

The Triangle Newsletter

Assemblies ...Why Do We Have Them???

Do you know why:

Your Group's GSR is going to the Assembly in Lewistown on April 11?

Many alcoholics take time out of their busy lives to make this trip?

We spend our money making this happen?

If you can answer these questions, that's awesome. But if you can't and you would like to know, read on.

Our Area has two assemblies every year, one in the Spring and one in the Fall. At the Spring assemblies, we spend a lot of time on the General Service Conference Agenda, and throw in some Area business. At the Fall assemblies we will do an area inventory and have elections, as well as review the GSC agenda and do any other Area business.

Your GSR's and DCM's have a vote at these assemblies. Their job is to get your feedback, and bring it to the assembly. They also serve on committees to bring the business to the Assembly floor. Their participation along with your thoughtful feedback is the top of our upside down service triangle (pg. S16 in the Service Manual). So as you review the items for which your GSR wants feedback, give them your time and attention, it's what AA is all about.

From the AA Service Manual page S20

Why Do We Need a Conference (Assembly)?

The late Bernard B Smith, nonalcoholic, then chairperson of the board of trustees, and one of the architects of the Conference structure, answered that question superbly in his opening talk at the 1954 meeting:

"We may not need a General Service Conference to ensure our own recovery. We do need it to ensure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room. We need it to ensure the recovery of a child being born tonight, destined for alcoholism. We need it to provide, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics who, in the ages ahead, can find in AA that rebirth that brought us back to life.

We need it because we, more than all others, are conscious of the devastating effect of the human urge for power and prestige which we must ensure can never invade AA. We need it to ensure AA against government, while insulating it against anarchy; we need it to protect AA against disintegrations while preventing over integration. We need it so that Alcoholics Anonymous, and Alcoholics Anonymous alone, is the ultimate repository of its Twelve Steps, its Twelve Traditions, and all of its services."

So why do we have an Assembly?.. Because it is our responsibility to take care of our solution to alcoholism and to protect that *permanent haven* that we have been blessed to find.

And because it's a lot of fun and there's usually plenty of chocolate. I'll see you there...

Libbie L

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2015 General Service Conference Committees

Agenda Items

I. Agenda

- A. Review suggestions for the theme of the 2016 General Service Conference.
- B. Review presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2016 General Service Conference.
- C. Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2016 General Service Conference.
- D. Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form.
- E. Discuss report on the Conference Agenda Process from the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference.
- F. Discuss adding review of the Conference week schedule (Conference Agenda) to the standing items on the committee agenda.

II. Cooperation With the Professional Community

- A. Review contents of the C.P.C. Kit and Workbook.

III. Corrections

- A. Discuss the Corrections Correspondence Service (C.C.S.).
- B. Discuss ways to engage members in Corrections service.
- C. Review contents of Corrections Kit and Workbook.

IV. Finance

- A. Discuss a request to increase the maximum annual contribution that the General Service Board can receive from an A.A. member from \$3,000 to \$5,000.
- B. Review suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference.
- C. Discuss material from A.A.W.S. Self-Support Committee.
- D. Discuss A.A.W.S. report on a plan regarding translation of Conference material.
- E. Review Self-Support Packet.

V. Grapevine

- A. Review Audio Strategy status update. Review new business plan for La Viia.
- B. Review revised text of the pamphlet "A.A. Grapevine and La Viia: Our Meetings in Print."
- C. Discuss ways to increase organization-wide support for Grapevine and La Viia, such as:
 1. How to recognize and support the International Journals of Alcoholics Anonymous, Grapevine and La Viia, as fully integrated parts of A.A. and its service structure.
 2. How to provide concrete support for Grapevine and La Viia throughout the Fellowship and service structure, including the use and purchase of Grapevine and La Viia subscriptions, books and other items.
 3. How to put the many recommendations from the General Service Conference that encourage

Excerpts from A.A. Literature, materials and Grapevine are reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services and Grapevine Inc.

2015 General Service Conference Committees

Agenda Items - *continued*

- D. Discuss ways to encourage A.A. members and groups to purchase Grapevine and La Viiia Subscription Gift Certificates to give to their local service committees for distribution to help carry the message of A.A.
- E. Consider the list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2016 or later.
- F. Review A.A. Grapevine Workbook.

VI. Literature

- A. Consider the revised draft pamphlet "Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Service Agencies" with the new title "Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services."
- B. Consider the revised draft pamphlet "Your A.A. General Service Office."
- C. Consider updating the pamphlet "A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic."
- D. Consider developing literature for the alcoholic with mental health issues.
- E. Consider producing a book combining *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* with the *Twelve Concepts for World Service*.
- F. Consider updating the pamphlet "A.A. for the Woman."
- G. Review the full text of "The A.A.W.S., Inc. Policy on Publication of Literature."

VII. Policy/Admissions

- A. Approve request for a representative from the General Service Board of the Czech Republic to attend the 65th General Service Conference as an observer.
- B. Review dates for the 2018 General Service Conference.
- C. Consider proposed revision to the policy regarding General Service Conference audio recordings.
- D. Consider request that a recording of the A.A. meeting at the opening dinner of the General Service Conference be provided to each member of the General Service Conference

VIII. Public Information

- A. Review 2014 annual report from the trustees' Public Information Committee regarding G.S.O.'s A.A. website.
- B. Review Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan
 - 1. Consider suggestion that the trustees' Public Information Committee explore the use of specific social media platforms and social networking platforms as potential channels for sharing information about Alcoholics Anonymous.
 - 2. Discuss how to increase A.A. member participation in local public information work.
 - 3. Consider exploring a project for anonymity videos produced by A.A. members for A.A. members.

2015 General Service Conference Committees

Agenda Items - *continued*

- C. Public Service Announcements (P.S.A.s)
 - 1. Consider approving the proposed video P.S.A., "Doors."
 - 2. Consider centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the proposed video P.S.A., "Doors," at a cost not to exceed \$40,000, in addition to the work of local public information committees.
 - 3. Review current video P.S.A.s for relevance and usefulness.
 - 4. Consider production of new video P.S.A.s.
- D. Review the final draft of the pamphlet "Alcoholics Anonymous 2014 Membership Survey."
- E. Discuss a brief video on anonymity produced to accompany the annual Anonymity Letter to Media.
- F. Review contents of P.I. Kit and Workbook

IX. Report and Charter

A. *The A.A. Service Manual, 2015-2016 Edition:*

- 1. Review list of editorial updates.
 - 2. Review revisions from A.A.W.S. Board.
 - 3. Review revisions from A.A. Grapevine Board.
 - 4. Review revisions from General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.
 - 5. Consider request to update *The A.A. Service Manual* to better reflect how the General Service Office's database is utilized for reporting and sharing group information.
 - 6. Consider request to add text regarding reactivating districts or groups to the section "Stimulating Interest in General Service" on page S23.
 - 7. Consider draft text for a new section on "Regional Forums" to be added to Chapter 9 (The General Service Board) on page S71 before the "World Service Meeting" section.
 - 8. Consider request to include a chart in the section "Working with Local Intergroups and Central Offices" on pages S41-S42.
- B. Reconsider 1990 Conference Advisory Action regarding the table of contents for *Twelve Concepts for World Service*.
 - C. Discuss the A.A. Directories:
 - Review report from A.A.W.S. Board on alternatives to A.A. Regional Directories (Canadian, Eastern U.S. and Western U.S.).
 - D. Discuss the General Service Conference *Final Report*.

X. Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities

- A. Review contents of Treatment Committee Kit and Workbook.
- B. Review contents of Special Needs/Accessibilities Kit and Workbook.

2015 General Service Conference Committees

Agenda Items - *continued*

XI. Trustees

- A. Review resumes of candidates for:
 - 1. Northeast Regional Trustee;
 - 2. Southwest Regional Trustee;
 - 3. Trustee-at-large/Canada.
- 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.
- E. Discuss the recommendation from the General Service Board to approve the Bylaws of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., as amended, to comply with the New York State nonprofit law.

XII. Archives

- A. Review Archives Workbook.

XIII. International Conventions/Regional Forums

- A. Discuss the upcoming 2015 International Convention.
- B. Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first-time attendees.

Agenda Items specific to Area 40 2015 Spring Assembly:

- A. That Area 40 create and provide its District Bridging the Gap (BTG) Coordinators (BTGCs) with generic email prefixes respective to their Districts, maintained on Area 40's domain.
- B. Review the process and questions to be used for the Inventory at the 2015 Fall Assembly
- C. Have as a standing agenda item for the Archives/Area 40 Structure & Policy Committee a process for the evaluation of the previous Area Assembly and the reporting of those results.
- D. Consider short and long term changes to the Area 40 Webmaster service position.

Groups

**Please Contribute
articles and subscriptions to the Triangle!**

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Calendar of Events

Assembly Dates 2015

April 10-12

Spring Assembly
Yogo Inn - Lewistown

July 1

Deadline Fall Assembly
Agenda items

September 18-20

Fall Assembly
Yogo Inn - Lewistown

Area Events

March

14th - PreAssembly, American Lutheran Church, Billings
20-21st - 19th Pockets of Enthusiasm, First Presbyterian Church - Helena
28th - Pre-Assembly, Rocky Mountain Grange, Hamilton

April

4th - PreAssembly, Boulder Hot Springs, Boulder
11th - 12 Step Study, Civic Center - Great Falls

May

15th-17th - Spring Roundup, Red Lion Colonial Inn - Helena
16th - Montana State Prison Orientation - Please submit application to Area 40 Correction Chair, corrections@aa-montana.org by April 30th

June

5th-7th - Bigfork by the Bay Campout, Swan Lake Campground

July

2nd-4th - The Big Book Breakdown, Red Lion Inn - Kalispell
17th-19th - Beartooth Mountain Conference, Camp on the Boulder, McLeod, MT

August

21st-23rd - West Central Regional Conference, Casper WY

September

11th-13th - Bridging The Gap Workshop, Park City UT

October

9th-11th - Fall Roundup, Red Lion Hotel - Kalispell

For flyers and additional information, see the calendar on Area 40 website 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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IF YOU WOULD LIKE A SUBSCRIPTION FOR YOURSELF, A FRIEND OR YOUR GROUP, PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM. THE COST OF THE TRIANGLE IS \$10 PER YEAR. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AREA 40.

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Individuals: If your subscription has expired, this will be your last issue of the Triangle.

WHERE TO MAIL

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