

Area 40 Triangle

A Newsletter for AA in the State of Montana

ISSUE 2-2018

Original Manuscript Update from GSO

Pg. 2 - Area Assembly Agenda

Page 5 - Tradition 2 Checklist

For some time, the General Service Board has been involved in litigation concerning the Printer's Copy Manuscript of Alcoholics Anonymous. The Board has been in communication with Conference members throughout the year, whenever possible, and many of you have shared your thoughts on this matter. In our continuing effort to keep you up to date, we are pleased to share the following information relative to the successful resolution of this litigation.

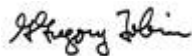
Today a stipulation was filed with the New York State Supreme Court by A.A.W.S. to voluntarily dismiss the case between Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. and the holder of the 1939 Printer's Copy Manuscript of Alcoholics Anonymous, our Big Book. This stipulation was submitted in conjunction with the parties agreeing to settle and mutually release each other from the litigation.

The parties have reached an agreement and believe this to be in their best interests. The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous has approved a settlement and mutual release agreement in order to avoid the further expense, inconvenience, and uncertainty of continuing litigation. As the result of the agreement, A.A.W.S. waives any claims to ownership of the Manuscript and will pay \$135,000 to reimburse a portion of the holder's out-of-pocket costs, expenses and legal fees associated with the action.

The Boards understand that some members of the Fellowship will have many further specific questions about this legal issue. The Boards will be prepared to discuss their decisions and actions in the near future. At this time, we ask that you direct any questions and comments about the settlement to the Public Information desk at the General Service Office, so that all inquiries can be captured and responded to appropriately.

Looking forward to continuing discussion on this important matter.

Yours in service and fellowship,



G. Gregory Tobin
General Manager
General Service Office of A.A.

Pay for Your Newsletter Online!

Groups are encouraged to be self-supporting for their Triangle subscriptions. Check it out on the Area 40 website @ AA-MONTANA.ORG

Area 40 Spring Assembly Agenda

Yogo Inn – Lewistown, MT

April 6-8, 2018

FRIDAY SESSION

- 8:00-10:00 **Sapphire Room:** GSR and DCM Welcome Session – Delegate.
 8:00-10:00 **Chokecherry Room:** Area Standing Committee Chair and DCMs
 Welcome Session led by the Area Chair & Area Adv.

SATURDAY SESSION

- 7:30-8:00 GSR's and visitors sign in with their District's DCM.
(DCM's please give the sign in sheets to the Area Secretary no later than 10:30)

- 8:00-9:00 **Welcome** — Serenity Prayer
 Traditions
 Concepts
 Housekeeping
Orientation to the Assembly by the Delegate, Gerry R.
Roll Call – Past Actions by Area Secretary, Melinda W.
Financial Highlights by Area Treasurer, Julie R.
Triangle Report by Triangle Editor, Rebecca S.
Chair Report by Area Chair, Paul L.
DCM Reports (5 minute limit; Hard stop at 9:00; Resume at 1:30)

- 9:00-9:15 **Coffee Break**

- 9:15-12:00 **Standing Committee Meetings:**
- | | |
|--|------------------|
| Archives/Area 40 Structure & Policy..... | Kendall Room |
| CPC/Trustees..... | Chokecherry Room |
| Corrections/International Conventions..... | Moccasin Room |
| Finance | Gypsum Room |
| Grapevine/Policy & Admissions (GSC)..... | Room 150 |
| Literature..... | Judith Room |
| Public Information/Report and Charter & Website..... | Snowy Room |
| Treatment Facilities/Agenda..... | Room 252 |

Workshops

- 9:15-12:00 (For those not attending committee meetings)..... Sapphire Room
- Workshop: *Topic – Group Conscience-The Guiding Force*
 Led by Past Delegate: Earl F.
- Workshop: *Topic – Participation In All of A.A.-Is Your Triangle Balanced*
 Led by Past Delegate: Mark S

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

- 1:00-1:30 **Ad hoc Committee Report – Jessica E.**

- 1:30-2:00 Remaining DCM Reports
- 2:00-2:45 Delegates Report (with Questions and Answers)
- 2:45-3:00 **Coffee Break**
- 3:00-5:00 **Floor Assembly — Committee Reports, Motions, and Discussion**
- | | |
|--|--------------|
| Archives/Structure..... | Raymona K-A. |
| CPC/Trustees..... | Luke S. |
| Corrections/International Conventions-Regional Forums..... | Hugh M. |
| Finance | Julie R. |
| Grapevine/Policy & Admissions..... | Jake H. |
| Literature..... | Lance W. |
| Public Information/Report & Charter..... | Tim K. |
| Treatment Facilities/Agenda..... | James W. |
- 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: Earl F.
DCM Breakout Led by Past Delegate: Mark S.

SUNDAY SESSION

- 8:00-8:30 **Roundup Reports, Intergroup Reports, WCRAASC Report**
- 8:30-9:00 **Past Delegate’s Sharing – Mark S. & Earl F.**
- 9:00-9:45 **Floor Assembly — Committee Reports, Motions, and Discussion**
- 9:45-10:00 **Coffee Break**
- 10:15-12:00 **Floor Assembly — Committee Reports, Motions, and Discussion**
followed by **general sharing** as time allows

Reports: *5-minute time limit with email (or written) copies to the Area Secretary and Triangle Editor*

Floor comments have a 3-minute time limit

Adjourn – Travel Safely

Fall Assembly – September 21-23, 2018 Holiday Inn, Great Falls

Call 406-727-7200 or www.holidayinngreatfalls.com for Reservations

Tell them you are with Area 40 Area Assembly Group Code: ALC

General Service Conference

2018 West Central Regional AA Service Conference Report by Gerry R.

Every spring, during the first full weekend in March, members of the AA Fellowship throughout the mid-west, from the mountains to the Mississippi, come together to review and discuss the upcoming agenda of the General Service Conference (GSC) of AA. The event is called the West Central Regional AA Service Conference.

The West Central Region is one of eight regions throughout the U.S. and Canada, and is comprised of eight separate Areas. These Areas are Iowa Area 24, Northern Minnesota Area 35, Southern Minnesota Area 36, Montana Area 40, Nebraska Area 41, North Dakota Area 52, South Dakota Area 63 and Wyoming Area 76. This year's event was a large one with 451 registered attendees.

The purpose of the WCRAASC is to educate our Fellowship about the items on the agenda of the upcoming GSC, so that they might be better informed and become able to better express their thoughts, feelings and concerns about these matters to the region's delegates. No votes are taken, nor are any decisions made to act on these items. That is the purpose of the GSC.

The issue at the core of every GSC agenda, and for that matter, at the core of every item on that agenda, is to consider what we call our "primary purpose" or how we as a fellowship might better carry our message of recovery to the still suffering alcoholic. We also oftentimes deal with administrative and functional matters which serve to facilitate our carrying the message.

This year, was no different than any other. As usual the large crowd came alive with questions and comments expressed at the microphones as the eight delegates in attendance took turns presenting the agenda items which were organized by areas of service, Corrections, Literature, Trustees, etc. The Regional Trustee, Tom A. also gave a report and helped facilitate various parts of the event. Without getting into too much detail, I will merely say that the gratitude and love for this amazing program was on full display throughout the weekend as emotions often ran high, and strong points were made on many of the topics.

AA's Legacy of Service - by Bill W.

Our Twelfth Step—carrying the message—is the basic service that the A.A. Fellowship gives; this is our principal aim and the main reason for our existence. Therefore, A.A. is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die. Hence, an A.A. service is anything whatever that helps us to reach a fellow sufferer—ranging all the way from the Twelfth Step itself to a ten-cent phone call and a cup of coffee, and to A.A.'s General Service Office for national and international action. The sum total of all these services is our Third Legacy of Service.

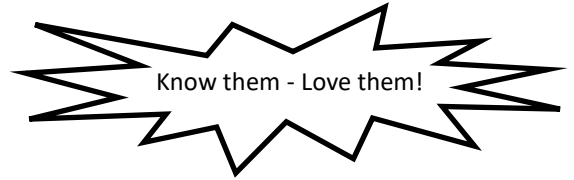
These events are always an exciting time for the attendees and this year was no exception. What is even more exciting, however, is that in two short years, March 2020, Montana, Area 40, will play host to this event. Involved members from our region will gather in one of our cities to participate in this annual gathering as they prepare their delegates for the General Service conference that year. This spring, at our Area Assembly in Lewistown, Area 40 will decide which city will host the event. The event rotates throughout the region and, as such, we have this opportunity only once, every eight years. If your district is considering placing a bid to host, now is the time to be putting that bid and your plans together in order to present them at Assembly.

A full report on this year's event will be given at the upcoming Area Assembly. I can honestly say that I have never heard a WCRAASC report that did not express great gratitude and awe for how the event touched the presenter. Don't miss the report. Don't miss the event.

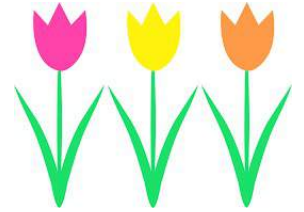
THE TWELVE CONCEPTS FOR WORLD SERVICE

The Twelve Concepts for World Service were written by A.A.'s co-founder Bill W., and were adopted by the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in 1962. The Concepts are an interpretation of A.A.'s world service structure as it emerged through A.A.'s early history and experience. The short form of the Concepts reads:

1. Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.
2. 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 its world affairs.
3. 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.”
4. At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional “Right of Participation,” allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.
5. Throughout our structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.
6. 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.
7. 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. purpose for final effectiveness.
8. The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of over-all policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, 2 exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.
9. 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.
10. Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.
11. The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.
12. 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, substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government; that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.



Traditions Inventory Questions. These are handy for a group or an individual.



Tradition Two: For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

1. Do I criticize or do I trust and support my group officers, AA committees, and office workers? Newcomers? Old-timers?
2. Am I absolutely trustworthy, even in secret, with AA Twelfth Step jobs or other AA responsibility?
3. Do I look for credit in my AA jobs? Praise for my AA ideas?
4. Do I have to save face in group discussion, or can I yield in good spirit to the group conscience and work cheerfully along with it?
5. Although I have been sober a few years, am I still willing to serve my turn at AA chores?
6. In group discussions, do I sound off about matters on which I have no experience and little knowledge?

Events Calendar

MARCH 2018

March 16-17

2018 POCKETS OF ENTHUSIASM

First Presbyterian Church - Helena MT

March 24-25

HEART TO HEART

Chico Hot Springs MT

March 24

2018 Founders Day
Shrine Auditorium—
Billings

APRIL 2018

April 14 - 3rd Annual First Ever Event
1201 West Holly, Sidney, MT

April 28 - 12 Step Study w/ Debbie D
Civic Center Great Falls MT

PRE-ASSEMBLIES

Saturday March 10

Dist 11 Pre-Assembly

American Lutheran Church - Billings MT

Sunday March 18—10 am

Dist 93 Pre-Assembly

Victor Senior Center. - Victor MT

Saturday March 24 - 9 am

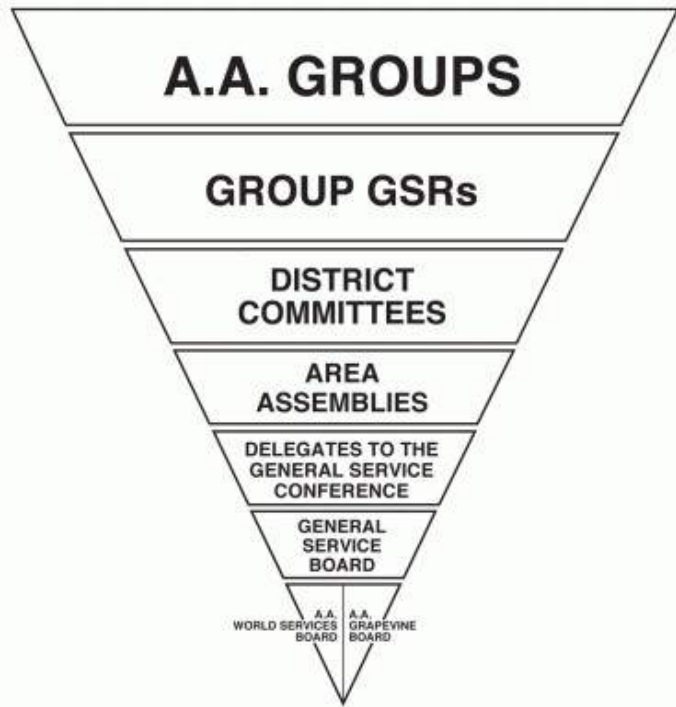
District 61 Pre-Assembly

Boulder Hot Springs—Boulder MT

**Flyers available on
AA-Montana.org**



**STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE
(U.S. and Canada)**



Triangle Subscription Form

If you would like a subscription for yourself, a friend or your group, please return this form or subscribe online at aa-montana.org. Cost is \$10 per year.

SEND TO:
AREA 40 TRIANGLE
PO BOX 1976,
Helena, MT 59624

Group

GSR/Contact

Address

City, St, Zip

Phone #

Email

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.

WHERE TO MAIL GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS:

**Area 40, Inc.
PO Box 3878
Bozeman, MT 59772**

*If sending to Area please
address check to Area 40 Inc.*

**GSO
PO Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163**