

Pre-Assembly

Service Not Politics

Area 40 has developed a unique and effective process for providing all our trusted servants with as much information on the matters to be decided at our assembly as they could need. It also allows them to give our delegate a true sense of the Area to be shared at the General Service Conference in New York. We call them preassemblies.

Each spring, as I prepare for the Area Assembly, I am reminded of a time in my recovery when I was quite suspicious of what “those people in Lewistown” were cooking up. The way I saw it back then, was that they were all trying to become the president of AA so they could get things done the way they wanted. I figured it was all politics.

What I’ve come to find out over the years, after a little investigation despite prior contempt, was that each person there was making their best effort to do what was best for AA. They were not out for themselves and, instead, the whole process really was about serving the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. In other words, I was wrong.

If you share similar suspicions, I would invite you to attend one of the upcoming preassemblies. What you will find there is a group of people who are highly focused on learning about important matters that face our fellowship. These preassemblies are perhaps your best opportunity, at very little expense, to see a mini-version of what exactly takes place at Lewistown, which is the development and expression of an informed group conscience.

Early in recovery, I alternated between accusing people who went to these things as being out for themselves, or not being able to think for themselves – whichever accusation best suited my fear of my being told what to do by them. In a very childish way I suspected they all wanted to be the boss.

Today, after having first worked the steps of Alcoholics Anonymous and, by doing so having learned certain things about myself through the inventory process, I understand the importance of being armed with the facts before taking action in my own life. That’s all that’s going on there, folks. We come together to study and discuss the issues that face AA today and, by doing so, do our best as a group to come to an understanding of what needs to be done about them.

And here’s the best part – we could use your help. Many districts and Home Groups will be having elections this year. Now is the perfect time to gather information on what service work is really about and join the discussion.

Gerry R., Area 40 Chair & Alternate Delegate

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Treatment	Brandon M.					treatment@aa-montana.org
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LUSH

Define according to Merriam-Webster:

Lush (*noun*) a person who is often drunk

Lush (*adjective*) having a lot of full and healthy growth

How embarrassed I was on that trip many years ago when one of my fellow travelers called me a lush; the truth hurts. The embarrassment was not enough to get me to stop; just a nervous laugh!

How grateful that the adjective describes my life today and that I haven't been called a lush in a long time, but I do have a lush life! This is what the steps of Alcoholics Anonymous can do for a lush like me! The full and healthy grown does take some work, but it is so worth it!

About 450 members of A.A., mostly from the region which includes Montana, Wyoming, North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska attended the West Central Regional A.A. Service Conference (WCRAASC) in Minneapolis this past weekend. Among them were 12 A.A. members from Area 40. Thanks to the generous contributions of A.A. groups in Area 40, Gerry R., your Alternate Delegate, and I were able to attend, with our expenses paid by the Area treasury. I am grateful to serve in an Area where this is possible, and I thank you.

The regional conference is an opportunity for A.A. members of the region (Montana, Wyoming, North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska) to share experience, strength and hope about how to assure that the hand of A.A., carrying A.A.'s message, is there when an alcoholic reaches out for help.

The theme of the conference was "Communicating Our Legacies — Vital in a Changing World" with presentations and sharing on "Recovery, Unity, and Service — Our Responsibility", "Passing it On Through Sponsorship", and "Participating In Our Common Welfare Through Contributions". There were breakout sessions giving members opportunities to discuss concerns and share experience about service committees (Archives, Newsletter, CPC, PI, Treatment, Grapevine, Literature, Remote Communities, and Corrections), as well as GSRs, DCMs, Delegates and Trustees, and members interested in self support. We had our first opportunity to study and discuss the General Service Conference Agenda Items and got to meet and spend the weekend with our new U.S. Trustee-at-Large, Bob W. and hear his story.

Our own Andrew W., Regional Trustee, closed the conference with his report. A written copy of his report will be available through your DCM later this month.

Karla, DCM from District 61, will be providing a report on the WCRAASC at the Spring Assembly April 11-13. And, a copy of her report will be in the minutes from the Assembly which will be available in early May.

Thank you for the group contributions that make it possible for your trusted servants, and thus your group, to participate in A.A. as a whole and for the LUSH life I have as a result of this opportunity.

Sharon S., Area 40 Delegate, Panel 63



Area 40 Spring Assembly Agenda
Yogo Inn - Lewistown, MT
April 11-13, 2014

FRIDAY SESSION

8:00-10:00 GSR and DCM Welcome Session and Area Standing Committee Chair Welcome Session – the Area 40 Delegate and Area Chair
(GSR's, please sign in with your District's DCM at this time)

7:30-8:00 GSR's and visitors sign in with your District's DCM. (DCM's 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.....Judith Room
Corrections/International Conventions.....Moccasin Room
Finance.....Gypsum Room
Grapevine/Policy & Admissions (GSC).....Room 164
Literature.....Chokecherry Room
Public Information/Report and Charter & Website.....Snowy Room
Treatment/Special Needs/Agenda.....Room 150
(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)

9:15 – Workshop: Early Service Work in Area 40
Led by Past Delegate: Maryann W.

10:15 - Workshop: Communicating Our Legacies
Led by Past Delegate: Andrew W.

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

1:00-1:30 **Area 40 Archives Workshop** – Area 40 Archivist Earl F.

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

- 2:00-2:45 **Floor Assembly — Committee Reports, Motions, and Discussion**
 Archives/Structure
 CPC/Trustees
 Corrections/International Conventions-Regional Forums
 Finance
 Grapevine/Policy & Admissions
 Literature
 Public Information/Report & Charter
 Treatment Facilities/Agenda
- 2:45-3:00 **Coffee Break**
- 3:00-5:00 **Floor Assembly - Committee Reports, Motions, and Discussion**
- 5:00-7:00 **Recess for Dinner**
- 7:00-8:45 **Floor Assembly — Committee Reports, Motions, and Discussion**
- 8:45-9:00 **Coffee Break**
- 9:00-10:00 **GSR Breakout** — Led by Past Delegate: Andrew W.
DCM Breakout — Led by Past Delegate: Maryann W.

SUNDAY SESSION

- 8:00-8:30 **Roundup Reports**
Intergroup Reports
WCRAASC 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.)

Fall Assembly – September 19-21, 2014

Remember to make your reservations 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 they have been assigned to for review. All items come from the General Service Conference and will be fully addressed at the General Service Conference later this month. In addition, there are Agenda Items that pertain to Area 40.

The Committee Chairs should have received a list of agenda items with, in most instances, corresponding background information sometime in February. This information is then passed on to other members of those committees 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. Your DCM has the names, phone numbers and addresses of the Area Committee should you need them. The names, phone numbers, and email addresses of the Area Committee members are also in The Triangle (the Area newsletter) and on the Area's website www.aa-montana.org.

The General Service Conference items that were submitted to the committees for review will not come to the floor of the Assembly as recommendations (a motion passed and seconded) but will instead be addressed through discussion to ensure that our Delegate is provided with a sense of Area 40's informed group conscience and to help her in preparation for the upcoming General Service Conference.

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.

Venue Ad hoc Committee – Paul L

- A. Consider the Fall 2013 floor action: That the Area form an ad hoc committee to investigate other venues for the Area Assembly that are preferably centrally located and special needs accessible, and bring back recommendations to the Spring 2014 Assembly for a vote at that Assembly.

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

Area 40 Structure & Policy

- A. 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.
- B. Consider the proposal to redistrict the groups of Ashland, Birney, Busby, and Lame Deer to be included in District 31.

Archives – GSC

- A. Review revised draft video Markings on the Journey.
- B. Review Archives Workbook.

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

Cooperation with the Professional Community – GSC

- A. Consider changes to the section, “Referrals From Court and Treatment Facilities” in the pamphlet, “If You Are a Professional...”
- B. Consider changes to the pamphlet “A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional.”
- C. Review contents of the C.P.C. Kit and Workbook.

Trustees

- A. Review resumes of candidates for:
 - 1. Eastern Canada Regional Trustee
 - 2. Pacific Regional Trustee.
- B. Review slates of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.
- C. Review slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.
- D. Review slate of directors of A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

Corrections/International Conventions Regional Forums – Lee G

Corrections – Area 40

- A. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Corrections Chair

Corrections – GSC

- A. Consider request for revisions to the section “What A.A. does NOT do” in the pamphlet “A Message to Corrections Professionals” to be consistent with similar text in C.P.C. literature.
- B. Consider the development of a new video to replace “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell” (DV-08).
- C. Review contents of Corrections Kit and Workbook.

International Conventions/Regional Forums

- A. Discuss anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony to be taken at the 2015 International Convention.
- B. Consider a broadcast of the 2015 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony, similar to the encrypted, anonymity-protected delayed Internet broadcast of the 2010 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony.
- C. Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first-time attendees.

Finance – Libbie L

Finance – Area 40

- A. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Treasurer
- B. Consider the request that commencing with the 2015 Budget, Area 40 consider incorporating all Archives/Archivist expenses and income into the general Area 40 Budget. This would eliminate the separate Archives Restricted account, and eliminate the \$500 budget line restriction for Archivist display and travel.

Finance – GSC

- A. Review suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference.
- B. Review Self-Support Packet.

Grapevine/GSC Policy & Admissions – Sam B

Grapevine – Area 40

- A. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Grapevine Chair

Grapevine – GSC

- A. Review Audio Strategy status update.
- B. Review A.A. Grapevine Board proposal to the 2014 Conference Committee on the Grapevine to significantly reduce the La Viña deficit.
- C. Review report from A.A. Grapevine Board on feasibility of producing one book in American Sign Language (ASL).
- D. Consider the list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2015 and later.
- E. Reconsider publishing the “Alcoholism at Large” section of the Grapevine.
- F. Consider a request “to reaffirm the Right of Decision of the A.A. Grapevine Board to make formatting decisions for the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña magazines.”
- G. Review suggested changes to pamphlet “A.A. Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings in Print” (P-52).
- H. Review Grapevine Workbook.

Policy & Admissions

- A. Approve admission to the 2014 General Service Conference of Jennie Herd, alternate delegate, Area 85, Northwestern Ontario, in place of Ken Baker, the Panel 63 delegate for Area 85.
- B. Review dates for the 2017 General Service Conference.
- C. Consider a request that an anonymous electronic voting system be utilized at the General Service Conference on all nonelection votes for a trial period.
- D. Reconsider the 2008 Conference Advisory Action regarding responsibility for site selection of the General Service Conference.

Literature – Nick D

Literature – Area 40

- A. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Literature Chair

Literature – GSC

- A. Review the draft revised pamphlet “Circles of Love and Service.”
- B. Review revised draft of the proposed pamphlet on spirituality.
- C. Discuss suggested change to the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated.”
- D. Discuss suggested changes to the pamphlet “Questions & Answers on Sponsorship.”
- E. Discuss suggested changes to Living Sober.
- F. Consider the use of the circle and triangle as an unofficial A.A. service mark on Conference-approved literature.
- G. Consider a request to create a pamphlet for alcoholics with mental illness.
- H. Consider a request to add “Nonalcoholics are welcome to attend open meetings as observers” to the end of the Primary Purpose (Blue) card.
- I. Approve a correction to inaccurate text related to the addition of appendices in the Preface of Alcoholics Anonymous.

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. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Triangle Chair
- D. 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.

Public Information – GSC

- A. Review 2014 Comprehensive Media Plan from the trustees’ P.I. Committee.
- B. Consider report from the trustees’ P.I. Committee regarding G.S.O.’s A.A. Website.
- C. Consider that the 2014 A.A. Membership Survey be conducted by Area on a random basis as was done in the 2011 A.A. Membership Survey.
- D. Public Service Announcements (P.S.A.s):
 - 1. Review report from trustees’ P.I. Committee on A.A. Video P.S.A.s.
 - 2. Review current video P.S.A.s for relevance and usefulness.

3. Consider production of new video P.S.A. and evaluation of the
 4. Consider revisions to the Anonymity Card (F-20).
- E. . Review progress report on development of a brief video on anonymity. discuss how delegates might stimulate local discussions in light of ongoing anonymity concerns.
- F. Review contents of P.I. Kit and Workbook.
- G. Review final report on the centralized distribution, tracking video P.S.A. for the Spanish-speaking community, "Tengo Esperanza.

Report and Charter

- A. The A.A. Service Manual, 2014-2015 Edition:
1. Review revisions from the A.A.W.S. Board.
 2. Review revisions from the General Service Board.
 3. Review list of editorial updates.
 4. Consider draft text for "Advisory Action" and "Additional Committee Consideration" as additions to the Glossary of General Service Terms that begins on page S19.
 5. Consider draft text regarding duties and qualifications of "Secretary and Registrar" on page S45.
- B. Consider request to modify Article III of the Current Conference Charter.
- C. Discuss A.A. Directories (Canada, Eastern U.S., and Western U.S.).
- D. Discuss General Service Conference Final Report:
1. Reconsider the 2013 Conference Advisory Action regarding editing Area Service Highlights.

Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities/Agenda – Brandon M

Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities – Area 40

- A. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Treatment Chair
- B. Report on the item passed at the 2013 Fall Assembly recommending "that the Treatment Committee develop a mechanism to ascertain special needs accommodations and report back to the Spring Assembly in 2014."

Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities – GSC

- A. Consider proposal to revise the pamphlet "Bridging the Gap" to expand its scope to include information on related corrections service activity.
- B. Review contents of Treatment Kit and Workbook.
- C. Review contents of Special Needs/Accessibilities Kit and Workbook.

Agenda

- A. Review suggestions for the theme of the 2015 General Service Conference.
- B. Discuss presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2015 General Service Conference.
- C. Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form.
- D. Review the revised description of the Conference Agenda Committee in Chapter 8, Conference Committees in the 2013-2014 Edition of The A.A. Service Manual.

Fall Assembly – September 19-21, 2014

Area 40 Archival Material About Pre-Assemblies

The only official action taken by Area 40 on Pre-Assemblies was the recommendation that passed at the 2008 Assembly by a vote of 64-8. That recommendation was worded as follows: *Archives/Structure recommends that Pre-Assemblies continue to be held in Area 40 prior to each Spring Assembly.*

So, a reasonable answer to the questions you've been getting would be - "Yup, still doing em!"

I've compiled a packet of information on Pre-Assemblies, which I'll be mailing to both Tim H. and yourself. This packet contains all the information I provided the ad hoc committee for background material for their consideration report that was requested by the 2007 Fall Assembly. Their report is also included in the packet.

I spoke with Tim H. on the phone a couple of days ago and let him know that I would be getting this packet off to him. I mentioned to him, and feel compelled to mention to you here, that the Area 40 Archives Chair has nothing to do with the Pre-Assemblies other than dealing with any agenda items that might be placed on the Archives/Area 40 Structure and Policy Committee agenda, and showing up at the ones he/she is invited to. In fact, **there is no service position in the Area 40 service structure charged with any oversight of Pre-Assembly planning, scheduling, or facilitation.** These events are and have always been purely District driven. The unofficial policy of Area 40 has been "build it, and we will come." The Districts have always been the ones who organize, schedule and run these events, extending invitations to the Area Committee as they see fit.

You will notice in the ad hoc committee report that they suggest the possibility of the Area Secretary undertaking a liaison role between Area 40 and the Districts however; this suggestion did not make it out of committee.

I hope this information helps in clarifying Area 40's stance on Pre-Assemblies. I'll be getting that packet in the mail tomorrow, 2.27.09.

Thanks for all you do.

Provided by: Earl F., Area Archivist, as background information about Pre-Assemblies in Area 40.

Sharon's Address

While At The General Service Conference

Sharon Stevenson
Hilton Westchester
699 Westchester Ave
Rye Brook, NY 10573



2014 Events

- **Northern Rockies Pockets of Enthusiasm, Helena, March 14-15th
- **St. Patrick's Sober Day Fest, Sidney, March 15th
- **Pre-Assembly, Missoula, March 22nd
- **Pre-Assembly, Billings, March 29th
- **12-Step Study, Great Falls, March 29th
- **Flathead Valley Birthday Celebration, Columbia Falls, March 29th
- **District Agenda Review, Forsyth, April 5th
- **Spring 2014 Area Assembly, Yogo Inn, Lewistown, April 11th-13th
- **Spring 2014 Round Up, Fairmont Hot Springs, Anaconda, May 2nd-4th
- **MSP Volunteer Orientation, MSP Deer Lodge, May 17th
- **Big Fork 8th Annual Campout, Swan Lake, June 6-8th
- **Prison Mini Conference, MSP Deer Lodge, June 7th
- **Beartooth Mountain Conference, South of Big Timber, June 27-29th
- **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.



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