



Area 40 Triangle

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 8

NOVEMBER 2013

LITERATURE AND GRAPEVINE

A Message From Your Area 40 Literature Chair

Hello Area 40, my name is Nick D. and I am an alcoholic. I am proud to serve you as the Area 40 Literature Chair. It is an honor and a privilege for me to do anything for the fellowship that has given me a life far beyond anything I could have dreamed up.

I accepted the Literature Chair position just before our Area Assembly in September. Our committee did not have a lot of agenda items to look at, but we went right to work with Area business. The members that make up our committee are Janet from District 81, Kristen from District 61, Dan from District 71, Sue from District 81, Daniel from District 12, Claudia from District 61 and Joe H.

I would like to thank the committee for all their hard work. We had in-depth discussions on all items on the agenda and worked very well together. We took no action on the Area 40 Agenda item brought forward by District 81.

I am looking forward to working with the committee at our next Area Assembly. I think that the committee system is a great example of how our fellowship works together to share information throughout Area 40.

It's exciting that our Big Book will be celebrating 75 years and will be available for purchase on the 15th of November. I'm hoping that everyone will be able to purchase one of these historic books.

In conclusion, thank you for letting me serve the fellowship and please let me know if your group or district have an event at which you like the outstanding Area 40 Literature display.

Sincerely,

Nick D.,

Area 40 Literature Committee Chair



A Message from our Area 40 Grapevine Chair

This last year as Area 40 Grapevine Chair has been amazing. I was given a lot of invaluable information including Structured Chairing Techniques and Robert's Rules of Order. And, I have had the privilege to create a committee environment where members and visitors are welcome to freely speak their opinions regarding the Grapevine and Policies and Admissions.

When someone in Area 40 buys a Grapevine subscription the act is a vote for the vitality of the Grapevine. It is really up to the fellowship as a whole to determine how important the Grapevine is to us. As a committee, we must become creative advertising specialists for our Magazine. One of the committees' unwritten job descriptions seems to be to function as critics of the Grapevine as a whole. The power of the purse works the same with Grapevine Inc. as it does with other parts of the service structure. We should be communicating with Grapevine. One of the unique ways that we are able to do this is by submitting articles for print consideration. This helps insure that the Grapevine Magazine, and literature, continues to serve as a powerful service tool.

Thank you.

Sam B., Area 40 Grapevine Chair



AA Grapevine

You can order a Grapevine subscription by filling out a subscription form located inside a Grapevine magazine. Or, by visiting the Grapevine website:

aagrapevine.org

Subscriptions are available in either hardcopy or online formats.

An A.A.'s Connection To Service

As I work each step, I gain new profound understanding. I learn more and more about myself, my motives, and my defects. When I concentrate on the 11th step and pray for knowledge of His will for me and the power to carry that out, I focus on the world around me and not just my own selfish wants. Service work is a cornerstone of my personal recovery and I consider it an honor to have the opportunity to be of service. Service work not only gets me outside of myself, but it keeps me accountable and reinforces the idea that I can do good works. If I am constantly looking for what I am going to get out of it, I gain nothing but resentment. I then become more and more self-involved and have much more difficulty carrying a message of hope to anyone else. When I try to do something for someone else solely because it is the right thing to do, I feel a closer connection to my Higher Power. Knowing that I can make an impact on others lives, through simple actions, makes it all worthwhile. In order to keep from falling back into my old selfish ways, I need to keep contributing and working to help others.

When I put in the effort and take the action of service, I gain something back I cannot even describe. Being of service to others gives me hope and purpose in my life. And that is truly a gift.

-Megan R. Missoula, MT

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

NON-VOTING	NAME				EMAIL
Advisor	Terry S.				advisor@aa-montana.org
Archivist	Earl F.				archivist@aa-montana.org
Webmaster	Alex M.				webmaster@aa-montana.org

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

Update on A.A.W.S. E-Book Publishing and Distribution

It is a great pleasure to send you good news that the eagerly anticipated digital publication of our A.A. books is soon to be a reality. As you know, this is a result of the Advisory Action from the 2013 General Service Conference: *“A.A. World Services be permitted to utilize digital channels and current (commissionable) support and distribution technologies, such as but not limited to, smart phones, tablets, e-readers, applications and commissioned online stores for the sale and distribution of digital A.A. literature. The committee requested that the board ensure that all contracts protect our Traditions, with the option to discontinue any and all contracts at any time. The committee requested that a status and financial report be submitted to the appropriate 2014 Conference Committee.”*

We plan to make available our catalog of book titles (a total of 11 items in the three languages of the U.S./Canada Conference) through the following retailers: Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Apple iTunes.

The first title we will publish will be *Alcoholics Anonymous* (English), to be followed by *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* (English), to be followed by all of our book titles in all three languages on an approximate one-title-per-week schedule over the next several months. We estimate that the Big Book, with a planned list price of \$5.99, will be published on or before December 1, 2013. We will publish these e-books according to the third-party vendors' formats, terms and requirements, as is generally required of any other publisher—and we have the ability to remove our books from any retail site at our discretion. Please also note that our currently available A.A. app for e-books (the Big Book and the Twelve and Twelve for Apple reading devices) will continue to be available to the Fellowship until further notice. As we move forward with this exciting venture, announcements about our digital publications will be posted on G.S.O.'s Web site, www.aa.org.

Phyllis H. General Manager GSO

Upcoming Prison Meeting Orientation

The Montana State Prison is holding its next volunteer orientation on Saturday, January 18th, 2014. We need more AA's to get oriented so we can support the prison meetings. Information and an application are available to download from the Montana AA website calendar, www.aa-montana.org for January 18th. Applications need to be submitted 4-8 weeks in advance to allow adequate time for MSP staff to conduct a background check. If you have any questions, please contact Area Corrections Chair, Lee G. at corrections@aa-montana.org.

75th Anniversary Big Book

The Publishing Department will accept preorders beginning November 15th. Fliers with ordering information will be included in Box 4-5-9, other print newsletters and on the aa.org website.

The price of the book ranges from \$9.84-\$12.00 each depending on the quantity ordered. Shipping costs will vary based on the value of the orders. There is no shipping charge for orders over \$500.

Orders on account will have a \$25 minimum and be charged a 6% handling fee. Purchasers can avoid the additional fee by paying by check or credit card.

Help Wanted: PI Committee

Warm greetings from the trustees' Committee on Public Information.

The trustees' Committee on Public Information of the General Service Board has an opening for a non-trustee appointed committee member. We are searching for a suitable individual to fill this position and would appreciate any recommendations.

In seeking applications for vacancies in Alcoholics Anonymous, the Fellowship is committed to creating a large file of applicants that reflects the inclusiveness and diversity of AA itself.

As you know the success of the General Service Board rests not only the capabilities of the trustees themselves but also on the competence of the non-trustee committee members, corporate board Directors, and Staff members who actively carry on AA's world services.

Some qualities of the most desirable for this appointed committee member opening are:

Experience/skill in helping to develop public information videos.

Professional expertise in traditional media and experience in currently evolving media. The new Appointed Committee Member is needed by the committee for ongoing planning as well as projects related to online communication.

Available time to attend the meetings of the trustees' committee to which appointed and the Saturday afternoon general sharing session. Attendance at the Saturday night dinner and an A.A. meeting during Board weekends is optional. Available for participation in subcommittees of the trustees' committee to which appointed. Completion of subcommittee projects often involves participation in conference calls.

At least 5 years of continuous sobriety.

The ability to work within the committee structure.

Experience in A.A. service.

For more information contact Jim M., Secretary
Trustees' Public Information Committee
publicinfo@aa.org

All Three Legacies

I am Connie and I am an alcoholic. It is such a privilege to write about service. I began service work in 1994 but my service work was much like my work life, short and certainly not committed. I met a woman at district who showed me what it was to be an active and principled member of Alcoholics Anonymous while participating with a group of other alcoholics. She became my service sponsor.

In 1997, we moved to Helena. Before the move, my husband and I checked out the meetings and were very excited about moving to Helena. Until the move happened, then Helena's AA just wasn't good enough. It was my service sponsor who told me to get off the couch and get to district.

I was desperate enough to take her suggestion and I showed up at district. They needed a Grapevine Chair, so I raised my hand. Little did I know that this simple act could change the quality of my sobriety.

As Grapevine Chair, I had to make sure I did a good job, the blessing of God using a character defect for a good purpose. I went through the history of the Grapevine Chair in District 61 and found out that part of the job required me putting on an event called the Grapefest, where the delegate is invited to give their report, along with talks by the Area Grapevine Chair and other speakers. I was asked to set up a table at various events. I read the books and listened to the tapes that were published by the Grapevine and found ways to incorporate them as themes for the Grapefest. I learned so much about the Grapevine and how it could be used as a tool to reach the still suffering alcoholic.

God does for us what we can't do for ourselves. The service work put me in the middle of the Helena AA community. I may not have wanted to be there but because of the commitment, I showed up. As I participated, I found a woman who would become my sponsor. I found a group of people that would eventually become my home group. I also found out how to be a friend to other women.

That is when I discovered exactly how the 3 legacies are applied in recovery. I need all three, recovery, unity and service. If I am not practicing all of the legacies, the triangle collapses and life in recovery would become a flat line. I use to work in the medical field and a flat line means death. I thank my Higher Power every day for the woman who showed me how to be of service, to the district who took a chance on a newbie and to the program and principals that AA has given me so I can have the life I have today.

Connie R. Clancy, MT Last Chance Recovery Group

Pink Can Update

The Pink Can balance is currently \$274.38. That is enough money to partially fill one current request for AA literature. But I have two additional requests that I can't fill at this time due to the low balance. Please pass the word to the fellowship that the Pink Can could use additional contributions. Make checks out to **Area 40, Inc**, and send them to 311 Cedar Wood Circle, Bozeman, MT 59718 not to the Pink Can Fund. You can put Pink Can Fund on the memo line, but checks made out to the Pink Can Fund will have to be returned.

Lee G. Area Corrections Chair

2013 and 2014 Events

**First Saturday, Billings, December 6-7th

**MSP Volunteer Orientation, MSP Deerlodge, January 18th

**Into Action Weekend, Whitefish, February 21-22nd

**West Central Regional AA Service Conference, St. Louis Park MN, February 28-March 2nd

**Northern Rockies Pockets of Enthusiasm, Helena, March 14-15th

**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.

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.



Can We Do It Better?

I had a couple brothers who were in A.A. prior to my getting here. Thanks to them, I had many opportunities to stumble across A.A. literature before I got here. I also recall sitting at the treatment center, waiting for my first appointment, and leafing through a copy of the Grapevine. I can't say that either of these opportunities convinced me that I was an alcoholic, or even that I might find an answer to my dilemma in A.A. if I were to go. But, I can say that they did let me know that the door was open if I ever came to that conclusion on my own – much like the message that I received from my brothers during that time.

It seems that we do a lot of talking in A.A. service work, about both the merits and the impracticalities of A.A.W.S. literature and the Grapevine. We fuss and fret about whether the Grapevine is going to be in the black this year, and its declining subscription rate, or whether we really need yet another pamphlet that targets a specific segment of our fellowship. On some topics, like the 75th Anniversary issue of the Big Book, many of us find ourselves somewhere in the middle, torn between debating the dubious value of producing such an item, and our desire to have a copy of our own.

What I've learned to love about all of this discussion and debate is that we as a fellowship continue, year after year, to consider and decide how we might best carry this life giving message to the still suffering alcoholic who is struggling along their personal path to our doorways. For many of us, the Grapevine and A.A.W.S. literature hold a very special place in our hearts because of the role they played in carrying that message to us in our early and ongoing sobriety, and, as a result, we do our best to help ensure they continue as viable conduits of the A.A. message.

All that said, while I usually fall in the camp of those who are arguing to preserve these familiar channels for carrying the message, I understand and support the ongoing challenge presented by those who ask, "Can we do it better?"

Our primary purpose remains to carry the message, and today, while we clearly have a tried and true method for doing so, we still need to ask if there is a better way. As we head into our second year of this service rotation we are all challenged with finding an answer to that question. I look forward to working with each of you as we ponder that question and each make our best efforts to ensure that the still suffering alcoholic knows our door is still open.

My wish for everyone during this season of giving and gratitude is the remarkable gift of a true sense of belonging and purpose that was provided me when I became willing to serve.

Happy Holidays,

Gerry R. Area 40 Chair/Alternate Delegate

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DELEGATE

Holiday Greetings from your delegate! This has been a fabulous year for me, thanks to all of you!

It has been a long time since I approached the holidays with that awful mixture of anticipation and dread. There was always that hope that this year would be different, the holidays would live up to my expectations. I would get what I wanted and be happy. It just never worked out that way and I was usually filled with remorse about not showing up with my loved ones, staying home close to my liquor supply fantasizing about great social events. This year I am full of anticipation and will be showing up in the lives of my family and friends. Being able to do that is such a gift and I am grateful to A.A., the steps, sponsorship and lots of opportunities to be of service.

There was a bit of a bump in the road for me this year, but I've been able to visit most of the districts in spite of it. I just looked at my records for the year, and I've put a little over 6,000 miles on my car. That doesn't count the exciting trip to Rapid City for the Regional Service Conference (Gerry drove) or one of the pre-assemblies when Terry drove. Montana is such a beautiful state: from my home in the Gallatin Valley surrounded by the mountains, to the badlands of Makoshika State Park, across the eastern plains during a bountiful harvest, beside the Missouri River through the Wolf Creek Canyon, and along the Rocky Mountain front! I'm grateful for a driver's license, a good car, good eyesight, and especially grateful for those AA members waiting for me at my destination! Thank you.

The 75th anniversary of the printing of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* is April 2014 and A.A. World Services is publishing a commemorative copy of the first edition, first printing of the "Big Book". It will be an exact replica of that edition, including the quality of paper (it's thick, where the book got its nickname). A.A.W.S. will accept pre-orders starting November 15. The order form is available on the website http://www.aa.org/en_pdfs/f-180_BigBook75th_orderform.pdf.

The latest financials show the Grapevine in the black, which is good news. However, print subscriptions continue to decline and, while online subscriptions are increasing, they are not increasing enough to offset the decline in print. The Grapevine was very important to me in my early years of sobriety. The only way I can express my gratitude for those years of reading, and my opinion about whether it is important to continue publishing it, is to subscribe. I do, by the way, have the 'combination' subscription. I still like that little paper magazine in my hand and it travels so well. It is the holidays; maybe a gift subscription or two will be in order. I wish you all a good holiday season, with lots of opportunity to do what we do best, carry this message of hope and recovery to other alcoholics who are struggling; and we do struggle this time of the year.

Thank you for trusting me to serve and for the great year I have had because of it.

Yours in loving service,

Sharon S. Area 40 Delegate, Panel 63

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CONTRIBUTIONS:

Area 40, Inc.

PO Box 9931

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GSO

PO Box 459

Grand Central Station

NEW YORK, NY 10163