

General Service Conference Advisory Actions

The General Service Conference (GSC) met April 18-24 in Rye Brook, New York. The summer 2010 issue of "Box 4-5-9, News and Notes from the General Service Office of A.A." has been published, is available on the A.A. website aa.org and should appear soon in your mail boxes. The Delegate will also have copies when she gives her

Delegate's Report around the Area (see the schedule on page 12).

Some of the Advisory Actions (recommendations made by committees and approved by the Conference body) listed in "Box 4-5-9" are paraphrased below. If you are interested in more detail or looking for an agenda item that isn't listed here, check

"Box 4-5-9". If you don't see it there, watch for the Final Conference Report which will have a complete list.

- "We Are Responsible for A.A.'s Future — Let It Begin With Us" to be theme of the 2011 GSC.
- Changes to the pamphlet "A Message to Corrections Professionals".

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Spring Assembly Decisions and Sense of The Area

One hundred forty-five alcoholics assembled the weekend of April 10-11 to consider Area 40 business and the General Service Conference agenda items. The group consisted of 112 voting members (Area Officers, Standing Committee Chairs, DCM's, and GSR's), 30 visitors, and 3 non-voting members (Archivist, Area Advisor and Webmaster).

The group passed motions to:

- Fund the Area Archivist to attend the 2010 National Archives Workshop in Macon, Georgia.
- Form an ad hoc committee to draft qualifications for Area service positions.
- Eliminate the Lending Library.

- Pay AnswerNet invoices less than \$250, billing Districts only when an invoice exceeds \$250.

District 11 was selected to host the 2011 West Central Region A.A. Service Conference — out of the hat!

The Assembly sent the Delegate to the General

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DCM Report Highlights

All the Area 40 Districts were represented by their District Committee Members (D.C.M.'s) and one or more groups!

Here are the highlights of what is going on around Area 40 (for detailed District reports, read the minutes from the Assembly which will be posted to the Area website aa-montana.org, select area business then the articles and documents link.)

District 11. Colby D. reported that the District has rebuilt its reserves and operating balances since the Fall Assembly. At least 9 groups are represented at District meetings and all positions are filled.

The PI/CPC committee has been active, PSA's are current at the local television stations and meeting schedules have been placed at hotels and motels.

The District has asked the groups what they would like from the District and a "Unity Workshop" and District inventory have been suggested.

District 12. Nick D. reviewed the District's geography: Laurel to the East, Big Timber to the West, Harlowtown and Broadview to the North, and the Wyoming border to the

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FROM YOUR EDITOR

I had Spring Fever! It is a good thing it has been snowing because the Triangle may never have gotten done if the sun kept shining!

This issue has a little information from the General Service Conference, but mostly highlights the Spring Assembly.

GSR's may want to check out the GSR Breakout sharing on page 2; District service chairs may want to read about what is going on in other Districts (DCM and Area Service Chair report highlights). The Area Finances are highlighted on page 7.

The next issue will focus on CPC, PI, and Treatment. Please share your experience with service in these areas by writing a brief article and submitting it by May 20!

Thank you for allowing me to serve!
Sharon S., Triangle Editor



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GSR Breakout

Question: Meeting openers are using prescribed marijuana shortly before the meeting. What can/should the group do about this?

Sharing:

- One individual decided, while it is an “outside issue”, that it wasn’t right to chair a meeting when using the drug.
- Some of us don’t have any experience with this, some of us have the experience of being clear of all substances.
- Be honest about use with sponsor.
- Mind is altered when using.
- Home group is autonomous and will decide how to deal with such issues.
- The 3rd tradition says that the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking.
- The home group has a right to determine the length of sobriety necessary to chair meetings.

Question: What is a forum? Why special?

Sharing:

- A non-alcoholic Trustee thought it would be nice to bring the the flavor and taste of General Service Office (GSO) to us, thus the Regional Forum. Friday through Sunday, the General manager of the GSO, someone from the AAWS Board and the Grapevine, et cetera, come to share with us about what they do and answer our questions.
- We get to facilitate the local forum in our Area and GSO brings 2 people to answer questions. It is nice to know what the GSO does for us,

what we can do for GSO and what we are spending our money on.

Questions: What can I do to promote unity?

Sharing:

- Self support creates greater unity.
- Business meeting participation helps unity.
- Use a sponsor and the inventory process.
- Speak to people directly rather than talking to others about issues and/or problems.
- Caravan to meetings—the meetings before and after help.
- Socialize with other members in many different ways.
- Discuss the Traditions as a group for a common understanding and unity.
- Remember, as alcoholics, we are all the same on the same playing field!
- Define unity - the state of being one; oneness of mind, concord, harmony, or agreement; (in literature and art) a relation of all the parts or elements of a work constituting a harmonious whole and producing a single general effect.
- I grew into service to my home group and learned the elements of unity.
- Strengthen bonds between us within our own or others’ pain.
- Participate in Roundups and other events outside of the comfort zone.
- Share with others, especially newer people, how we carry the message.
- Allow diversity; practice acceptance.

- Give a thorough welcome to visitors.
- Encourage sponsorship, attendance at Area Assembly, Roundups, Conventions, speaker events.
- Practice unity in the Home Group, then take it out on the road. Help each other grow.
- Alternate chairs between Home Group members and newcomers and visitors.
- Put the unity in community.
- Speak with someone I don’t know and introduce myself to others.
- Smile at people even if I don’t like them.
- Talk to people who I wouldn’t normally talk to.
- Old timers’ participation in activities.
- Take the action and don’t wait for others to reach out or talk.
- Let others live so I can live.
- Practice principles in all of my affairs, avoid “promotion of self by character assassination of others”; be accountable.
- Lead by example and talk less.

Question: The DCM includes personal information in the DCM report; the Alternate DCM doesn’t run the meeting very well; the Secretary hasn’t provided minutes for 3 months. HELP!?

Sharing:

- Ask what we can do to help.
- Remember it is no “us” versus “them”.
- Hold officers accountable to their positions; ask questions pertinent to service position duties and responsibilities.
- Take our own inventory.

- “Sponsor” into service position by outgoing officer guidance and information; don’t leave your successor high and dry!
- Practice treating others with dignity and respect.
- Eliminate gossip.
- Service work shows me how it works and my judgments.
- Identify a solution for any problem I see or bring up.
- Ask for help for the judgments, practice the spiritual axiom.

Question: Other than using a timer, what are some techniques for getting people to shorten their sharing?

Sharing:

- Put in the opening statement about a 3 minute share and ask that people NOT share a 2nd time before others have shared.
- Tactful interruption by the Chairperson, “Thank you for sharing” and move on.
- Suggest six months of sobriety before chairing a meeting to deal with long shares.
- Let everyone share in some meetings with at least an opportunity to say their name and that they are alcoholic.

DCM Breakout

Question: Some towns in the district don't have active A.A. groups. How can we get something started?

Sharing:

- Put up posters in stores in town with meeting time and location and show up with persistence, chances are you’ll be by yourself for awhile!
- Try meeting once a month if more frequent meetings don’t work.

(DCM Breakout from page 2)

- Use the Bridging the Gap program.
- Take meetings into the jail.

Question: What is a Special Forum?

Sharing: It is by request, for a special purpose. In 2006, the General Service Board approved the concept of an Additional Regional Forum to be held upon request in each region every eight years, also on a rotating basis. Also in 2006, the Board approved the Local Forum concept with the purpose of bringing Forum information to A.A. members in remote, sparsely populated areas.

Question: What can we do to promote Unity?

Sharing:

- Go to other meetings in the District, carpool to get to different towns. Benefits include the meetings in the car before and after the meeting!

Question: What can we do about meeting openers using prescribed marijuana shortly before the meeting?

Sharing:

- Suggest someone else open the meeting.
- Talk to the opener about concerns.
- Use of other medications can affect people too.
- Define (group conscience for the meeting or group) what sobriety is.
- The Traditions say this is an outside issue.
- Don't kick them out, just don't give them service positions.

- Are they trusted servants?
- Depend on the group conscience.
- How to know who is impaired? Consistency and sobriety time are important.
- We have always been self-policing. We do not throw our kind out. Demonstrate contented sobriety. People should be welcome at our group, maybe not given service responsibility.
- We have a duty and responsibility to not let an outside issue infiltrate and take over our meetings.
- When we teach the message we were taught to carry from our books and literature we can stay on course.
- This is a slippery slope. We have trusted servant guidelines which suggest two years of sobriety for service positions. We do that to protect A.A. from people who are using, but also to protect them.
- There are two separate issues: 1) Is it okay to use dope and go to meetings; 2) Is it okay to have a service position and use dope? My experience is that I can't use anything and control it. I don't want to chase someone off by not being compassionate. Wait to hear what is the right thing.
- Keep the door open, just do not put them in a service position.
- Read the pamphlet "The A.A. Member and Other Drugs" and give it to people to read.
- Cooperation with the Professional Community is a great place to start. Some doctors do make different prescription choices when they know they are working with an alcoholic.

Question: What can be done about a member who is disruptive, offensive, raging and combative at and after meetings? It is scaring some people away from the meeting.

Sharing:

- Concerned about A.A.'s and the group's reputation, we told a member that his behavior was not acceptable and that police would be called if he did not change his behavior.
- The Home Group got a restraining order for someone who was threatening physical violence.
- The group members read the traditions and decided they couldn't "kick" someone out over a disagreement between two people (different issue though, so this might not work in this situation).
- Concerned about someone who brought a gun to a meeting, members called police and had him removed.
- Two members, whose job it was to escort the offender out

of the meeting, were selected to sit on either side of the person. It worked pretty well.

- This kind of thing will happen, the meeting must take care of it. This is pretty black and white – disruptive, call the police. We must not be concerned about hurting their feelings. I've been at lots of meetings where the police were called. We must not make idle threats, but follow through. If nothing changes, nothing changes.
- Sometimes people need outside help.

Question: What are other groups doing about the "Additional" Regional Forum in South Dakota?

Sharing:

- South Dakota has a remote communities committee for the Native population who are not coming to meetings.
- Great Falls had a Native American meeting. It has disbanded, but contact is possible.

(General Service Conference continued from page 1)

- Trustees Finance Committee to gather personal 7th Tradition stories to use in communication with the Fellowship about Self-Support.
- Gradual parity for La Viña.
- Review of the booklet *Living Sober*.
- GSC inventory itself.
- Approval of the A.A. Video, "Animation" for Young People.
- PI Committee to draft a policy regarding showing full faces of actors.
- Recommit request to change the pamphlet "Self-Support: Where Money & Spirituality Mix" to the trustee's Finance Committee.

(Assembly continued from page 1)

Service Conference with a sense of that the Area was in favor of agenda items to:

- Add language to the pamphlet “Carrying the Message into Correctional Facilities”.
- Add language to the pamphlet “A Message to Corrections Professionals”.
- Update the pamphlet “A.A. and the Armed Services”.
- Review the booklet *Living Sober*.
- Define the editorial responsibility of G.S.O.’s Publications Department.
- Add language to the pamphlet “Understanding Anonymity”.
- Change language in the “A.A. at a Glance” flyer.
- Change the language in the service piece “Information on A.A.”.
- Request future Conference theme of “Anonymity in the Digital Age”.
- Gather sharing from the Fellowship about *The A.A. Service Manual*.
- Change the “Treatment Facilities” Conference Committee name to “Treatment”.
- Consider two locally created forms for use by the Treatment committees — one for treatment clients, one for A.A. members willing to serve as temporary contacts.

The sense of the Assembly was not in favor of agenda items to:

- Change language in the pamphlet “Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.”.
- Revise the video “Your General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure”.
- Develop a book on the history of “early pioneer women in A.A.”.

There was not a clear sense of the Assembly on the following agenda items:

- Publish *La Vinea* in color with a perfect or sewn binding and more stories.
- Develop conference-approved literature on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics.

In addition, the Assembly gave a sense that Area 40 is not in favor of limiting the amount of literature profit used to fund services; and not in favor of use of full faces in any conference-approved visual media.

(DCM Continued from page 1)

South. There are 11 groups with 33 meetings in the District. Attendance is strong and the District is well funded. The District meeting schedule recently changed from once every odd month to monthly and meetings are better attended.

The annual Fireman’s Point weekend August 20-22 promises good speakers, food, fun, fellowship and Delegate’s Report.

District 23. Mike M. reported that there are 4 groups in the District, with 8 meetings. The Wednesday Savage meeting is attended by many around the District. District meetings and fellowship, fun and food events are often combined in District 23 to draw attendance.

The Lower Yellowstone Soberfest is scheduled August 20-22 at Makoshika State Park with speakers and other activities.

Mike closed by thanking the District and expressing how much the Assembly helps his recovery.

District 31. Neil T. is the newly elected DCM. The District is looking forward to hosting the Special Forum next year. Colstrip, Forsyth, Jordan and several groups in Miles City are active and represented by GSR’s. There are also meetings in Baker, Ekalaka and Broadus.

District 41. DCM Lee T. described the District: Great Falls in the middle, Fort Benton to Cascade and Fort Shaw to Lewistown. There have been 3 GSR “schools”, some groups have had group inventories.

There are 18 registered groups, with 2 new groups in the last couple of months. There is a lot of carrying the message — about 270 meetings a month!

Relationships with the local treatment and corrections facilities are being rekindled and interest in A.A. is being renewed through cooperation with the professional community.

District members have been getting out

in the Area, participating in events, collecting “spiritual information” to prepare for hosting the 2011 Spring Roundup and, hopefully, the Special Forum.

Lee attended the West Central Region A.A. Service Conference (WCRAASC) in March, hosting the Newsletter listening session/workshop. His slightly biased opinion is that Area a0 has the *best rag in the Region!*

District 42. Gerry L., from Shelby, is the DCM. Meetings are held in Browning, Chester, Choteau, Conrad, Cut Bank, Shelby and Valier. Members also take a meeting into the Crossroads Corrections of America (CCA) facility on Sunday. Cut Bank has added a Wednesday evening meeting and Augusta is starting a Friday meeting. All meeting information is available on the Area website.

The Lake Francis Roundup will be held the weekend of July 31 through August 1. Everyone is invited for good food and fellowship.

District 51. Billijo D. is the District 51 DCM. The District has grown to include 12 groups and 30 meetings. Malta has 4 meetings a week; Box Elder, Dodson, Fort Belknap and Chinook each have 1; there are 22 meetings a week in Havre. Small meetings have 2 members, larger up to 25. Road trips around the District are encouraged. There has been a jail meeting on Sunday evening for over 10 years.

There will be a Corrections Playshop, District meeting, potluck and speaker meeting May 16. Mark your calendar now for the annual Havre Mini-conference, the most affordable roundup in the Area, September 24-26.

A.A. members in the District like to party and eat. There are monthly potluck/speaker meetings and a monthly speaker and birthday night. Four campouts are being planned.

There has been some turnover in the District Committee, although others have stepped up. Billijo will be leaving in July for a position in Mexico. Farewell!

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(DCM continued from page 4)

District 61. Anne B., Alternate DCM standing in for Tom D., reported that there are over 100 meetings each week in the Helena vicinity. The District co-sponsored a Pre-Assembly in Boulder and is planning the annual Corrections/Treatment Workshop in April, the Grapefest in June and the Attitude of Gratitude in November.

District 71. Peggy H., Alternate DCM, covered for Kevin M.. The District includes Butte, Anaconda, Deerlodge, Dillon, Drummond, Lima, Opportunity, Phillipsburg, Sheridan, Whitehall and Twin Bridges. There are 72 meetings a week which are all listed on the Area website.

About 10-15 people attend the monthly District meeting. A.A. is reaching out to schools and treatment and correctional facilities. The District participated in a Pre-Assembly in March at Boulder Hot Springs and the February conference call and appreciates the communication.

District 72. DCM Jennifer W. reported that the District ranges North to Wilsall, South to West Yellowstone, West to Virginia City, and East to Livingston. There are over 40 active groups and over 80 meetings.

The Fall Roundup was very successful, except for exceeding meeting room capacity! The windfall from the Roundup was split 60/30/10 to GSO/Area/District.

There have been several group events with speakers and pot-lucks; the CPC committee hosted professionals at one of these. Special events were held for every holiday, with marathon meetings at Christmas and New Years. A 7th Tradition Work-

shop was hosted by the District in December.

Jennifer went to the WCRAASC, participated in the Pre-Assembly in Boulder, and will attend the special topic Regional Forum in Rapid City.

The District will be celebrating its birthday in September with a party!

District 81. DCM Dan K. opened with compliments to the Assembly for its good looks and wonderfulness. The District has 52 groups in 17 communities with nearly 100 meetings a week. There are meetings in Alberton, Arlee, Clinton, Frenchtown, Haugen, Hot Springs, Missoula, Noxon, Pablo, Plains, Polson, Ronan, Seeley Lake, St. Ignatius, St. Regis, Superior and Thompson Falls. The District meetings are well attended with an enthusiastic group of committee chairs and GSR's.

Meeting attendance is good, some groups have had to move to larger space. Young people are active, the Traditions are observed and the newcomer is welcomed. The Fellowship is strong and insists on having fun with special events for Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years and Valentines Day and a Grapevine writing party. Al-Anon hosted the Valentines Day party in appreciation for the support and cooperation during the 2009 Spring Roundup. Upcoming events include a basketball tournament and annual Founder's Day Event with a Delegate Report, CPC Workshop, picnic and young people / old timers softball game.

Dan attended the WCRAASC and appreciated the lively discussion there, hoping for the same at the Area Assembly. He came

away realizing that drinking alcohol most cost him everything, so it seems a small sacrifice to contribute a bit more so A.A. can continue to reach out to the newcomer with current and appropriate PSA's and literature.

The District participated in the Pre-Assembly in Elmo and appreciated the opportunity to review the Spring Assembly agenda.

Missoula has submitted a bid to host the 2012 WCRAASC. Having never hosted a conference like this, the District has an abundance of enthusiastic people and would be honored and privileged to have the opportunity.

District 91. Sam, the Alternate DCM substituting for Libbie L., reviewed the district coverage of the Tobacco and Flathead Valleys from Eureka to Elmo. There are 21 registered groups with 10 regularly attending monthly District meetings which are hosted at different locations by groups.

The District again voted to provide financial assistance to help groups send GSR's to the Assembly. There was a District Inventory, moderated by the Area Chair; and the annual Into

Action Weekend was also held. Libbie attended the WCRAASC and was delighted to report that she no longer practices "cornfield" indiscretions that needed to be left in the cornfield (a thought generated by an Iowa t-shirt saying "what happens in the cornfield stays in the cornfield").

The District co-hosted, with Districts 81 and 93, a Pre-Assembly and will host a Delegate's Report May 23. Planning for the 2012 Spring Roundup is underway.

District 93. The DCM, Eric D., reported that a new group has joined the District, bringing them to 15 groups and 3 unregistered meetings.

The District has developed Policy & Procedures Guidelines which should help voting, elections and the various chairs' jobs.

Eric attended the WCRAASC and the District participated in the Pre-Assembly along with Districts 81 and 91. Upcoming events include the Spring Fling and Talent Show and the annual Painted Rocks Campout.

Area Service Chair & Nonvoting Service Position Report Highlights

Archives. Tim H., Archives Chair, reported that he has not been invited to give any workshops. He has participated in the conference calls and there is a rumor that a computer may be in his future.

Corrections. Mary S. reported a \$1312.41 balance in the Pink Can Account with strong contributions from the groups and steady requests for literature for Montana State

Please send pink can contributions to:

Area 40 Corrections
1325 3rd Ave N
Great Falls MT 59401

(Continued on page 6)

(Corrections from page 5)

Prison, Watch West and East, Helena County jail, Yellowstone Country Detention Center, District 93 and the Elkhorn Facility. Requests for literature can be emailed to Mary using the information on page 16.

Montana State Prison will have an orientation in May. Women may be approved to carry the message, although meetings have been closed to all outsiders until May.

District 42 will have a Corrections Workshop in April.

Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC).

Virginia R. reported that she is delighted to chair one of the funnest committees, whose task it is to inform professionals what A.A. is and what it is not.

Virginia participated in a CPC luncheon in Great Falls, attended two Pre-Assemblies and will attend a workshop in District 81 in June.

She closed saying that a busy Area Committee Chairperson is a happy Area Committee Chairperson; please invite us to your districts and we won't overstay our welcome!

Grapevine. Rich K. stated he had attended three Pre-Assemblies and plans to attend the Helena Grapefest in June. The committee looks forward to lively discussion of the agenda items and the Grapevine questions asked by the Regional Trustee.

Literature. Lori F. welcomed everyone, especially those at their first assembly, and thanked the Districts hosting the Pre-Assemblies she attended. She welcomed the preparation the Pre-Assemblies provided for the

Assembly.

"The A.A. Service Manual Combined with the Twelve Concepts for World Service" is available in large print.

The committee has 9 agenda items to discuss and welcomes attendance and participation.

Lori closed sharing 3 thoughts:

- Bill W. wrote, "I learned that the temporary or seeming good can often be the deadly enemy of the permanent best. When it comes to survival for A.A., nothing short of our very best will be good enough."
- More from Bill W., "With respect to its own affairs, the collective conscience of the group will, given time, almost surely demonstrate its perfect dependability. The group conscience will, in the end, prove a far more infallible guide for group affairs than the decision of any individual member, however good or wise he may be. This is a striking and almost unbelievable fact about Alcoholics Anonymous".
- A quote from Leonard B.'s story, "One of us is not smarter than all of us".

Public Information (PI). Tim M. has travelled to Districts 11, 41, and 71 since the Fall Assembly to discuss the Area 40 Hotline and PI. Tim expected much of his time in this position would be dedicated to the Hotline number and this has been the case. The position has been an avocation that has provided him a sense of purpose and an opportunity to improve the process and himself. The Hotline is stabilizing and will be a minor task for the next PI Chair, who will be able to focus their attention on other areas of PI.

Tim posed the question, "Why do we have PI?". His thought was that perhaps none of us would be sitting in the Yogo Inn if it were not for the help and support of third parties, people who are not members of A.A. but are willing to lend their support and allow us to work through them to carry the message of A.A. to the still suffering alcoholic.

If you are full of gratitude and wondering how you can repay and keep A.A. alive or if you are feeling anything but gratitude, Tim suggests you consider standing for the Area PI position at the Fall assembly.

Treatment. Paula H. handed out an Area map with some updates to help the Bridging the Gap contacts and reported that Alex will be cleaning it up and providing an electronic copy.

District Treatment Chairs around the Area have been contacting treatment centers and several new meetings have started. MCDC reopened its doors for A.A. meetings in January and we're glad to be able to go to meetings there. It's not been a smooth transition, but we're in!

Paula expressed her regret at not being able to attend the Pre-Assemblies, and stated that she believes them to be an important tool to help inform us of the issues to be addressed at the Assembly. She invited anyone interested in the Treatment Committee agenda items to attend the committee meeting.

She said she appreciated all the districts' communication about activities which include:

- Meetings at Elkhorn Treatment Center, Boyd Andrew, and MIP classes.

- Support of MCDC meetings in District 93 and meetings at Montana Addiction Service in Hamilton.
- Informational meetings at Rimrock.
- A.A. meetings weekly at Yellowstone Boys & Girls Ranch.
- Progress on establishing meetings at Malstrom AFB and Gateway Treatment Center.
- A.A. meetings at Rock Mountain Treatment Center and Benefice, with an additional meeting under consideration.
- Bridging the Gap for patients coming back into District 51.
- Communication with District 51 Treatment facilities including meeting schedules, pamphlets, books, and a list of A.A. members willing to take meetings into the facilities.
- District 61 participation in coordination with MCDC for the new meeting schedule and orientation and supporting meetings there.
- Contact with Our Place, a mental health resource center in Helena, to see if A.A. can be of service there.
- 4th Annual Treatment/Correction Workshop in Helena.
- Support for MCDC meetings by District 72.
- Meetings at the Providence Center, Teen Recovery in Missoula and support of MCDC meetings.

Area Advisor. Andrew W., Past Delegate Panel 57, reported participating in 3 listening sessions and attending the WCRAASC. He was invited to chair a 7th Tradition Workshop at the International and hopes to see you there.

(Continued on page 7)

Treasurer's Report

Linda B. reviewed the charge for the Finance Committee at this Assembly, her participation in the listening sessions around the Area, and Area finances.

GSO INCOME & EXPENSE	
Total Contributions	\$6,296,710
Literature Profits	\$8,244,374
Interest Income	\$1,187
	\$14,542,271
Total GSO Expenses	\$13,253,623
Net Income	\$1,288,648

She provided some information from the February 2010 quarterly report from GSO which appears in the box to the left. Non-A.A. purchases of literature were 30.6% of the total units sold in 2009, up from 20% of the total in 2008.

Linda provided 2009 Year End Financial Reports. Income was \$31,574.75 plus \$110 to the Archivist Account, operating expenses were

\$29,451.12 plus \$360.29 for the Archivist Account, with a net income of \$1,873.34. She thanked the Area groups for demonstrating the principle of self-support.

Linda also provided current financial reports as of April 7, 2010 which are summarized on this page. The budget for 2010 is \$31,232.25. The current checkbook balance is \$24,703.76, which includes a prudent reserve of \$10,410.75, \$979.78 in the restricted

Area 40 Actual vs Budget by Committee January 1 through April 7, 2010		
	Actual	Budget
Expense		
Spring Assembly	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Fall Assembly	\$0.00	\$4,750.00
Regional Service Conferenc	\$1,170.63	\$1,800.00
Regional Forum	\$0.00	\$500.00
Regional Trustee		
Delegate Expenses	\$3,258.80	\$5,739.00
Area Chair	\$96.28	\$500.00
Archives Chair	\$1,307.25	\$4,703.25
Corrections Chair	\$0.00	\$250.00
CPC Chair	\$0.00	\$250.00
GrapeVine Chair	\$0.00	\$250.00
Literature Chair	\$295.37	\$795.00
Public Information Chair	\$359.05	\$2,050.00
Treatment Chair	\$0.00	\$250.00
Secretary	\$0.00	\$300.00
Treasurer	\$30.84	\$400.00
Website	\$0.00	\$170.00
Triangle	\$1,492.55	\$3,525.00
Area Workshops		
Archivist Account	\$811.62	
Program Services - Other		
Unclassified		
Total Expense	\$8,822.39	\$31,232.25
% of year elapsed	27%	
% of actual to budget	28%	

Archivist Account, and a current operating balance is \$13,313.23. The budget for 2010 is \$31,232.15; year-to-date income is \$8,806.47; expenses are \$8,822.39.

Linda reminded people to send group contributions to Area 40 Inc., PO BOX 21577, Billings MT 59104; Triangle subscriptions to the Triangle Editor; Pink Can contributions to the Area Corrections Chair.

(Chair & Nonvoting continued from page 6)

Webmaster. Alex M. reported progress on the redesign of the Area website, inviting members to visit with him during the weekend to preview some of the new screens. His priority is ease of finding meetings, as that is the primary use of the website.

Alex also expressed thanks to all the districts for their effort at keeping the meeting schedules and Hotline list up-to-date. He reminded everyone to send him flyers of upcoming events for posting to the calendar on the website.

Archivist. Gerry R. opened by reminding us we were making history! He reported that the Area's bid to host the 15th Annual National A.A. Archives Workshop in 2011 was successful.

Gerry has been busy; he's been invited to 10 events, counting the Assembly. One of these events includes a display at the 20th Annual Native American Indians in A.A. (NAI-AA) Convention in Las Vegas Nevada, at their expense. Gerry sought and received Area approval to take some material which may not be easily replaceable.

Storage and conservation materials have been purchased to support digitizing and storage of the collection of taped archival interviews and other recordings. Kenny R., of Helena, is helping out in the repository. All offers of help are welcome!

AREA 40 INCOME & EXPENSE January 1 - April 7, 2010		
	Actual	Budget
Income		
Individual contribution	\$12.00	
Group Contributions	\$7,423.73	
District Contribution	\$1,085.74	
Roundup Contribution		
7th Tradition		
Triangle Subscriptions	\$275.00	
Other Income (recouped from)	\$10.00	
Archivist Account		
Interest		
Total Income	\$8,806.47	\$31,232.25
Expenses		
Travel Expenses	\$4,419.70	\$17,764.00
Rent	\$1,307.25	\$5,853.25
Literature Expenses	\$295.37	\$545.00
Photocopies / printing	\$1,011.92	\$685.00
Dues, registration, fees	\$15.00	
Postage	\$15.84	\$270.00
Supplies	\$1,312.05	\$1,280.00
Telephone	\$400.26	\$4,325.00
Archivist Account		
Miscellaneous expense	\$45.00	\$510.00
Total Expense	\$8,822.39	\$31,232.25
Net Income	(\$15.92)	
% of year elapsed	27%	
% of actual to budget	28%	

Delegate Report Highlights

Carole B. began her report by admitting it was the most difficult report she has had to write, knowing that A.A. is saving her life by having her serve. She talked about her sister's tragic death in February, killed by a drunk driver. The question often asked is, "what can I do?". She acknowledged that A.A. has been there, but answered: continue to serve A.A.; reach out to newcomers, those about to leave, and the professional community. And, she expressed gratitude.

Carole attended the Roundup in Bozeman, listening sessions, Pre-Assemblies, the General Service Board Weekend in Rye, New York, and the WCRAASC in Dubuque. She attended the Board weekend as the chair of the Conference Committee on

Public Information and is convinced that we are in very capable hands with the Board.

Because of a question asked at the Elmo Pre-Assembly, Carole asked some thought-provoking questions of the Assembly. How does singling out an ethnic group fit with the First Tradition? Do terms such as 'sponsorship line' affect unity? Am I making every effort to assure when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help that the hand of A.A. is there?

Carole submitted 13 names to chair or speak at meetings at the International Convention; 9 were invited to participate and Carole will participate in the West Central Region meeting.

The Conference workshop topic is inventory. It may be time for

Area 40 to take its inventory, to look at the number of Assemblies, their location and how we use our Delegate and Area Committee Chairs. What more can we do to help the still suffering alcoholic?

Elections are in the fall. Anyone interested in serving, should talk to the person currently holding the position, pray, put your name forward, and see what happens!

Young people were invited to gather for dinner.

Questions & Answers

Q: What is the Young People's dinner meeting about?

A: To prepare for discussion at the General Service Conference PI committee about young peo-

ple and electronic media, anonymity and social networking sites, how to reach young people.

Q: How do you promote unity?

A: I need to be right here with you all, not thinking my group is the best in town, going to other meetings, treat people like I would like to be treated, the Golden Rule, get people to come along.

Q: How can newer members be of service when discouraged or disrespected by longer-time members?

A: Show up, talk with the members, find out what their concerns are, let people know you are serious about serving.

Area Chair Report Highlights

Terry S. asked everyone serving to encourage replacements for our service positions. He suggested inviting them to attend the Fall Assembly September 18-19. NOW is the time!

Terry has visited half of the districts for workshops, luncheons,

listening sessions, panels, inventories, business meetings and Pre-Assemblies. He requested that DCM's of the remaining districts let him know when he could visit.

Terry covered all of the upcoming Area and Regional service events for the next year. The

details are in the calendar in this newsletter and the calendar on the Area website aa-montana.org.

Area Committee conference calls continue to be an effective way to communicate among the committee avoiding travel expenses.

The agenda for the Assembly includes 58 General Service Conference items and 9 Area agenda items. Terry encouraged participation in committee meetings, workshops and break-outs; asking questions or stating concerns and ideas.

Other Report Highlights

2009 Fall Roundup Report.

The District 72 Roundup Committee received very favorable feedback on the Roundup. There were over 400 registrations. Unfortunately, some people were turned away because of meeting room capacity. Approximately \$4,000 left after the bills were paid and the seed money passed to the Billings Roundup. The balance and the decision about

what to do with it was given to the District .

2010 Spring Roundup Report.

Billings is ready for the May 14-16 Roundup which will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. There is a great line up of A.A. and Al-Anon speakers.

2010 Fall Roundup Report.

District 71 will host the 2010 Fall Roundup in Butte at the Copper

King Hotel and Convention Center. The Theme is "Gratitude is an Action Word". There will be great speakers from Butte and around the country and entertainment both Friday and Saturday evenings. There are special room rates for reservations made before July 1.

2011 National A.A. Archive Workshop Status Report.

Gerry R. will travel to the 2010

National Archives Workshop in Macon, Georgia to accept the seed money and banner for the event, encourage participation, and gather information useful for hosting this event September 22-25 in Helena at the Gateway Convention Center . The committee starts meeting June 1.

(Continued on page 9)

(Other Reports cont'd from page 8)
2011 Local Forum. Mary S. reported that the request for the local forum was submitted to the General Service Office and a response is expected by the end of July. If approved, the local forum will be held July 9-10, 2011 at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls and the Range Rider Museum in Miles City.

2010 WCRAASC. Jennifer W., DCM District 72, and Eric D.,

DCM District 93, teamed up to report on the WCRAASC. Eric concluded that the finance issue has been discussed and discussed. One could bring it up as a topic of a meeting and if you get out alive, you win! He emphasized the importance of keeping group information in directories, meeting schedules and websites up to date so newcomers and visitors can find us.

Jennifer commented on the inventory process and that a good facili-

tator is important for a constructive experience. She also was impressed by a suggestion that the Grapevine be published in a "flip" format, like many owners manuals, with one side English, the other Spanish.

Flathead Valley Intergroup.

Alida W., Treasurer, reported that the Intergroup represents groups throughout District 91, meeting monthly. It publishes a monthly newsletter, provides an answering service and meeting schedules,

and maintains a web site.

The entertainment committee organized a speaker meeting and potluck or other special event for every month during the winter. Food generates attendance.

There are a lot of people in the Flathead Valley who have traded their booze and drugs for food and sobriety and they absolutely insist on having fun!

Hotline Status Report Highlights

Tim M., the PI Chair, reported that the biggest concern in the Districts, not having the Hotline number published in many of the phone books around the Area, has been addressed. Area 40 has signed contracts for the Dex yellow pages in Billings, Bozeman, Butte, Miles City, Glasgow, Great Falls, Helena, Lewistown, and Missoula. Area 40 has also signed contracts for listings in 9 Co-op directories. See the Assembly minutes for the directories, cities covered, and publication dates.

There are 508 contacts in the Hotline database with all districts represented except 21, 23, and 42. Since the online meeting information is used to respond to calls requesting meeting information, it is very important that this information is current and most of the districts have made updates within the year.

Since the Fall Assembly, AnswerNet has received 354 calls for 2228 minutes and made 33 patch calls (a successful connection to a member of A.A.). The total cost was \$464.50 of which \$134.50

was districts' costs and \$330 Area costs. Some districts continue to be concerned that the total call number seems low. AnswerNet does not charge for the meeting information only calls.

This service is as good as we make it. AnswerNet recently had a call that took 15 tries to find an alcoholic who could take a call from another alcoholic. Please be sure your information in the contact database is correct and be available when you say you will be. Also, please

notify any organizations in your districts about the 1-888-607-2000 number so their contact information can be current.

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered their time and talent, especially Alex, our webmaster, to create and update the online meeting and contact information. And thanks to the people on the list for taking the calls when someone needs our help. Please keep up this very worthwhile effort!

Past Delegate Sharing

Scott W., Past Delegate Panel 55, recalled his first Assembly in 1991, sitting on the non-smoking side (OOPS!) and running to his room to watch sports.

Scott talked about the Concepts, having a set of parameters to work with, to help us communicate. The 4th Concept, the Right of Participation, the key to harmony. Harmony in music is all the notes working together, not everyone singing the same note.

He traced his way to Delegate: GSR, District CPC Chair, Area Chair, and the life changing event

in 2005 of being selected Delegate. He reminded us that the Area Officers and Committee Chairs are at the head table so everyone can find them, not because they are more important than anyone else.

His heart is filled with joy and hope. There is no bad news, as long as we prepare for the next Assembly.

Mark S., Past Delegate Panel 44, has 2 positions for life: Past Delegate and A.A. member. It is a privilege to serve and an expression of gratitude. About putting \$1 in the basket, why not more?

Everything costs more. The Oklahoma Birthday plan suggested \$1 for each year of sobriety for the group, District, Area, and GSO. He's happy to report it's getting expensive!

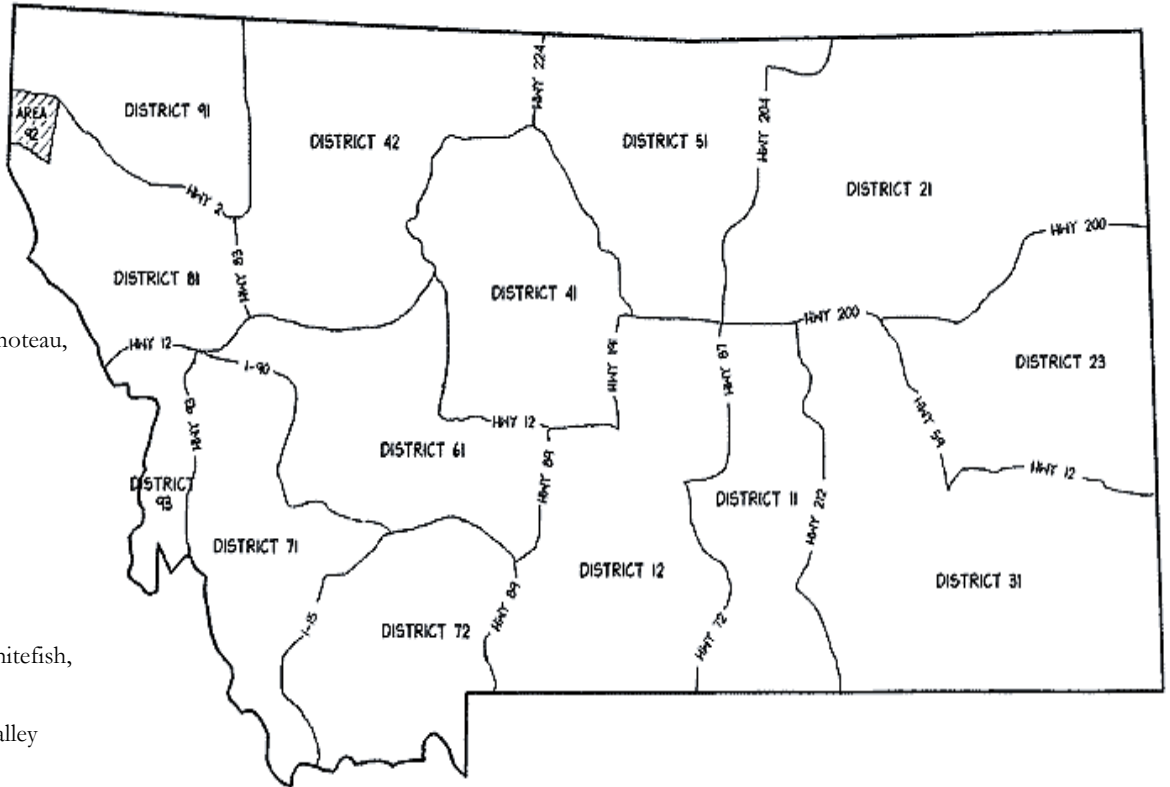
Mark also talked about danger to A.A.—that it comes from us. A 9th Circuit Judge found us a religion. What are our principles? Why do we do the things we do? Are we doing it for the newcomer? We need to be careful about how we look to the newcomer—do we look like a cult or a religious organization? What can we do to make A.A. more

attractive to the newcomer?

Mark also talked about plans: his plans and God's plans. At every election he was selected for something different than what he expected. Today he doesn't know what God's plan is, but he is interested to see.

Mark was bored at his first assembly; at the next assembly he started to study the process. The more he learned, the more he enjoyed it. We are unique and our process is careful. Enjoy it and love it as much as he does and Robbie did!

- 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 Groups

Bridger Group: meets Tuesday at 7:00 p.m., 222 W. Broadway, Bridger MT 59014; GSR Eric O.

Bountiful Big Book Study Group: meets Saturday at 7:00 p.m., 1221 Hiway 2 E, Havre MT 59501; GSR Dan F.

Help Wanted

Grapevine Nontrustee Director. Serves on the A.A. Grapevine Corporate Board. Interested A.A. members are encouraged to submit a résumé. See Box 4-5-9, Vol. 56, No. 2 Summer 2010 for more information.

International Convention Update

There is still time to pre-register for the Convention! The deadline is May 14. On-site registration will also be available 8am - 8pm Wednesday and Thursday June 30 and July 1, 8 am - 6pm Friday July 2, and 8am - 4pm Saturday July 3 at the Convention Center in San Antonio.

Thousands of volunteers will be on hand to greet us at airports, bus stations, train stations, hotels and motels, and the Riverwalk.

Some of our Area 40 friends will be speaking, check out the Advance Program on aa.org. You can also sign up for to volunteer, although opportunities are filling up fast!

If you can't be there, a limited broadcast of the Opening Flag Ceremony will be available. Check with our Delegate for the details.

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. Make checks payable to Area 40.

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Groups are encouraged to be self-supporting for their Triangle subscription fee. "Expired" above the mailing address indicates that the subscription has expired. Groups will receive the Triangle regardless of subscription status because of Past Actions of the Area Assembly.

Individuals: If your subscription has expired, this will be your last issue of the Triangle.



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

POSITION	NAME	EMAIL	COMMITTEE
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, DCM 72, DR 11
Archives	Tim H.	archives@aa-montana.org	DCMs-11, 71 DRs-23, 91
CPC	Virginia R.	cpc@aa-montana.org	DCMs-21, 51 DRs-42, 81
Corrections	Mary S.	corrections@aa-montana.org	DCMs-41,42
Grapevine	Richard K.	grapevine@aa-montana.org	DCMs-81, 91 DRs-61, 71
Literature	Lori F.	literature@aa-montana.org	DCMs-12, 31 DRs-91, 93
Public Info.	Tim M.	pi@aa-montana.org	DCMs-23, 93 DRs-12, 51
Treatment	Paula H.	treatment@aa-montana.org	DCM-61 DRs-21, 41, 71
Triangle Ed.	Sharon S.	triangle@aa-montana.org	
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DCM 12	Nick D.	dcm12@aa-montana.org	Literature DR Public Info.
DCM 21	Laura S.	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	

Calendar of Events

MAY

- 14—**DEADLINE FOR PRE-REGISTRATION**—A.A.'s 75th Birthday Party "A Vision for You"
 14-16—**BILLINGS**—Spring Roundup—Connie O.; Johnny B.

JUNE

- 19—**HELENA**—Grapefest—Gary E.
 25-27—**PAINTED ROCKS STATE PARK CAMPGROUND**—Bitterroot Picnic & Campout—Eric D.

JULY

- 1—**DEADLINE**—Agenda items for Fall Assembly—Terry S.
 1-4—**SAN ANTONIO TEXAS**—A.A.'s 75th Birthday Party "A Vision for You"—www.aa.org
 30-August 1—**MCLEOD**—18th Annual Beartooth Mountain Conference—Chairman, PO Box 23406 Billings MT 59104 or
 www.beartoothmountainconference.com

AUGUST

- 6-8—**HUNGRY HORSE RESERVOIR**—Flathead Valley Intergroup Campout

SEPTEMBER

- 3-5—**POLSON**—27TH Annual Ray of Hope Sunlight of the Spirit Camporee—Suzanne; Sonya
 18-19—**LEWISTOWN**—Fall Assembly—Terry S.

OCTOBER

- 1-3—**BUTTE**—Fall Roundup—Virginia C. or FALLROUNDUPBUTTE@YAHOO.COM
 9—**BOZEMAN**—H.O.W. Group Annual Speaker Event—Candy S.
 16-17—**KALISPELL**—Flathead Valley Serenity Group Annual Fall Refresher—Kathy

NOVEMBER 2010

- 12-14—**RAPID CITY, SD**—Additional Regional Forum—*Singleness of Purpose-Carrying the Message to the Native American*—Carole B.

MARCH 2011

- 4-6—**NOTHERN MINNESOTA**—West Central Region Service Conference

APRIL 2011

- 9-10—**LEWISTOWN**—Spring Assembly

MAY 2011

- 13-15—**GREAT FALLS**—Spring Roundup

JULY 2011

- 9-10—**GREAT FALLS/MILES CITY**—Local Forum—pending request outcome

SEPTEMBER 2011

- 10-11—**DAVENPORT IOWA**—West Central Regional Forum
 17-18—**LEWISTOWN**—Fall Assembly
 22-25—**HELENA**—National A.A. Archives Workshop—Gerry R.

MARCH 2012

- 2-4—**BILLINGS**—West Central Region Service Conference

IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR EVENT

LISTED HERE, PLEASE EMAIL

INFORMATION TO THE EDITOR AT:

triangle@aa-montana.org

OR SEND IT TO:

**PO Box 542
 BOZEMAN MT 59771**

Coming Soon...to a location near you!

Don't miss out on hearing about the General Service Conference and the decisions made there. Our Delegate will be making her final Delegate Reports at the following dates and locations:

- May 15 at the Spring Round up in Billings
- May 22 in Great Falls
- May 23 in Kalispell
- June 12 in Missoula
- June 13 in Bozeman
- June 19 in Helena
- July 17 in Anaconda
- July 18 Districts 42 & 51
- August 21 Noon – District 31
- August 21 (5 PM) - District 12