeley Lake. There are 38 meetings per week in these communities. Missoula has 19 groups and 52 meetings per week, that's a total of 90 meetings per week in District 81.

The 2009 Spring Roundup in Missoula was a huge success. Attendance was well over 600 and the free registration for new members went over very well. Many thanks to all of you who attended, you are largely responsible for the success of this event!

Carole B. gave her General Service Conference presentation before our District business meeting in May. The District had a great two part Founder's Day event on June 13th and it was a huge success. There was a speaker panel discussion meeting on Saturday morning and an awesome picnic in the afternoon with a young people-old timer softball game (old timers won)!

This August the District meeting was in Superior at the Morning Star Group with 27 people attending.

Dan expressed his gratitude for the Fellowship in District 81, a great bunch of people involved in District service positions and with amazing enthusiasm. All the chair positions are full.

Dan will be attending the 2010 AA International Convention and will celebrate his AA birthday there.

District 91

District 91 DCM, Libbie L., carried greetings to all from beautiful northwest Montana. The district covers the Tobacco and Flathead Valleys from Eureka to Elmo.

All of our committee chairs are filled and AA continues to thrive. There are about 21 registered groups with 10 regularly attending our District meetings which are held on the 4th Sunday of every month at 3 PM. There are often committee meetings or workshops the hour before. The location of the meeting varies

*To believe in
God so much
that it changes
your life*

(Continued on page 12)

DCM Report Highlights continued from page 11

(District 91 continued from page 11)

throughout the valley with different groups hosting each month.

Upcoming projects include updating job descriptions (an ad-hoc committee has been formed) and considering a District inventory.

The District voted to assist groups with financial need to send GSR's to Assembly this fall, we also included district chairs if interested. Several people were helped in this way to attend this weekend. Libbie's personal goals as DCM are to spread the joy of general service involvement and to increase participation at District and Area from our District's members.

Our Delegate, Carole B., gave her conference report to July 26 followed by a potluck.

The Area conference calls were a convenient way to share information and to effectively relay background information to the District.

Libbie attended the West Central Regional Forum in St. Cloud MN. It was a great opportunity to meet GSO representatives, trustees, and many of our region's members. The discussions were lively and informative. AA is being well taken care of at all levels of service.

She related an experience from the trip home. Feeling unsettled, she found herself listening to a radio program about listening and how powerful that skill can be. She realized that she felt unsettled because she was still full of opinions and superiority and admitted that she was not a good listener and needed to improve, work on staying in the moment

She closed, "to believe in God so much that it changes your life", is a definition of a spiritual experience ... I can relate to."

District 93

Eric D. is grateful to be serving as the DCM of District 93 where there are 14

groups and 3 meetings plus the monthly business meeting. Of the 14 Groups, 2 are new.

If you plan on visiting the Bitterroot Valley please stop by one of the new groups "Attitude and Gratitude" (Monday at 8 in Corvallis) and "Working With Others" (Tuesdays at 7 in Stevensville) to give them some support.

A new Alternate DCM, Jay T., was recently elected, and the Literature Chair and Secretary positions need to be filled.

Events have included the "Spring Fling" in May and the annual District 93 campout at Painted Rocks in June which included Carole's Delegate Report. Rain on and off did not dampen spirits, we are not a glum lot! Exerting power or powerlessness on the weather next year, the dates will be moved to later in the summer.

Eric closed by saying he could not do this alone and is truly blessed to be surrounded by friends and service people, part of his Higher Power.

Flathead Valley Intergroup Report

Hello, from the Flathead Valley Intergroup.

The Flathead Valley Intergroup represents the AA groups throughout District 91. Our monthly newsletter and business meeting minutes are mailed to groups from Elmo to Eureka and others who request it. Each group in the valley is entitled to one representative to Intergroup.

We continue to provide the answering service and meetings schedule to help carry the message of AA and let people know where AA meetings are, and why we're here. The answering service fields 50-100 calls per month, providing meeting information or connecting the caller with a recovering alcoholic. We update our meeting schedules about every 3 months and our website is updated weekly with

meeting changes and event updates.

Since we have moved our monthly business/birthday meeting to the Steelworker's Union Hall in Columbia Falls, attendance has risen dramatically. Thirteen groups were present at our last business meeting.

Our annual campout at Emery Bay was very well attended, and was a treat for all. Our speakers were excellent, and the food was abundant and delicious. We provided the meat for the campout, and subsidized the rent for the camping areas for the event.

Our Entertainment Committee has plans for a Halloween Party on October 31, with food and a DJ for a dance, following a speaker meeting. Our annual Thanksgiving Feast will be held November 28 this year, at the Stillwater Grange Hall,

in Kalispell. Intergroup will provide the turkeys, potatoes and gravy, and the rest of the meal will be potluck. All AA's and their families are welcome to attend. We will combine the feast with our monthly business/birthday meeting, and will follow the meal with a special performance by Jack Gladstone, a renowned singer and songwriter from the valley.

Our annual 2010 New Years Eve Al-cathon will be at the Alano Club in Kalispell. This is a 24 hour event of meetings on the hour, accompanied by food and fellowship.

The Flathead Valley Intergroup is growing and we are all so grateful for the opportunity to serve.

Yours in Service, Justin F., Chairman Flathead Valley Intergroup

Welcome New Groups

Early Risers Group **11th Step Group** meets Sunday at 8:30 am at the Alanon Club (1406 W Durston), open, GSR Betsy D.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions AA Book Study Group meets Tuesday at 7pm at Vince Grant Hall (1306 E Park St Livingston), open, GSR Christina C.

Working With Others Group meets Tuesday at 7pm at 401 Church St Stevensville, GSR Gene S.

Calendar of Events

FLATHEAD LAKE (Flathead Valley Lutheran Camp)—Women’s Recovery Weekend—October 23-25

LOLO—9TH Annual Halloween Bash—October 31

SAVAGE—District 23 Fall Festival—October 31—Scott W.

BOZEMAN—Self Support, Money, Spirituality—November 7—Leslie D.

HELENA—55th Annual Attitude of Gratitude—November 21—Bill S.

DEADLINE FOR AGENDA ITEMS—Spring Assembly—February 1, 2010

DUBUQUE IOWA—West Central Region Service Conference—March 5 - 7, 2010—Carole B.

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

BILLINGS—Spring Roundup—May 14-16, 2010—Connie O.; Johnny B.

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.

RAPID CITY, SD—Special West Central Region Forum—November 12-14, 2010

NOTHERN MINNESOTA—West Central Region Service Conference—March 4-6, 2011

GREAT FALLS/MILES CITY—Local Forum—Spring 2011 (pendng request outcome)

LEWISTOWN—Spring Assembly—April 9-10, 2011

IOWA—West Central Regional Forum—September 10-11, 2011

LEWISTOWN—Fall Assembly—September 17-18, 2011

HELENA—National AA Archives Workshop—September 2011—Gerry R.

TO BE ANNOUNCED—West Central Region Service Conference—March 2-4, 2012

If you would like your event listed here, please email the editor at triangle@aa-montana.org or send it to PO Box 542, Bozeman, MT 59771

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION UPDATE

Over 20,000 folks registered in the first month, over 8,000 rooms have been reserved. All downtown core rooms have been reserved, but rooms are still available and being added as needed. There will be shuttle service to all housing booked through the Convention Housing.

Shelley B. shares, “My first International AA experience was in Minneapolis in 2000. I remember well how we were met at the airport. There were volunteers everywhere! One of the volunteers was getting off her shift and gave 4 of us a ride right to our hotel! Holding hands with 40,000 people saying the Lord’s Prayer is amazing.”

Register today!

Wanted: Host City for 2012 WCRAASC

Increase enthusiasm and enhance unity in your district. Gather support from other groups and prepare a bid for the West Central Region AA Service Conference to be held in Montana March 2-4, 2012.

Bids should be submitted to Terry S., Area Chair, by February 1, 2010. Convince the selection committee that your city would be the best for AA as a whole by including information such as airport (flights, connections to major hubs, schedules, ground transportation), convention facilities (meeting room capacity, number of supplemental meeting rooms available, accommodations) and restaurants.

See the planning guide at www.aa-montana.org for more information that may support the bid preparation process.

Contact Mary S., Corrections Committee Chair, or Terry S., Area Chair, for more information.

Corrections Service Opportunity

For Sober Women at Riverside Youth Correctional Facility in Boulder, Montana

Who: Sober women who have at least one year of continuous sobriety. Riverside is a girl’s facility - only female volunteers are accepted.

What: Volunteer to take an AA meeting in to Riverside once a month.

When: Meetings take place Saturday Mornings, 11:00am to 12:00 noon.

Where: Riverside Youth Correctional Facility in Boulder, Montana.

Why: To plant the seed of AA in these young ladies, so they know where to go when they are ready to try something different. To try to repay the gift of our own recovery by carrying AA’s message to people who have no other access to it.

How: For more information and for a copy of the Riverside application,

Contact Teresa K. in Helena, at (406) 465-2315.

Area Officers, Committee Chairs, and DCM's 2009-10

POSITION	NAME	EMAIL	COMMITTEE
Delegate	Carole B.	delegate@aa-montana.org	
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(Not a glum continued from page 1)

input from the fellowship. See Finance Survey page 1-2.

- The Corrections/International Conventions-Regional Forums committee set February 1, 2010 as the deadline for Districts to submit bids to host the 2012 West Central Regional AA Service Conference. See "Wanted, Host City for 2012 WCRAASC" ad on page 13.

All agenda items were covered with plenty of time for closing comments. Looking forward to good weather for the trip home, there was plenty of time for hugs goodbye and promises to get to-

(Area wins continued from page 1)

This event is unique in that it combines a strong focus on the hands-on techniques for the preservation and conservation of the record of AA's past, and a thorough review of the people, places and events that played a part in the founding of our spiritual program. Archivists from around the U.S. and Canada are drawn to the event each year, and many bring displays of material from their repositories.

The 2011 workshop promises to be a memorable one for anyone who attends. An event planning committee will begin making preparations for the event starting next summer. Anyone interested in helping out is invited to participate. Please watch the Triangle or check with your DCM as the date gets closer.

Contact the Area Archivist, Gerry R. for more information.

(Roundup continued from page 9)

among GSO (\$1000), the Area 40 Districts (split \$1000) and the District 81 checking account.

The 2009 Fall Roundup is fast approaching 200 pre-registrations with about 2 weeks to go. About half of those who attend do so by pre-registering, with the remainder registering on the spot. So if that holds true we will have no less than 400 in attendance. This is all dandy except the total seating capacity of the venue is somewhere around 400 and the capacity for those wanting to eat (versus just attend and not eat) is around 300. So, you might want to send the message back to your groups that pre-registration is strongly recommended and that those who don't pre-register but who might decide to come at the last minute....check

in with our Registration Chair – Gerry at 406-600-1405 prior to coming. Also, additional phone numbers are on the flyer at aa-montana.org for folks to check in and see what the situation is.

There will be lots to do: speakers, panels and discussion, AI-Anon, young people. Coffee will be all you can drink for \$10 or \$1 a cup.

Loren is going to sing and dance in between speakers.

The 2010 Roundup will be held in Billings May 13-15. The committee has been meeting for a year on the 2nd Saturday at 8:30 am at Perkins on 27th Street in Billings. Flyers are available at aa-montana.org and will be mailed to districts. Information is in the Triangle and will be in the Grapevine.

(Abundance continued from page 3)

to lower literature prices. In my reports to your districts, I proposed contributing so much that they can give newcomer the Big Book for free. *Abundance*.

I'm anxious to hear from the Fellowship of Area 40 what they think of these questions posed. At the July General Service Board meeting, the Trustees Finance Committee asked the 2010 Conference to discuss additional ways to communicate with the Fellowship. I am anxious to hear the ideas of Area 40.

The Conference ended with the farewell talks of the rotating Trustees. Then after a stop at FedEx and Toys-R-Us, I headed to the airport for home. I returned from the Conference tired and grateful that my home district was my first report. I got a chance to recharge my batteries a bit.

Over the summer, I have given 12 reports and have one scheduled in October. It was great to be with you. I pulled into the camp where I was to give my report to District 93 and 25-30 people were having an AA meeting. It was pouring rain and they had the meeting with umbrellas in hand. At the Lower Yellowstone Soberfest, I gave my report for District 23 and got to hear the best AI-Anon talk I have ever heard. I ate a rib-eye steak bigger than my head at my report in District 71. You have given me a great summer. *Abundance*.

It is such a pleasure to be out visiting you and seeing what I can do to help you help the still suffering alcoholic.

As I mentioned earlier, last weekend I was at the West Central Regional Forum. It was the best Forum that I have ever been too. It has got me thinking about the future of Alcoholics Anonymous, taking action, and I

have a suggestion for you.

Ward Ewing, our Chairman of the Board, was asked what he believes are AA's current challenges. He answered: 1. Carrying the message on new media; 2. AA & religion; and 3. Maintaining our singleness of purpose. He said we have to find a way to reach young people using new media. He also said that with his background, it is very clear to him that AA is not a religion but the courts will continue to challenge this.

Then Phyllis H., our General Manager, was asked the same question. Her reply was Unity, Anonymity, and Sponsorship.

Ward being Class A (non-alcoholic) Trustee was asked how he learned about our Traditions and Concepts. He said Class A's are assigned a 1728 sponsor. This person takes the Class A Trustee through the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts. Ward stated that the 12 Steps are the most spiritual action he has ever taken. (Ward is the President of General Theological Seminary in New York.). The 12 steps multiplied by the 12 Traditions and then multiplied by the 12 Concepts equals 1728. Want your life to get 12 times better? Take the Steps. Want your life to get 144 times better? Practice the Traditions. Want your life to get 1728 times better? Follow the Concepts. *Abundance!*

Why not have playshops (not work) on 1728? Districts could gather speakers to share their experience, strength, and hope on the steps, traditions, and concepts. Colby D., DCM for District 11, has information a 1728 Playshop format. We have a wealth of resources – Terry, Andrew, and the Past Delegates I'm sure are more than willing to help you put on such an event. I'd be honored to help.

I have an abundant life because of the Fellowship of people like you, God, and sponsorship. I'd like to close with a couple quotes from AA Comes of Age.

"A.A.'s Twelfth Step, carrying the message, is the basic service that our fellowship gives; it is our principal aim and the main reason for our existence." – Page 139

"For in AA the whole is truly greater than the sum of all its parts. The infusing power of the group, of our Fellowship, draws something more out of each of us than any of us by himself can supply. Each of us in turn draws out of the spiritual reservoir of our Fellowship the added courage and will which makes each one the stronger and our Fellowship the greater." – Page 277

Thanks for letting me serve. Carole B. Panel 59 Delegate Area 40

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