

August 2013

## Fall Pre-Assembly Edition

### ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY (To Discuss Our Principles)

Greetings to my fellow A.A. members in Area 40 and around the country. It hardly seems possible that we will be together soon for our Fall Assembly. I look forward to visiting with all of you there.

I recently received an email from an A.A. member regarding a petition effort for a commemorative stamp honoring Bill W. Some of you may have received the same email. Today I am happy for the opportunities the email has given me. I got to talk to Jim M. at the General Service Office about how G.S.O. is responding to this petition. I get to consider our tradition of anonymity, asking myself "how would Bill respond to this proposal?". I may do some reading in conference-approved literature, such as, *A.A. Comes of Age*, *Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers*.

This petition is being submitted by 'several non-profits'; our friends (doctors, attorneys, teachers, social workers, other recovery program members) are being invited to submit petitions. The proposal hopes for a "fast track" petition, with the stamp being 'unveiled' at the 2015 International Convention. I'm sure these folks mean well. They are not alcoholic and perhaps do not understand that we members of Alcoholics Anonymous believe the future of A.A. depends on our Traditions; that our tradition of anonymity applies posthumously as well as to current members; that anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions; that the spiritual substance of anonymity is sacrifice; that Dr. Bob and Bill W. are buried just like other folks, a simple headstone, no mention of A.A.

G.S.O. sent a letter to the U.S. Post Office informing them that this petition does not come from Alcoholics Anonymous and that the 2015 International Convention, which is organized by A.A., has no plans to 'unveil' or present this stamp. The letter also includes the following quotes about personal recognition:

Our founders believed, as Bill said in a letter to a newspaper editor in 1950, that "personal success in the A.A. program requires humility, that we have no right to claim distinction for the gift of sobriety."

Bill W. wrote that before Dr. Bob died, they both firmly agreed that neither one of them would accept public honors for A.A. work. Bill felt that "such an example, set before future generations of power-driving A.A. members, might prove to be worth more than any prestige which such honors could confer upon either of us. This was our estimate, and I still believe it to be the right one." (Letter, February 1960)

More information will be coming. In the meantime, this is a great opportunity for us to talk among ourselves about our traditions, so we, along with our newer members, have a good understanding about them and what the underlying principles are. I'll be doing the same and I assure you, I won't be sending a petition to the U.S. Postal service requesting this commemorative stamp!

Your Area 40 Delegate, Sharon S.



# Area 40 Fall Assembly Preliminary Agenda

This is the preliminary agenda created by Gerry R., the Area Chair. It is subject to change. Sometimes the rooms to which committee meetings get assigned may get moved to alternate locations. There will be a final agenda available at the Assembly. This version is available now to help GSRs, DCMs and committee chairs prepare for the Assembly.

## FRIDAY SESSION

8:00-10:00pm **GSR and DCM Welcome Session and Area Standing Committee Chair**

Welcome Session – led by the Area 40 Delegate and Area Chair

(GSRs, please sign in with your District’s DCM at this time)

## SATURDAY SESSION

7:30-8:00am GSRs and visitors sign in with your District’s DCM. (DCMs please give the sign in sheets to the Area Secretary no later than noon.)

8:00-9:00 **Welcome.** Serenity Prayer, Traditions, Concepts, Housekeeping,

**Roll Call**, Passed Actions of last Assembly –Area Secretary

**Financial Highlights** –Area Treasurer

**Orientation to the Assembly**– Delegate

**DCM Reports** (hard stop at 9:00 am, to be continued in the afternoon)

9:00-12:00 **Standing Committee Meetings:**

**Archives/Area 40 Structure & Policy**.....Kendall Room

**CPC/Trustees**.....Room 150

**Corrections/International Conventions**.....Terrace Room

**Finance**.....Gypsum Room

**Grapevine/Policy & Admissions (GSC)**.....Room 164

**Literature**.....Upper Room

**Public Information/Report and Charter & Website**.....Room 252

**Treatment/Special Needs/Agenda**.....Snowy Room

(Committee Chairs-If your committee does not finish its business during this session, please notify the Area Chair)

**Workshops**.....Sapphire Room

(For those not attending committee meetings)

9:45 – **Workshop:** Sponsoring Your Professional ( Led by Past Delegate Carole B. )

10:45 - **Workshop Topic TBD** ( Led by Past Delegate Mark S.)

12:00-1:00 **Recess for Lunch**

1:00-1:30 **Demonstration of Fellowship New Vision** – Area 40 Secretary Mary McC.

1:30-2:00 **Remaining DCM Reports**

2:00-2:45 **Floor Assembly**–Committee Reports, Motions, and Discussion

2:45-3:00 **Coffee Break**

3:00-5:00 **Floor Assembly** – Committee Reports, Motions, and Discussion

Corrections/International Conventions-Regional Forums

CPC/Trustees

Treatment Facilities/Agenda

Public Information/Report & Charter

Literature

Grapevine/Policy & Admissions

Archives/Structure

Finance

5:00-7:00 **Recess for Dinner**

7:00-7:45 **West Central Regional Trustee Sharing** – Andrew W.

7:45-8:45 **Floor Assembly**. Committee Reports, Motions, and Discussion

8:45-9:00 **Coffee Break**

9:00-10:00 **GSR Breakout**. Led by Past Delegate: Ask-it-basket/sharing

**DCM Breakout** . Led by Past Delegate: Ask-it-basket/sharing

**SUNDAY SESSION**

8:00-8:30 **Roundup Reports**

**Intergroup Reports**

**WCRAAF Report**

8:30-9:00 **Past Delegate Sharing (15 minutes each)**

9:00-9:45 **Delegate's Report**

9:45-10:00 **Coffee Break**

10:00-12:00 **Floor Assembly** - Committee Reports, Motions, and Discussion (followed by general sharing as time allows.)

Adjourn – Travel Safely

Spring Assembly – April 11-13, 2014

Remember to make your reservations for Spring Assembly before you leave.

Smoking: The Yogo Inn is a non-smoking facility. Smoking areas have been established outside. Please limit your smoking to these designated areas, use the receptacles provided, and stay away from the doorways.

The following is a list of agenda items and the Area Committees to which they have been assigned for review. All items originate in Area 40 (including the items about review of items considered by the General Service Conference (GSC) last spring. This is our opportunity to formally review the decisions of the GSC and respond as an Area, if we choose to do so.

The Committee Chairs and DCMs were sent a list of agenda items with, in most instances, corresponding background information by July 15. This information is then passed on to other members of those committees and to GSRs in the districts and other interested members of our Fellowship for research, review and discussion, in turn providing for a well-informed conscience/decision. If your Group has any comments, questions, and concerns or would like copies of any background information please contact the appropriate Area Committee Chair or your DCM. Your DCM has the names, phone numbers and addresses of the Area Committee (which also appear in the Triangle) or you can email them through the Area 40 website ([www.aamontana.org](http://www.aamontana.org)) should you need them. (NOTE: the process by which items are submitted, dispersed, considered and brought to the Assembly is detailed in the Area 40 Committee System Policies & Procedures manual which is available through your DCM and on the Area web site). Review Concepts I, II, III, X, XII and Tradition Two for a clearer understanding of the above process. The following Committees/Committee agenda items are listed in order of presentation.

**Corrections/International Conventions Regional Forums – Lee G**

**Corrections – Area 40**

A. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Corrections Chair

B. Discuss Corrections work in Area 40. Review what's working and what might be improved upon.

**Corrections – GSC**

A. Review the results of all Corrections committee items considered, reviewed, and discussed at the 2013 GSC.

**International Conventions/Regional Forums**

A. Review the results of all International Conventions/Regional Forums committee items considered, reviewed, and discussed at the 2013 GSC.

**Cooperation with the Professional Community/Trustees – Serena R  
Cooperation with the Professional Community – Area 40**

A. Review assembly report of the Area 40 CPC Chair  
B. Discuss CPC work in Area 40. Review what's working and what might be improved upon.

**Cooperation with the Professional Community – GSC**

A. Review the results of all CPC committee items considered, reviewed, and discussed at the 2013 GSC.

**Trustees**

A. Review the results of all Trustee committee items considered, reviewed, and discussed at the 2013 GSC.

**Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities/Agenda – Brandon M**

**Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities – Area 40**

A. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Treatment Chair  
B. Discuss Treatment work in Area 40. Review what's working and what might be improved upon.

**Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities – GSC**

A. Review the results of all Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities committee items considered, reviewed, and discussed at the 2013 GSC.

**Agenda**

A. Review the results of all Agenda committee items considered, reviewed, and discussed at the 2013 GSC.

**Public Information/Report & Charter – Luke S**

**Public Information – Area 40**

A. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Public Information Chair  
B. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Webmaster.  
C. Consider the request to add Montana A.A. Intergroups as entities that can submit events to the Area 40 webmaster for inclusion on the Calendar of the Area 40 website.  
D. Consider the request to update the AA Service Manual to better reflect how GSO, the areas and districts utilize the Fellowship New Vision program (FNV) in regard to reporting and sharing group information – for submission as an agenda item at the 2014 General Service Conference  
E. Discuss Public Information work in Area 40. Review what's working and what might be improved upon.

**Public Information – GSC**

A. Review the results of all Public Information committee items considered, reviewed, and discussed at the 2013 GSC.

**Report & Charter**

A. Review the results of all Report & Charter committee items considered, reviewed, and discussed at the 2013 GSC.

**Literature – Bob T**

**Literature – Area 40**

A. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Literature Chair  
B. Consider the request to revise AA's Questions and Answers on Sponsorship pamphlet- for submission as an agenda item to the 2014 General Service Conference.  
C. Discuss Literature work in Area 40. Review what's working and what might be improved upon.

**Literature – GSC**

A. Review the results of all Literature committee items considered, reviewed, and discussed at the 2013 GSC.

**Grapevine/GSC Policy & Admissions – Sam B**

**Grapevine – Area 40**

A. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Grapevine Chair  
B. Discuss Grapevine work in Area 40. Review what's working and what might be improved upon.

**Grapevine – GSC**

A. Review the results of all Grapevine committee items considered, reviewed, and discussed at the 2013 GSC.

**Policy & Admissions**

A. Review the results of all Policy & Admissions committee items considered, reviewed, and discussed at the 2013 GSC.

**Archives/Area 40 Structure & Policy – Kira A**

**Archives – Area 40**

A. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Archives Chair  
B. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Archivist  
C. Discuss Archives work in Area 40. Review what's working and what might be improved upon.

**Area 40 Structure & Policy**

- A. Consider the request that Pink Can funds be used to supply Grapevine Inc. literature, in addition to AAWS literature, to alcoholics that are detained in a facility in Area 40 as a result of a law enforcement action.
- B. Consider the request to modify Area 40's Policies and Procedures to reflect that the Bridging the Gap program is appropriate for use in all treatment and corrections facilities in Area 40.
- C. Consider the request that an ad hoc committee be formed to explore possible solutions to the problem of some Area committees not having all of their appointed members present at the Area Assembly and available to participate in the decision making process of the committee.
- D. Consider the request to form an ad-hoc committee to investigate the specific changes that would need to be addressed at Area Assembly in order to accommodate members with special needs.

**Archives – GSC**

- A. Review the results of all Archives committee items considered, reviewed, and discussed at the 2013 GSC.

**Finance – Libbie L**

**Finance – Area 40**

- A. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Treasurer
- B. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Triangle Chair
- C. Prepare and propose the 2013 Area 40 Budget, with consideration of additional expenses incurred should any or all of the agenda items in other committees that have expense factors pass.
- D. Discuss Finance work in Area 40. Review what's working and what might be improved upon.

**Finance – GSC**

- A. Review the results of all Finance committee items considered, reviewed, and discussed at the 2013 GSC.

## The Quote Corner

*“If I'm not annoyed by AA commitments—I'm not doing enough”.*

*“In AA I was not beaten into sobriety; rather, I was loved into recovery”.*

*“I worked the steps to learn how to live sober. My recovery began when the steps started working me, so I could live”.*

*“I tried to get sober by attending a lot of AA meetings, hoping I could get sober by osmosis. I learned the only thing I could get by osmosis was that AA works for others who practice a program of recovery”.*

*“After my last DUI, my husband left me in jail for three days. He told our children I had been given a timeout”!*

*“Working and living the steps of AA has allowed me to be rid of the regrets of the past, and fear of the future, so I can live in the present. This is critical, as the only time I ever have a conscious contact with God is in the present moment”,*

*Most quotes compiled by Tom W., of the Missoula Group*

## Area 40 Triangle

Volume 21, Issue 6.5

	<b>Jan - Jun 13</b>	<b>YTD Budget</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>
Temporarily Restricted	10.00		
Unrestricted			
<b>Program Services</b>			
Spring Assembly	-4,083.10	-4,750.00	-4,750.00
Fall Assembly	0.00	0.00	-4,750.00
Regional Service Conference	-734.75	-1,320.00	-1,320.00
Regional Forum	0.00	0.00	-1,700.00
Regional Trustee	0.00	0.00	-370.00
<b>Delegate Expenses</b>			
Area 40 share to GSC	-1,600.00	-1,600.00	-1,600.00
Other Expenses	-395.48	-500.00	-500.00
Other Expenses NYC	-101.43	-125.00	-250.00
Roundups	0.00	-100.00	-400.00
Travel expenses	-579.72	-390.00	-1,250.00
<b>Total Delegate Expenses</b>	-2,676.63	-2,715.00	-4,000.00
Area Chair Expenses	-261.62	-390.00	-750.00
<b>Archivist Account</b>			
Archivist Display & Travel	-97.35	-125.00	-500.00
Archives Storage	-5,520.00	-2,100.00	-4,200.00
<b>Total Archivist Account</b>	-5,617.35	-2,225.00	-4,700.00
<b>Literature Chair</b>			
General literature purchases	-147.10	-75.00	-150.00
<b>Total Literature Chair</b>	-147.10	-75.00	-150.00
<b>Public Information Chair</b>			
Area Hotline Expenses	-429.50	-1,500.00	-3,000.00
Directory Listings	-869.43	-750.00	-1,500.00
<b>Total Public Information Chair</b>	-1,298.93	-2,250.00	-4,500.00
Website	-155.88	-160.00	-160.00
Triangle	-1,427.23	-1,750.00	-3,500.00
Committee Chair Post/Supplies	-201.74	-600.00	-1,200.00
Committee Chair Travel	-506.40	-200.00	-500.00
Computer Hardware/Software	0.00	-75.00	-150.00
Comference/Phone Calls	-54.11	-50.00	-150.00
<b>Total Program Services</b>	-17,164.84	-16,560.00	-32,650.00
Unrestricted - Other	11,898.17		
<b>Total Unrestricted</b>	-5,266.67	-16,560.00	-32,650.00
Unclassified	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-5,256.67</b>	<b>-16,560.00</b>	<b>-32,650.00</b>

## Area 40 Calendar Of Events

### 2013 Events

- \*\*Fireman's Point Campout, South of Columbus, August 9th-11th
- \*\*Whitefish Group Picnic, Whitefish City Beach, August 10th
- \*\*Blue Moon Campout, Libby, August 16th-18th
- \*\*Lower Yellowstone Soberfest, Makoshika State Park, August 16th-18th
- \*\*Emery Bay Campout, East of Columbia Falls, August 23rd-25th
- \*\*Ray Of Hope Camporee, Camp Marshall in Polson, August 31st-September 1st
- \*\*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
- \*\*Women's Recovery Weekend, Flathead Lake Lutheran Camp, October 11th through 13th
- \*\*H.O.W. Speaker Event, Fellowship Hall Bozeman, October 12th
- \*\*Attitude of Gratitude, Colonial Inn Helena, November 23rd

### 2014 Events

- \*\*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 flyers 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).





## Diversity Versus Difference

My first Big Book sponsor was twice my age. She stood a foot taller than I. She was raised in a minority religion that some in my childhood urged me to be skeptical about. She liked to play pinochle, when everyone knows cribbage is the better game. She'd gotten her life back, when I hadn't really had one yet. Her story seemed nothing like my own. Yet, she was the one who read my face that night before the meeting, who asked me if I wanted to talk and sat with me in the smoky basement of the Alano Club, who saved my life by telling me about hers. As she did that, she made it clear that she and I were the same. Same feelings. Same thoughts. Same disease.

I saw the differences. She helped me identify.

Difference kills. We, who have survived our own uniqueness, know that. New people in AA have a hard time seeing past the outer conditions – education, experience, economics, color, etc.

Pamphlets reach out to people who feel they are different when they don't see anyone with their specific 'thing' in front of them. They think they are different. We know that they are not – that they share the one symptom: 'they cannot start drinking without developing the phenomenon of craving.' One old timer says the one banner every alcoholic could stand under would say 'My Case is Different.' (I think that's why we have the all-purpose 'Do You Think You're Different?' pamphlet.)

Pamphlets address the young, old, medicated, special needs, gay/lesbian, military personnel, incarcerated, women, Native North American, etc. (Sounds like the start of a bar joke . . .)

Newcomers need to know that there are others visibly like them. The best thing we do is work with newcomers one on one, but sometimes we can't. Sometimes we can't because we're not physically present, such as when the prospective member is sitting in a doctor's office. Sometimes we can't because the newcomer looks around the room, doesn't see or hear anyone with her or his unique experience, and feels hopelessly different and alone.

Given that AA is mostly pale (87% white), male (65%), and over 40 (72%) [figures are from the 2011 AA Membership Survey ([http://www.aa.org/pdf/products/p-48\\_membershipsurvey.pdf](http://www.aa.org/pdf/products/p-48_membershipsurvey.pdf))], many people don't see anyone like them. In the country as a whole, there are more women (51% of the population) and more people of color (63% of people report their race as white non-Hispanic in the last census).

According to census figures for Montana, six percent of Montanans are Native American. Women and men are split down the middle at roughly 50 percent each. There's no AA membership data available for Montana in particular, but look around your community and ask the question posed in the AA Group pamphlet: How well does your group membership reflect the community as a whole? (Paraphrasing this question here.) In my town and in many towns I've visited, it seems to me that we do pretty well, on the whole. But that doesn't mean we can congratulate ourselves. We need to be doing all we can to welcome the new people. All the new people.

Because we are not all things to all people, and we wish to keep our primary purpose primary, the pamphlets help newcomers who don't yet identify to understand there are others like them who found sobriety here. And sobriety is the only thing we're concerned about.

We need diversity in AA because diversity reflects the world around us. Alcoholism certainly respects no boundaries of color, experience, orientation, or anything else. Diversity helps us grow. We need each other.

It's difference that kills.

AA needs to encourage diversity, not difference. Diversity means we aren't homogenous, that we all bring something important to the table. Difference means isolation, and for alcoholics, that means death. We can't afford it.

So the next time you see one of those 'different' folks, keep doing what you're doing – offer a cup of coffee, a warm handshake, and your experience, strength and hope. Maybe add a pamphlet or two.

From the AA Pamphlet, "Do You Think You're Different?" page 35 [http://aa.org/pdf/products/p-13\\_doyouthinkyourediff.pdf](http://aa.org/pdf/products/p-13_doyouthinkyourediff.pdf).



## Diversity Versus Difference Continued

“ . . . the happiest, healthiest recoveries seem to come to people who go to *all kinds* of A.A. meetings, not only the special ones. We have found it unwise to limit our A.A. 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 A.A. 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 A.A. *together*. In this, we are more like each other than different. Here in A.A., 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. No one is too discredited or has sunk too low.”

Anne B. Stream Of Life Group, Helena

## Corrections Update

Hi folks,

I had the opportunity to finally meet and speak directly with Warden Kierkegard and Terrie Stefalo from Montana State Prison at the Corrections/ Treatment workshop sponsored by District 61. It was a great event and a great opportunity to meet the folks I have been working with the last year +. Thanks Denny and Brad for helping make that event possible. I found both the Warden and Terrie very open and engaged in our work and committed to supporting our efforts in whatever ways they can, given their circumstances and their priority of security first.

Warden’s comments – They have about 13,000 people in the correctional system in MT at this time. Most are in the community but some are in our institutions. They have 2,016 at MSP currently and 432 of those will most likely die in prison either due to a life sentence or their age when they were sentenced and the length of their commitment. Over the past few years the population has changed considerably from mostly property offenses to a majority of violent offenders, including gang-related activity that complicates matters. He brought up the fight after an AA meeting last spring that led to meetings being suspended for a time. So their tactics, policies and procedures have needed to change to address this changed population. Currently they have 51 officer vacancies which is a huge challenge for supervision of extra-curricular activities including AA.

Here are the issues we talked about.

1. We currently have 43 AA volunteers. The meetings have been going well from the prison staff perspective and communication has been good. We will also work together to make sure the contact list is updated and current as new members come on and as volunteers rotate off.
2. I brought up the issue of being able to write inmates and sponsor them through the mail. The current policies don’t allow volunteers to correspond with inmates or have other types of contact with them. It was bad timing to bring this one up because Terrie has had recent experience with volunteers from another fellowship getting too close to inmates and not maintaining boundaries, like doing favors for them on the outside, providing money, contacting family members and conveying messages, being naïve and manipulated by the inmates. Frustrating but this one will have to stay on the back burner for now.
3. High Side meetings are still not a possibility, both due to the nature of the inmates on the High Side and due to the scheduling problems of only having one facility available for meetings. But we will continue to discuss this as the Low Side meeting gets more established.
4. Terrie actually brought up the potential for re-establishing the mini-conferences we used to run twice a year. I gave her the history of those as I knew it. Those take considerable inside organization from the inmates and it’s been hard to establish that level of leadership with so few guys attending, their relative lack of experience with AA on the outside and our limited contact with them. We used to be able to provide guidance through sponsorship and mail contact which is no long available to carded AA volunteers. One positive of these conferences would be that inmates could meet AA’s who aren’t carded sponsors and could establish a relationship so that sponsorship through the mail would be possible with them. Terrie was excited about that possibility and I will continue to work with her on that.
5. That does bring up the idea of our helping get inmates hooked up with non-volunteer AA’s who can correspond with them and even sponsor them through the mail. Carded sponsors can get AO#’s from inmates and pass them on to people we know who would be willing to write them. That is acceptable. Terrie obviously doesn’t have access to non-volunteer AA’s so we need to get them hooked up.
6. I asked about the possibility of conducting a Big Book weekend like they had at the Women’s Prison last fall. She was open to the idea since some of the religious groups are able to conduct weekend retreats. Staffing is a problem but as they re-fill staffing slots, it might be easier to pull off.
7. There is a staff member who is in AA and has volunteered himself as willing to support AA efforts at MSP. Since all events and activities need a staff sponsor, this offer could be very helpful in getting some things moving.

## Corrections Update Continued

8. I asked about the difference I had heard between what it takes for inmates to qualify for attending AA vs. church. The Warden was open to softening the requirements for inmates to attend AA meetings. (That process has already been changed since I spoke to him.)
9. Finally we talked about getting Bridging the Gap established at MSP. Terrie was very supportive of it but she needs more information and we need to work out a system for letting inmates know of the possibility and getting them connected. Impressively, I got an email from Terrie two days later asking for a BTG contact for a guy who was getting paroled to Missoula. It will really be on us to show up with this program and be responsive, so that the prison staff see it as a useful and effective tool. I spoke with Brandon, the Area Treatment Chair, who oversees the BTG program at the Area level and he was very supportive. We need to work together to make sure everyone is clear about the system and to make sure **ALL** correctional facilities in Area 40 know the BTG program is available to them. You will see an agenda item at the Fall Assembly from Karla, District 61 DCM, addressing this issue.

Also, please help me get the word out about the next MSP volunteer orientation scheduled for September 21<sup>st</sup> so we can boost the number of AA's we have available to cover meetings. The prison staff needs 4-6 weeks to complete a background check, so folks should submit applications by early August. All the information about the orientation as well as an MSP application is on the Area 40 website calendar. The unfortunate thing is that the orientation is scheduled for the same weekend as the Area Assembly which might hurt some people's availability. But Terrie is committed to running orientations at least twice a year if not quarterly to keep the volunteer list fresh. If there is any way I can assist you in your efforts with correctional facilities, please don't hesitate to ask. If you have any questions, I'd be glad to help out.

Yours in love and service, Lee G., Corrections Chair

**Additional Note:** The Pink Can is low on funds and welcomes any support Area 40 would like to offer. The Pink Can funds go to providing AA literature in correctional facilities. Contact the Corrections Chair.

## A Dollar A Week

This week, I contributed \$52.00 to A.A. (did it online, too, showing I can learn some new tricks). It's not money I otherwise would have put in the 7th Tradition basket (or can, or plastic bin, or whatever) at my home group, or a meeting, or a district or Area function, etc. This is in addition to the other ways I contribute to AA. It's not a lot of money, and I'm not looking for congrats or anything.

I just got to thinking about that deficit -- \$726,465, almost 3/4ths of a million dollars -- projected for 2013 for AAWS and LaVina. And I got to thinking about how many individual members our website approximates that there are in the USA and Canada. And I got to thinking about how good my life is these days, and how that is the result of participating in AA, with all of our warts and peculiarities.

Without AA, I would either be dead or wishing I was.

It's worth way more than a dollar a week to help support AA, so it can still be here (as imperfect and frustrating as it might sometimes seem) for the next drunk who reaches out for help. Instead of withholding money (usually without explaining why) to "show them" and exercise the power of the purse, perhaps we might want fully to support AA, and see if those trusted servants we often don't trust pay even closer attention to what the Fellowship thinks and feels about our service work and service structure?

The most any AA member can contribute to GSO is \$3,000.00 per year. 243 of our members, in the USA and Canada is about one out of every 5,715 members. If 243 of our members contributed \$3,000.00 to GSO this year, their contributions, all by themselves, would cover that entire \$726,465. Now, we all know that isn't going to happen. We just don't operate that way.

But if half of our 1,388,727 AA members in the USA and Canada at the beginning of 2013, if half of all our members each contributed \$1.05 a year to GSO during 2013 – ONE DOLLAR AND FIVE CENTS A YEAR, we would cover our \$726,465 loss, with a little more than \$2,600 left over.

If one-fourth of all of our members in the USA and Canada each contributed \$2.10 a year to GSO in 2013 – TWO DOLLARS AND TEN CENTS A YEAR, it would be the same result, with a bit more than \$2,800 left over!

If 1/4 of our members {347,182} in the USA and Canada each contributed \$52.00 dollars a year to GSO, a damn dollar a week, all of our 2013 budget expenses would be paid! We could start fighting about whether we should just give our literature away, or whether it would be more spiritual for folks to continue to pay something (we tend to value stuff we pay for more than stuff we are just given). Wouldn't you love to see that item on the General Service Conference agenda?

Just a dollar a week, \$52.00 a year, and if only 1/4 of our members do that, we become fully self-supporting.

Anonymous

POSITION	NAME				EMAIL
Delegate	Sharon .S				<a href="mailto:delegate@aa-montana.org">delegate@aa-montana.org</a>
Area Chair/Alt Delegate	Gerry R.				<a href="mailto:chair@aa-montana.org">chair@aa-montana.org</a>
Secretary	Mary M.				<a href="mailto:secretary@aa-montana.org">secretary@aa-montana.org</a>
Treasurer	Libbie L.				<a href="mailto:treasurer@aa-montana.org">treasurer@aa-montana.org</a>
Archives	Kira A.				<a href="mailto:archives@aa-montana.org">archives@aa-montana.org</a>
CPC	Serena R.				<a href="mailto:cpc@aa-montana.org">cpc@aa-montana.org</a>
Corrections	Lee G.				<a href="mailto:corrections@aa-montana.org">corrections@aa-montana.org</a>
Grapevine	Sam B.				<a href="mailto:grapevine@aa-montana.org">grapevine@aa-montana.org</a>
Literature	Bob T.				<a href="mailto:literature@aa-montana.org">literature@aa-montana.org</a>
Public Information	Luke S.				<a href="mailto:pi@aa-montana.org">pi@aa-montana.org</a>
Treatment	Brandon M.				<a href="mailto:treatment@aa-montana.org">treatment@aa-montana.org</a>
Triangle Editor	Erin G.				<a href="mailto:triangle@aa-montana.org">triangle@aa-montana.org</a>

NON-VOTING	NAME				EMAIL
Advisor	Terry S.				<a href="mailto:advisor@aa-montana.org">advisor@aa-montana.org</a>
Archivist	Earl F.				<a href="mailto:archivist@aa-montana.org">archivist@aa-montana.org</a>
Webmaster	Alex M.				<a href="mailto:webmaster@aa-montana.org">webmaster@aa-montana.org</a>

DCMs	NAME				EMAIL
District 11	Mike D.				<a href="mailto:dcm11@aa-montana.org">dcm11@aa-montana.org</a>
District 12	Daniel M.				<a href="mailto:dcm12@aa-montana.org">dcm12@aa-montana.org</a>
District 21	Joe G.				<a href="mailto:dcm21@aa-montana.org">dcm21@aa-montana.org</a>
District 23	Mary M.				<a href="mailto:dcm23@aa-montana.org">dcm23@aa-montana.org</a>
District 31	Kathy B.				<a href="mailto:dcm31@aa-montana.org">dcm31@aa-montana.org</a>
District 41	Chris W.				<a href="mailto:Dcm41@aa-montana.org">Dcm41@aa-montana.org</a>
District 42	Beth Z.				<a href="mailto:dcm42@aa-montana.org">dcm42@aa-montana.org</a>
District 51	Dan F.				<a href="mailto:dcm51@aa-montana.org">dcm51@aa-montana.org</a>
District 61	Karla B.				<a href="mailto:dcm61@aa-montana.org">dcm61@aa-montana.org</a>
District 71	Betty P.				<a href="mailto:dcm71@aa-montana.org">dcm71@aa-montana.org</a>
District 72	Ray M.				<a href="mailto:dcm72@aa-montana.org">dcm72@aa-montana.org</a>
District 81	Sherry C.				<a href="mailto:dcm81@aa-montana.org">dcm81@aa-montana.org</a>
District 91	Paul L.				<a href="mailto:dcm91@aa-montana.org">dcm91@aa-montana.org</a>
District 93	Kevin C.				<a href="mailto:dcm93@aa-montana.org">dcm93@aa-montana.org</a>

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