



AREA 40 TRIANGLE

A Newsletter for A.A. in the State of Montana

BRIDGING THE GAP: A NEW AREA 40 POSITION

Greetings Area 40, my name is Jessica E., and I am currently serving as your Area 40 Bridging the Gap (BTG) Chair. I am excited to report we have established a BTG committee consisting of representatives from across our area. Penny R. from District 61, expressed her support and willingness to serve as the alternate BTG chair and was voted in this past spring assembly. Our current BTG chairs have been busy forwarding the efforts to enlarge and update our Bridging the Gap volunteer database. These chairs have been circulating volunteer sheets from our Area 40 website, so GSRs can bring them to our groups.

We have many towns across Area 40 that have active AA groups, yet we do not have current contacts for all of those towns. Please take a moment and review this list of towns where we need volunteers. I'd be happy to assist you in adding your town to our database. Currently, I have an active contact list for BTG chairs and representatives in treatment and corrections for each district, which I actively update and provide as a resource for BTG coordinators. If you have any updated changes for new BTG coordinators, I would love to provide these to our BTG committees to help them facilitate the hard work they do.

I am excited to announce our first official face to face committee meeting was held in District 21 in Wolf Point! There was a workshop after their district meeting in May, where we connected with GSRs and local AA members. With the help of our BTG committee, we were able to add District 21 to our BTG database with the addition of three new towns and twelve volunteers for that northeastern area. By having our committee meetings in rural areas, we are able to reach out and build our connections in these communities. This day aided this goal by allowing us to connect with not only AA members, but also the administration from the local prison. The treatment facility was also in attendance and participated on the panel. This was an incredible opportunity for us to connect with them and provide information about Area 40's Bridging the Gap Program. I wanted to personally thank all of the groups who supported the travel of their local representatives. The groups made this possible. This experience called to our hearts, as always, that we have more work to do. I am working to continue our bridge to District 21's communities and their facilities.

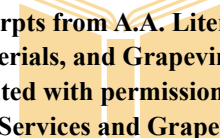
There are two agenda items that we passed as a committee to send to the area to be considered. Our committee had representation from districts 11, 21, 23, 41, 51, 61, 71, 72, 91, and 93. We had representation from across our state and we worked hard to prepare these items, because we feel they will truly benefit Area 40. I hope both of these proposals would engage all of us to continue to discuss how the BTG committee can continue to better our temporary contact program.

During our time together we voted to have our 2020 BTG Committee meeting in Northwestern Montana in District 42. The last two considerations were District 42 and Southwestern Montana in District 71. I am hoping that we visit 71 in the future. As for the upcoming 2020 meeting I will reach out to Kurt K. in District 42 to prepare. We also voted to have two meetings a year, but only one face-to-face meeting. We thank all of the districts for their travel support and hope this represents our recognition of prudence. We will meet in the fall by conference but utilizing an online interface to reduce costs. We have tentative agenda items to be discussed that include our 1st, 2nd, and 5 year goals as a committee this fall. If you have any ideas or suggestions we invite you to attend our conference call this fall or meet us for our 2020 Spring committee meeting in Northwestern Montana. For any questions please feel free to contact me.

Workshops are a great way to educate, energize, and inspire volunteers, and I am willing

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The Triangle is anonymity protected. All A.A. members are identified by first name and last initial only.

“If I were asked which of our blessings I felt was most responsible for our growth as a fellowship and most vital to our continuity, I would say, the ‘Concept of Anonymity.’” Bill's last message read by Lois, 1970 Annual New York Intergroup Dinner

Tradition Six Snip-it

An A.A. Group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

“We saw as never before that we could not lend the A.A. name to any cause other than our own [...] We saw that the more A.A. minded its own business the greater its general influence would become. Medicine and religion and psychiatry began to borrow some of our ideas and experience. So did research, rehabilitation, and education. All sorts of therapeutic groups began to spring up. They dealt with gambling, divorce, delinquency, dope addiction, mental illness, and the like. They, too, borrowed from A.A., but they made their own adaptations. They worked their own fields, and we did not have to endorse them or tell them how to live.”

- Reprinted from *A.A. Comes of Age*, p. 109, with permission of *A.A. World Services, Inc.*

Tradition Seven Snip-it

Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

“But oddly enough, people who had money thought otherwise. They figured that it was high time we now—sober—paid our own way. So our Fellowship stayed poor because it had to [...] To people familiar with endless drives for charitable funds, A.A. presented a strange and refreshing spectacle. Approving editorials here and abroad generated a wave of confidence in the integrity of Alcoholics Anonymous. They pointed out that the irresponsible had become responsible and that by making financial independence part of its tradition, Alcoholics Anonymous had revived an ideal that its era had almost forgotten.”

- Reprinted from *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, p. 160 & p. 165, with permission of *A.A. World Services, Inc.*

AAGrapveine.org has the Traditions Checklist. Take it to your group. Engage with your sponsor. Challenge a sponsee.

to be of use or come attend any of yours. I am available to travel and would love to visit your local or district meetings. Thank you again for entrusting me to serve as your Area 40 BTG Chair. - Jessica E.

1ST - AREA 40 AGENDA ITEM PROPOSAL

(1) The Bridging the Gap Committee proposes: That the webmaster work with the Bridging the Gap (BTG) committee to create a privacy-protected link that would be accessed by professionals in our treatment and correctional institutions to aid potential AA members in signing up for the BTG program.

As a committee we would invite the webmaster to participate in our next BTG committee meeting to develop this link that would be used by professionals to enter general information of potential AA members who opted to participate in the Bridging the Gap program and are in direct contact with these professionals. With the potential AA member's permission, a professional can send their information directly to the Montana BTG administrator's email address, where this information would be solely used to connect these participants with local BTG coordinators. “A Temporary Contact” is a member of Alcoholics Anonymous who assists in “Bridging the Gap” between a potential AA member within a facility and a meeting “outside” the facility. The Contact's primary purpose is to introduce the newcomer to AA meetings near the newcomer's home. During this meeting, we introduce them to other members and our fellowship and answer any questions they may have.

(2) Proposal benefits: This will help our fellowship have continuity with institutions regardless if we currently have AA representation in attendance at meetings in the facility or BTG presentations. This proposal in no way minimizes the priority of this in our fellowship. Instead, this would be used as a net to help prevent our members from falling through the gap. As you are aware, rural areas here within Montana are affected the most, and our wish is to find ways to better serve these areas. Our wish is to see that all AA members have the ability to utilize the Bridging the Gap program.

(3) Cost Estimate: None

(5) Origination of Proposal: The idea of this proposal originated from the CPC Area Chair. After further discussion with the Area CPC, Corrections, PI, and BTG chairs, this idea was brought back to the CPC Committee, then brought to the area assembly floor, but needed further discussion.

This item was brought as an agenda item for the BTG committee to review and consider during the 2019 BTG Committee meeting in Wolf Point. The Area 40 BTG committee (Chair Jessica E (91) and BTG co-chair Penny R (61), Treatment Chair Steve S (23), district representatives from 11, 21, 23, 41, 51, 71, 91, and 93 passed this unanimously (13:0) in committee meeting held in Wolf Point on May 11, 2019.

(6) Why the proposal should be considered: This committee recognized the importance of consistency for this program and discussed why. Our facilities, whether Treatment or Corrections (or both), do not rotate their administration as we do in Alcoholics Anonymous. Our facilities do not have to conform to the AA spirit of rotation and are often frustrated by lack of continuity between different BTG coordinators. Since consistency with the facilities is vital to the success of our BTG work, we thought it best to propose a link to our fellowship that is consistent regardless of who occupies our service positions. Again, this will help our fellowship have continuity with institutions regardless if we currently have AA representation in attendance at meetings in the facility or BTG presentations.

2ND - AREA 40 AGENDA ITEM PROPOSAL

(1.) PROPOSAL: To Place a Bid to Host the National Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend, which will either be September 10-12, 2021 or September 9-11, 2022 (TBD based on availability).

(2.) PROPOSAL BENEFITS: This proposal would benefit Area 40 as a whole. It would draw recognition to Bridging the Gap and help to inform our Area.

(3.) COST ESTIMATE: Approximately \$100 Registration (name tags and lanyards, etc.) and \$300–\$400 for the hospitality room up front (food and drink). This will be reimbursed by 7th tradition collected at the event. This event is to be fully self

supporting. Steering committee coordinates and takes care of the cost of the hotel (cost covered by National Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend).

(4.) ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND MATERIAL: N/A

(5.) ORIGINATION OF PROPOSAL: Many of our committee members have attended the workshop weekend and have had an incredibly valuable experience. We decided that we wanted to have the honor and privilege of hosting it, and are really looking forward to the opportunity. This item was brought as an agenda item for the BTG committee to review and consider during the 2019 BTG Committee meeting in Wolf Point. The Area 40 BTG committee (Chair Jessica E (91) and BTG co-chair Penny R (61), Treatment Chair Steve S (23), district representatives from 11, 21, 23, 41, 51, 71, 91, and 93 passed this unanimously (13:0) in committee meeting held in Wolf Point on May 11, 2019.

(6) Why the proposal should be considered: This should be considered because it will consist of presentations and discussions on Bridging the Gap topics of interests for the registered participants. Those who attend are AA's involved or interested in 12th step work through various general service and intergroup committees such as treatment, corrections, CPC, and PI. AA's from across the US and Canada will attend, many sharing their experience strength and hope for BTG.

(7) Final comments: Spoke to the coordinator Pete G. We are aware that this will fall on the next rotation of Area 40 district and area rotating chairs. Our goal is to lay out all the ground work, so that we have a plan in place to pass on to the next rotation of BTG Chairs.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WITH THE BTG CHAIR

Q1 Is there a sobriety requirement to sign-up to be a volunteer?

A1 I would suggest talking to your District's BTG Representative. The committee generally suggests the volunteer "Be an A.A. member enjoying a comfortable, stable sobriety, preferably for at least a year." (pg. 3, *Temporary Contact Program Reference Workbook*).

Q2 What is the database that we are being asked to be a part of updating?

A2 This is one of our largest efforts, since we use it to effectively connect our participants with volunteers in their respective communities. Here's information on BTG Database and Resources:

Database: Districts in Area 40 maintain a database of current BTG Volunteers. Volunteer sign-up sheets are available on the Area 40 website (aa-montana.org/pdf/area/btgsignupsheetlegalsize.pdf). These sign-up sheets should be disbursed and collected by the district treatment chair/BTG coordinator or assigned committee member regularly.

Protected Anonymity: This database is only accessible by a designated volunteer from each district. These designees are elected trusted servants assigned to this responsibility by their respective district.

Each District Has Two (2) Assignable Passcodes: *First Passcode* - One passcode would allow access to all cities/towns in Area 40 and their respective volunteers who are available to Bridge the Gap from treatment and/or correctional facilities. The designated AA member would be responsible for Bridging the Gap for alcoholics in facilities located in their district and returning to towns in their district. They would also be responsible for notifying BTG coordinations in other districts when an alcoholic is going to locate in another district. *Second Passcode* - A second passcode allows for the designee to add volunteers and remove inactive volunteers from the database for their district only. *Note: Some districts found it useful to put the correct BTG contact information into the cities/towns that did not currently have a volunteer as a reminder to contact them. Please see resources below.*

For Example: A district treatment committee from district X consists of the treatment chair, BTG coordinator, and two volunteers. The committee has designated the responsibility of "Bridging the Gap" to the BTG coordinator, updating the database to Volunteer A, and collecting and disbursing sign-up sheets at the monthly district meetings to Volunteer B. *First passcode* would be assigned to the BTG coordinator. *Second passcode* would go to Volunteer A.

Q3 What would be my responsibility if I signed up to be a volunteer?

A3 Interested in signing up as a temporary contact for our area? Here are some suggested guidelines from our BTG Workbook available at <https://www.aa-montana.org/pdf/area/TFCBTGWorkbook.pdf>. Your current BTG or Treatment Chair will be happy to add you to our database or you can reach your area BTG chair at btgchair@aa-montana.org.

SUGGESTED GUIDELINES FOR TEMPORARY CONTACT VOLUNTEERS

It is suggested that the Temporary Contact:

- 1.) Be an A.A. member enjoying a comfortable, stable sobriety, preferably for at least a year.
- 2.) Try to make direct personal contact with the client while he/she is still at the facility; either by telephone, by visiting the facility, or by attending a meeting together in the facility.
- 3.) Make every effort to attend at least one meeting together on the day of the client's release.
- 4.) Endeavor to take the newcomer to a variety of meetings, for at least two weeks, introducing him/her to other A.A. 's especially members who might have similar backgrounds or interests.

Concept Six Bite

On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

“Why should our Trustees be given this very wide latitude of judgment and action? The answer is that we A.A.’s are holding them mainly responsible for all our service activities [...] Our Trustees are also responsible for A.A.’s world-wide public relations. They are expected to lead in the formulation of A.A. policy and must see to its proper execution. They are the active guardians of our Twelve Traditions [...]”

While the Trustees must always operate under the close observation, guidance and sometimes the direction of the Conference, it is nevertheless true that nobody but the Trustees and their wholly-owned service corporations could possibly pass judgment upon and handle the very large number of transactions now involved in our total world service operation.”

- Reprinted from *The A.A. Service Manual*, p. 25, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

Get the Concept Checklist at aa.org.



5.) Familiarize the newcomer with A.A. Conference Approved books, pamphlets, and a local meeting schedule.

6.) Explain sponsorship and urge the newcomer to obtain a sponsor without delay. (Much information pertinent to sponsorship is to be found in the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.")

7.) The series of phone calls, involving busy people, to line up an appropriate temporary contact can be very time consuming. It is therefore important that the treatment facilities allow adequate time for the contact and the client to get together before the client's discharge date.

CITIES WE STILL NEED BTG VOLUNTEERS IN OUR DATABASE

We have approximately 110 towns in Montana that are listed as having active meetings on our Area 40 website. Of these cities, we have BTG volunteers in 60 % of these cities.

You will find an active list of cities we currently need BTG volunteers for below. If you are willing to be a contact for the following cities, please contact me as soon as possible. Thank you for your help with this!

Ashland	Big Sky	Big Timber	Bonner
Boulder	Bridger	Cooke City	Deer Lodge
Dillon	Dutton	Elliston	Emmigrant
Fort Shaw	Frenchtown	Gardiner	Georgetown
Glendive	Hardin	Harlowton	Hays
Hot Springs	Jeffers	Kevin	Lodge Grass
Philipsburg	Plains	Polson	Potomac
Red Lodge	Roundup	Seeley Lake	Sheridan
St. Ignatius	St. Regis	Superior	Three Forks
Townsend	Twin Bridges	White Sulfur Springs	Whitehall
Wilsall			

GIVING BACK WHAT WAS SO FREELY GIVEN: From getting out of jail and going to treatment, to helping those getting out of jail and treatment: A story of one man's journey to Service in Alcoholics Anonymous

I came into Alcoholics Anonymous this last time in January of 2016. I had been sent to Treatment twice before, however I had never truly seen powerlessness or unmanageability in my life. For me to finally be able to admit to my innermost self that I was alcoholic, and do an honest 1st step, I had to hit my own personal bottom. It was only through a tiny crack in my ego that God finally had the opportunity to come in and shine some light on my denial.

I became homeless in the last year of my drinking, and eventually wound up in Jail. Sitting in that cell, God helped me realize that I had wound up there exactly a year after running away from the second treatment center I was sent to. In that year, not only had I become homeless, but I was drunk every day AND outside substances became a part of my story as well. It was only then that I could finally see Step 1, and admit complete defeat.

However, just as Dr. Bob wrote a "Prescription for Recovery," I had the opportunity to find out first hand that there is a Prescription for Relapse as well. Halfway through my time in jail, I was no longer allowed to attend meetings. Instead of Trusting God, Cleaning House, and Helping Others, I started to act in my old ways again. I wasn't going to meetings, wasn't working the steps, wasn't having anything to do with God, and was most definitely not helping others.

When I was released from jail, I had 2 options. The first was to walk across town, hit a meeting, and hopefully find someone's floor to sleep on that night. The other was to walk across the street to the Outlaw Inn where I had been offered a roof over my head, and the opportunity to get out of my sober state of mind and body. I chose what I thought was the easier softer way, yet I became miserably suicidal and depressed within 3 days. I was at the jumping off point. I could no longer live life with or without alcohol, so I checked into Pathways. It was there that I was given the opportunity to go to Rimrock, where I first learned about Bridging the Gap.

Bridging the Gap (BTG) is a program that offers those in Correctional and Treatment Facilities the opportunity to request a Temporary Contact; someone who reaches out to them upon their release. The Temporary Contact attends meetings with them for the first few weeks, tells them about sponsorship, and gets them acquainted with AA literature.

I clearly remember how in awe of the program I was from the moment I heard about it. One of the hardest things for me in life, before getting sober, had always been reaching out and asking for help. I reflected on the day I got released from jail, and how if someone had reached out to me, it could have potentially helped. In that very moment I knew I wanted to be a part of BTG someday.

A few years ago, I got the opportunity to sign up to be a Bridging the Gap Temporary Contact. Bridging the Gap had been a part of the Treatment Chair position in District 91 until the end of last year, when we decided to follow in Area 40's foot steps and made it into a service position of its own. As soon as I heard that our District was considering separating the two, I felt called to be a part of the new BTG position. I showed up at the next meeting in support of the idea so that I could stand for the Bridging the Gap position if it was created.

God has a funny way of doing for me what I cannot do for myself. Until the Bridging the Gap opportunity came about, I had zero intention of serving at the District level anytime soon. Yet at the first District Meeting I went to, simply to support the idea of the BTG position, I found my hand in the air to co-chair the upcoming Alcathon. It was clear to me that I was being given a sign from my Higher Power to dive deeper into service, and I haven't looked back since.

I am truly honored to have the privilege of serving as the Chair for Bridging the Gap in District 91. I have been wanting to take meetings into the jail ever since I got sober, but because of my past I am not able to until 2022. This new service position is an incredible way for me to still get to be of service to inmates, without needing to go into the jail. To be able to participate in extending the hand of AA to anyone, anywhere, that is reaching out for help; has been one of the most rewarding and profound experiences of my life. - **Sean R., District 91 BTG Chair**

AREA 40 FALL ASSEMBLY - THINGS FOR YOUR GROUP TO CONSIDER Sept. 13th - 15th Holiday Inn, Great Falls, MT

- ✦ Does your group want voting privileges at the Area Assembly extended to the Archivist, Webmaster, Area Advisor, & Bridging the Gap chairs?
- ✦ What does your group think about the hotline? How does your group want the hotline answered?
- ✦ What does your group think about a privacy-protected link being added to our area website for professionals to use and connect with BTG for potential AA members coming into AA?
- ✦ What does your group think about putting a bid in to host the National Bridging the Gap Workshop weekend?
- ✦ Consider the relevance and applicability of the passage in the essay portion of Concept Twelve, Warranty Two (*A.A. Service Manual*, p. 65) which states that neither the groups nor AA as a whole should function as a "money charity" via the practice of "selling of our books at cost or less."
- ✦ What does your group think about financing the Correction Chair to attend the National Correction Conference?
- ✦ We're taking an inventory!—Ask your GSR for a look-see at the Area 40 Inventory Questions.
- ✦ Make sure to speak to your GSR about all these issues and the West Central Regional Trustee nominations. We'll be voting at the Assembly!

Pay for Your Newsletter Online!

Groups are encouraged to be self-supporting for their Triangle subscriptions. You can pay online at aa-montana.org or you can mail in your subscription to Area 40 Triangle, P.O. Box 852, Milltown, MT 59851.

Concept Seven Bite

The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the A.A. purse for its final effectiveness.

"It thus became obvious that new Trustee choices—subject to Conference approval—would still have to be left pretty much to the Trustees themselves [...] For these reasons, the Conference was given the right to reject, but not to elect, new Trustee candidates [...]"

Up to the present time our experience shows that this balance of powers between the Trustees and the Conference is thoroughly workable [...]"

If, therefore, in the years ahead, the Conference will always bear in mind the actual rights, duties, responsibilities, and legal status of the General Service Board, and if the Trustees in their deliberations will constantly realize that the Conference is the real seat of ultimate service authority, we may be sure that neither will be seriously tempted to make a 'rubber stamp' out of the other. We may expect that in this way grave issues will always be resolved and harmonious cooperation will be the general rule. "

- Reprinted from *The A.A. Service Manual*, p. 28 & p. 32, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

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WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL TRUSTEE - TOM A.

I attended my first Area 35 (N.MN) assembly in October of 1987—it was an election assembly. Fast forward to the 1999 election assembly where my name came out of the hat for Delegate. Those twelve precious years gave me a wealth of A.A. experience.

I continued to attend area and regional events, indeed, all of them from 1987 through my post-delegate years. The enduring friendships and bonds I created over those years always fostered my desire to return. One of the unique facts is that I became acquainted with all the regional trustees that were elected in the WCR from 1984-onward, some becoming very close friends.

Natural to those friendships was a wealth of shared experience from these past trustees. While each had their unique experience, they all had the same general characteristic experience of four years of General Service Board experience, two years on an affiliate and the abundant experiences in the eight delegate areas of the West Central. I knew this, but I don't know if I realized fully this was in essence two separate service positions (trustee and director).

After I had served as a panel 50 delegate, I did send in a resume a couple times for non-trustee director and was nominated as a trustee candidate. I never made it “far” in the election process. As my delegate time became more distant, I realized that my formal AA service had ended, but I continued as always in service to my group and wherever/whenever I was asked. In 2015, my area did elect me as their regional trustee candidate for the 2016 GSC elections. Of course, I was willing to serve, but I also knew that there was only one other time when a past delegate was elected WCR trustee with such a long break in-between.

But I digress... What to look for in a candidate for the upcoming election? Someone active, passionate, principled. A hard worker that proactively takes things to completion. Someone that listens objectively. A wide range of experiences over a long period of time which provides a broad view. Tolerant. I'll say it again: disciplined with AA principles. And of course, the simple undeniable facts that the person will need to have the time and flexibility to travel a great deal, weekdays and weekends.

I must admit that, even though I had heard some very intimate, detailed shared experience from the past trustees, the experience to-date has been far more intense and robust than I had characterized in my mind. Yes, I had heard of the committees on the Boards, but I did not realize the tremendous amount of committee work done between meetings. The travel—as expected, maybe less. But the at-home reading and writing has been a 25-30 hour a week experience plus the travel. Admittedly, I had heard from the “pasts,” who said it had a major effect on their personal and professional life, and today, I can wholeheartedly agree with that all encompassing appraisal. **Yours in service, Tom A., WCR Trustee**

WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2021

The West Central Regional Service Conference will be held in Billings, February 28th, 29th, and March 1st, 2020. We ask you all to take the leap and join us. Online registration is now available. We are hoping to get conference attendees registered starting now. We have several ways to be of Service during the event, including hospitality and welcome groups at our four host hotels. We hope you will join us in Billings.

A CALL TO ACTION! A CALL TO ACTION!

We need your experience, strength, and hope! Please send us short articles—400 words or less—on Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC). **Please submit no later than September 28th via email to triangle@aa-montana.org.** Were you a CPC rep for your group? Or the CPC chair for your district? Have you participated on a CPC committee? Inquiring minds want to know!!

Tradition Eight Snip-it

Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.

“It is significant, now that almost no A.A. in our Fellowship breaks anonymity at the public level, that nearly all these fears have subsided. We see that we have no right or need to discourage A.A.'s who wish to work as individuals in these wider fields. It would be actually antisocial were we to forbid them. We cannot declare A.A. such a closed corporation that we keep our knowledge and experience top secret. If an A.A. member acting as a citizen can become a better researcher, educator, personnel officer, then why not? Everybody gains, and we have lost nothing. True, some of the projects to which A.A.'s have attached themselves have been ill-conceived, but that makes not the slightest difference with the principle involved.”

- Reprinted from *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, p. 171, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

Concept Eight Bite

The Trustees of the General Service Board act in two primary capacities: (a) With respect to the larger matters of over-all policy and finance, they are the principal planners and administrators. They and their primary committees directly manage these affairs. (b) But with respect to our separately incorporated and constantly active services, the relation of the Trustees is mainly that of full stock ownership and of custodial oversight which they exercise through their ability to elect all directors of these entities.

“But the moment we consolidated our service office function into a single and permanent corporate structure wherein officers and directors had legally defined titles and duties and responsibilities—the moment such a corporation was provided with its own working capital, employees and facilities—the moment its directors could legally vote in proportion to their actual responsibilities—the moment we were able in this way to define clearly executive authority—from that moment we began to see great improvement. More harmonious and effective conduct of our business has been the result ever since.”

- Reprinted from *The A.A. Service Manual*, p. 32, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Need a flier for your group?
Check out aa-montana.org

August 2019

- August 8th - 10th ➡ Swan Lake Campout, Swan Lake Campground, Swan Lake, MT
- August 9th - 11th ➡ Fireman's Point Campout, Fireman's Point, Columbus, MT
- August 16th - 18th ➡ Regional Forum, Alerus Center, Grand Forks, ND
- August 16th - 18th ➡ Lower Yellowstone Soberfest, Makoshika State Park, Glendive, MT
- August 23rd - 25th ➡ Havre Mini-conference, Havre, MT
- August 30th - September 1st ➡ Ray of Hope Camporee, Camp Marshall, Flathead Lake, MT

September 2019

- September 6th - 7th ➡ Fellowship at the Falls, Great Falls, MT
- September 13th - 15th ➡ **Fall Area Assembly, Holiday Inn, Great Falls, MT**
- September 28th ➡ Traditions Workshop, Ursuline Centre, Great Falls, MT

October 2019

- October 5th ➡ H.O.W. Group Speaker Event, Fellowship Hall, Bozeman, MT
- October 11th - 13th ➡ 2019 Fall Roundup, Holiday Inn Downtown, Missoula, MT

2020

- February 2020 ➡ W. Central Regional AA Service Conf., Billings Sports Plex, Billings, MT
- March 20th - 21st ➡ Pockets of Enthusiasm, 1st Presbyterian Church, Helena, MT
- May 15th - 17th ➡ 2020 Spring Roundup, Best Western Plus, Bozeman, MT

STOP THE PRESSES!!

The 2021 West Central Regional Forum will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Missoula!

Save the date
September 10th - 12th, 2021

2019 AREA 40 FALL ASSEMBLY - SEPTEMBER 13TH - 15TH GREAT FALLS, MT

Is your group sending your General Service Representative (GSR) to the upcoming Fall Assembly? One of the best ways to be informed as a group about AA and what's going on locally, nationwide, and abroad, is to send your GSR to the Assembly. Let them carry your group's conscience to the Assembly, as they will vote on issues and participate in important discussion. Don't Miss Out!

Need to contact your Area 40 Chairs?

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AREA 40 TRIANGLE CROSSWORD ANSWERS

June/July Answers

1. The 2021 West Central Regional Forum will be held in what city? Missoula
2. How many times does Area 40's assembly meet in a year? Twice
3. This meeting is made up of GSRs and the area committee. Area Assembly
4. The next Area 40 assembly will be held in what month? September
5. An election assembly is every two years.
6. What's the name of Area 40's newsletter? Triangle
7. What Montana city is the 2020 West Central Regional Service Conference being held in? Billings
8. What city is the next West Central Regional Forum being held in? Grand Forks
9. Can any A.A. member attend an area assembly? Yes
10. The next Area 40 assembly will be held in what city? Great Falls



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