



AREA 40 TRIANGLE

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

Letter from the Editor

The Area Assembly was packed full of information, workshops, and connection. Some may say that the Area Assembly weekends are boring and tedious. Nothing could be further from the truth. The demonstration of stunning passion and exuberant action for Alcoholics Anonymous at each Assembly is inspiring. Every discussion and vote we take shapes A.A. within our Area and AA as a whole. "We are people who normally would not mix" and yet we willingly come together to care for and nurture A.A., because, ultimately, when it comes down to it, A.A.'s survival demands it. "The tremendous fact for every one of us is that we have discovered a common solution." We must not take for granted what's so freely been given to us. Our charge lies in continuing to carry the message and navigating the waters on how to do that in the most efficient and effective way possible. The Area Assembly is one of those efficient and effective ways. I give you the highlights of the Area Assembly. Detailed information is in the Area 40 Minutes, which are accessible on our area website (aa-montana.org). In service, Catherine B.

AREA ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS

AREA MOTIONS:

Public Information/Report & Charter - Sabrina C.

- ♦ *The Ad Hoc Committee recommends switching the A.A. Hotline Answering Service from AnswerNet to TruLive. **Motion Passed.***
- ♦ *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 corrections institutions to aid potential A.A. members in signing up for the BTG program. Committee recommended no action due to anonymity issues and not enough information but a floor action was brought to the floor of the assembly later in the day and **motion passed.***

Treatment/Accessibilities/Agenda - Steve S.

- ♦ *To place a bid to host the National Bridging the Gap (BTG) weekend, either September 9-11, 2022, or the following year in September 2023 and will include the Area 40 BTG and Alternate BTG chairs to work alongside the National BTG weekend steering committee. The cost to the Area not exceed \$500. **Motion Passed.***

Literature - Grant M.

- ♦ *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." **Motion failed.***

Archives/Area 40 Structure & Policy - Kacie N.

- ♦ *The Area assembly is to be held at a suitable venue as determined by the Area Chair in Great Falls, MT until such time an area motion changes or modifies this. **Motion passed.***
- ♦ *A new section be added to Area Advisor job description, reading: "will serve as Venue Liaison. In that position, they be provided the authority to represent Area 40 in the process of evaluating, negotiating, selecting, and making commitments for the sites of the last two Area Assemblies of their rotation, as well as the first two Area Assemblies for the following rotation." **Motion Passed.***

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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 Nine Snip-it

A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

“This one still puzzles a lot of people. How can you have a society that is unorganized, and at the same time organize services? Yet A.A. does it.

At this juncture we can hear a church man exclaim, ‘They are making disobedience a virtue!’ He is joined by the psychiatrist who says, ‘Defiant brats! They won’t grow up and conform to social usage.’ The man in the street says, ‘I don’t understand it. They must be nuts.’ But all these observers have overlooked one very unusual condition in Alcoholics Anonymous: Unless each A.A. member follows to the best of his ability our suggested Twelve Steps of recovery, he almost certainly signs his own death warrant. Drunkenness and disintegration are not penalties inflicted by people in authority; they are results of personal disobedience to spiritual principles. We *must* obey certain principles, or we die.

The same stern threat applies to the group itself. Unless there is approximate conformity to A.A.’s Twelve Traditions, the group too can deteriorate and die. So we of A.A. do obey spiritual principles, first because we must and ultimately because we love the kind of life such obedience brings. Great suffering and great love are A.A.’s disciplinarians; we have no others.” - *Reprinted from A.A. Comes of Age, p. 119-120, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.*

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

EDITOR’S NOTES ON AREA DELEGATE, PAUL L. - Paul has given his delegate report throughout the state. The General Service Conference (GSC) had 135 voting members and about 150 people in attendance, very similar to what the area assembly is like. Not all areas have the same structure as ours, and “he’s learned to play well with others, to not tell them what they are doing wrong.” It’s a very moving experience to visit the General Service Office, if you ever have the opportunity. He’s learned how to communicate with others one on one, but that’s not what he wants to talk about. When he’s in the GSC business meetings, they make a motion, second, discuss, minority opinion is offered, etc., but that’s not what he wants to talk about either. What he did want to talk about is how we can approve communication up and down the triangle. He referred to the Communication Audit and how there is no magic wand to fix our challenges with communication. We’re told about two-way communication throughout our service manual and pamphlets, but we are not told how to do it. “Us vs. them begins to take root” when we don’t have fluid communication between service levels. A call to action for communication - if you’re a committee chair, you need to contact your committee. If you’re a GSR, you need to communicate with your group and district, etc. Initiate the dialogue, initiate the conversation.

AREA CHAIR/ALT. DELEGATE - CONNIE R. - “The participation of the two newcomers that attended the Unity & Service workshop, reminded me of how we need to remember who is listening to us. Those of us who have been around A.A. for a few 24 hours can get caught up in the acronyms and jargon of A.A. The newcomers reminded me not everyone knows what I am talking about when I rattle off GSR, GSO, DCM, or even the term sobriety. Those two had a desire to know what we were talking about and asked what the acronyms meant, but how many do we leave behind who don’t ask? When we look around the room this weekend, let each of us try to make sure everyone knows what is happening. Invite a new attendee to sit with you and let them know you are there for questions. It’s just another way the hand of A.A. reaches out.”

ARCHIVES CHAIR - KACIE N. - “Grant and I nerded out over the First Printing of the First Edition Big Book gifted to Area 40 Archives by Tom O. I got to page through the oldest thing in the Archives, Six Nights with the Washingtonians and Other Temperance Tales. Reading a facsimile of their temperance pledge made me awfully grateful I got sober in the 21st Century and not the 19th! There’s a collection of Grapevine magazines that include just about every issue ever printed and then some. Earl handed one of the Grapevine overflow boxes to Gerry to rifle through and not a minute later he was pulling out a copy of the Grapevine that was issued the month and year I got sober and gifted it to me, stating that there were more than they knew what to do with there. The topic of that edition was ‘We’re Not a Glum Lot.’”

PUBLIC INFORMATION CHAIR - SABRINA C. - “Besides being busy having tons of fun in Alcoholics Anonymous, I have spent my time working with the ad hoc committee to find solutions to the ongoing problems we are having with the A.A. hotline. There will be plenty more about that later. For now, I would just like to thank Nadine F., Serena R., Grant O., and Ginger T. for all of your ideas and thoughtful contributions. I also want to thank each and every one of you who responded to my frantic text messages and phone calls in search of someone to return calls to individuals calling the hotline. I am always so grateful to be among members who really love Alcoholics Anonymous, who are true guardians of our Traditions, and who show me how to practice the “I AM RESPONSIBLE” part of this program when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help. Rest assured, the hand of AA is there. I have seen it in action over and over. But the process we currently have for accessing that hand is broken. Hopefully after this weekend, that hand will be a little more accessible in Area 40 when a suffering alcoholic picks up the phone to call for help.”

TREATMENT CHAIR - STEVE S. - “I still attend meetings and help facilitate meetings at watch East, and recently discovered that they are without a director and a chief of security. So there will be changes there and I will stay in the loop with them to keep the mtgs going that are brought in from the outside now and continue with communication when they appoint a new director, and open the relationship door of Alcoholics Anonymous and Watch East. In early spring, I attended the Bridging The Gap workshop held in Wolf Point. It was very enlightening to see not only some of the Area 40 service people but also those who put in a great deal of effort to make the workshop a success. The local people who shared about their experience with AA and their stories about getting there where very humbling, and the continued work and support they provide to the Wolf Point area is very awesome. It’s great to see such a rural area with so much support.”

LITERATURE CHAIR - GRANT M. - “I went to the West Central AA Forum in Grand Forks, ND the weekend of August 16-18. It was a phenomenal event; we were able to communicate with the staff members and trustees from General Service Office and the General Service Board. I was blessed to be given the opportunity to have dinner Saturday evening with Patricia, the Trustee at Large, Canada. We chatted about her experiences with A.A. in remote communities and some of her family history. I had the honor to have breakfast with Christine Carpenter, Class A Trustee, who be in Montana for multiple CPC workshops. We talked about treatment courts work with the A.A. community and shared some stories of her previous visits to our Area 40. There was also a fantastic workshop on Joining the Digital Age at the speed of AA by Racy J. Racy has the PI Assignment at the GSO and her staff assistant Julie G. The two of them have such a passion and excitement for protecting the traditions on a social media platform that it was contagious! For anyone who believes that there is an “US” and a “THEM” in A.A. should attend a Regional Forum...hint hint...there will be one in Missoula in 2021. Come and see how our trusted servants at the bottom of our triangle are working hard to keep Alcoholics Anonymous within our traditions and concepts while moving forward to help every suffering alcoholic, we are in good hands.”

TRIANGLE EDITOR REPORT - CATHERINE B. - “My mailing list for the Triangle includes 272 groups for Area 40. The number of groups who have paid a Triangle subscription are 14, which is a little over 5% of all groups. There are four individuals who have paid for a subscription for the year. All subscriptions, individual and group, total \$280.00 for the year so far. Our Triangle printing and postage expenses total \$2,552.52 for the year so far. Each group, via an Area motion, receives a Triangle regardless of payment, but each group is strongly encouraged to be self-supporting and submit a yearly subscription fee of \$10. It’s very important that your group updates its mailing address for the Triangle, whether you’re paying for a subscription or not. Sending the Triangle to your group’s correct address ensures your group receives their Triangle, which means your group will be informed about Area business, upcoming events, and other A.A. topics of discussion. Also, sending to a correct address mitigates unnecessary expense through printing and postage costs.”

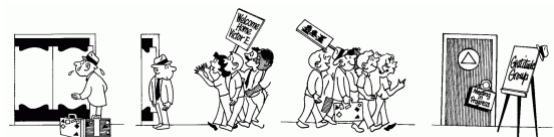
CORRECTIONS CHAIR - JEREMIAH S. - “Corrections Facilities Committee is currently working on creating and implementing an Area 40 Statewide database of Corrections Facilities and contacts. We project to have this available for review and implementation by Spring Assembly 2020. We currently collectively carry the message into over 25 facilities across Montana. We are looking to increase volunteer participation in both Montana State Prisons. Since Spring Assembly I have traveled to Heart to Heart Traditions Retreat, Cooney Campout, Fireman's Point, Beartooth Mountain Conference and various meetings. I have carried the message to YCDF, Alternatives and Sober Living Houses. The International Convention is in Detroit Michigan July 2-5 2020. Registration is now open and I recommend registering early for hotel accommodations. Montana will host the West Central Regional AA Service Conference in Billings February 28,29 and March 1st. We will also host the West Central Regional Forum 10-12, 2021 in Missoula. Register online or by mail. I will be attending the National Corrections Conference in Houston, TX November 1, 2019. I will prepare a report upon my return to share with the Spring Assembly.”

GRAPEVINE CHAIR - SHAWN N. - “The last few months have been uneventful. I have been receiving updates from GSO regarding new publishing and other news. Nothing significant has crossed my path. All the news that crossed my path is available at the Grapevine website (aagrapevine.org). There is also some info on the Grapevine display table. I am attending the CPC workshop in Helena on the 20th. Hopefully, I can answer some questions posed by a few inquiring professionals. Due to a prior engagement I can’t make it to the Fall Roundup in Missoula. I am hoping to get out more in the coming months. I am completely open to new ideas, suggestions, or input regarding how to pass the GV and LV onto the still suffering alcoholic. Feel free to call, email, or text me at any time.”

TREASURER - ASHLEY J. - “As of August 31st the checkbook balance was \$18,726.03. The prudent reserve is \$12,990, which is calculated as four months of our 2019 budget. Therefore, our operating balance is \$5,736.03. Currently our net income is \$1,554.33 as our income exceed expenses this quarter. Last spring our total assembly costs were \$7,682.45. Therefore we can expect a reduction in the operating balance by approximately this amount over the next month as the assembly expenses come in, excluding income which has been an average of \$3,344.68 per month so far this year. Essentially there is less doom and gloom this 2nd third of the year and more has been revealed. The increase in group contributions have brought us out of the red, and continued contributions are essential if we are to cover this year’s expenses. Currently while our net income is \$1,554.33, our current YTD expenses exceed our YTD budget by \$4,065.07. If our income continues at the average of \$3,344.68 then our projected income will be \$40,136.10 which is \$1,116.10 above our budget for this year. Please thank your for groups for their contributions, these

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 November 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 participate on a CPC committee? Inquiring minds want to know!!



Concept Nine Bite

Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of A.A. must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

“We shall be in continual need of these same attributes—tolerance, responsibility, flexibility, and vision—among our leaders of A.A. services at all levels. [...] Maybe this seems like an attempt to stake out a specially privileged and superior type of A.A. member. But it really is not so. We simply are recognizing that our talents vary greatly. [...] So when we talk about A.A. leadership we only declare that we ought to select that leadership on the basis of obtaining the best talent we can find. While this article was first thought of in connection with our world service leadership, it is possible that some of its suggestions can be useful to anyone who take an active part in our Society. This is true particularly in the area of Twelfth Step work, in which nearly all of us are actively engaged. Every sponsor is necessarily a leader. The stakes are about as big as they could be. A human life and usually the happiness of a whole family hang in the balance. What the sponsor does and says, how well he estimates the reactions of his prospects, how well he times and makes his presentation, how well he handles criticisms, and how well he leads his prospect on by personal spiritual example—these quality of leadership can make all the difference, often the difference between life and death. We thank God that Alcoholics Anonymous is blessed with so much leadership in all of its affairs.” - Reprinted from *The A.A. Service Manual*, p. 39-40, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

BRIDGING THE GAP - JESSICA E. - “For any questions, please feel free to contact me. Please take a moment and review the list of towns where we still need volunteers for our BTG database with your BTG rep. I’d be happy to assist with adding volunteers to our database. I find myself using it often to assist the admin from Pine Hills Correctional Facility in connecting their BTG participants with our communities. 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. In the future I am willing to be of use or travel to your districts. Thank you again for entrusting me to serve as your Area 40 BTG Chair.”

ARCHIVIST - EARL F. - “The repository is serving us quite well at this time. We have plenty of room and the climate in the building is good for our collection. The temperature is fairly constant as well as the humidity. We have adequate storage as well as shelving. I do have a budget amount for supplies when needed, but we are fairly well stocked. I am going to sort through the bone-yard of electronics and cleanup the mess of an accumulation of scanners, printers, copiers, and typewriters that we have had for some time. I will keep computers and monitors in hopes that I can retrieve any information on them. If I can get the information and have it transferred to hard copy, I will dispose of the too. I am always on the lookout for cassette tape players or decks, reel to reel tape players and machines that will help in dubbing cassette to digital. We have a huge collection of tapes, both speaker tapes and archival interviews. If I can find a good program for dictation, that would be helpful. Speaking of Archival interviews, I am looking forward to traveling a little this winter to do interviews. If you have yet to be interviewed, you can expect some contact from me to schedule a time. Archival interviews usually take around two to three hours, have specific questions that I ask and I think that are a lot of fun. I want to remind everyone to please indulge me with copies of your emails, correspondence, and committee meeting minutes, District meeting minutes, flyers and other information that pertains to A.A. Please bring to my attention any articles about A.A. and any obits of members who have passed. In this digital age, it is easy to get copies of stories if I know about them. I can be contacted via email and phone. Thank you for the opportunity to serve and if I can do anything to help your District or Group, don’t hesitate to ask.”

AREA 40 INVENTORY - The Area Assembly broke into 8 groups to address the questions in the inventory packet. A published report will be generated entailing the inventory answers and will be disseminated throughout the area.

WORKSHOP: “Fostering Participation in AA: Who’s not in the Rooms” - Terry S., Panel 61 Past Delegate

“Our primary purpose is to help alcoholics recover through A.A.’s suggested Twelve Steps of recovery. In the 2009 General Service Conference Final Report, the total membership of A.A. in the United States and Canada was reported as 1,342,380. In the 2019 General Service Conference Final Report, the total membership of A.A. in the United States and Canada was reported as 1,418,177. For that decade, 2008-2018, our membership increased by 75,797, which is an increase of less than .06%.

During that same decade (according to my good friend Siri) the combined population of the United States and Canada grew from 337,490,000 to 363,875,517, an increase of 26,385,517, which is an increase of almost .08%. In the last year of that decade, 8% of the population of the United States and Canada (a conservative estimate of the number of alcoholics overall) was around 29,110,041.

For every alcoholic in A.A. in the United States and Canada, there are approximately 21 alcoholics still out there drinking and dying. That is a slight improvement over 2011, when I ran the same calculations and got approximately 24 alcoholics still out there drinking and dying for each member of A.A. **Who’s not in the room?**

Every three years A.A. had financed a census of A.A. members, to find out who is in the room and how they came into the room. For some reason, that census has been put on “hold” and only old census results can be used. We still can compare notes and ideas about how we can carry our message more effectively to people who are not yet in A.A.

1. What more can our Area/District/Group do to carry the message?

2. Are we attracting alcoholics from different backgrounds? Are we seeing a good cross-section of our community, including those with special needs? Are our members representative of the population in our Area/District/Group?
3. Do new members stick with us, or does the turnover seem excessive? If so, why? What can we as a group/district/area do to retain members?
4. Do we emphasize the importance of sponsorship? How effectively? How can we do it better?
5. Are we careful to preserve the anonymity of our current members outside the meeting rooms?
6. Are all members encouraged to share at meetings and to participate in other group activities?
7. Mindful that holding office is a great responsibility and not a victory in a popularity contest, are we choosing our trusted servants with care?
8. Are we doing all we can to provide attractive and accessible meeting places?
9. Does our group/district/area do its fair share toward participating in the purpose of A.A.—as it relates to our Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity, and Service?
10. What has our group/district/area done lately to bring the A.A. message to the attention of professionals in the community—the physicians, clergy, court officials, educators, lawyers, educators and others who are often the first to see alcoholics in need of help?
11. How are we fulfilling our responsibility to the Seventh Tradition?
12. How active are we in participating in our group business/group conscience meetings?

Tradition Ten Snip-it

Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

“Hence we take for granted our continued unity as a movement. But should we? Though God has bestowed upon us great favors, and though we are bound by stronger ties of love and necessity than most societies, is it prudent to suppose that automatically these great gifts and attributes shall be ours forever? If we are worthy, we shall probably continue to enjoy them. So the real question is, how shall we always be worthy of our present blessings? Seen from this point of view, our AA Traditions are those attitudes and practices by which we may deserve, as a movement, a long life and a useful one. To this end, none could be more vital than our Tenth Tradition, for it deals with the subject of controversy—serious controversy. On the other side of the world, millions have died in religious dissension. Other millions have died in political controversy. The end is not yet. Nearly everybody in the world has turned reformer. Each group, society, and nation is saying to the other, “You must do as we say, or else.” Political controversy and reform by compulsion have reached an all-time high. And eternal, seemingly, are the flames of religious dissension.

Being like other men and women, how can we expect to remain forever immune from these perils? Probably we shall not.

Our best defense? This surely lies in the formation of a Tradition respecting serious controversy so powerful that neither the weakness of persons nor the strain and strife of our troubled times can harm Alcoholics Anonymous. We know that AA must continue to live, or else many of us and many of our fellow alcoholics throughout the world will surely resume the hopeless journey to oblivion. That must never be.

May God grant us the wisdom and fortitude ever to sustain an unbreakable unity. ” - Reprinted from *The Language of the Heart*, p.89-90, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

WORKSHOP: “Joining the Digital Age at the Speed of AA” - Tom A., West Central Regional Trustee

Do you know how much information is at your fingertips on aa.org? Check this out: Not only can you order literature, read the Daily Reflection, register for conferences, forums, plus the international, you can also find guidelines to a plethora of issues, A.A. history, and more. A great way to access the information is to scroll to the bottom of the home page of aa.org and find “Site Map” and click.

Check out A.A.’s YouTube channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/c/AlcoholicsAnonymousWorldServicesInc>. There are PSAs available for viewing. Everything is anonymity protected

You can listen to anonymity protected stories and cartoon videos on A.A. Grapevine’s YouTube channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/aagrapevine>.

Do you know about the MeetingApp? MeetingApp is an app you can load on your phone and utilize to find meetings wherever you are. Unfortunately, at this time, Montana meetings are not included, though the process has begun and should be completed soon. One of the biggest issues is making sure meeting addresses are correct.

Some have asked how can A.A. use the MeetingApp if it is being given to us for free? Isn’t that an outside contribution? Discussion at the General Service Conference (GSC) was long and substantive regarding this issue. The consensus is that we can receive their services because they offer their service free to everyone; we are not receiving special treatment.

Correction facilities are moving away from books and toward technology. If we want inmates to see A.A. literature, we need to live within societies parameters as they are, not as we wish they were. We need to embrace technology but also adamantly and passionately protect anonymity and our singleness of purpose.

WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL A.A. FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

Forums are a means of facilitating communication between the General Service Board (GSB) and A.A. members. A.A. members converge at the Forum to relay and receive information about Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. This relay and receiving of information is the General Service Office (GSO) staff and Trustees (Class A and Class

B) and A.A. members sharing information. A forum is definitely a give and take and is not an experience that should be missed.

This past month, the Forum met in Grand Forks, North Dakota August 16th through the 18th. Area Delegates came from all areas within the West Central Region. The West Central Region consists of seven states: Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Iowa. A Forum convenes every two years in a different city within the region, rotating areas. *The next upcoming Forum will be in Missoula, Montana, September 10th-12th, 2021 at the Hilton Garden Inn.*

WHAT HAPPENS AT A FORUM?

First Timer Orientation: This helps first timers orient themselves to what the Forum is and what's going to take place over the weekend.

Sharing Sessions/Ask-it Basket: Participating in these are a great way to hear what other A.A. members around the Region are dealing with or things they have questions or things they'd like to change. Also, it's a great place to get your voice heard.

Presentations: Class A & B Trustees, Delegates, and Past Trustees will present various A.A. topics. There is always time allotted for questions, answers, and hand-outs.

A.A. Grapevine/La Viña: The staff of these two publications will share what's going on with the publications and the value of "our meeting in print" and what they both bring to A.A.

Workshops: These are breakout sessions that you can attend and participate in discussion about various topics that the past Forum attendees suggested. These are a great way to see what's going on in other groups and how they are dealing with issues or how they are carrying the message. You may help another member or group by sharing your experience, strength, and hope.

WHAT CAN YOU FIND AT THE FORUM?

There are a multitude of displays at the Forum. There's a table full of all the Big Books translated into other languages. Imagine seeing 71 Big Books, all in a different language. Powerful to say the least.

There's a A.A. Grapevine and La Viña display with tons of hand outs and examples and history of our beloved meetings in print.

There will be tables with printed guidelines regarding anonymity and clubs and cooperating with other 12-step programs. There will be service manuals available, as well as the General Service Conference report. You can also find the *A.A. General Service Conference Inventory for 2013- 2015*. There will be pamphlets and financial highlights and the *Advisory Actions of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous 1951-2018*.

To get the full experience, you really need to attend and see it for yourself. Don't miss out on the next West Central Regional A.A. Forum in Missoula, MT, September 10th-12th, 2021 at the Hilton Garden Inn.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THESE NUMBERS?

- ⊙ 14,000 booklets, pamphlets, and miscellaneous items shipped daily
- ⊙ 4,900 Big Books and other books shipped daily
- ⊙ 230 emails responded to daily
- ⊙ 40 phone calls answered daily
- ⊙ 350 Seventh Tradition contributions processed daily & thank you letters sent
- ⊙ 200 Grapevine and La Viña mailed daily
- ⊙ 400 people (215 first timers) on average attended each of the 12 Regional Forums held during the last three years
- ⊙ 6 requests for information from the Archives answered daily
- ⊙ Archives conserves A.A.'s history
 - Manages over 2,700 cubic feet of our history - materials are equivalent to nearly three quarters of a mile of 8½" x 11" pages of paper stacked end to end.

Concept Ten Bite

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.

"Nearly all societies and governments of today exhibit serious deviations from the very sound principle that *each operational responsibility* must be accompanied by a *corresponding authority* to discharge it. This is why we have been at such pains in preceding discussions to define the several authorities and responsibilities of the A.A. groups, the Conference, the Trustees, and our active service corporations. We have tried to make sure that authority in each of these levels is equal to responsibility. Then we have tried to relate these levels one to another in such a way that this principle is maintained throughout.

If however, ultimate authority is not carefully qualified by delegated authority, we then have the reverse result. Were there no delegated authority, the groups would be directing their Delegates on every important vote, the Delegates would similarly turn the Trustees into a timid committee which would receive point-blank direction on just about everything; the Trustees would then install themselves as the sole directors of the service entities and would commence to run them by directives. The corporate executives would become small czars, pushing the working staffs about. In short, such a misuse of ultimate authority would add up to a dictatorship wherein nearly every classification of A.A. servants would have large responsibility but no real or certain authority, and hence no capability of effective decision and leadership with which to operate. Big or little tyrannies and buck-passing would be the inevitable penalties." - Reprinted from *The A.A. Service Manual*, p. 41-42, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

Get the Concept Checklist at aa.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS



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

October 2019

October 19th ➤ AA/Al-Anon Workshop/Luncheon, Fellowship Hall, Bozeman, MT
October 26th ➤ Singleness of Purpose Anniversary, Faith Lutheran Church, Great Falls, MT

November 2019

November 2nd ➤ Grapevine Workshop, Peace Lutheran Church, Great Falls, MT
November 16th ➤ 65th Attitude of Gratitude, Delta by Marriott, Helena, MT

December 2019

December 14th ➤ SCMI Holiday Party, Shrine Auditorium, Billings, MT

2020

February 1st - 27th ➤ W. Central Regional AA Service Conf., Billings Sports Plex, Billings, MT
March 20th - 21st ➤ Pockets of Enthusiasm, 1st Presbyterian Church, Helena, MT
April 18th ➤ 12 Step Study Presents, Civic Center, Great Falls, MT
May 15th - 17th ➤ 2020 Spring Roundup, Best Western Plus, Bozeman, MT
September 18th - 19th ➤ Fellowship at the Falls, Great Falls, 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

West Central Regional Trustee Nomination and Vote!

We had three candidates stand for the West Central Regional Trustee:

Earl F., Gerry R. & Libbie L.

All three past delegates had numerous years of experience in general service. After four rounds of voting and still no substantial unanimity, the vote went to the hat. Gerry R.'s name was pulled from the hat and is now Area 40's nominee for W.C. Regional Trustee. There will be other nominees from the other states within our region: North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Minnesota, Iowa, Minnesota, and Montana.

Need to contact your Area 40 Chairs?

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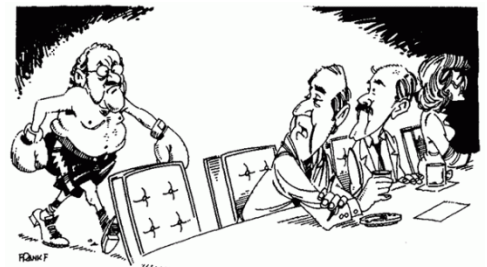
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"Oh, oh! Here comes Simpson for the business meeting."

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