

The Triangle Newsletter

The Time for Change Is Now!

This is the time of year when we as stockholders in Alcoholics Anonymous take “Stock” in proposed changes to our fellowship that have been submitted by “We”. There are things that are specific to Area 40, (which is basically Montana), and General Service Items that deal with all of AA. Please take the time to read through all of these and discuss how you feel about them amongst your groups. Your Group Service Rep (GSR) can then pass this valuable input on at the Area Assembly in Lewistown this April 8th through the 10th. There are over 900 pages of background material that goes with these suggestions so please attend any of the pre-assemblies listed in the Calendar of Events or contact your GSR or any of the Area Committee members listed in the February Triangle for additional information, questions or comments you might have on any of these.

Thank You!

AREA 40 AGENDA ITEM PROPOSAL FORM

(1) Describe the proposal: Consider defining the scope of the ad hoc inventory committee as follows:

- Plan and facilitate Area 40 inventory
- Collect and report results
- Suggest agenda items to be discussed or considered

(2) List the proposal benefits:

- Provides guidance to the ad hoc committee
- Promotes discussion/possible action on inventory results (3) Cost Estimate:
- No cost

(4) List additional background material(s) included with the proposal:

- Past motions (page 2)
- 2011 Ad hoc Committee Report (pages 3-4)
- 2015 Ad hoc Committee Report (pages 5-6)

(5) How the proposal originated:

- As the scope of 2015 Area Inventory ad hoc committee was not clearly defined, the committee was uncomfortable suggesting agenda items, and felt that future committees could benefit from a clearer scope.

(6) Why the proposal should be considered:

- An inventory process is a time-consuming and heart-felt process. Follow-through with actions comparable to steps 6, 7, 8 and 9 with discussion and suggestions for possible change is necessary for it to be considered successful. The ad-hoc committee is intensely involved in crafting questions and reporting the results and is, therefore, in a good position to identify items that members of the Area Assembly would be interested in discussing for possible action.

(7) Final comments:

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12 Concepts Short Form Proposed Revisions

C = Current version P = Proposed version D = Discussion of proposed change (if any)

Note: Due to space considerations only the Concepts with proposed changes are listed.

TWO

- C** - The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in world affairs.
- P** - Our trusted servants, at all levels of the A.A. service structure, have become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our fellowship.
- D** - While the General Service Conference is indeed the active voice and effective conscience of AA for our largest matters of policy and procedure, there are other levels of service where trusted servants speak to local concerns in this same fashion, yet they must read between the lines of this concept to find their own responsibility and authority to do so.

THREE

- C** - To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A. – the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives - with a traditional "Right of Decision".
- P** - To insure effective leadership we should endow all our trusted servants with a traditional “right of decision”.
- D** - We should endow each element of the AA service structure with the traditional “Right of Decision”, not just those listed in the current version.

SIX

- C** - The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.
- P** - The delegation of the primary administrative responsibilities of AA extends from the fellowship as a whole, is exercised throughout our service structure, and rests finally with the Trustees of the General Service Board.
- D** - This Concept identifies the Trustees as the prime repository for initiative and active responsibility in regard to AA service work. It does not currently recognize the role of trusted servants at other levels of service in AA in regard to initiative or responsibility.

SEVEN

- C** - The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.
- P** - The AA groups’ “power of the purse” and the force of tradition provide an effective counterbalance to the legal authority of our trusted servants when they use AA funds and conduct our arms of service.
- D** - The elaborate system of checks and balances need not be described in elaborate fashion. Legal status is extended to any Area, District, Intergroup, or Group that obtains a non-profit tax identification number when opening a checking account, or when signing a rental agreement, however, our Fellowship’s experience and financial contributions always have the final say in these matters.

EIGHT

- C** - The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.
- P** - Our trusted servants serve in two capacities: (a) as principal planners and administrators in matters of overall policy and finance, and (b) with custodial oversight, through delegation of responsibility, for other services.
- D** - Delegation of responsibility and authority by our trusted servants takes place at all levels of service. The Trustees’ implementation of this principle, though a fine example, is not the only place this principle is practiced in our service structure.

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

NINE

- C** - Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.
- P** - Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them are, at all levels, indispensable for our future functioning and safety.
- D** - The first sentence of this Concept says enough. Why single out the role of the Trustees as prime leaders when we are, in fact, encouraging all to assume leadership roles?

ELEVEN

- C** - The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualification, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.
- P** - Our service leadership should always have the best possible committees, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualification, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.
- D** - Why should only the Trustees need for the best help be mentioned? We need the best we can get anywhere in AA.

TWELVE

- C** - The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.
- P** - The six warranties of AA, as they apply to our entire service structure, are: 1) That no member shall ever be the holder of perilous wealth or power, 2) That sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be our prudent financial principle, 3) That no member ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any other, 4) That all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and whenever possible by substantial unanimity, 5) That no AA action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy, 6) That AA shall always remain democratic in thought and action.
- D** - The Warranties are not changed but only paraphrased to address their application to the overall AA service structure.

AREA 40 AGENDA ITEM PROPOSAL FORM

The Area 40 Webmaster, with consultation from the Area 40 Triangle editor, Area 40 Treasurer and Area 40 Secretary, will research allowing online payment for the Triangle through access in the Area 40 website.

The Area 40 Webmaster will give a report of his findings on allowing this along with making a motion to proceed or not on this agenda item to the full Area 40 Assembly when it convenes in the Fall of 2016. If the recommendation is to implement online payments, the report will also contain an implementation plan along with costs, and a timeline for providing this service.

(1) Describe the proposal:

This will allow the ability to subscribe and pay for the Area 40 Triangle newsletter online through the Area 40 website.

(2) List the proposal benefits:

This will make paying for the Triangle easier, more efficient, and provide more up-to-date address information.

(3) Cost Estimate:

There are no monetary costs associated with the agenda item.

(4) List additional background material(s) included with the proposal:

This was a proposal introduced during the Fall 2015 Area inventory:

- Resolve address issues, assuring Groups are receiving the Triangle
- Make subscriptions available on-line

(5) How the proposal originated

See (4) Above

(6) Why the proposal should be considered

See (2) above

(7) Final comments:

I would like to thank the Archives Committee for considering this agenda item.

AREA 40 AGENDA ITEM PROPOSAL FORM

(1) Describe the proposal:

By July 1st, 2016 the Area 40 Archivist will have updated the "Suggested Agenda Framework for Area Assembly" in the Area 40 Policy and Procedures Manual to include the Triangle report under the Floor Assembly - Committee Reports, Motions, and Discussion section.

Due to the above change, the Area Chair will include the Triangle report in the Agenda for the Fall 2016 Assembly and all Assemblies in the future.

(2) List the proposal benefits:

This will reinstate the Triangle Editor's role at the Area Assembly in accordance with Concept X that every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority-the scope of such authority to be always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description or by appropriate charters and bylaws.

(3) Cost Estimate:

There are no monetary costs associated with this agenda item. There will, however, be a reduction in time costs since this will cause the Triangle report to be given only one time at the Assembly.

(4) List additional background material(s) included with the proposal:

Prior to this rotation and since the Spring of 2012, the Triangle Editor would give their report to a committee. That committee Chair would then report to the entire Assembly whatever they deemed appropriate from the Triangle report that was given in their committee. The Chair that heard the report in their committee would then either take the time to understand the Triangle issues well enough to be able to answer any questions from the floor that may be asked about the Triangle, or the Chair that was giving the report would surrender the floor to the Triangle Editor so they could come to the mike to answer any questions.

Also see past Area Agendas since the Triangle was implemented which had the Triangle Editor giving their report to the entire Assembly up to the Spring 2012 Agenda when the Area Chair removed it.

(5) How the proposal originated

When I attended the Spring Assembly in 2015 as the Triangle Editor, I did not find the Triangle listed on the Agenda to do a floor report. When I inquired into why it was not listed on the agenda to do a report from the floor, I was directed to a vote by an Ad-Hoc committee that made modifications to the structure of the Area Assembly in the Fall of 2012. I found several confusing things about being directed to this report. Most confusing was that the Triangle was removed from the Area Agenda the Assembly prior to this vote taking place. I also could not find any specific mention in the minutes by the Ad-Hoc committee, nor in the follow-up report two years later that reported on the results of taking the recommendation of the Ad-Hoc committee that specifically mentioned removing the Triangle from the Area agenda.

(6) Why the proposal should be considered

It will insure that the Triangle Editor maintains a direct line of communication between the entire Assembly members and in so doing improve the Triangle Editor's ability to meet the Triangle's purpose as defined in Area 40's Policies and Procedures.

(7) Final comments:

I would like to thank the Archives Committee for considering this agenda item.

2016 General Service Conference Committees Agenda Items

I. Agenda

- A. Review suggestions for the theme of the 2017 General Service Conference.
- B. Review presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2017 General Service Conference.
- C. Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form.
- D. Discuss report on the Conference Agenda Process from the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference.

2016 General Service Conference Committees Agenda Items - Continued from page 4

II. Cooperation With the Professional Community

- A. Consider discontinuing the pamphlet “Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W.”
- B. Consider adding text regarding A.A. and medications to the pamphlet *If You are a Professional...*”
- C. Consider adding text to the pamphlet “Is there an Alcoholic in the Workplace?” regarding A.A. as a resource for small businesses.
- D. Review draft revision of the pamphlet “How A.A. Members Cooperate with Professional.”
- E. Review contents of C.P.C. Kit and Workbook.

III. Corrections

- A. Review draft of video created to replace “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell.”
- B. Discuss the Corrections Correspondence Service (C.C.S)
- C. Review contents of Corrections Kit and Workbook.

IV. Finance

- A. Review suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference.
- B. Review the Conference approved level of \$5,000 for individual bequests to the General Service Board from A.A. Members.
- C. Review the Conference approved maximum annual contribution to the General Service Board from an individual A.A. Member of \$3,000.
- D. Discuss material from A.A.W.S. Self-Support Committee.
- E. Review Self-Support Packet.

V. Grapevine

- A. Review Audio Strategy status update.
- B. Consider the list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2017 or later.
- C. Review A.A. Grapevine Workbook.

VI. Literature

- A. Consider developing a plain language version of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*.
- B. Review A.A.W.S. report on “pagination” of Conference-approved digital books.
- C. Review progress report on the revision of the pamphlet “A.A. for the Woman.”
- D. Review progress report on the revision of the pamphlet “A.A. and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic.”
- E. Review progress report on the development of literature for A.A.s with mental health issues and those who sponsor them.
- F. Review progress report on the development of a plan for the systematic review of A.A. recovery literature.
- G. Review revised draft pamphlet “Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services.”
- H. Consider request for revision to the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.”
- I. Consider request to update the pamphlet “Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”

VII. Policy/Admissions

- A. Approve request for two observers from A.A. in the Ukraine to attend the 2016 General Service Conference.
- B. Review progress report on plans for French and Spanish translation of all Conference background.
- C. Review report from the trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference background.
- D. Consider request that all Conference members be sent the same background material with the exception of digital media and works in progress.
- E. Review dates for the 2019 General Service Conference.

VIII. Public Information

- A. Review 2015 annual report from the trustees’ Public Information Committee regarding aa.org and aagrapevine.org.
- B. Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan.
 - 1. Review the trustees’ Public Information Committee report on the Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan.
 - 2. Review 2016 Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan.
- C. Review the July 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 distribution and tracking information for the video P.S.A. “Doors”.

2016 General Service Conference Committees Agenda Items - Continued from page 5

- D. Review 2015 report from the trustees' Public Information Committee on the Usefulness and Relevance of Public Service Announcements.
 - 1. Consider centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the English and French language versions of the video P.S.A., "Tengo Esperanza" at a cost not to exceed \$40,000, in addition to the distribution work of local public information committees.
 - 2. Consider discontinuing the video P.S.A. "I Thought."
- E. Discuss a request to reconsider the 2011 Advisory Action regarding the "Policy on Actors Portraying A.A. Members in Videos Produced by the General Service Board or Its Affiliates."
- F. Review contents of P.I. Kit and Workbook.

II. Report and Charter

- A. The A.A. Service Manual, 2016-2017 Edition:
 - 1. Review list of editorial updates.
 - 2. Consider adding definition of "Service Manual" to Glossary of Service Terms.
 - 3. Consider adding text in the Third Legacy Procedure chart in Chapter One.
 - 4. Consider draft text for a section on "Local Forums" to be added to Chapter Nine.
 - 5. Consider removing endnote #4 in Concept Twelve of the Twelve Concepts for World Service.
 - 6. Consider request to revise text in the Concept Eleven essay regarding "male/female" distinctions in the Twelve Concepts for World Service.
- B. Consider A.A.W.S. recommendation regarding an alternate publishing schedule for The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service.
- C. Discuss A.A. Directories (Canada, Eastern U.S., Western U.S., and International.)
 - 1. Consider that the category title "ONLINE MEETINGS" be changed to "ONLINE GROUPS/ONLINE MEETINGS" in A.A. Directories.
- D. Discuss General Service Conference Final Report.

III. Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities

- A. Consider removing "Special Needs" from Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities' name and throughout the committees' Composition, Scope and Procedure.
- B. Review contents of Treatment Committee Kit and Workbook.
- C. Review Contents of Special Needs-Accessibilities Kit and Workbook.

IV. Trustees

- A. Review resumes of candidates for:
 - 1. West Central Regional Trustee;
 - 2. Western Canada 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.
- E. Review report from the trustees' Committee on Nominating on expanding the pool of candidates to serve the General Service Board and the Corporate Boards.
- F. Consider option presented by the trustees' Committee on Nominating regarding the unexpected vacancy of Regional Trustees.

V. Archives

- A. Explore ways to encourage groups to write or update their histories.
- B. Review Archives Workbook.

VI. International Convention/Regional Forums

- A. Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first-time attendees.
- B. Discuss report on the 2015 International Convention in Atlanta, Georgia.

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Calendar of Events

Assembly Dates 2016

April 8-10
Spring Assembly
Yogo Inn - Lewistown

July 1st
Fall Assembly
Agenda items Due

September 16-18
Fall Assembly
Yogo Inn - Lewistown



Events

March

- 12th - District 11 PreAssembly - American Lutheran Church - Billings
- 19th - District 81 PreAssembly - First Presbyterian Church - Missoula
- 18th-19th - 20th Pockets of Enthusiasm - First Presbyterian Church - Helena

April

- 2nd - Sponsorship Workshop - Trinity Lutheran Church - Whitehall
- 2nd - Districts 72, 61 & 41 PreAssembly - Boulder Hot Springs - Boulder
- 2nd - Districts 72, 61 & 41 PreAssembly - Boulder Hot Springs - Boulder
- 15th - 17th - Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp - Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp - Lakeside
- 30th - First Ever Event - Community Services Building - Sidney
- 30th - Sponsor Your Professional Workshop - Fellowship Hall - Bozeman

May

- 6th-8th - 2016 Spring Roundup - Holiday Inn Parkside - Missoula
- 21st - Treatment/Corrections Workshop - First Presbyterian Church - Helena

June

- 24th-26th - 24th Beartooth Mountain Conference - McLeod

July

- 28th-31st - Emery Bay Campout - Hungry Horse Reservoir

August

- 12th-13th - Big Creek Campout - 19 miles North of Columbia Falls on North Fork Road

September

- 30th - October 2nd - Fall Roundup - Bozeman

May - 2017

- 19th-21st - 2017 Spring Roundup - Big Horn Resort - Billings

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SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION:

Groups are encouraged to be self-supporting for their Triangle subscription fee. "Expired" above the mailing address indicates that the subscription has expired. Groups will receive the Triangle regardless of subscription status because of Past Actions of the Area Assembly.

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

WHERE TO MAIL GROUP

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