



# Triangle Newsletter



Volume 21, Issue 4

May 2013

*Welcome*

*New Groups In AA 40!*

**Three Legacies Group**  
Meets Monday &  
Thursday Nights at 7  
pm at Unity Church in  
Billings.

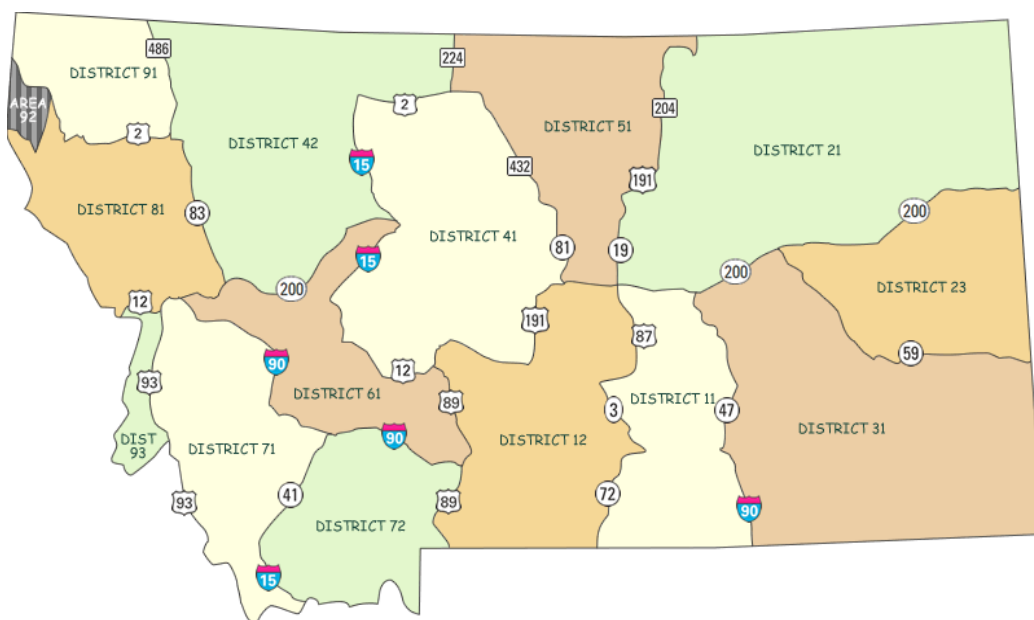
**Break It Down Group**  
Meets Wednesdays at  
8:30 pm at 525 Central.

**Primary Purpose  
Group** meets Thursdays  
at 5:30 pm at 5300 9th  
Ave S in Great Falls.

**Last Stop Group**  
Meets Mondays and  
Fridays at noon, Tues-  
days and Thursdays at  
5:30 pm at 909 Nevada  
Street in Belgrade.

**It's In The Book**  
Meets Tuesdays at 5:30  
at 110 S Grand Avenue  
in Bozeman.

**Serenity Sisters** Meets  
Mondays at 7:30 at 110  
Wisconsin St in Con-  
rad.



## A Note From Your Editor

This issue of the Triangle is a recap of the 2013 Spring Area Assembly. The reports have been truncated and highlights have been included. For the complete minutes of the Assembly please contact the Secretary. They are also available on the Area 40 Website: [aa-montana.org](http://aa-montana.org). Some reports were not available at the time of this printing and therefore could not be included. The next issue's themes will be Archives and Finance. Articles are due June 6th. Please contact me at [triangle@aa-montana.org](mailto:triangle@aa-montana.org) to contribute.

## How We Hosted A Pre-Assembly

I found out after the January 2013 District 91 Business Meeting that it was our District's turn to host a Pre-Assembly for District 81 (Missoula) and District 93 (the Bitterroot Valley) before Area Assembly in Lewistown in April.

Being the DCM, the responsibility fell on me! I'm hoping what I learned from the experience might help future DCMs. "How am I ever going to get all this done?" I prayed. "Ask for help", came the answer. *Duh!*

I asked the Regional Trustee for advice during the West Central Regional Service Conference. Other than mentioning the pros and cons of parallel and concurrent sessions, he said, "Do whatever you want."

At prior pre-assemblies, I remembered feeling intimidated (fearful) about asking questions in a large group. I like to share and listen to people in smaller informal gatherings. I figured a lot of people in District 91 are new to service at the district level and would feel the same way.

The idea of parallel sessions where people sit with an Area Committee Chair (or their designate), ask questions, and get face-to-face answers appealed to me. They can review agenda items for one committee for an hour and then rotate to another table for another set of agenda items.

People could pick Agenda Items that interested them most and rely on others from their group to gather information from other committees they didn't attend. With the help of the Area Chair and Delegate, we were able to cover all committees—whether an Area Chair was present or not.

I asked the DCMs from Districts 93 & 81 what dates would work for them. I contacted the Lakeside/Somers Group, which was closer to Missoula and the Bitterroot, for a location. With a flurry of emails we set a date and location for the meeting. I lined up help with the potluck and coffee.

I gave CDs of printed background material for the agenda items to the DCMs and GSRs.

The morning of the event we set a table at one end of the room for the Committee Chairs to use during the final part of the session. We then spread six tables with chairs around the room. I placed the Committee name and some blank paper on each. Food tables were at the far end for people to mingle without disturbing those still working

At the beginning, committee representatives briefly introduced themselves and their service history. It helped to get to know people better for those new to service at the district level. Then we broke into groups for 50 minutes to cover the agenda items. After the allotted time we switched and went to a different committee. An hour from the finish, the committee chairs sat at the table at the head of the room and reported on the discussion regarding their Agenda Items. They were each given three minutes to talk and receive questions.

That wrapped it up. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Paul L. District 91 DCM

## Unanswered Questions From GSR Breakout Ask-It-Basket

**Can I feel comfortable being the GSR for three and one-half years or do I need to step down now? No one steps up, why? Where is the spirit of rotation?**

- \*force someone to step up
- \* If no one is willing to serve, the group will die
- \*sponsorship - explain the spirit of rotation
- \*rotate the opening and set-up and clean-up positions at your group.
- \* have the secretary twist arms.
- \*every individual has the right to be wrong.
- \*some are required by their sponsor to attend all meetings.
- \*announce and encourage others to participate.
- \*opposite problem - some won't step down.
- \* celebrate people's service to the group, recognize their sacrifice.

## Tentative Delegate Report Dates By District

May 18th:  
District 31

June 8th: District 11

June 15th:  
District 81

June 22nd:  
District 61

June 23rd:  
District 93

June 30th: District 91  
August 3rd:  
District 71

August 11th:  
District 12

August 17th:  
District 23

## DCM Report Highlights

**District 11:** District 11 is active and growing in participation! We have 25 groups in six cities. The District meetings average 20-to-25 attendees. We started the rotation with a Trusted Servants Workshop and hosted a district inventory. The newly-created Bridging the Gap chair has been establishing and expanding relationships with facilities. We hosted a pre-assembly and Founder's Day Mini Conference (hosted by South-Central Intergroup). Upcoming events include an Archives workshop, a Unity Day Celebration with Delegate's Report and the Fall 2013 Roundup in Billings. Mike D.

**District 71:** We have 25 groups and approximately 65 meetings each week. All of our committee chair positions are filled except for PI/CPC. We take meetings to MT State Hospital, WATCH, START, MCDC and the Butte Silver Bow jail. We will be hosting the Spring Roundup May 2-4, 2014. Thank you for the opportunity to be of service. Betty P.

**District 23:** District 23 has several meetings in Glendive and Sidney as well as in surrounding towns. Sidney continues to host meetings, for men and women, in the Richland County Jail and Glendive is looking to bring meetings in to the Dawson County Jail to supplement the meeting run by the jail. The Bridging the Gap program for WATCH East is going well. Glendive and Sidney also support the outside AA meetings at WATCH East. Mary C.M.

**District 81:** District 81 includes Missoula, Polson, Thompson Falls and surrounding areas. There are a lot of groups and even more meetings each week. The DCM feels very fortunate to be from an active district with 20-25 GSRS in attendance at District meetings. District 81 created (and filled) a Bridging the Gap Chair position. The District hosts events such as holiday parties and a Grapevine story writing party. Upcoming events include a Founder's Day celebration with the Delegate's report that morning. The DCM's goals include visiting all the groups and eliminating inactive groups from GSO's database. District 81 will also look to increase participation with rural towns by hosting District meetings in their town, rather than Missoula. And, we are now taking AA meetings in to the new alcohol treatment center. Sherry C.

**District 12:** District 12 covers many towns including Laurel, Harlowton and Red Lodge. They hold District meetings the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month at the Laurel Home Group at 4 pm. We added a new position of Archives Chair. We hosted a well-attended Mid-Winter social with a speaker from Wyoming. The next event will be the Fireman's Point Campout near Columbus August 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>. This even includes a resentment burning and a Delegate's Report. Daniel M.

**District 93:** District 93 has 16 groups and 29 meetings stretching from Lolo to Connor each week. The District has seen increased attendance by GSRS and has filled all chair positions. The DCM attended a Pre-Assembly in District 91. The Annual Bitterroot Picnic and Campout will be held June 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> at Bitterroot National Forrest (12 miles from Hamilton). This will include a Delegate's Report. Kevin C.

**District 42:** District 42 has been updating contact information with Area and GSO. The DCM has visited all the groups in her District. There are three new meetings in the district. District 42 now has a newsletter to increase communication and discuss different AA topics. We also have new members who are excited about service and are interested in hosting some workshops. We now print meeting schedules to be placed in public locations. District 42 has several members who completed the orientation to take meetings in to the Shelby prison. In the upcoming year their goal is to introduce AA in to the jail system. We are reviewing ways in which this will be feasible. Beth Z.

**District 31:** The DCM hopes to facilitate communication between AA groups in his district during his term. We carpool to meetings in the District, including those held in WATCH East. The new District 31 Treatment Chair has been very active updating Bridging the Gap contacts and connecting AA to with their local facilities. The Miles City Group now hosts a weekly AA Literature meeting. Martin D.

**District 61:** District 61 has over 100 meetings each week. We recently hosted a Pre-Assembly and Northern Rockies Pockets of Enthusiasm. Upcoming events include Grapefest with a Delegate's Report, A Treatment-Corrections Workshop and a campout hosted by the Last Chance Gulch Group. Karla B.

**District 91:** District 91 covers a large geographical territory with 19 groups and over 108 meetings each week. The DCM has attended all but one meeting including group conscience meetings. We hold District meetings every month and rotate the location around the District. District 91 supports meetings in the Wilderness and Pathways Treatment facilities and we are in the process of revitalizing the meetings in our jails. We are also in the process of developing a written set of guidelines for district service and increasing unity between District and Intergroup. District 91 hosted Into Action Weekend, a Pre-Assembly and several fun social events. Our upcoming event will be a CPC/PI Workshop. Paul L.

## Motions Passed Fall 2013 Assembly

- Area 40 Structure & Policy: The Ad Hoc Committee recommends that the non-election assembly framework be modified to include a welcome and allow more time for standing committee work, and engage all in attendance in the work of Area 40 per the attached documents. To be reviewed by the Archives Committee at the Fall 2014 Assembly. Motion passes with vote 66 FOR with 4 Opposed.
- The Finance committee voted unanimously to recommend the proposed 2013 budget of \$32,650.00. Motion Carries 75 FOR 0 Opposed
- The Treatment committee agreed that information to be made available via the website BTG mini-sites would be: First name, Last name or initial, Home town, Sobriety date, Contact telephone #1, Contact telephone #2 and email address. Motion was made by Casey L. seconded by Brett H. to authorize the items as listed to be the input fields. Motion carries with 83 FOR and 0 Opposed.

## Why I Go To Assembly As A Non-Voting Member

I have been sober a little over 9 months. I have been to the Area Assembly twice. I do not hold a district position, so I was asked to share why I come to assemblies.

The number one reason I come is because of sponsorship. I have been sponsored into the idea that no matter what, you show up for AA. This is extremely important to me because without AA I would not be alive today.

I have found the most incredible support and love in my home group and in all of the rooms of AA. For the first time I know I am where I belong.

I think it is extremely interesting and important to learn about AA as an organization. Each time I have been to area assembly I have learned so much valuable information about AA as a whole and about Area 40 and the wonderful possibilities service hold for a drunk like me.

Without service, my sobriety would not exist. I often feel like members at the assembly are speaking a foreign language but the only way to learn this language that allows me peace and life is to show up.

I get to see firsthand at area assemblies how many incredible and dedicated members of the fellowship we have in area 40. All of the attendees at Assemblies inspire me and show me the way so that hopefully one day soon I can inspire others in the program to be of service.

I am so grateful every time I get the opportunity to participate in anything AA related because I know I am not alone and have finally found a home.

Lenore M. District 72



## Area Chair and Committee Member Reports

**Archivist:** The Archivist reports that he has been trying to get to the Archives once a month and is familiarizing himself with the materials. The Archives were housed in Helena, near the previous Archivist, and Earl put forth a motion to move them to Ennis. (The motion passed.) His proposed location is climate controlled and 700 sq feet. He researched several options to find the most-suitable location possible. Earl went to West Central Regional AA Service Conference (WCRAASC) and connected with other Archivists from our region. He has a few commitments on his calendar to bring the archives display to districts during the upcoming months and he invites AAs to contact him if he can bring the archives to your next AA event (archivist@aa-montana.org). The Archivist notes that while he does have a travel budget he encourages districts and groups to be self-supporting—something that can be discussed with him when you schedule the Archivist for your event. The Archives belong to the Area and they are made of what we contribute. Therefore, the archives collection can be more-complete with submissions of minutes, fliers and other materials from groups and districts within Area 40. Earl F.

**Archives:** The Archives Chair will be participating in a workshop in Billings during May. She is also working with the previous Archives chair to become more-familiar with her position. The Archives Chair's goals include getting to know more old-timers and to collect more archives material from districts and groups. The Archives Committee reviewed matters relating to Archives and Area 40 Policy and Procedure. They considered a request to revise article G7.6 of the Area 40 Policy and Procedure Manual. The committee put forth this motion and unanimously voted for it, "the Archives Committee recommends that G7.6 in the Area 40 Policy & Procedures manual be revised to read: "The Literature Committee will provide contacts and/or resources on how to order A.A. literature requested by Area Committees." They also considered the request to move Archives to Ennis, where the new Archivist lives. They were unanimously in favor of it and brought a motion to the floor. The committee also reviewed several agenda items from GSC. Kira A.

**Secretary:** The Secretary used attendance sheets to tabulate the number of AAs eligible to vote at Area Assembly. The Secretary has been busy updating Area 40's group and district chair information through GSO's database, Fellowship New Vision. These updates are very important and help groups communicate with Area, the Triangle and GSO. Mary M.

**Public Information (PI):** Due to an unexpected injury a PI report was not submitted in advance of the Assembly. The PI Committee met with 15 people in attendance, 5 were voting members. The PI Committee reviewed, and accepted with gratitude, the Webmaster's report. 8 of our 14 Districts are using the new Bridging the Gap online system. GSO is in the process of updating its website but is on hold until the 2013 budget is finalized. The PI Committee reviewed the Area and GSC agenda items and thought it was a good idea to update several of the PSAs in question. Terry S. (Area Advisor)

**Finance:** Finances are in good order for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of this rotation. The audit of the past rotation went smoothly and everything is in perfect order. The Treasurer reports she has been receiving and spending money as required and that the check book is balanced. The Treasurer attended a workshop in District 72, WCRAASC and two pre-assemblies. She also made a display that was set up on a back table at Assembly. Libbie L.

**Delegate:** Our Delegate has been communicating with our Past-Delegate frequently. She has been reviewing the information sent from GSO. The Delegate also communicates with Andrew W., our West Central Regional Trustee. He shares the minutes from the General Service Board meetings with her. In addition to her regular duties our Delegate will participate in taking the conference inventory. And, she accepted a secondary assignment on the International Conventions and Regional Forums Committee. This committee will select a location for the 2025 International Conference. Area 40 has held one conference call thus far and has completed an audit of the previous rotation. The Delegate participated in workshops in District 11 and District 72. Then, mid-February hit and the Delegate was busy with studying the agenda, participating in pre-assemblies and preparing for Assembly and the GSC. Sharon S.

**Grapevine:** The Grapevine chair would like to collect unused Grapevines amongst our fellowship and redistribute them to others who would like to read them. He has been in contact with 5 district Grapevine Reps and welcomes the opportunity to communicate with more. He encourages GSRs to elect Grapevine Reps in their groups and to learn about the position. The Grapevine Chair has started a monthly email to GVRs that includes a newsletter and updates. The Grapevine made money last year while La Vina lost money. The GV Rep attended a pre-assembly and worked with the Area Advisor to become-acquainted with the GV agenda materials. He encourages people to purchase GV literature and subscriptions. Sam B.

**Chair Report:** The Chair met with the former-Chair to learn more about his position. He participated in the Area 40 Conference call and audit. The Chair used the GSC Agenda and a few items from our area to make the agenda for Area Assembly. Copies of the agenda were distributed in the Triangle, on the Area 40 Website, and to DCMs and GSRs. The Chair prepared for his role of facilitating the Area Assembly by attending WCRAASC and multiple pre-assemblies. Now is the time to consider fall assembly agenda items. The deadline for getting these items on the agenda is July 1<sup>st</sup>. Gerry R.

## Area Chair And Committee Member Reports Continued

**Webmaster:** The new Bridging the Gap system is online and working. When this report was compiled 8 districts had entered 137 volunteers. The Webmaster has redesigned the calendar page and is working with the Triangle Editor to redesign the Triangle page. He encourages groups and districts to send fliers to him so that they can be included on the Area 40 Events Calendar. Events can be sent to calendar@aa-montana.org. Alex M.

**CPC:** The CPC Chair met with the outgoing CPC chair to become acquainted with her new position. She also attended a workshop in District 72 and the Gallatin Valley Interfaith Alliance meeting to discuss CPC-related outreach. District 72 has a presentation to the clergy in-the-works. The CPC Chair is working with her committee and the district reps to formulate a plan to connect with professionals. She reminds people that there are presentations ready for luncheons or meetings with professionals in our Area. She hopes to continue to spread the message that non-alcoholic professionals have been an integral part of our history. Serena R.

**Literature:** The Literature Chair brought a display to Area Assembly to showcase the AA literature. It is a great way to get the message to the still-suffering alcoholic. The GSC Literature agenda items include possible revisions to five pamphlets. AA is reviewing how to transition in to the digital age and this includes making literature available digitally. Information on this transition is available through the Literature chair or at aa.org. Bob T.

**Treatment:** The Treatment Chair met with the outgoing chair to learn more about his position. He is becoming-acquainted with the updated Bridging the Gap system. The upgrades house the program online so that volunteers can be connected to people leaving treatment facilities as quick as possible. The Treatment Chair participated in two pre-assemblies. The Treatment Committee reviewed several items from the GSC and Area 40 Agendas. Additionally, the committee discussed the Bridging the Gap system in-depth. Brandon M.

**Corrections:** To the best of the chair's knowledge, weekly (at least) meetings are being held at most facilities (MSP, Women's prison, MASC -Missoula, Crossroads Correctional-Shelby, START-Anaconda, WATCH West-Warm Springs, WATCH East-Glendive, Cascade County Regional Prison-Great Falls, Elkhorn-Boulder, but not Riverside, and not sure about Dawson County Regional Prison). Upcoming orientations to facilitate prison meetings will be held May 25<sup>th</sup> and September 21<sup>st</sup>. The Corrections Chair is working with the Secretary and Triangle Editor to update active corrections groups and clarify the procedure by which we can communicate with their members. The Corrections Chair has been asked some questions about the Pink Can and will work to make information about how and when the funds are used available to Area 40. Lee G.

**Triangle:** Your Triangle Editor has been learning the Publisher program and familiarizing myself with how to format a newsletter. I have been working on updating the mailing list. If your group's subscription has expired you can send the annual \$10 subscription fee to the Triangle PO Box. Anyone is welcome to contribute to the Triangle and can email me at triangle@aa-montana.org. There are themes to each issue but I'll accept an article on any service-related topic. Erin G.

## My First Trip To Area Assembly As A Voting Member

When I found out the GSR of my home group would be unable to go to area assembly and I would be going in her place, to say I was nervous would be an understatement. As a newly elected alternate GSR, naïve to the inner workings of A.A. general service, I thought to myself, "Surely I am not qualified for this." My sponsor assured me that my 2 ½ years of sobriety and dedication to my home group were qualification enough, because everyone has to start somewhere. Continuous involvement and service in my home group has been a key contributor to my sobriety. To be given the opportunity to represent my home group at Area Assembly was an honor, and since it is all about being of service to AA and putting my gratitude in action, I was willing. Even if that meant driving 5 hours after I get off work on Friday to the middle of nowhere Montana, to spend my weekend sitting through a 17 hour long business meeting. During the assembly, one of the past delegates got up to speak. He said, "I never dreamed of being a delegate. God does for us what we cannot do for ourselves." He was recapping what it was like as a GSR at his first area assembly in the 90s. He mentioned sitting in the back corner, unsure about what was going on. Much to my relief, I was beginning to relate. I felt that sense of unity and belonging that I get when amongst like-minded people in any meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. Even through a long day of debate, there was comic relief, wisdom, and spirituality that shone through the dryness of the assembly. All in all, just like any service work in AA, it was a learning and ultimately satisfying experience to carry out my responsibilities as a trusted servant in an effort to give back and make a small contribution to AA as a whole. Angela W., Alternate GSR, Solution Group



## Area 40 Delegate's GSC Report

Greetings to Area 40 groups and members,

I recently returned from the General Service Conference and want to thank you for sending me. It was a great experience and I think all the Conference members participated fully and good decisions were made for the whole of A.A. The process really works and I was pleasantly surprised at how well it works, how well prepared the members were, and how hard everyone worked. The members were truly respectful of each other and great examples of how to disagree without being disagreeable.

I will be travelling around the Area to give a Delegate's Reports to each of the districts. Some of the reports are scheduled, there is a tentative calendar published on page 2 of this issue. I will be working with the remaining districts to schedule reports and hope to see you at one of them.

Here are a few highlights from the Conference:

Finances. As a whole, the General Service Board ended the year with a slim margin to the good – \$293,628. Contributions were up slightly, about 4%, although the percentage of groups contributing (42.4%) continues at an all-time low; GSO expenses were slightly less than budgeted. The Grapevine had a great year, exceeding budgeted income and spending significantly below budget. This year, the Grapevine was a major contributor to the General Service Board's ending financial margin (\$257,003). La Viña continues to operate at a deficit, although subscriptions are increasing.

No action was taken on the General Service Board's proposed plan regarding the interlocking directorate, but the Conference committee on Trustees requested that any changes regarding "Non-trustee Director Service", "Eligibility for General Service Trustees", and "Eligibility of Appointed Committee Members" be brought to the 2014 Conference Committee on Trustees for review.

The Conference passed recommendations to:

- change pamphlets "If you are a Professional..." and "A Message to Corrections Professionals"
- make several proposed updates to the service manual (including a change on page 37 in Bill W.'s essay on leadership, originally printed in the April 1959 Grapevine with the same typographical error; we've gone all these years reading "when badly disturbed or *uniformed*")
- affirm that the Internet, social media and all forms of public communications are implicit in the short form of the 11<sup>th</sup> Tradition
- permit A.A. World Services to use digital channels to sell and distribute digital A.A. literature
- publish a commemorative 75th Anniversary Edition of the first edition of the Big Book.

The draft pamphlet focusing on spirituality was returned to committee amidst concerns about the title and scope of stories.

Recommendations that failed include:

- change the inside flap of the dustcover of the 4th edition
- add the observer statement to the blue card
- discontinue the current formatting requirements for the La Viña
- limit eligibility for secondary committee chairs

We began a three-year inventory process, discussing 15 questions regarding the conference and its effectiveness, communication, the corporate boards, and leadership (as discussed in Bill W.'s essay). The process was very good: there were 15 groups of 9 people, each discussing 5 questions. The groups were a mix of Area delegates, GSO staff, and General Service Board members. On the whole, discussion and comments were very positive, with a few recurring themes for possible improvement. Inventory summaries will be available soon for our review, but no action will be taken until the three-year process is complete.

Thank you again for this great experience and its effect on my life!

Your trusted servant,  
Sharon S. Delegate, Area 40, Panel 63

AREA 40 INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT

	<u>Jan - Mar 13</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
Group Contributions	6,982.53		
Triangle Subscriptions	20.00		
Other Income (recouped from)			
Service Manuals	106.55		
Total Other Income (recouped from)	106.55		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>7,109.08</b>		
<b>Expense</b>			
<b>Travel Expenses</b>			
Gas	456.80	751.25	4,000.00
Mileage	130.45	217.25	2,046.00
Meals	228.19	531.25	3,720.00
Lodging	365.36	481.25	4,850.00
Air/Train/Taxi fare	0.00	0.00	1,100.00
Area 40 contribution to GSC	1,600.00	1,600.00	1,600.00
Travel Expenses - Other	39.00		
<b>Total Travel Expenses</b>	<b>2,819.80</b>	<b>3,581.00</b>	<b>17,316.00</b>
<b>Rent</b>			
Archives storage	1,400.00	1,050.00	4,200.00
Meeting space	0.00	0.00	800.00
<b>Total Rent</b>	<b>1,400.00</b>	<b>1,050.00</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>
<b>Literature Expenses</b>			
Lit purchases (not svc manuals)	0.00	75.00	150.00
Service manuals (for resale)	171.60		
<b>Total Literature Expenses</b>	<b>171.60</b>	<b>75.00</b>	<b>150.00</b>
<b>Photocopies / printing</b>			
Background information	49.00	225.00	425.00
Photocopies / printing - Other	725.70	542.50	2,490.00
<b>Total Photocopies / printing</b>	<b>774.70</b>	<b>767.50</b>	<b>2,915.00</b>
<b>Dues, registration, fees</b>	<b>27.00</b>	<b>24.00</b>	<b>24.00</b>
<b>Postage</b>	<b>366.36</b>	<b>477.50</b>	<b>1,880.00</b>
<b>Supplies</b>	<b>260.77</b>	<b>195.00</b>	<b>405.00</b>
<b>Telephone</b>			
Directory Listings	159.60	375.00	1,500.00
Phone and Conference Calls	54.11	50.00	150.00
800 Number	252.00	750.00	3,000.00
<b>Total Telephone</b>	<b>465.71</b>	<b>1,175.00</b>	<b>4,650.00</b>
<b>Miscellaneous expense</b>	<b>285.88</b>	<b>160.00</b>	<b>310.00</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>6,571.82</b>	<b>7,505.00</b>	<b>32,650.00</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>537.26</b>	<b>(7,505.00)</b>	<b>(32,650.00)</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>537.26</b>	<b>(7,505.00)</b>	<b>(32,650.00)</b>

Check book balance (3/31/2013)	\$20,380.18
Prudent Reserve	\$10,883.33
Archivist Account	\$1,321.86
Operating Balance	\$8,174.99



## Unanswered Questions From GSR Breakout Ask-It-Basket

**My group allows family and non-AA's to speak in Open meetings. Do other groups allow this? In my group I have seen this mostly with family members of an AA there to support or celebrate.**

- \*our meeting format allows for this very same thing.
- \*read the open meeting card (blue card) and take a group conscience
- \* read the AA Group pamphlet. The open meeting description.
- \*each group is autonomous. Some may ask family to share.
- \*each group has the right to be wrong.

**Why doesn't Area 40 stagger it's rotation of DCMs, GSRs and Committee Chairs like the West Central Region does its Delegates?**

- \*these are two unrelated entities. Positions can't be staggered easily.
- \*leave it alone, keep autonomous
- \* All positions of the Area committee rotate at the same time.
- \*One groups alternate GSR was serving because their GSR was in jail.

**As a new meeting how do we get more people to attend?**

- \*take flyers and announcements to other meetings.
- \*word of mouth - get in the car, come with me.
- \*scope out the competition, don't start a meeting in conflict with a neighboring town or group
- \*be thoughtful.

**Our Group has a man who is stalking the newer women at our meetings. There have been orders of restraint and the group has banned him from meetings for three months. Upon return, he behaves for a while but then the old actions start again. What can we do?**

- \*the First Tradition - remove the threat
- \*Make meetings and groups safe
- \*Get a no trespassing order- follow rules of society
- \*chase them off. What some people call parking lot therapy
- \* contact Scott W. for procedure that his group uses.
- \*physically remove them
- \* go to all women's meetings if possible
- \*Don't make him another group's problem
- \* identify the predator and tell other groups about them
- \*legal restraining order
- \* have their or your sponsor to tell them to stay away.
- \* We don't get here for being well

**I need information on Bridging the Gap at the District and Area level?**

- \*please talk to the Area Treatment Chair.

**Please tell us about the "Pink Can" at the District and Area level?**

- \*Please talk to the Area Corrections Chair.

**What do groups do for "newcomer" packets?**

- \*please talk to the Area Literature Chair.

**Our group is having difficulty determining who should vote on financial matters. Historically, only the elected officers have been allowed to vote. We had a steering committee for a while, but it dissolved. Should anyone attending the group conscience be allowed to vote on general matters but only the officer's vote on financial issues?**

- \*each group is autonomous to determine its own policies regarding voting or anything else
- \*the well informed conscience should determine the voting policies.
- \*determine who the group members are and allow them to vote on everything.

**My group had a group conscience and decided to develop guidelines specifically to list all of the responsibilities for each service position in our group. Is this alright?**

- \*sure it is, each group is autonomous to determine its own path.
- \* letting people know what is expected of them in service, what a good idea.
- \*this would help new people become better servants.

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## *Area 40 Calendar Of Events*

- \*\*Dr. Robert Caldwell, Vince Grant Hall, Bozeman, May 18th
- \*\* Big Fork Campout, Swan Lake Campground, June 7th-9th
- \*\* Treatment/Corrections Workshop, 1st Presbyterian Church in Helena, June 8th
- \*\*AA Cookout and Campfire Meeting, June 8th, Trafton Park off Hwy 2, Malta
- \*\*Founders Day Campout, Tally Lake Campground (near Whitefish), June 14th-16th
- \*\*Last Chance Campout, Vigilante Campground, York, June 21st-23rd
- \*\*Grapefest, Wilson House in Helena, June 22nd
- \*\* Beartooth Mountain Conference, South of Big Timber, June 28th through 30th
- \*\* Deadline for Submitting Fall Agenda Items-, July 1st
- \*\* Big Book Study w/ Rick C., Sykes Conference Room, Kalispell, July 5th-7th
- \*\*Norm's Picnic, Darby, July 20th-21st
- \*\*Whitefish Group Picnic, Whitefish City Beach, August 10th
- \*\*Blue Moon Campout, Libby, August 16th-18th
- \*\* West Central Regional Forum, Bloomington, Minnesota, September 6th– 8th
- \*\*Havre Mini Conference, Havre, September 13th-15th
- \*\*Montana State Prison Volunteer Orientation, Deer Lodge, September 21st
- \*\* Area Assembly (Fall), Yogo Inn in Lewistown, September 20th through 22nd
- \*\* Fall 2013 Round-Up, Crown Plaza Hotel in Billings, October 11th through 13th
  
- \*\*Spring 2014 Area Assembly, Yogo Inn, Lewistown, April 11th-13th
- \*\*Spring 2014 Round Up, Fairmont Hot Springs, Anaconda, May 2nd-4th
- \*\*Fall 2014 Area Assembly, Yogo Inn, Lewistown, September 19th-21st

For fliers and information see the calendar on [aa-montana.org](http://aa-montana.org).

If you'd like your activity to be included in the Triangle (and on the Area 40 website) please email it to [calendar@aa-montana.org](mailto:calendar@aa-montana.org).



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