

# The Triangle

VOLUME 18 ISSUE 7

OCTOBER 2010

## Area 40 Inc

**Confidential  
For A.A. members  
only**

### From Your Editor

Packing all the news from the Assembly and Area goings on into 12 pages is a challenge!

This issue highlights the Fall Assembly, please be sure to go to the Area website [aa-montana.org](http://aa-montana.org) for the minutes which include copies of reports, precise wording of motions, and detailed floor discussions. Our Secretary, April A., does a great job of capturing all of this information.

Sit back and I hope you enjoy this 35,000 foot overview of what is going on in Area 40!

Again, thanks for trusting me with this great job!

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## Panel 61 Delegate Elected

The Fall 2010 Area Assembly was attended by 110 voting members: GSR's, DCM's, Area Committee Chairs and Area Officers. Terry S., current Area Chair/Alternate Delegate was elected to serve as the Area 40 Panel 61 Delegate in 2011 and 2011.

With a wealth of qualified A.A. members willing to serve, all other Area Officer and committee chairs were filled as follows:

- Area Chair/Alternate Delegate — Sharon S. (outgoing Triangle Editor);
- Treasurer — Lori F. (outgoing Area Literature Chair);

- Secretary — Linda B. (outgoing Area Treasurer);
- Archives — Joe H. (outgoing District 41 Archives Chair);
- CPC — Libbie L. (outgoing District 91 DCM);
- Corrections — Terry H. (current coordinator for meetings at Women's Prison);
- Grapevine — Gary E. (current District 61 Grapevine Chair);
- Public Information — Paula H. (outgoing Area 40 Treatment Chair);

- Treatment — Colby D. (outgoing District 11 DCM);
- Triangle — Lee T. (outgoing District 41 DCM).

Motions were passed to:

- Establish the 2011 Area budget of \$35,549.94;
- Include \$900 in the 2011 Area Budget for expenses for the Additional Local Forum (in Great Falls and Miles City);
- Form an ad-hoc committee charged with establishing a protocol for Area 40 to take its inventory.

The CPC/Trustees Committee took no action regarding

*(Continued on page 5)*

## DCM Report Highlights

**District 11.** Colby D., DCM, expressed appreciation to groups in the District for their generous support and rebuilding of the prudent reserve and operating budget balances. All committees are active and enthusiastic; regular meetings are held; opportunities to serve the community

are being pursued; PI/CPC and Corrections committees are busy. Nearly 60% of the groups, including Hardin, Lame Deer and Roundup, are attending district meetings. District elections have been conducted and all positions have been filled.

The District will have a "Unity Day" in October and a district inventory will be held in December.

Colby communicated his gratitude for the experience to serve as DCM and wished all serving in the incoming rotation a "Spirit of Service".

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## Fall Roundup Fun

Over 350 A.A. members, friends and family attended the 2010 Fall Roundup "Gratitude is an Action

Word" October 1-3 in Butte.

Lots of fun, fellowship, and food was shared and a

great roster of speakers carried a powerful message of Alcoholics Anonymous.

## GSR Breakout

After a full day of elections and Area business, GSR's convened for a breakout with Ask-It-Basket questions, moderated by Past Delegate MaryAnn Willis. Here are the questions and discussions:

**Question:** Anything more on sponsorship than what's in the pamphlet "Questions and Answers About Sponsorship"?

**Responses:** Develop sponsorship skills by being more active--ask sponsees to call daily, use the steps in the Big Book; use the Big Book--Chapter 7 "Working With Others" as a guide; share what has been passed along through sponsorship.

**Question:** Would you recommend or discourage committee participation in your first year as a GSR?

**Response:** Yes, encourage participation.

**Question:** Do non-GSR's vote for district officers?

**Response:** Depends on district.

**Question:** What do you do if you have an old timer trying to micromanage your group?

**Responses:** Group Conscience; be an example of the Big Book and leave expectations of how others "should" behave at the door; use a timer or a visual reminder for other members to keep their comments short.

**Question:** How do we, as a group, deal with mentally disabled individuals who attend meetings?

**Responses:** All alcoholics should be included; remind group members of the Traditions; "the only requirement for membership is the desire to stop drinking"; take a group inventory; hold a

group conscience; read "How It Works".

Thanks to Jeannie R., Great Falls Women's Mustard Seed GSR, for taking notes!

### WELCOME NEW GROUPS

**Because We Care Group** meets in Sidney at 419 3rd Ave SW, GSR Rose W. 480-9964.

**New Women Group** meets in Helena at 1432 Gallatin Ave, GSR Linda C. 202-1381.

**We Are Not Saints Group** meets in Bozeman at the MSU Student Union Building (check at the AskUs Desk), GSR Jennifer W. 439-5487.

## DCM Breakout

About twenty DCM's, soon- to-be DCMs and others participated in the DCM Breakout. Here are some responses to the Ask-It-Basket questions:

**Question:** Who votes for District Officers?

**Responses:** Some Districts limit the voting to GSRs only, committee chairs not having a vote; some allow Chairs, GSRs, but the DCM votes only as a tie breaker; when a person has more than one position (GSR and committee chair) one vote is allowed; in any event guided by spiritual principles as they related to A. A.'s Traditions.

**Question:** Should last names be used in Delegate voting?

**Responses:** Doctor Bob's view indicates yes, we are to be anonymous, but not invisible — two ways to violate anonymity: the

first is as the Tradition states in press, radio and films, the second is to become anonymous within the fellowship; many DCMs agreed that by this time in their service participation there are only a few that are not aware of other service workers last names.

**Question:** What would DCM's suggest for incoming DCMs concerning visits to groups?

**Responses:** Just do it—greet people, shake hands, and help them to feel welcome; a great opportunity to overcome pride, ego, and fear; the DCM may wish to call ahead to let the GSR know you are coming and, at the same time, find out what is going on with that particular group; special group events, birthday celebrations or potlucks are great times to get to know members and learn about District participation; find out when group business meetings are scheduled and attend; continued participation helps the District remain in-

involved and available; enthusiasm breeds enthusiasm; invite all groups to send a representative, if for nothing else than to find out how their money is being spent; if someone from a group is interested, follow up with a reminder call—their interest may be the beginning of the group's vital A. A. unifying participation.

Welcome to incoming DCMs in attendance including Erin G. from District 81, Peggy H. from Dist 71, and Cathy J. from District 72.

Thanks to Lee T. for taking notes and writing the article!

### TIME FOR A SPLIT?

SEND AREA CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

AREA 40, INC.  
PO BOX 21577  
BILLINGS MT 59104

SEND GSO CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

GSO  
PO BOX 459  
GRAND CENTRAL STATION  
NEW YORK NY 10163

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## Area Chair Report Highlights

Terry S. reported that he visited Districts 11, 21, 31, 51 and 61 and plans to attend District 72's September meeting. He reviewed events around the Area and region. (See page 12.)

Terry encouraged everyone attending the Assembly to share their views so all our voices are heard and to listen carefully, especially to the voices with different ideas.

He closed reminding the Assembly that the collective conscience of Area 40 speaks here and that Will of our Higher Power is expressed through that group conscience.

## Orientation

Panel 59 Delegate Carole B. welcomed everyone and said, "From the time I was told I was missing out and needed to wash the coffee pot continuing to this moment, serving AA has saved my life".

Carole reminded us that A.A. is a program of helping others. As trusted (*trust - reliance, hope for future, holding of another's property, commit to safe-keeping*) servants (*servant - a person who performs duties for others, a devoted and helpful fol-*

*lower*), our purpose at the Assembly is to discuss what Area 40 can do to help carry our message of hope to the still suffering alcoholic.

After recognizing the first-time attendees, she briefly provided an orientation about what would be happening and the structure of the committee system. She offered a few words about the elections and encouraged everyone to ask questions and to read or re-read Bill's piece on leadership in the Service Manual supplementing his piece on Concept IX.

She also mentioned the Third Legacy procedure of "going to the hat" in which God is involved such that we're ok with the results the hat provides.

Carole suggested that members new to the Assembly take part in the discussions, ask questions, and place questions in the ask-it-baskets for the GSR and DCM Breakout sessions. She closed by thanking everyone for being present.

## Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Linda B., stated that she assumed this position having big shoes to fill. She has prepared an information sheet that should help smooth the transition.

As the committee and the Assembly prepares the 2011 budget, Linda asked us to consider how the service being planned will help the still-suffering alcoholic.

The table at the right summarizes the income, expense, prudent reserve, archivist account and operating bal-

ances as of September 13, 2010. Although current income exceeds current expenses, that could rapidly change as we plan to spend over \$9,000 before the end of the year.

Our income this year is less than the last two years and Linda expressed concern about having adequate income in 2011 to cover the expenses in the proposed budget.

She said she appreciated and enjoyed the opportunity to serve and that God had a hand in the hat

when her name came out two years ago; that He has a great sense of humor and she has been given a sense of purpose and more spiritual growth.

AREA 40 INCOME & EXPENSE		
January 1 - September 13, 2010		
	Actual	Budget
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$21,614.61</b>	<b>\$31,232.25</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$18,550.77</b>	<b>\$31,232.25</b>
<b>Prudent Reserve</b>	<b>\$10,910.75</b>	
<b>Archivist Account</b>	<b>\$1,123.16</b>	
<b>Operating Balance</b>	<b>\$15,081.37</b>	
% of year elapsed	70%	
% of actual to budget	59%	

## Other Report Highlights

### Area Service Chairs, Nonvoting Positions, Roundup, NAW, Intergroup

**Archives.** Archives chair Tim H. reported that he has had an uneventful summer, but has been working with the Archivist on updating the Policy & Procedures Manual. Tim encouraged individuals and groups to send contributions to the Area Archivist's fund for upkeep of the Area Archives.

**Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC).** The chair, Virginia R., said that she has enjoyed serving and meeting people as she visited around the Area. She attended District 81's Founders' Day where members shared about their CPC experience and how it enriched their lives.

The volleyball game that followed reminded her that she is not as young and agile as she once was!

Virginia apologized for technical difficulties that interfered with her timely participation, but encouraged people to stand for this position.

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## Delegate Report Highlights

Carole B., Area 40 Delegate Panel 59, was honored, humbled, relieved, and saddened to give her final report. She congratulated All trusted servants recently elected and promised their lives would be forever changed.

She reported her activities since the last assembly which included 13 Delegate's reports to members from 14

districts and participating West Central Region's "Meet Your Neighbors" meeting at the 2010 International Convention. She reminded everyone about the two surveys being conducted and expressed optimism about planning for the General Service Conference Inventory.

Carole encouraged everyone who could to attend the upcoming West

Central Region's Additional Forum in Rapid City, SD.

She thanked the Area for this opportunity to serve and individuals who sent cards to her at the Conference and this weekend. Carole said the best thing about the last two years was spending time with us and closed with a slide show of memories of those times which left few, if any, dry eyes.

## Past Delegate Sharing

**Panel 39 Delegate, Ed M.** reminisced about the General Service Conference that was held at the Roosevelt Hotel, the last to be held there, his visit with Lois who advised his wife, Donna, to keep following her A.A. husband, as it worked for Lois!

This was Ed's 35th assembly. When asked why he keeps coming back, he answered 'to see old friends and meet new ones'. He commented that anything he could share would be a waste of time to those present, but wondered aloud about how to tell those that were not present — tell them we spent a bunch of money on something and want them to pay, cause some controversy!

Ed said he had so many good things on his heart and wasn't sure how to give thanks.

He recently was able to spend 2 months fulfilling a bucket list travel item, thought about A.A. every day and said he is so grateful to feel good enough to stand behind the podium at the assembly to share. In closing he suggested that we sponsor those coming behind us, bring them along to the next Assembly!

**Maryann W., Panel 40 Delegate,** got sober at the 644 Group in Billings where there were just 3 meetings a week. A judge sent her to A.A.; she didn't stay but she did come back!

MaryAnn was the first Area newsletter editor, a position she held for 4 years. While living in Livingston she created a new district (72) and became DCM. She served as Area Public Information Chair, Archives Chair and was appointed Area Secretary-Treasurer, a time of great spiritual

growth because she started reading all the A.A. literature and got a sponsor. Then she was elected Area Chair/Alternate Delegate, then Delegate in 1990.

Today Maryann has a good and full life in Fairberry, Nebraska.

## 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.

SEND TO:

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Number of years \_\_\_\_\_

Number of subscriptions \_\_\_\_\_

Group

Individual

GROUP NAME \_\_\_\_\_

GSR/CONTACT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

### Subscription Information:

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.

**Panel 61** from page 1)

submission of an agenda item for the 61st General Service Conference regarding contingency planning for replacement of General Service Trustees.

**(DCM Highlights** from page 1)

**District 12.** Sandy A., alternate DCM, reminded the assembly that District 12 borders include Laurel to the East, Big Timber to the West, Harlowton and Broadview to the North and Wyoming to the South. There are 11 groups with 33 meetings. Attendance is strong with lots of newcomers as well as old-timers. The District is well funded by these groups.

District meetings are held monthly, at 4 pm on the 3rd Sunday. The Mid-Winter Social and the Firemen's Point Campout were well attended with great speakers and food.

**District 21.** DCM Laura S. reported that the District includes Wolf Point, Poplar, Plentywood, Glasgow, Culbertson and Scobey. Although somewhat off the beaten path, the District is being rejuvenated as "the little district that could". A.A. members drive 1 to 2 hours to get to the next meeting, cohesiveness is harder and isolation can set in.

On the upside, Glasgow has 10 meetings a week, including a women's group and a candlelight meeting and potluck each month. Wolf Point, Poplar and Plentywood each have two meetings a week. Each group has a GSR and they are participating in the District as a whole.

Although some members still meet in Culbertson, vitality is waning, and there are no meetings in Scobey.

There are regularly scheduled district meetings with igrowing group representation. Laura is continuing to visit the groups and working on an electronic newsletter. "Wild West Soberfest" was held in August. Terry S. did a workshop on spirituality and money and Carole B. made Delegate's report.

The Archives/Area 40 Structure and Policies Committee tabled consideration of the draft "qualifications for Area Committee members" and took no action on requests to:

- Conduct DCM orientations;

**District 23.** Mike M., DCM, reported growth in the district, with 6 groups in Savage, Glendive, Sidney and Fairview. People travel from the surrounding area to attend the Wednesday Big Book meeting in Savage, and the District is quite impressed with the Monday Night Fairview Young People's Group.

J. Scott W. prepares lunch for the Monday Noon Group the last Monday of the month, stop by if you are near! The Lower Yellowstone SoberFest was well attended with people from Bozeman to Dickinson, North Dakota to Wyoming. There was an Archives workshop and fun activities.

Mike expressed gratitude for serving and the opportunity to see the passion for A.A. in Area 40.

**District 31.** DCM Neil T. reported good health in District 31. There was an Archivist workshop and many other summer activities. There are meetings in Colstrip, Baker, Forsyth, Miles City, Ekalaka and Broadus.

**District 41.** Lee T., DCM, reported that the District is improving their efficiency of the monthly business meeting, while mindful that the direction of A.A. is in the hands of the group members. Lee expressed gratitude to Area 40 trusted servants who have shared their experience and hospitality.

New people are taking interest in service—willing, open minded, and ready to serve. Unity is building as a result of work on the Spring Roundup and we look to rotate *on*, not *out*.

Lee closed with gratitude, saying, "if you could help a guy like me, convinced I would be of little or no service to others, by opening my eyes and heart to carrying on the efforts of this Fellowship, then I know you can sup-

- Fund (approximately \$1500) attendance at the West Central Regional Additional Forum in Rapid City in November.

port this great group of trusted servants in their new capacities as well".

**District 42.** The DCM, Gerry La. reported that meetings are held in Shelby, Choteau, Valier, Conrad, But Bank, Browning and Chester. There are also meetings at the Crossroads Correctional Association in Shelby. Attendance is good, growth is slow but visible. Although Valier will not have the Lake Francis Roundup next year, a get together of some kind will be planned.

**District 51.** Leo B., the DCM, reported that there are 27 meetings a week in Havre, Malta, Dodson, Box Elder, and Rocky Boy. Members take meetings into the jail and the Mini-conference will be held next weekend (September 24-26).

**District 61.** The DCM, Tom D., reported that AA is alive and well in District 61. Recently upon hearing that there are 102 meetings in the District, a newcomer gasped, "The drinking problem must be awfully bad here". Tom's sponsor replied, "No. The solution is that good." There are also meetings at the Helena Pre-release Center, county (Lewis & Clark, Broadwater and Jefferson) jails, Elkhorn Treatment Center, and the Helena Probation and Parole Office. Members also attend meetings at MCDC, MSP, and WATCH.

There are 30 groups; 28 are registered; 19 were represented at the assembly.

The District is currently planning the 5th Treatment and Corrections Workshop. Over 75 members participated in the April 2010 event which reaches out to our non-alcoholic friends and perhaps benefits the still suffering alcoholic, but certainly benefits those who participate!

(Continued on page 6)



**(DCM Highlights from page 5)**

District 61 is anticipating a full 2011 with the Treatment Workshop in April, the National Archives Workshop in September, the Roundup in October, and the Attitude of Gratitude in November! Four events in one year is quite a lot for a town of forty thousand people. That's because recovery is so good!

Tom closed saying that District 61 was in good shape when he rotated in and will be in good hands as he rotates out.

**District 71.** Kevin M. is the DCM from this Southwestern Montana District which has 23 meetings in Butte, Anaconda, Dillon, Drummond, Phillipsburg, Sheridan, and Whitehall. The message is also carried into the schools, treatment centers and corrections facilities. The District recently bought a computer.

The fall roundup is right around the corner.

**District 72.** Jennifer W., the DCM, reported that the Corrections, Public Information, Cooperation with the Professional Community and Treatment committees are all active and reaching out. Two new service positions were created—Bridging the Gap and a Women's Prison Coordinator who will coordinate orientation and travel to Billings for meetings in the prison.

Meetings are again being held on the MSU campus with a new group called "We are Not Saints" and there are 79 meetings a week in the District.

A District workshop will be held in October called "Building Sobriety Bridges: Reaching Out to the Native American Community".

Elections were held and all district service positions are filled.

Jennifer closed with appreciation for the opportunity to serve and participate, especially for the privilege of attending the regional service conferences and forums, and for making new friends and renewing old relationships.

**District 81.** DCM Dan K. reported that there are 48 groups and 92 meetings a week in the communities of Alberton, Arlee, Clinton, Frenchtown, Haugen, Hot Springs, Missoula, Noxon, Pablo, Plains, Polson, Ronan, Seeley Lake, St. Ignatius, St. Regis, Superior and Thompson Falls. District Business meetings are well attended by an enthusiastic group of committee chairs and GSR's. Elections were held in August and all but two positions are filled. Rob H. will serve as Fall 2012 Roundup Chair and he is busy forming a committee.

Since we met last spring there have been a basketball tournament, Founder's Day, river float, and pot-luck picnic. The Solution Group had their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; Polson A.A. hosted the Sunlight of the Spirit Camporee. And there was the International Convention in San Antonio, which was an awesome experience for those who were lucky enough to get to attend. It's not too early to start planning to attend the 2015 International in Atlanta. I hope to see you all there.

The fellowship is enthusiastic and vibrant and insists on having fun with "unofficial" sober softball teams playing in league competition, volleyball games, birthday parties, bonfires, river floats, camping trips, bowling, foling, movies, et cetera. We show the newcomer that we have fun in sobriety. It's a blessing to get to practice our singleness of purpose by just having fun together.

Dan closed expressing gratitude for the opportunity to participate in service, for the lessons in how to "play well with others", and for the trusted servants of District 81 who made his job easy and a pleasure. He also shared his excitement about the election process and "what God has planned!"

**District 91.** Libbie L., who is the DCM, recognized the awesome journey and said it has been and continues to be an honor to serve. The District reaches from Eureka to Elmo. There

are 21 active groups with 8-10 groups regularly attending monthly district meetings held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, rotating around the district.

A busy summer was kicked off with a Delegate's report and a great BBQ followed by campouts, picnics, softball games and general fellowship. Several of our District members attended the International in San Antonio.

The election process began with Sam B. elected DCM and Larry H. alternate DCM for the next rotation. The rest of the committee chair elections will soon follow.

The fall schedule includes The Serenity Group's 20<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration at the annual Fall Refresher, the Women's Retreat, Thanksgiving get-togethers, and Christmas and New Years Alkathons. District 91's Into Action Weekend, which is a get-to-know your district event, is February 18-19, 2011 and will include speakers, workshops and, of course, food.

Celebrating AA's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday in San Antonio at the International Convention was a highlight of summer. Seeing and hearing endless examples of willing to go to any lengths at every turn, Libbie expressed gratitude to everyone who help make those lengths shorter.

Libbie shared at the International at a meeting "Do You Think You're Different?". She shared this quote from the pamphlet of the same name:

*"We have found it unwise to limit our AA circle to folks exactly like ourselves. Segregation gives our "uniqueness" an unhealthy emphasis. We find it more enjoyable and more healing, to get into the mainstream of AA life and mingle with everybody else, not just "different" people.*

*Here we are. We are all different. We are all pretty special people. But we are also ALL alcoholics and all sober in AA together. In this, we are more like each other than different. Here in AA, we find the shared humanity that enables us to live out our widely differing lives and pursue our separate and individual destinies. You are welcome to join us."*

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**(DCM Highlights from page 6)**

**District 93.** Eric D. serves as DCM. He reflected on the many people who helped him: other DCMs who helped with computer skills, organizing a Pre-assembly, and general sharing about issues in their Districts; the Area Officers and Chairs who reliably provided answers and guidance. Eric also thanked everyone who visited the District for workshops and Q and A sessions, Carole for her Delegate's Report and the District Chairs and GSR's for their participation.

The District had its annual campout at Painted Rocks with sunshine two out of the three days. The campout was a great success with visitors from Canada and Pennsylvania. The auction raised over six hundred dollars which brought the District back into the black thanks to all the donated items and support from District 81. The Policy and Procedures Guidelines were passed and a decision was made to cancel local phone service and use 1-888-607-2000 only, saving the District some money. Eric is hopeful

about contributing some of the savings toward the Area Answernet bill.

On a sad note, the Experience Strength and Hope Group closed its doors which leaves 14 Groups and three meetings which are not groups. Check the updated schedule on the web for locations and times.

And finally, District Chairs have been elected for the next rotation with only CPC vacant; Secretary and Special Events need confirmation; congratulations to everyone, including Jay T. the incoming DCM.

**(Other Report Highlights from page 3)**

**Corrections.** Mary S., chair, reported that Montana State Prison (MSP) orientations are held in September, January and May. She reminded everyone that attending an orientation is just one of the steps necessary to be approved to attend meetings. She also reminded members who are approved to attend meetings to let Pat, the MSP contact, know who will be attending meetings by Wednesday preceding the meeting.

Pat sent the following message to the Assembly: "MSP is very grateful for the efforts of the volunteers that come to the prison to put on A.A. meetings. These volunteers give hope to those who don't otherwise know where to turn. The inmates appreciate and respect people in recovery and need that role modeling. The A.A. volunteers I've worked with have been some of the nicest people I've ever met. Thanks you!"

Mary encouraged every district to have a Corrections Chairperson and to pass their names on to her.

There has been a steady flow of contributions to the Pink Can. Since the beginning of this rotation, \$12,608 has been contributed, \$6,404 in 2009 and

**PINK CAN**  
**\$6,404 contributed in 2009**  
**\$6,204 contributed in 2010**  
**\$5,777 Available**

Please send contributions to:  
 Area 40 Corrections  
 1325 3rd Ave N  
 Great Falls MT 59401

\$6,203 to date in 2010. There is currently \$5,777 available to spend on

literature for correctional facilities; \$5,174.66 in GSO credit and \$602.57 in the checkbook. Call Mary if you want to place an order.

The Local Forum request was approved by GSO and will be held in Great Falls on Saturday June 18 and in Miles City on Sunday June 19. Ken B., West Central Region Trustee, and Jim M., who serves on the GSO Corrections assignment, will attend.

Mary closed saying that her sobriety has been enriched by this opportunity to serve and encouraged others to stand for the position.

**Grapevine.** The Grapevine Chair, Rich C., said that he enjoyed being of service and learned more about service work and about his own assets and limitations.

He reported that the Grapevine surveys have been steadily trickling in and encouraged everyone to complete one if they have not already done so. The committee planned to be reviewing the surveys received to date, but the deadline for submission is November 1.

Rich also encouraged members to take a few minutes to listen to the Grapevine CD's available at the back table.

**Literature.** Lori F., chair, welcomed everyone to the fourth and final assembly of this rotation. She reported that she had not placed a literature order because 1) the Service Manuals would likely not be printed in time for the Assembly and 2) the order to replace inventory of other items was not large enough to avoid shipping charges. Literature catalogs and order forms are available through the district or intergroup or online at [aa.org](http://aa.org).

Lori reminded the group about the Literature Display was set up and encouraged everyone to look at all the books, audio-visual materials, and directories on display. She also encouraged everyone who had not already do so to complete the four question survey about electronic delivery of A.A. literature. The six responses received may not represent the conscience of the Area.

In closing, Lori shared a section of the pamphlet "The A.A. Group — Where it All Begins" which deals with the principle of Rotation:

*"Traditionally, rotation ensures that group tasks, like nearly everything else in A.A., are passed around for all to share. Many groups have alternates to each trusted servant who can step into the service positions if needed.*

*To step out of an A.A. office you love can be hard. If you have been doing a good job, if you honestly don't see anyone else around willing, qualified, or with the time to do it, and if your*

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**(Other Report Highlights from page 7)**

*friends agree, it's especially tough. But it can be a real step forward in growth – a step into the humility that is, for some people, the spiritual essence of anonymity.*

*Among other things, anonymity in the Fellowship means that we forgo personal prestige for any A.A. work we do to help alcoholics. And, in the spirit of Tradition Twelve, it ever reminds us 'to place principles before personalities.*

*Many outgoing service position holders find it rewarding to take time to share their experience with the incoming person. Rotation helps to bring us spiritual rewards far more enduring than any fame. With no A.A. 'status' at stake, we needn't compete for titles or praise – we have complete freedom to serve as we are needed."*

**Public Information (PI).** Chair Tim M. reported that he had only one request to visit districts to explain the Area Hotline (compared to five last year). He spoke at the Valier Roundup and many questions after his talk were about how to get members to cooperate and participate rather than on the Hotline itself. Tim believes the reason for the decrease in invitations is due to the following:

- Billing problems were resolved at the beginning of the rotation thanks in a large part to the past PI Chair and Treasurer. Thanks Sean and Curt;
- The system itself is structured and functioning much better;
- The number is widely published in directories, newspapers, meeting cards et cetera;
- The action passed by spring assembly streamlines the billing process.
- Districts have cut their Answering Service costs due to the savings from using the statewide number, a great example of how the "We" benefits the "All".

Tim encouraged districts and groups to pass on some of the money they are saving because of the Area Hotline to Area to support Area expenses for the service. Area 40 is in a better position to be there for the still-suffering Alco-

holic when they reach out for help..

Tim addressed the one outstanding question and concern about just how much use the hotline is actually getting since AnswerNet does not report the number of calls and to do so would be cost prohibitive. District 61 uses a Qwest number that is forwarded to the Hotline number. The Qwest number provides a call count; in June there were 90 calls forwarded from the local number to the Hotline number. Also, Tim was recently at a meeting where a member shared that he was there because he had called the A.A. Hotline and a contact gave him a ride.

Tim summed this up stating that the person that takes over the Area PI Chair position in the next rotation should have more time to focus on other areas of the Public Information — carrying the message of recovery to the still-suffering alcoholic by informing the general public about the A.A. program.

Tim thanked the members of the PI Committee and also thanked the Area for giving him the opportunity to be a part of, rather than a part from, for the past two years.

**Treatment.** Chair person Paula H. commended everyone involved in service at any level. She stated that service in the Treatment arena entails helping someone newly out of treatment integrate into AA by taking a variety of actions and expressed appreciation for A.A. members in Area 40 who are doing it!

Paula welcomed new District Treatment Chair from District 81, Margaret B., the new Bridging The Gap (BTG) Chairs from Districts 61, 71 and 72 and the new Montana Chemical Dependency Center (MCDC) Coordinator from District 61.

She also directed members to check out the new map that Alex, with encouragement and help from DCM's and District Treatment Chairs, created (found on page 11 and under meetings by district at [aa-montana.org](http://aa-montana.org)). The map will be a great help in figuring out

where to send contact cards for BTG.

Around the Area, District 72 members attend a meeting at WATch every 3rd Friday and MCDC one Friday afternoon a month. District 61 has compiled a handbook of rules, procedures and applications for the facilities served by District 61 (MCDC, Elkhorn and Boyd Andrew, Minor In Possession and Outpatient).

Paula encouraged everyone to attend the Breakout session on Special Needs and pointed out that the September Grapevine is dedicated to people with special needs.

In closing, Paula expressed gratitude for being allowed to serve and our inverted triangle as it is a true measure of the work that is done in service to A.A.

**Area Advisor.** Andrew W., past Delegate Panel 57, thanked the Ad Hoc Committee and the Archives Committee for their work on the Policy and Procedure draft update for qualifications. Andrew also reported that on a recent trip to Ireland he learned that they "pass the bag" for 7th Tradition contributions..

**Archivist.** Gerry R. welcomed old friends, new friends, and soon to be friends, especially those attending their very first Area Assembly. He expressed his gratitude for the growing interest in Archives, as indicated by requests for his attendance at the Spring Roundup in Billings, a Founders Day event in Bozeman, a meeting in Colstrip, and the Lower Yellowstone Soberfest. He also attended the 20th Annual NAI-AA convention in Las Vegas where the committee and attendees expressed appreciation for sharing our display with them. He will also be attending the Fall Roundup in Butte, District Workshops in Bozeman and Helena and expects an invitation to the Attitude of Gratitude in Helena.

After this talk of "progress", he admitted "not perfection", making amends for a delay in producing information requested as background material and a problem with the timing and currency

*(Continued on page 9)*



**(Other Report Highlights from page 8)**

of the Area 40 Policy and Procedures Manual and Past Actions Documents on the web site. The information has been recompiled as well as current updates and will be reviewed by the Archives Committee.

**Webmaster.** Alex Marino welcomed 1st time attendees and reported that he is 90% finished with the redesign of the Area website, which is 10 years old. He plans to implement the new website in January.

**2011 National A.A. Archive Workshop NAW) Status Report.**

Gerry Robinson, Area 40 Archivist, reported that the NAW planning is progressing well: pricing structure has been developed; the registration flyer is ready; Annah Perth, a representative from Stepping Stones in New York, along with other presenters, has accepted an invitation to present. The theme will be "Mining our past, Minding our future." Gerry thanked Jeff M. (District 61) and Jennifer W. (District 72) for their work on the theme and

the flyer.

The event is an Area 40 supported event, with Districts 41, 61, 72, and 91 participating. Gerry invited anyone who would like to join the committee to attend meetings.

Gerry will be travelling to the 2010 NAW in Macon, to collect about \$1,500 in seed money and to gather other material that will be used by the committee.

**South Central Montana Inter-group (SCMI) Report.** Don M., SCMI Chair, talked about participation, finding and the future.

He said there is some stability now in the committee positions and, the core group of 6-10 IGR's who attend meetings has accomplished a great deal. Founders Day was a resounding success, attended by members and many of the local treatment centers and sober living facilities. The Cooney Campout was also well attended this year and continues to be a great fellowship event for our area.

There is enough money to pay expenses and the book store is fully self-

supporting, although SCMI continues to be under prudent reserve (about 50%). The groups are being informed through the newsletter and by IGR's.

SMIG's future is full. The new location allows better access and flexibility and should improve service to the Fellowship. Space is rented and paid for the Christmas party "Giving back to the community—Anonymously". The bylaws are being updated and SMIG continues to reach out. The future is bright and full of hope that we can continue to serve the fellowship and carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

**2010 Spring Roundup Report.**

The spring roundup in Billings was very successful; a good time was had by all.

**2010 Fall Roundup Report.** A lot of people have preregistered for this October 1-3 event in Butte.

**2011 Spring Roundup Report.**

Flyers are being distributed for this May 13-15 event in Great Falls. Patty C. is eagerly awaiting registrations.

**Workshops**

**Archives.** Joe H., District 41 Archives Chair, conducted an Archives Workshop hoping to raise Archives awareness at the district and group level. He provided a presentation showing how to begin preserving archives, what material to preserve and how to preserve it. Joe's presentation generated numerous questions and indicated that he was successful in raising awareness and in generating interest in the 2011 National Archives Workshop in Helena.

**Triangle.** The Triangle workshop provided an opportunity to discuss the following questions: should a hard copy of newsletter should continue to be mailed; should a subscription fee be charged (to cover postage and printing expenses) or should the newsletter be funded as Area 40 business; is the Triangle read and are there suggestions to make it more attractive; is the content useful and appropriate?

Attendees thought a choice between electronic and hardcopy could be offered with a possibility of required paid subscription (to cover expenses) for hard copy. They felt that the practice of charging a subscription fee was appropriate and consistent with the principle of self-support. Attendees suggested better headlines for attraction, more news and bits from the districts and a column where groups could provide information or ask for help.

**Special Needs.** Anne B., Alternate DCM District 61, gave a "Special Needs Participation—What to Think About" workshop. She handed out *A.A. Guideline for Serving Alcoholics with Special Needs* and the group talked about what can be done to make meetings accessible and comfortable for people with special needs.

When choosing or decorating a meeting place consider the deaf or hard of

hearing. Hard surfaces make hearing problems worse, so carpets and 'softer surfaces' on walls and ceilings help; use a piece of paper to write questions and answers if someone cannot hear; include a question on flyers inviting registrants to communicate special needs and perhaps include a sign language interpreter when possible.

When choosing a meeting place, consider accessibility. If possible, select a place that is accessible by wheelchair. Many A.A.'s have 'temporary' accessibility problems: surgery, broken and strained limbs, etc. Taking meetings to homebound members is a good idea, too.

Everyone who attended the workshop had their awareness raised about the challenges some people face just getting to a meeting or, once there, hearing and understanding what is being said.

## Area Officers and Committee Chairs

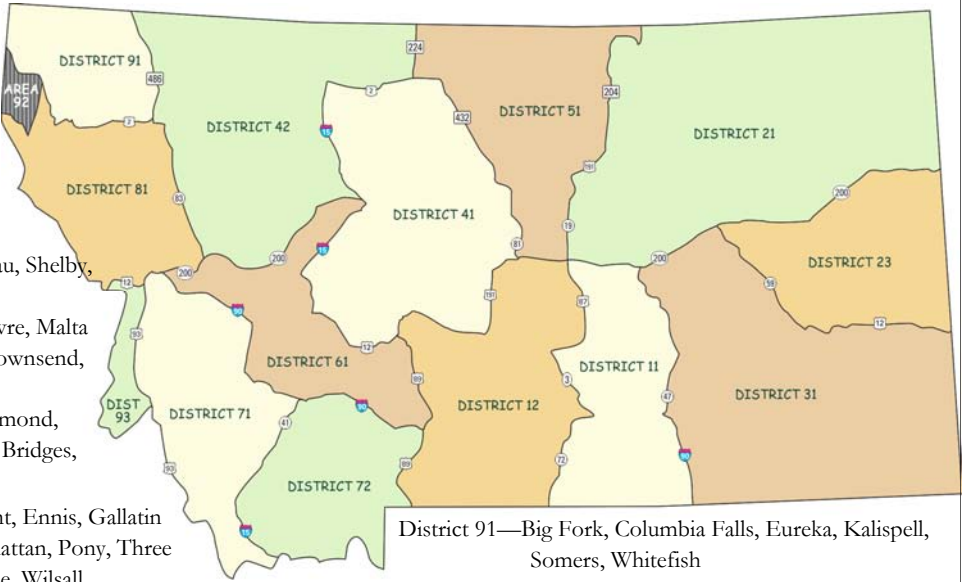
POSITION	NAME	EMAIL
Delegate	Carole B.	<a href="mailto:delegate@aa-montana.org">delegate@aa-montana.org</a>
<i>Incoming Delegate</i>	<i>Terry S.</i>	
AreaCh/Alt D	Terry S.	<a href="mailto:chair@aa-montana.org">chair@aa-montana.org</a>
<i>Incoming Area Chair Alternate Delegate</i>	<i>Sharon S.</i>	
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<i>Incoming Secretary</i>	<i>Linda B.</i>	
Treasurer	Linda B.	<a href="mailto:treasurer@aa-montana.org">treasurer@aa-montana.org</a>
<i>Incoming Treasurer</i>	<i>Lori F.</i>	
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<i>Incoming Archives</i>	<i>Joe H.</i>	
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<i>Incoming CPC</i>	<i>Libbie L.</i>	
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<i>Incoming Corrections</i>	<i>Terry H.</i>	
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<i>Incoming Literature</i>	<i>Deb C.</i>	
Public Information (PI)	Tim M.	<a href="mailto:pi@aa-montana.org">pi@aa-montana.org</a>
<i>Incoming PI</i>	<i>Paula H.</i>	
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<i>Incoming Treatment</i>	<i>Colby D.</i>	
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<i>Incoming Triangle Editor</i>	<i>Lee T.</i>	
Advisor	Andrew W.	<a href="mailto:advisor@aa-montana.org">advisor@aa-montana.org</a>
<i>Incoming Advisor</i>	<i>Carole B.</i>	
Archivist	Gerry R.	<a href="mailto:archivist@bresnan.net">archivist@bresnan.net</a>
Webmaster	Alex M.	<a href="mailto:webmaster@aa-montana.org">webmaster@aa-montana.org</a>

## Committee Assignments

Committee	DCM	District Representative
Archives	23, 91	11, 81
Cooperation with the Professional Community	72, 81	71, 91
Corrections	11, 21	12, 41
Finance	12	61
Grapevine	42, 61	31, 72
Literature	93	42, 51, 61
Public Information (PI)	31, 71	21, 93
Treatment	41, 51	11, 23

- District 11—Billings, Hardin, Huntley, Lodgegrass, Roundup
- District 12—Absarokee, Big Timber, Columbus, Harlowton, Laurel, Red Lodge
- District 21—Culbertson, Glasgow, Plentywood, Poplar, Wolf Point
- District 23—Glendive, Fairview, Savage, Sidney
- District 31—Baker, Broadus, Colstrip, Forsyth, Jordan, Miles City, Terry
- District 41—Fort Benton, Fort Shaw, Great Falls, Lewistown
- District 42—Browning, Chester, Cut Bank, Choteau, Shelby, Valier
- District 51—Box Elder, Dodson, Fort Belnap, Havre, Malta
- District 61—Boulder, Elliston, Helena, Lincoln, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs
- District 71—Anaconda, Butte, Deer Lodge, Drummond, Jackson, Phillipsburg, Sheridan, Twin Bridges, Whitehall
- District 72—Big Sky, Belgrade, Bozeman, Emigrant, Ennis, Gallatin Gateway, Gardiner, Livingston, Manhattan, Pony, Three Forks, Virginia City, West Yellowstone, Wilsall
- District 81—Alberton, Arlee, Frenchtown, Hot Springs, Missoula, Seeley Lake, Plains, Polson, Ronan, St. Ignatius, St. Regis, Superior, Thompsons Fall

## Area Map



- District 91—Big Fork, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Kalispell, Somers, Whitefish
- District 93—Corvallis, Darby, Florence, Hamilton, Lolo, Stevensville, Victor

## DCM's

POSITION	NAME	EMAIL
DCM 11	Colby D.	<a href="mailto:dcm11@aa-montana.org">dcm11@aa-montana.org</a>
<i>Incoming DCM 11</i>		
DCM 12	Nick D.	<a href="mailto:dcm12@aa-montana.org">dcm12@aa-montana.org</a>
<i>Incoming DCM 12</i>	<i>Sandy A.</i>	
DCM 21	Laura S.	<a href="mailto:dcm21@aa-montana.org">dcm21@aa-montana.org</a>
<i>Incoming DCM 21</i>	<i>Laura S.</i>	
DCM 23	Mike M.	<a href="mailto:dcm23@aa-montana.org">dcm23@aa-montana.org</a>
<i>Incoming DCM 23</i>		
DCM 31	Neil T.	<a href="mailto:dcm31@aa-montana.org">dcm31@aa-montana.org</a>
<i>Incoming DCM 31</i>		
DCM 41	Lee T.	<a href="mailto:dcm41@aa-montana.org">dcm41@aa-montana.org</a>
<i>Incoming DCM 41</i>		
DCM 42	Gerry L.	<a href="mailto:dcm42@aa-montana.org">dcm42@aa-montana.org</a>
<i>Incoming DCM 42</i>		
DCM 51	Leo B.	<a href="mailto:dcm51@aa-montana.org">dcm51@aa-montana.org</a>
<i>Incoming DCM 51</i>	<i>Leo B.</i>	
DCM 61	Tom D.	<a href="mailto:dcm61@aa-montana.org">dcm61@aa-montana.org</a>
<i>Incoming DCM 61</i>	<i>Anne B.</i>	
DCM 71	Kevin M.	<a href="mailto:dcm71@aa-montana.org">dcm71@aa-montana.org</a>
<i>Incoming DCM 71</i>	<i>Peggy H.</i>	
DCM 72	Jennifer W.	<a href="mailto:dcm72@aa-montana.org">dcm72@aa-montana.org</a>
<i>Incoming DCM 72</i>	<i>Catherine J.</i>	
DCM 81	Dan K.	<a href="mailto:dcm81@aa-montana.org">dcm81@aa-montana.org</a>
<i>Incoming DCM 81</i>	<i>Erin G.</i>	
DCM 91	Libbie L.	<a href="mailto:dcm91@aa-montana.org">dcm91@aa-montana.org</a>
<i>Incoming DCM 91</i>	<i>Sam B.</i>	
DCM 93	Eric D.	<a href="mailto:dcm93@aa-montana.org">dcm93@aa-montana.org</a>
<i>Incoming DCM 93</i>	<i>Jay T.</i>	

## Calendar of Events

### OCTOBER

- 16-17—**KALISPELL**—Flathead Valley Serenity Group Annual Fall Refresher  
 22-24—**LAKESIDE**—Women's Recovery Weekend—Kathryn E.  
 22-24—**LAVINA**—21st Annual Fall Mena's Retreat—Jim B. or Colby D.  
 23—**BOZEMAN**—Building Sobriety Bridges Workshop—Jennifer W. or Leslie D.  
 30—**SAVAGE**—Halloween/Fall Festival—J. Scott W.  
 30—**COLUMBIA FALLS**—Intergroup Birthday Meeting

### NOVEMBER 2010

- 12-14—**RAPID CITY, SD**—Additional Regional Forum—*Singleness of Purpose-Carrying the Message to the Native American*  
 13—**HELENA**—56th Attitude of Gratitude—Carly G.  
 27—**KALISPELL**—Intergroup Birthday Meeting—Nikki T.

### DECEMBER 2010

- 11—**BILLINGS**—SW Intergroup Christmas Party—Don M.  
 25—**COLUMBIA FALLS**—Intergroup Birthday Meeting—Nikki T.

### JANUARY 2011

- 29—**COLUMBIA FALLS**—Intergroup Birthday Meeting—Nikki T.

### MARCH 2011

- 4-6—**NISSWA, MINNESOTA**—West Central Region Service Conference—Terry S.

### APRIL 2011

- 9-10—**LEWISTOWN**—Spring Assembly—Sharon S.

### MAY 2011

- 13-15—**GREAT FALLS**—Spring Roundup—Jaimie L. or Patty C.

### JUNE 2011

- 18—**GREAT FALLS**—Local Forum—Scott W. or Jewel lea G.  
 19—**MILES CITY**—Local Forum—Scott W. or Jewel lea G.

### SEPTEMBER 2011

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

### OCTOBER 2011

- 14-16—**HELENA**—Fall Roundup—Karla I.

### MARCH 2012

- 2-4—**BILLINGS**—West Central Region Service Conference—Terry S.

### FALL 2012

- tba—**MISSOULA**—Fall Roundup

### **CORRECTION:**

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR  
 CALENDAR. PREVIOUS  
 TRIANGLES HAD WRONG  
 DATES FOR THE LOCAL  
 FORUM!!  
 LOCAL FORUM  
 JUNE 18 IN GREAT  
 FALLS  
 JUNE 19 IN MILES CITY**

**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**