



Post-Assembly Issue

Area 40 Triangle: Volume 22, Issue 3

May 2014

Brynn's First Trip To Area Assembly

As I hugged my grand-sponsor goodbye after last week's Spring Area 40 Assembly I quietly asked, "Why didn't I do this sooner?" before I could finish the question, I answered, *I wasn't ready*.

In my nine and a half years of sobriety I have never attended an Area Assembly. Although active in service at the group level, every time the opportunity had neared me, I made excuses about being a busy college student who couldn't just take the weekend off. The truth was, that I was not mature enough in my recovery to devote such time and patience to service. This fall brought about my first sober adult job, and a move to a much smaller town. Without the access to recovery that had been so readily available to me before, I was forced to reinvent my spirituality and become willing to go to any lengths to participate in the solution of Alcoholics Anonymous.

I was soon elected GSR of Shelby Literature Study and given the opportunity to be the sole representative of our town's meetings at Assembly. On Friday night, as I traveled to Lewistown my excitement began to waver--I was tired, I had worked hard all week--I didn't want to go to an orientation--I wanted a hot bath, and cable. Again, the hand of AA was there. I immediately met other first timers, and reconnected with people I had known for years. I was coaxed to the microphone for the first of three times that weekend. Everyone laughed and smiled and there was an overall sense of responsibility, concern and care--I was welcomed and, home.

Removed of the bondage of self for what would be the next thirty six hours, a new spark for service was ignited within me. The next day consisted of committee meetings, reports and a floor assembly. I was able to attend inspiring break out sessions about honoring our legacies and being an effective GSR, with people who I hope will become long term friends. Every person who spoke did so with the utmost respect, gratitude and thoughtfulness; each servant was amiable, agreeable, fair, professional and full of thankfulness. I felt unconditionally respected and *heard*.

Overall the experience was, like everything about AA and its thirty six spiritual principles, divorced of self and anything resembling modern society or political process. As discussion about a motion that sought to add a prayer to the assembly format went into its second hour, the tendency of anyone would have been impatience--but I then stood back in awe at the attention this group of individuals put into guarding our traditions, and ensuring that this program can continue indefinitely, in its purest form, to aid the alcoholic who still suffers.

As our General Service Conference approaches, I have no doubt that our delegate will honor the conscience of Area to the best of her ability. I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to serve among such respectable members of society and I *am* ready for my future in service.

Brynn C., Shelby

Area Assembly Committee Reports

Reports are condensed by the Triangle Editor for the sake of space. You can review the full reports in the Area 40 Spring 2014 Minutes that were prepared by the Area 40 Secretary, Mary M.

Archives Kira A.: Kira has been working on interviewing AA old-timers to compare “AA back in the day” to AA of the present. The end result will be a booklet and she’ll continue working on this during her rotation.

Public Information Luke S.: The P.I. Committee submitted input to the General Service Conference (GSC) Report and Charter Committee regarding editorial changes to the Service Manual. Luke attended all three pre-assembly gatherings. The P.I. Chair has signed all three Northwest Directory Publishing contracts that allow Area 40 to be listed in directories so that interested persons searching for AA can be connected to resources in their community. Luke is working out some glitches in the Hotline service.

Alternate Delegate/Area Chair Gerry R.: Area Assembly had a new seating arrangement to hopefully make the experience accommodating to more people. Gerry has been gathering information about Area Assembly to continue meeting at the Yogo Inn. We are 3/4th of the way through our rotation.

Literature Nick D.: The Literature Committee reviewed changes to numerous pieces of Conference-approved literature. There is also information about the E-book at aa.org. Nick is happy to work with District or Group-level Literature chairs and welcomes any inquiries.

Delegate Sharon S.: Sharon expressed her gratitude for AA and the wonderful events she has participated in while serving as a Panel 63 Delegate. As chairperson of the Conference Committee on International Conventions and Regional Forums, Sharon attended the General Service Board weekend in New York City, January 31-February 3. Sharon and Alex (Webmaster) created the Area 40 Dashboard which allows GSC Background information to be made available to members of Area 40. Our Delegate also attended the West Central Regional Conference in Minneapolis in February, followed by three pre-assemblies in March. She also attended the GSC and her report is printed elsewhere. Registration for the next International Conference will begin in September. The Conference will be held in Atlanta in 2015. Elections for the next round of trusted servants will be held at the Fall Assembly in September. Now is the time to consider serving.

Grapevine Sam B.: The Grapevine has been in existence for 70 years. Presentations are available for download on the aa.org website. Sam reported that the two big items on the GSC agenda were reaffirming Concept III in regards to formatting of the LaVina Magazine and to rescind the section in the Grapevine, “Alcoholism at Large”. You can support the Grapevine by subscribing and/or submitting an article.

Corrections Lee G.: Lee reports that several Districts held Corrections workshops during the winter. Montana State Prison continues to hold weekly meetings although meetings remain unavailable on the High Security Side. Prison meetings are staffed by volunteers from around Area 40. Volunteers also assist with sponsorship via letter-writing and Bridging the Gap. There was a glitch in the MSP Mini-conference and so it will need to be rescheduled. The 2nd Annual Step Into Recovery Weekend was held at the Women’s Prison and was successful. Women interested in being sponsors for women in the prison can contact Terry H.

CPC Serena R.: Serena would like to get out and travel more to your District events. She contributed to a PI/CPC Triangle issue and participates in a national PI/CPC News Exchange. AA and Al-Anon participated in a panel for MSU Nursing students to share on what AA is and isn’t. The CPC Chair shared about other committee-related events that happened around Area 40. The committee continued to work on some projects and will continue these after Assembly. Powerpoint presentations are available to any interested persons.

Archivist Earl F.: Earl has been busy in the repository sorting and organizing materials. He attended the Area 40 Round Up in Billings. Earl is happy to come to your District event and anyone is welcome to contact him.

Finance Libbie L.:

Check Book Balance	18943.98
Prudent Reserve	10313.33
Archives Account	591.64
Operating Balance	8039.01

Motions Voted On At Area 40 Spring Assembly

From Venue Ad hoc committee Paul L

Recommendation 1: *Keep the Assembly at the Yogo Inn, providing they make the improvements for accessibility and make the necessary changes to meet our needs for meeting rooms.*

The Yogo Inn is going to evaluate public restrooms and their 5 ADA compliant rooms to see what changes or additions were necessary for them. They also committed to make technological improvements for the sound system and have purchased new microphones this year. They agreed to rearrange all of the committee meeting rooms so that they could be held in first floor rooms, for the most part, with tables and chairs. The committee has examined the layout of the main meeting room and has made changes so that it is more passable to people with mobility issues.

Committee made & seconded the motion

Motion passes 95 For 8 Opposed

Recommendation 2: *Use the survey created for the Area Chair to assess whether or not the Assembly venue is meeting the needs of its members. The results of this would be used to help determine if changes are needed at a venue or if a new venue is indicated. If a change is indicated because of lack of compliance from the current site this would be brought up at a following Assembly for a decision on what to do and if necessary, where to go.*

Committee made & seconded the motion

Motion passes 90 For 7 opposed

From Archives Committee Kira A

Area 40 Agenda Item 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.

Motion 1: *The Archives Committee would like to suggest opening each Assembly with the 3rd Step Prayer.*

Committee made & seconded the motion

Motion Fails 38 For 56 Opposed

Motion 2: *The Archives Committee recommends that we adopt an addition to P&P 5.3.1 to read: The Standing Committee Chair will initiate and maintain communication with assigned committee members prior to each Assembly. The Area Chair will provide a list of standing committee assignments to be included with the Agenda. At the beginning of each rotation the standing committee chair will select a pool of alternate committee members from those attending the committee break out. In the event of a vacancy, those alternates will stand in as voting members.*

Committee made & seconded the motion

Motion Fails 56 For 41 Opposed

Finance Committee Libbie L

Area 40 Agenda Item 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. Also to eliminate the separate Archives Restricted account, and eliminate the \$500 budget line restriction for Archivist display and travel.*

Committee made & seconded the motion

Motion passes 102 For 0 Opposed 1 Abstained

From PI Committee Luke S

Area 40 Agenda Item B: Review assembly report of the Area 40 Webmaster.

Alex M, Area 40 webmaster, to attend national AA technology workshop on 8th-10th 2014 in St. Louis, Missouri and cover registration, lodging, meals, and airfare for anticipated \$1500.

Committee made & seconded the motion

Motion Passes 98 For 0 Opposed

Area 40 Agenda Item 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.*

Committee made & seconded the motion

Motion Passes 94 For 0 Opposed 1 Abstained

Treatment Committee Brandon M

Area 40 Agenda Item 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."*

Motion from ITEM B: The Treatment committee recommends that Area 40 adopt the proposed Special Needs / Accessibilities Survey form.

This form will be distributed 3 different ways:

Through the Area Triangle in the first publication after the most recent assembly.

On the Area website as a form which can be filled out submitted online.

To all DCM's via email as an attachment.

Once completed, the form will be sent to the Treatment/Special Needs/Accessibilities committee chair no later than the deadline currently in place for submitting agenda items/background material and the results given to the Area chair to assist in planning and arrangement of meeting rooms at the assembly.

Committee made & seconded the motion

Motion Passes 95 For 0 Opposed 2 Abstained

At Noon-Motion Made: *Do we want to stay and complete treatment report*

Motion made & seconded Motion passes 62 For 15 Opposed

DCM and Other Reports

DCM reports are summarized and condensed by the Triangle Editor. For the full reports please see the Area Assembly minutes.

DCM 11 Mike D.: There are 26 active groups. They were happy to host the last Fall Round Up. Their District purchased \$1000 worth of literature (using Pink Can Funds) for correctional facilities. Several of their service committees are thriving and actively serving alcoholics.

DCM 12 Daniel M.: They recently held their Mid-Winter Social and the event was well-attended and successful. District 12 meets monthly. The District now features an AA Literature Book store available at the Laurel Home Group. Members of the District participated in the Billing's Founder's Day panel and were honored to be involved. Their next event will be the Fireman's Point Campout.

DCM 41 Chris W.: District 41 has meetings seven days a week. They held a CPC lunch earlier in the year, are working to expand their Bridging the Gap program and have an active Corrections program. The Corrections Committee was able to get meetings into the juvenile detention center.

DCM 51 Dan F.: They have several active groups that meet every week and host sober events including: a New Year's Eve Party, campouts and a Mini-Conference in Havre. Dan reports that their committees are also active.

DCM 71 Betty P.: Their District has seen some more groups start up, new GSRs at District and enthusiastic trusted servants. Betty reports they held a Corrections workshop in March and the Spring Round Up in May. Their next event will be a picnic in August that includes a Delegate's Report.

DCM 91 Paul L.: District 91 encompasses a large territory and has many meetings that meet throughout the week. Their District meeting rotates around the District rather than meeting in the same place each month. Paul reports that they take meetings into multiple treatment centers and jails on a regular basis. Other committees are well-represented in their District, too. District 91 has held several events including Into Action and The Sober Ski. Their DCM attended Pre-Assembly and the West Central Regional AA Service Conference.

DCM 93 Mike M.: Mike reports that he accepted the DCM position in January 2014. Their District has 14 groups with 30 meetings each week. Mike and others attended Pre-Assembly in Missoula. Upcoming events in District 93 will include the Spring Fling (May), Bitterroot Picnic and Campout and Delegate's Report (June) and Norm's Picnic (July).

Venue Ad Hoc Committee Paul L.: This ad hoc committee explored the idea of switching Area to another venue. They reviewed Archived information. The overall review was performed with multiple concerns in mind including accessibility, travel time and cost. They concluded that moving Area would increase the cost to Area as well as to some Groups and Districts. The committee recommended working with the Yogo Inn to improve some conditions relating to our Assembly experience. They also want to survey Area 40 to gain a better sense of our needs.

Spring Round Up 2015 Tracey D.: This Round Up will be hosted by District 61. They have picked a date, venue and headliner speakers. They are excited to serve and excited for the event.

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

2014 Area 40 Events Calendar

- **Spring Fling, Hamilton, May 17th
- **Spring Fling, Columbia Falls, May 17th
- **MSP Volunteer Orientation, Deer Lodge, May 17th
- **Corrections/Treatment Workshop, Helena, May 24th
- **Big Fork 8th Annual Campout, Swan Lake, June 6-8th
- **Founder's Day, Tally Lake, June 13-15th
- **Founder's Day, SW of Greatfalls, June 14th
- **Grapefest, Helena, June 21st
- **Beartooth Mountain Conference, South of Big Timber, June 27-29th
- **Deadline For Submitting Area Agenda Items, July 1st
- **Fall 2014 Area Assembly, Yogo Inn, Lewistown, September 19th-21st
- **District 31 Quarterly District Meeting, Forsyth, June 28th
- **Big Creek Campout, North of Columbia Falls, July 4-6th
- **Emery Bay Campout, Hungry Horse, August 1-3rd
- **Fall Area Assembly, Lewistown, September 19-21st
- **Havre Mini-Conference, Havre, September 26th-28th

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.

Sharon's Delegate Report Schedule

May 17 – District 11	June 22 – District 93
June 1 – District 91	June 28 – District 31
June 7 – District 41	July 19 – District 72 (tentative)
June 14 – District 81	August 2 – District 71
June 21 – District 61	August 16 – District 23 (YLS may be rescheduled)



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	Mike M..					dcm93@aa-montana.org

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Treatment	Brandon M.					treatment@aa-montana.org
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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 64TH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

Greetings from your Delegate.

I recently returned home from the 64th General Service Conference and want everyone to know how much I appreciate all the groups and districts in Area 40 and your trust in me and A.A.'s general service structure. I am also grateful for the contributions of time and money that make it possible for the groups of Area 40 to participate in A.A. as a whole.

As a result of the pre-conference work done over the past few months, I felt very well prepared for the lengthy discussions we had covering a broad range of feelings, opinions, and ideas about what is important and how we can best make sure the hand of A.A. is there when anyone reaches out for help, now and in the future.

After five years of hard work by past conferences, the trustees, and GSO, the conference approved the new pamphlet entitled "Many Paths to Spirituality". It should be available mid- to late-summer. I'll try to get some as soon as they are available and have them at my Delegate reports that are scheduled for later in the summer.

The theme of 2015 General Service Conference is "Celebrating 80 Years of Recovery, Unity and Service – The Foundation for Our Future" and the presentation/discussion topics are "Our Common Welfare Through Gratitude in Action": Diversity in A.A. – Our Heritage of Inclusion; Safety and Respect – Practicing the Principles Begins in our Home Group; Safeguarding our Traditions through the Evolution of Technology; and Inventory – Looking Back to Move Ahead. These provide many opportunities for workshops or other events where these topics may be explored.

The conference discussed and took no action on a number of items, including a proposal to remove the "More About Alcoholism" pages in the Grapevine and la Viña and a proposal to use the circle and triangle as an unofficial mark on A.A. literature.

The conference conducted a lot of other business, too extensive to report here, but I will be giving a Delegate's report around the Area over the next few months and hope to be able to share more than and to answer any questions people may have.

Thank you so much for this opportunity to serve. Sharon Stevenson, Area 40 Delegate (Montana), Panel 63

Service: A Spiritual Experience

There is a spiritual principle at work in service that seems like magic to me. The more I share with you, the more I receive. The more love I extend to you, the more loved I feel. And it's not that I feel loved directly by you, necessarily. When I extend the hand of AA, I feel a power greater than myself loving others through me.

When I bring meetings into jails, psychiatric units or treatment centers, I get a reminder what alcoholism looks like. The women in jail who were handcuffed in front of their screaming children have the same disease that I do. So does the guy in the psych unit after his second suicide attempt, with more of his body missing each time he's brought in.

Alcoholism is doing its best to kill these people, as it will with any of us. What can I say that will help? I can't figure it out with my mind. I can't construct the perfect AA talk that will keep them sober, alive and out of jail. I need the help of a higher power.

Before I go into the jail, psychiatric unit, or treatment center, I ask for help to get my ego and self-will out of the way. I get on my knees and pray any version of "help!" such as the 3rd, 7th or 11th step prayers. There is no way I can mess up, if I'm centered in my higher power.

I also do everything I can to be spiritually fit, so that when I go into a place where alcoholics are suffering and need to hear a strong message of recovery, I can deliver it. Here's what I do: work the steps out of the book with my sponsor, go to at least 4 meetings each week, have a home group, work with others, accept service commitments, attend conferences, listen to recordings of speakers, pray & meditate, maintain as strong contact as possible with my higher power throughout the day, and relax into that infinite love and support whenever I remember it's not my show.

When I serve, the whole atmosphere of my life changes. My entire experience of living clears, deepens, and fills with love. I am able to relax, for a little while, as my relentless self-obsession takes a break.

Somehow, when I reach out to you in love, love surrounds and floods through me. In carrying the message of recovery, I too receive that message. In holding you, I am held. In loving you, I am loved. It's a spiritual experience.

Justine F, Missoula, MT

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WHERE TO MAIL

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