

THANK YOU

Confidential  
For A.A. members only

AREA 40 INC

# The Triangle

## Archives! Archives!

Some very good questions have been asked in Area 40 of late, about all the attention and money that are being spent on Archives. Why do we spend so much time at Assembly talking about Archives? Why are we sending the Archivist to all these workshops? How is this of any use to the newcomer or the still-suffering alcoholic? Great questions, all! The answers of course, given that this **IS** an article about archives, involve a brief history.

In 2005, Area 40 elected a new Archivist (me). In an effort to learn how to better perform the many, varied duties required of me in this position, I asked the Area Assembly to send me to the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual National AA Archives Workshop (NAAAW). While at this workshop, I was approached about the possibility of Area 40 making a bid to host a future version of the event. I was skeptical at best.

Given that my responsibility to Area 40 was to bring back as much information that might help, not only my efforts at preserving Area 40's history, but those of the Fellowship of Area 40 as a whole, I discussed being approached to bid on hosting the workshop

with others upon my return. While I was skeptical, others were quite excited about the possibility, and their excitement convinced me to place an item on the Area Assembly agenda proposing that we try. The Assembly overwhelmingly supported the idea, and I was then sent to the 2009 workshop in Woodland Hills, CA, where Area 40's bid was successful, and we were awarded the hosting privileges for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual NAAAW in 2011. I recently attended my third NAAAW in Macon, GA in preparation for the 2011 workshop.

So, that's a bit of history on why we've spent so much time talking Archives at the Assembly. Now comes a related concern, "Why does Archives get so much attention, while our other arms of service work seem to get so little?" Excellent question! Why indeed? Area 40 recently elected a new Area Committee full of trusted servants who are enthusiastic about trying to do as much as they can for A.A. in their new positions. These trusted servants need to be supported by others in the Fellowship who are willing to ask them, "Why not try this? How can we help?" So, the answer to this question lies in the hearts of each and every member of the Fellowship who has

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## What a Ride, Much More to Do

I started serving on Area 40's Committee as a DCM for District 42 in January 2003 and it has served me well. I hope I have done as much for A.A. as serving A.A. has done for me.

But don't think for a moment that I believe our and my work is done. Many recent events lead me to believe that Alco-

holics Anonymous, more than ever, has much work to do.

Area 40 covers most of the state of Montana. I think one of the best things we've done as a delegate area is implementing the toll free Hotline. Yet, I think we've barely scratched the surface in utilizing it. How many districts

have put the number in their local newspapers? How many professionals have been told about it? How many A.A. members know that we have it?

Speaking of professionals, it is surprising to me how little

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## From Your Editor

Ambivalent [simultaneous and contradictory attitudes] is how I feel about this last issue. As with most of my life since I've come to A.A., this wasn't my plan, but it turned out to be better than what I had in mind. Getting to serve in this way has been a blessing. I got to meet new people, make new friends, reconnect with old friends and experience, again, the joy of serving A.A. in the General Service structure. Thank you.

This issue has a focus on Archives. I hope Gerry's or Joe's article will inspire you to help out by collecting or helping organize and preserve A.A. history in your Group, your District, or the Area.

Some of our other trusted servants have offered "parting comments". Maybe you will want what they have and are willing to go to any length to get it. Just say "yes", then do it!

As my time as Triangle Editor winds down, I have a few things that might help the incoming Editor, Lee. One more time, I will voice my concern about the Triangle. Is it useful? Does it get to the groups? Are members reading it? How many end up in a trash can because the address has not been updated? This is the time of the rotation for lots of changes. Please be sure that your group is connected to A.A. as a whole; make sure your DCM, the Area (both the Registrar and the Triangle) and GSO know where to find you so we can communicate with you. It's really easy to update group information on the A.A. website; check it out at [www.aa.org/lang/en/en\\_infchan.pdf](http://www.aa.org/lang/en/en_infchan.pdf). You can fill the form out online and email it!

One of the discussion points at the Triangle Workshop at the Fall Assembly was whether the Triangle, as the Area's newsletter, should be fully funded in the Area budget. It was the sense of the group discussing this question that there should continue to be a subscription fee and groups should strive to be self-supporting. So, here are the numbers: the Triangle is mailed to 254 groups, 68 groups (27%) have paid subscriptions. By past motion (Fall 1986) the Triangle is sent to each group in the Area, whether or not the group has a paid subscription. (The date above the address on the envelope is the expiration date.)

In closing, thank you again (how many languages do you recognize?) for trusting me to do this job. My life has been enriched and I have had a good time!

Sharon S., Area 40  
Triangle Editor



## More Peace

Thank You! When Sharon called and asked me to write a short, (one to two paragraphs), closing article about my rotation as Public Information Chair I wondered what topics I should center in on. The two that I chose were the 1-888-607-2000 Area Hotline number and what the last two years brought me on a spiritual level.

As for the 1-888 number, it definitely captured the bulk of my time and efforts over the last two years. When I first got involved with this project, almost four years ago now, many of the other Areas we spoke to shared about the tough road they trudged to get this implemented. They also shared how beneficial it was to meeting our primary purpose of carrying the message to the still-suffering alcoholic who is reaching out for help, once it took hold. The road in Area 40 has not been any different than those that went before us in this worthwhile endeavor. I do believe, however, that the road is much

smoother than it was two years ago. I am also confident that our incoming PI Chair, Paula H., will get us through any further bumps we may encounter along the way.

On a personal spiritual level, I believe this rotation, because of the controversies and difficulties surrounding the Area 40 Hotline, gave me the opportunity to learn to listen more, to try to bring to the table only what I had to offer, and, ultimately, to surrender the outcome. This new level of surrender, gratefully, was not isolated to just the Hotline but to virtually all other areas of my life and as a result I have more Peace today. Thank you!

Sincerely, Tim M., Area 40 Public Information (PI) Chair

*P.S. Has your group considered increasing its Area 40 contribution to help support Hotline expense previously covered by the district?*

## Our Work Is in These Places

Greetings to Area 40. I would thank you for allowing me to serve as your Area 40 Corrections Chair.

I had the opportunity to visit Montana State Prison yesterday. I shared my story and walked out of there much more grateful than I did when I entered. I was reminded that the work of A.A. in jails and lockup facilities is badly needed and well appreciated by those who have come to know incarceration as a reality. I will always remember a past delegate saying that our 12<sup>th</sup> Step work is in these places and we must be there for them with our message. We have a great opportunity to share the wonderful world of recovery and a solution to our common problem!

No matter where we are, whether it be in rural Montana or in a city, we have a responsibility to share what was so freely given to us. We never know who will be in our path to plant the seed of hope and faith, the precious gift of recovery. Gratitude is an action; it keeps me coming back.

Keep up the good work in Area 40. It has helped me stay sober one more day. So get to those orientations and sign up to take our message into our facilities. It is well worth the time.

Mary S., Area 40  
Corrections Chair

**Please send Pink  
Can contributions to  
Area 40 Corrections  
323 3rd Ave N  
Great Falls MT 59401**

## Where Are the Answers?

When did your Group start? When did your District start? How many standing committees does your District have and what do they do? Answers to all these questions and many more can and should be available.

As the Archives chair for District 41, I am in the process of bringing our Archives to life

and making them readily available to anyone interested in what work and progress has been made in our District to help the still-suffering alcoholic.

We started out by sorting all of the material in the archives, then making a list of

*(Continued on page 4)*

## The November 2010 Grapevine Has Arrived!



Yes, I would like to subscribe

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Grapevine does not accept group contributions. It is self supporting through the sale of the magazine and Grapevine products. All Grapevine items are mailed in packaging that protects anonymity.

In a 1955 letter, Bill W. wrote, "The willingness to grow is the essence of all spiritual development." In this annual issue of classic Grapevine stories, we celebrate spiritual growth with selections from the new book, *Spiritual Awakenings II*.

- **Close Shave** *This lush celebrated the holidays by drinking aftershave and putting a bullet in his head. (Read or listen at [aagrapevine.org](http://aagrapevine.org))*
- **Holidays Shmolidays** *A grump learns that every day sober is a holiday.*
- **Turkey Day** *Trying to wean herself off alcohol without AA didn't work.*

### Special Section: Classic Grapevine

- **There can be love and laughter** *In the quiet of a tranquil cove, a woman decides to return to AA*
- **The voice on the tape** *After almost two decades, she stumbles upon the woman who saved her life*
- **I can't fly that kite today** *A Fifth Step unveils a 41-year-old resentment*





(Archives! continued from page 1)

enjoyed the gift of sobriety as a result of being involved in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is how they answer these questions that makes the difference.

The final question is a common one asked by many. "How does Archives help the newcomer or the still-suffering alcoholic? Don't newcomers approach us more through the service branches of Treatment or Corrections, etc?" Again, great question! My response comes in two parts. The first is perhaps an over simplified analogy, but, it works for me. Consider A.A. to be a tree to which birds (newcomers) are attracted. The birds, of course, seek their refuge in the branches of this tree (Treatment, Corrections, Literature, PI, CPC). In these sturdy arms they find, along with comfort, relief and protection, a safe home. The above question about Archives is mirrored in this analogy by the question, "Of what use to the birds are the roots of this tree?" The second part of the answer about the value of Archives comes from two quotes from poet Carl Sandburg. (Granted, not conference approved literature, but fine literature nonetheless.) The first is used in the A.A. Archives workbook and by archivists and historians around the world. The second, less well known, applies to the above analogy.

*"When a nation goes down, or a society perishes, one condition may always be found; they forgot where they came from. They lost sight of what had brought them along."*

*"Let the gentle bush dig its root deep and spread upward to split the boulder."*

Ultimately, it takes all of us working together to make a difference, whether it involves retracing past activities, or forging ahead toward new and creative service opportunities.

What a joy to be sober today; it is a privilege to be of service. Thank you, for both.

Gerry R., Area 40 Archivist

(What a Ride continued from page 1)

professionals know about A.A. How often do I see a professional and take the opportunity to visit with them about A.A.? I've had the chance to visit briefly with the Yellowstone Country Deputy County Attorney and the State Attorney General about A.A. But, a year after my home group moved into a church, I realized that we had not extended an invitation to our meeting to either of the pastors.

It's my hope that this next rotation will find innovative ways to utilize the Hotline, work with correctional institutions, and seek out professionals who can help us carry the message to the still-suffering alcoholic.

I also hope we do more to educate our members, whose lives have been saved by A.A., about why A.A. works – the Twelve Traditions. We have a singleness of purpose, we are self supporting, and we are anonymous.

So how am I going to help? I have agreed to coordinate the meeting for the women's community correctional institution in their treatment section. I'm going to see what I can do to further educate the professionals and carry the message. This also means I'll be part of the district corrections committee. If there is anything Area 40 needs, please let me know. I'll have a little more time on my hands.

In love and service, Carole B., Panel 59 Delegate, Area 40

(Where? continued from page 2)

everything that we had. Then we started on the preservation process, with the most fragile items first:

- Archive interviews of the old-timers on cassette tapes were burned to CD's and converted to MP3 format.
- District minutes were scanned and saved as PDF files.
- Standing committee reports, the correspondence, the special events, etc. were scanned as PDF files.

All of this is now stored on multiple external hard drives and is readily available to see where we have been and what we have done in the past. Our Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, page 84, says:

*"We will not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it ... No matter how far down the scale we have gone, we will see how our experience can benefit others."*

None of this is of great value if we do not know the past. Digitizing our archives and making them available to the Fellowship brings our past to life.

Yours in love and service, Joe H., District 41 Archives Chair



## Lori's Last Literature Lead

Greetings, Area 40, from your lame duck Literature Committee Chair! As promised, here are the compiled results of the Electronic Delivery Survey. I received a total of 54 responses, and it appears that folks in Area 40 are interested in having A.A. literature available electronically as 46 people answered yes or maybe.

One thing the results of this survey made me realize is that I have not done the best job of informing Area 40 about the literature that is already available on the A.A. website. Most is for viewing only, and some is available to download and print. I have provided a pretty comprehensive list of these items in the table on page 5. I am sure that I have missed some items so I encourage you to explore [www.aa.org/](http://www.aa.org/) on your own.

I also was surprised that the least amount of people indicated that the device they would use would be an E-Reader such as a Kindle,

Sony Reader or Nook. Most said they would use some form of a computer.

The idea that I found most interesting is for GSO to provide a daily reading or meditation for delivery to a Smartphone or Mobile Device.

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### TIME FOR A SPLIT?

*Has your group considered increasing the Area 40 share to help support Hotline expenses previously covered by districts?*

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

### Electronic Delivery Survey Results

- Are you interested in reading A.A. Literature on your mobile device or computer?  
yes—34; no—8; maybe—12; don't know—0  
  
If yes/maybe, which devices would you use? E-reader—7; smartphone/mobile device—13; computer/desktop/laptop/netbook—45; other (email, twitter)—2
- Which A.A. book would you want available electronically?  
  
Alcoholics Anonymous—30; Twelve and Twelve—24; other\*—17; all—10; Service Manual—6; A.A. Comes of Age—5  
  
\* *Daily Reflections, Pass It On, Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers, As Bill Sees It, Came to Believe, Living Sober, Language of the Heart, Grapevine*
- Which A.A. pamphlet would you want available electronically?  
  
All—20; others mentioned: all Recovery; all 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition; all about Traditions; FAQ about A.A.; Do You Think You're Different; A Newcomer Asks; The A.A. Group; If You are a Professional; all Treatment; all Corrections; Twelve Steps Illustrated; This is A.A.; Questions and Answers on Sponsorship; Is A.A. for Me?
- What other services or information do you want your G.S.O. to provide electronically?  
  
Directories/meeting schedules—6; Conference Reports—4; daily meditation/reading—2; others mentioned: committee workbooks; videos; archives virtual tour; Grapevine; list of available pamphlets/books; newsletters; GSR Handbook; change forms; dates of regional events; all communications/memos; conventions; all publications; as much as possible; anything to reduce costs.

## Literature Available on the A.A. Website

TYPE/TITLE	View	Download and print
<b>BOOKS</b>		
Alcoholics Anonymous	X	
Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions	X	
<b>PAMPHLETS</b>		
All Pamphlets	X	
A.A. at a Glance	X	X
Self Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix	X	X
The A.A. Group Treasurer	X	X
Your A.A. General Service Office	X	X
A Message to Teenagers	X	X
Where Do I Go From Here?	X	X
<b>GUIDELINES</b>		
All A.A. Guidelines	X	X
<b>NEWSLETTERS</b>		
Box 4-5-9	X	X
Markings – Your Archives Interchange	X	X
A.A. Around the World Newsletter	X	X
About A.A. – Newsletter for Professionals	X	X
<b>SERVICE MATERIAL</b>		
The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service	X	
A.A. Fact Sheet	X	X
A.A. Preamble	X	X
A.A. Preamble-Background Info	X	X
Concepts Checklist	X	X
Estimates of A.A. Groups & Members	X	X
How to Conduct a Sharing Session	X	X
Is Your Group Linked to A.A. as a Whole?	X	X
The Twelve Concepts for World Service	X	X
The Twelve Traditions of A.A.	X	X
The Twelve Steps of A.A.	X	X
Traditions Checklist	X	X
Sponsorship-A Vital Stepping Stone to Service and Sobriety	X	X
Suggested Topics for Discussion Meetings	X	X
Suggested Workshop Format	X	X
Loners-Internationalists Correspondence Service	X	X
Conference Approved Literature	X	X
Sharing from Local Committees Working With the Elder Community	X	X
TV and Radio PSAs, the Videos for Professionals, and the Young People's Videos	X	
<b>WORKBOOKS</b>		
All Service Committee Workbooks	X	X



## Area Officers and Committee Chairs

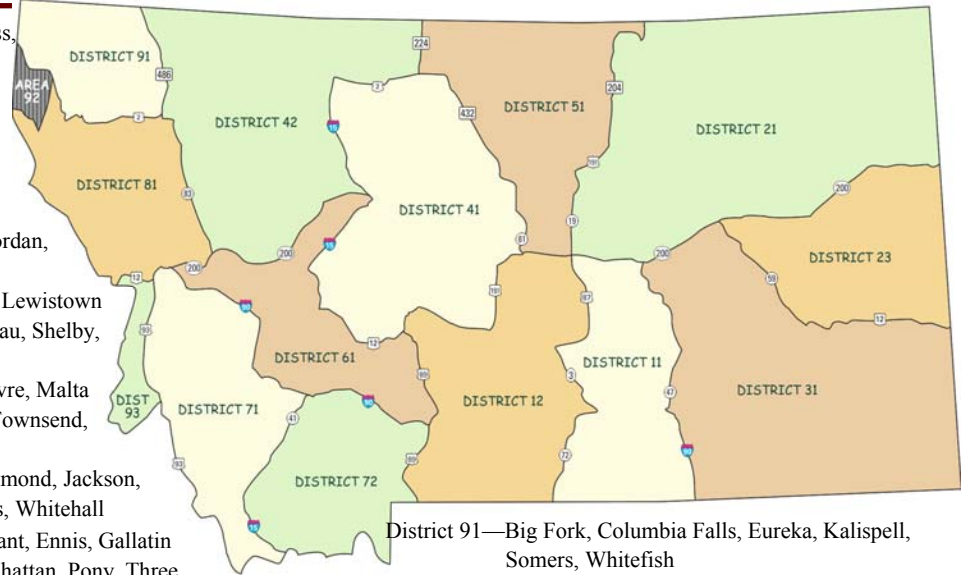
POSITION	NAME	EMAIL
Delegate	Carole B.	<a href="mailto:delegate@aa-montana.org">delegate@aa-montana.org</a>
<i>Incoming Delegate</i>	<i>Terry S.</i>	
Area Chair/Alternate Delegate	Terry S.	<a href="mailto:chair@aa-montana.org">chair@aa-montana.org</a>
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<i>Incoming Secretary</i>	<i>Linda B.</i>	
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<i>Incoming Treasurer</i>	<i>Lori F.</i>	
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<i>Incoming Archives</i>	<i>Joe H.</i>	
Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)	Virginia R.	<a href="mailto:cpc@aa-montana.org">cpc@aa-montana.org</a>
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<i>Incoming Corrections</i>	<i>Terry H.</i>	
Grapevine	Richard K.	<a href="mailto:grapevine@aa-montana.org">grapevine@aa-montana.org</a>
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<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

# Area Map

- 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, Thompson Falls



- 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>	<i>Brandon M.</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>	<i>Casey L.</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



## NOVEMBER 2010

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

13—**HELENA**—56th Attitude of Gratitude—Carly G.

13—**HELENA**—Area 40 Hotline Workshop—Carly G.

27—**KALISPELL**—Intergroup Birthday Meeting—Nikki T.

## DECEMBER 2010

3-4—**BILLINGS**—1st Saturday

11—**BILLINGS**—SW Intergroup Christmas Party—Don M.

25—**COLUMBIA FALLS**—Intergroup Birthday Meeting—Nikki T.

10—**EUREKA**—Annual Christmas Party—Lynda R.

## JANUARY 2011

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

## FEBRUARY 2011

1—**DEADLINE**—Agenda Items for Spring Assembly Due—Sharon S.

26—**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.; Patty C.

## JUNE 2011

18—**GREAT FALLS**—Local Forum—Scott W. ;  
Jewel lea G.

19—**MILES CITY**—Local Forum—Scott W. ;  
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 Work-  
shop

## OCTOBER 2011

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

## MARCH 2012

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

## SPRING 2012

tba—**KALISPELL**—Spring Roundup

## FALL 2012

tba—**MISSOULA**—Fall Roundup

## SPRING 2013

tba—**BOZEMAN**—Spring 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

## 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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