

Area 40 Triangle

MONTANA

I think we owe this legacy to the first members of A.A. who were pretty much alone in small cities and towns in Montana.



A NEW ROTATION

Paul L Area Advisor

Hey there, new GSR's!!!! Yeah you..... the one still wondering what the heck happened? How did I get in this service position, and what is it I'm supposed to do? Well, welcome to A.A. general service. I found that I got into general service most likely the same way you did, by being willing. It was that way with recovery with me and it became that way in service work, I was willing. There were many times in early recovery I wasn't sure what to do or what certain things meant. I have since discovered that general service is much like that. Many of the problems that I faced and questions I had were not uncommon or earth shattering. What I found was that if I asked for help there was nearly always someone there that could tell me what their experience had been in dealing with a similar problem. It is the same in service as it is in recovery. Picking up the 1,000 pound phone to initially ask for help is always the biggest hurdle. After you do it the first time it becomes easier and easier. There are many in A.A. Service that have gone before you and most have had similar experiences. Call them, ask them what they did. How did it work out for them? As a new GSR you are not here to fix or repair A.A., you are in that service position to facilitate communication from your home group to others in A.A. service and then back again. When questions arise about how to do that, ask for help. There are many that would be delighted to help.

DISTRICT 71 FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE:

*BUTTE, ANACONDA,
DEER LODGE,
SHERIDAN, TWIN
BRIDGES, DILLON,
GEORGETOWN LAKE*



LODGER LEGER

Does anyone know the story of the Lodger Ledger?

Reprinted from the January-February 1969 Lodger Ledgers

How does one describe the years of a life that were lived behind a curtain of alcoholism? A mind submerged in the murk of hate and fear, guilt and loneliness? A body with such an appetite, it seemed determined to carry itself straight through the portals of an open grave into hell. The sickness of mind and body during periods of sobriety. The mute desire for an unknown way of life. Finally the first exposure to the AA way of life. The first hope and fumbling of a mind that was awakening but yet had not the clarity of desire to understand. The vicious despair of returning to the bottle. The unawareness of the seed AA had planted. A seed that grew in strength and purpose amid continued drunks.

Then the day sitting at the bar with a drink and suddenly knowing you don't want it. With no thought of anything else, you simply don't want it. Returning to AA and stripping away the curtains from the darkness your life has been confined to. To be your own man at last, not an object of disgust and anger. To find a measure of peace and know it rests in your own hands. For these things I am responsible to the one that put his arm around my shoulder and guided me when I could not see the way. To AA that keeps me pointed in the right way. I can't describe my gratitude either.

Failures are the fertilizer of life.

Bill F., 1969 Lodger Ledger Contributor

In Montana, the State Prison at Deer Lodge inaugurated a group in '47



Sidney a short & happy time.
S. M. A lot of Rail road men
& were Speed & Bro Rob B
Leska a train to, early
member members

BUTTE, MONTANA
1985

TO: Ray V.
RE: Archives
FROM: Eddie M.

A.A. Started Mont Hotel
Anaconda Mt. Rose room
May 8, 1950

(Doc & Joe K
Owen M's 1st
Mch)

This is from information that I was able to get from friends of, relatives of and from early members of A.A. in the city of Butte, Mt.

I received this account of fairly accurate dates from Kay, wife of Hony (Doc) K. Doc was the first known recovering member of Alcoholics Anonymous in Butte. Doc was introduced to A.A. in about 1941. In his first years of sobriety he and Kay attended a dinner with Co-founder Bill W. and his wife Lois about 1942. This was impressive to Kay and I imagine to Doc also.

Kay and Doc returned to Butte in 1945. As near as Kay can remember the first gathering of A.A. members were Doc K., Mose G., Little Joe R. (the wrangler), Ed. G. and Al J. all deceased. They met for about six months in Doc's home on Silver Street. When Doc and Kay moved to Harrison Ave. meetings continued for about 1 1/2 years at this location. In about 1948, due to lack of room and a new adopted baby, a meeting room at the old Park Hotel was rented. Early members there were Doc, Mose G., Little Joe, Chow H., Ed G., Cardell E., Al J., all deceased, Fred B., Elmer R., Tom D., Cleve B., Eggs and many more. Members of this group traveled to Anaconda, Warm Springs and Deer Lodge. Butch F. and Ted M. were early members of the Anaconda group. Art B. (Founder) Ed G. and Cardell E. were early members of the Warm Springs Group (now Galen). Earl S. and Butch F. were very active early members of the Deer Lodge group (inside the walls and Rothie Hall). Earl S. was very active in prison A.A. from "57" to "84".

(Doc
Joe
Owen)

The Butte Park Street meetings were moved to Galena Street in the 1950's. This meeting place burned down in about 1972. It then moved to the old St. James Hospital Bldg. and then to the Y.M.C.A. This group is presently located in the old Metals Bank Bldg.

There are about 9 A.A. groups in the city of Butte today, with meetings 7 days a week.

The main purpose of this artical is to find out how A.A. was started in Butte, anyone knowing of anyone with more accurate information may contact me or Ray V. in Missoula. The purpose of the archives is the preserve the history of A.A.

I think we owe this legacy to the first members of A.A. who were pretty much alone in small cities and towns in Montana, with no treatment centers, no councilors, no readily available A.A. literature, no television ads, and no clubs. Recovery, unity and service must have been extremely important to these early members. Thank God for them all.



TRADITION 1

by Don M Area CPC Chair

The long form of Tradition 1 states; "Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward." The pandemic has certainly challenged us all and our thinking on this tradition. As a member I have an opinion and my experience has been that we all do on the topic of how we should apply the traditions in our everyday lives, as a fellowship and, as individuals. As all the traditions do, I am asked to sacrifice my demands, for the survival of the fellowship, the greater whole. In meetings, group consciences and discussions up and down the triangle of service this principal is paramount. This doesn't mean I'm not allowed an opinion; I even get to voice my opinion with all the passion I believe it warrants, we encourage the minority opinion as a practice. However, at some point I must surrender, (man I dislike that word), accept, (I struggle with that word too), the view that is the most unifying for the issue. I'm reminded that I love the life the program has blessed me with, I continue to need the direction, principals and spiritual tools it provided me and it's continued survival is paramount to mine. I pray and meditate a lot asking my Higher Power to show it's will for me and the power to carry that out. Lot's of room for growth here for me!

Important Address Updates:

Treasurer

Area 40 Inc.
PO Box 81474
Billings MT 59108-1474

Pink Can

Area 40 inc.
Po box 3464
Bozeman, MT 59772

What's Happening

West Central Regional Service Conference

Virtual via Zoom

March 5-6

see updated zoom info
aa-montana.org

District 12

Spring Pre- Assembly

March 13, 2021

in person
Big Horn Resort
12:30-2:30

Spring Pre- Assembly

Area 40

March 13, 2021

Virtual via Zoom
3:00- 6:00 pm

Pockets of Enthusiasm

Virtual Event

March 19-20, 2021

see Flyer at
aa-montana.org

Area Assembly

March 26-28

Virtual via Zoom

see Flyer at
aa-montana.org

Heart to Heart Traditions in Relationships Conference

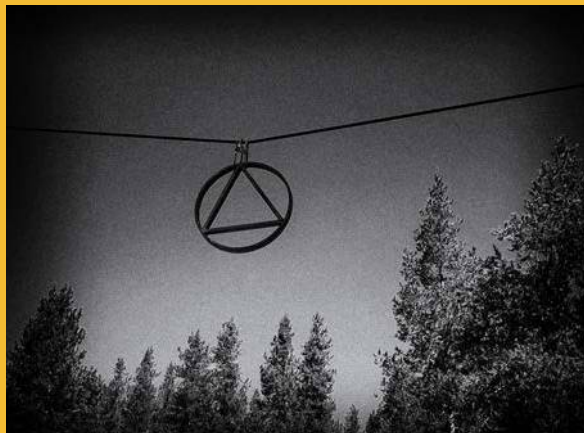
April 23-25

in Person
Chico Hot Springs
see Flyer at
aa-montana.org

OUR DELEGATE

by Connie R. Area 40 Pannel 71 Delegate

Hello my name is Connie and I am an alcoholic. It is an honor to also be representing Area 40 as your Panel 71 Delegate. About mid-December, I began receiving information from the General Service Office about my new position as Delegate. There is a lot of reading to be done and I have not even gotten the agenda and back ground information yet. I was placed on two General Service Conference Committees. The primary one is Finance and my secondary assignment is Archives. I have already had the privilege of meeting with both committees. Although these are strangers in name, they are friends in service. One of my favorite parts in the Big Book is on pg. 89. I quote, "Life will take on new meaning, to watch people recover, to see them help others, to watch loneliness vanish, to see a fellowship grow up about you, to have a host of friends---this is an experience you will not want to miss." This little paragraph is in the chapter "Working With Others". I use to think that working with others meant one alcoholic working with another alcoholic or sponsorship. I have come to realize that we get to work with others whenever we do any type of service that helps to "keep the hand of AA" stretched out to the still suffering alcoholic. The hand that offers the hope that is available to anyone wishing to find relief from alcoholism. I encourage each of you to step in to the new service position you have been give. If you don't have a service position, look around, there is always some way you can be useful to someone, in your home group or district. I am truly honored to be able to serve for Area 40, AA as a whole and most importantly to serve my Higher Power, the God of my understanding.



Where does A.A. get its direction? . . . These practical folk then read Tradition Two, and learn that the sole authority in A.A. is a loving God as He may express Himself in the group conscience. . . . The elder statesman is the one who sees the wisdom of the group's decision, who holds no resentment over his reduced status, whose judgment, fortified by considerable experience, is sound, and who is willing to sit quietly on the sidelines patiently awaiting developments.— TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS, pp. 132, 135

WHY DO WE NEED ARCHIVES

by Earl F. Area Archivist

Why Do We Need Archives? As Bill W. started to see the fellowship start to grow around himself and the other founding members of Alcoholics Anonymous, he started to recognize the need to accurately record the happenings of the early members and growth of the program. The following paragraphs are excerpted from the Introduction in the AA Archives Workbook, (pgs. 9, 10) and they reflect the reasons that Archives are important for us to maintain. In the early 1950's Bill started to become increasingly concerned that "the History of Alcoholics Anonymous is still veiled in the deep fog."

What if something would happen and there was no record of how this program came to exist? Bill's far-reaching vision outlined an archival message that is still sound today. As he said: "Every one of the new and unexpected developments (in AA) has, lying just underneath, an enormous amount of dramatic incident and experience – stories galore.... It isn't hard to prepare a fact sheet of what happened – that is, dates when people came in, groups started and so forth. The hard thing to lay hold of is the atmosphere of the whole proceedings and anecdotal material that will make the experience alive." Historic records help us to sift through our day-to-day experience in recovery and reach back for the shared experience from the past. As we sort out the myth from the facts we ensure that our original message of recovery, unity and service remains the same in a changing, growing, expanding Fellowship that constantly renews itself. Archives are frequently associated with the past, but they are also to be linked with true value. We maintain records of permanent value so we can go back and consult the original sources again and again. A collection of correspondence, documents, literature, publications, films, photographs, and recordings of various types and ages are all worth looking at to see if they can shed a little light and connection to the past. It is really a lot of fun to trace the people and events that were happening in Alcoholics Anonymous before we were here and making the connections from one year to the next. You can help. Join in with a Homegroup or District Archives Committee, collect and preserve items from the past from long-timers, volunteer to do a recording, record a history of your home-group. All these things and many more can preserve our past to insure our future.

Keep in mind:

**"Whenever a society or civilization perishes
there is always one condition present;
they forgot where they came from."**

The image you see on page 4 was pulled from the Archives so that we could share some of the history of Butte. Thank you so much Earl for taking the time to share this with all of us.

S.O.B.

by Terri T. Triangle Editor

The last month has taught me a very important lesson: that I suffer from something called S.O.B. “Service Opportunity Block.” I stood for a commitment, I accepted the position, and then I become paralyzed with fears that are in no way real. The committee in my mind tells me that I am not good enough. It says, “I am not qualified. I could not possibly complete what I have been asked to do.” There's another committee debating in my mind that tells me it wouldn't matter how much time and effort I put into my commitment—nobody's going to care, nobody pays attention, and maybe nobody will even notice if I don't do it. There's a deep dark part of me that holds onto the idea that the magic of one alcoholic speaking to another alcoholic is enough, and that it doesn't matter if I'm qualified or able because I've just been called into action. I consult the Policies and Procedure Manual, read the Service Manual cover to cover, I check out the Concepts and see how they might apply. I read pages and pages of old AA stories, old newsletter articles and find I am filled with old ideas. Somewhere in the depths of my soul I believe somebody else can do this job better, but never once does the idea of just stepping out into faith and doing it seem like the solution. Then a miracle happens. I realized after 34 days of intensive nightly inventories where this service commitment has been on top of my resentment list. I can't see my part, only how this is affecting me. I decided to ask someone for help. I actually reached out and admitted what is going on. I mentioned my inner dilemma to one of my sisters in sobriety and she had this magical answer: “Just do it.” Don't think about it, don't ask other people about it, just start to write and with that I am grateful to share the first Triangle for this rotation. *Just do it afraid.*

We need your experience, strength, and hope! Please send us short articles—400 words or less—on A.A. service. Please submit no later than December 28th via email to triangle@aa-montana.org. Have you been an opener? Coffee maker? Supplies person? Maybe the GSR for your home group? Group secretary? Group treasurer? How about at the District level? Past DCM? Current DCM? Maybe a District Committee Chair? Have you taken meetings into jails or treatment centers? Inquiring minds want to know!

Triangle Address

Triangle
135 Monarch
Billings MT 59101

Ways to stay Connected

- Write notes and mail them to friends in the Fellowship
- *Make use of your phone list and call friends you have not seen in meetings.*
- Have a virtual coffee date via zoom
- *Share your favorite tea bag in a letter and ask a friend to meet you on zoom to visit.*
- Listen to Speaker Tapes and old times whose audio recordings have been remixed.
- *Contact Treatment Centers and offer to bring meetings in via zoom*
- Call your local jail and ask if you can drop off old Grapevines.
- *Challenge your friends to Zoom to a meeting in all 50 States*
- Challenge yourself to Zoom to meetings on each of the 7 Continents
- Please Share what has helped you stay connected

DISTRICT 51

by Jody T. Grapevine Chair

When the outbreak started many of our meetings were shut down, due to hospitals and churches closing their doors. The Alano club was able to stay open, but meetings were sparse. I am so grateful that my husband, Jerry T. is also in the program, as he helped get me going with zoom. As this all started, I was in my second year of being DCM for District 51, I am so grateful for the participation and support from our District. My homegroup meeting, Road to Recovery started to hold daily meetings at 7:00 pm. Even though zoom is not the same as face to face, it did help me continue to stay connected. One of the many miracles with our zoom meeting is that the Rimrock Treatment Center has been in attendance almost from the beginning. And through our commitment to AA and service work with District and Area, we have been able to get some of those getting out of treatment connected with people in their areas. God works in mysterious ways!!! Some of the meetings in our area have opened back up, with social distancing and masks are optional, Monday 12 x 12, Noon meeting and 3rd Step are all open. Sadly we are still waiting for the hospital and care center to let us back in, so some of us are still on zoom. Even though this has been a very trying time, I'm grateful for the new knowledge in keeping in touch. Because we have met so many new members, I am sure even when we get back to our respective rooms, zoom will still be a huge part of our recovery. If I have learned anything from all of this, I see that AA is strong, not only in Montana, but all through the United States and through out the world. Many have gone to meetings in Australia, Ireland, New Zealand and even Japan. Thank you AA for giving me a life I could never have imagined!!! Jody T. District 51/Area Grapevine Chair

**Physically Distanced but Digitally Connected
The Alcoholics Anonymous Message Carries On
Amid Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

Reprinted from AA Europe

Talk about a life beyond your wildest dreams! I am writing this during the lockdown in Milan, and I haven't been to a face-to-face meeting for more than two months – something that would have been unthinkable to me in years past. A friend and fellow member just called to share experience of taking someone through the 12 Steps online, and it occurred to me that it might be helpful to share with ArenA, too.

My copy of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* is the fourth edition and the foreword says 'modern-to-modern or face-to-face, AA's speak the language of the heart in all its power and simplicity'. The language of 2001 seems almost as quaint as the language of 1939 now! But as with everything in the Big Book, the sentiment is true and timeless. I got sober in London, where there are hundreds of meetings and plenty of people available to sponsor. I was guided through the steps, face-to-face, in weekly sessions at my sponsor's house. I could describe every square inch of her living room in minute detail. I spent hours on her sofa; reading the big book, squirming under the scrutiny of inventory, talking, listening, crying, laughing, finding the courage to be honest and the strength to make much-needed changes in my life. When I got to Step 12 and it was my turn to carry the message, I tried to replicate the same experience with my sponsees. What I knew worked, so why would I change it? The trust that builds up from sharing physical space – a home or a home group – seemed an essential part of the programme. I was going to be a good recovering alcoholic and pass on exactly what my sponsor had passed on to me. Then a few years ago, we had a call-out from GSO that there was a lack of prison sponsors, particularly females.

At the time, I was travelling a lot with work and I had the time, so I decided to volunteer for this service and see if I could carry the AA message by letter. I sponsored two women in prison, and it was one of the most profound experiences of my life. I sent them copies of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* (after checking with the prison that this was allowed), and we read through together, sharing our experiences, reflecting on each page and chapter by writing to each other. They were able to go to one AA meeting a week which was held in the prison. I never met either of these women, or even saw their faces but I have such a deep sense of connection that I feel I would recognise them immediately if I ever met them. This showed me that you do not need face-to-face contact to carry the message, and more was to be revealed when I moved to Milan a year and a half ago. As many of you know, it is not uncommon in English-speaking meetings in Europe to have a sponsor in a different country or even a different continent. This felt alien to me so I found a new sponsor here in Italy, leaving behind the comfort and security of my old sponsor and her sofa. We started reading through the book together on Skype, which was new to me, but since we were both already well-versed in the steps it felt like casual stroll along a familiar path.

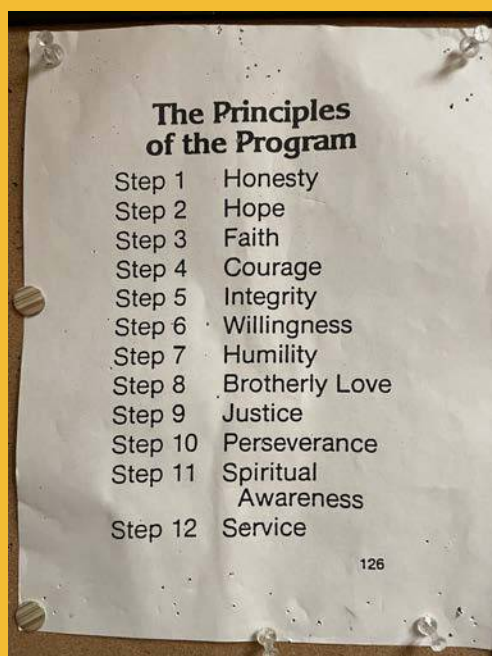
.Then last year I was introduced to a fellow member who was looking for a sponsor. She lives in a place where there are no local AA meetings, the nearest one is 40 miles away and in a foreign language. She had gotten sober doing online meetings and wanted to work the steps. Would I sponsor her? The only option was Skype and my gut instinct told me to do it, even though it meant stepping out of my comfort zone. The instructions at Step 12 are that we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, not to decide in advance that certain modes of communication couldn't or wouldn't work. Here was someone knocking at my virtual door asking for help and I

The big learning from this experience (which is ongoing, we are still working the steps together) is that the key ingredient is willingness. If both sponsor and sponsee are ready to go to any lengths there will be no major obstacles. No human power could relieve our alcoholism, there is a power far greater than ourselves which works – in us and through us – when we practice the steps. I have not met my sponsee in person, but she feels as close to me as a family member. This experience of sponsoring through Skype gave me a head start when everything suddenly moved online at the end of February. Our meetings switched to Skype immediately, thanks to the experience of other members who were more familiar with online formats than me and who were willing and available to take on this new service.

I now do step work with all my sponsees on Skype and will continue to do so until the situation changes. One upside to the situation is that it has enabled me to go back to my old home group in London, which is now on Zoom. I'm now a regular member again and it has been great to connect with familiar faces, many of whom have known me for my whole recovery. I am writing this to offer some experience, strength, and hope to those who may find themselves outside their comfort zone while the landscape of AA is changing and we rely more and more on digital resources. Things are likely to keep changing and the programme has taught me that the more I accept life on life's terms, the easier it is to adapt to them. I think of the early days of AA, the little clusters of twos and threes and fives that sprung up and flourished into the fellowship we know today. They carried the message through great social, political and technological changes and the message remains the same today.

**Recovery begins when one alcoholic talks with another—
face-to-face or modem-to-modem.**

E.G., Milan



“The feeling of having shared in a common peril is one element in the powerful cement which binds us.”

Found on a bulletin board at a Butte Meeting

Area 40 Virtual Spring Assembly Agenda March 26, 27, & 28, 2021

Zoom Meeting ID: 893 8937 2285 Passcode: area40 ([Join Zoom Meeting Link](#))

FRIDAY EVENING SESSION

6:00-6:30pm: Zoom Orientation with Q&A – Mike D.

6:30-8:00pm: GSR and DCM Orientation with Q&A – Delegate: Connie R.

6:30-8:00pm: Area Standing Committee Chair Orientation with Q&A – Area Chair: Kacie N.

SATURDAY SESSION

7:30-8:00am: Sign in to Zoom and update sign in name

Rename: First Name, Last Initial, District # and position. If you are a non-voting member place a lower-case z in front of your first name (Ex. Bill W D50 GSR; zBob S D50 Alt GSR)

8:00-9:00am: Welcome, Serenity Prayer, Traditions, Concepts, Zoom Orientation District breakouts – Attendance and Voting Member count

Abbreviated Orientation to the Assembly – Area Delegate, Connie R. Roll Call and Past Actions – Area Secretary, Lisa C-D.

Financial Highlights – Area Treasurer, Jeremiah S.

Triangle Report – Triangle Editor, Terri T.

Chair Report – Area Chair, Kacie N.

DCM Reports (5-minute limit; hard stop at 9:00. Continued in afternoon)

9:00-9:30am: Webmaster Nominations & History

9:30-9:45am: Coffee Break

9:45-12:00pm: Standing Committee Meetings

Archives/Area 40 Structure and Policy – Brynn C.

Cooperation with the Professional Community/Trustees – Don M.

Corrections/International Conventions and Regional Forums – Ty K.

Finance – Jeremiah S.

Grapevine and La Viña/Policy and Admissions – Jody T.

Literature – Dan H.

Public Information/Report and Charter; Website & Hotline – Jake H.

Treatment and Accessibilities/Agenda – Grant O.

(If your committee has not finished its business during this session, please notify the Area Chair)

9:45-11:45am: Workshop for those not attending committee meetings

“Challenging Old Ideas in a Changing World” Presented by Past Delegate, Libbie L.

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

1:00-1:30pm: Election of Webmaster – Presided over by Area Advisor, Paul L. 1:30-2:00pm:
Remaining DCM Reports
2:00-2:45pm: Delegate’s Report with Questions and Answers

2:45-3:00pm: Coffee Break

3:00-5:00pm: Floor Assembly – Committee Reports, Motions, and Discussion Archives/Area 40
Structure and Policy – Brynn C.

Archivist Report – Earl F.

Cooperation with the Professional Community/Trustees – Don M. Corrections/International
Conventions and Regional Forums – Ty K. Finance – Jeremiah S.

Grapevine and La Viña/Policy and Admissions – Jody T.

Literature – Dan H.

Public Information/Report and Charter; Website & Hotline – Jake H.

Webmaster Report – Jake L.

Hotline Chair Report – Sabrina C. Treatment and Accessibilities/Agenda – Grant O.

Bridging the Gap Report – Jessica E.

5:00-6:15pm: Recess for Dinner

6:15-8:15pm: Floor Assembly – Committee Reports, Motions, and Discussion (Continued)

8:15-8:30pm: Coffee Break

8:30-9:15pm: Breakout Sessions

GSR Breakout – Led by Area Advisor: Ask-it-basket and sharing – Paul L. DCM Breakout – Led by
Past Delegate: Ask-it-basket and sharing – Libbie L.

9:15-10:00pm: Virtual Ice Cream Social

SUNDAY SESSION

8:30-9:00am: Roundup, Intergroup, WACY PAA, WC Regional Forum, and WCRAASC Reports 9:00-

9:15 Past Delegate Sharing – Libbie L. Panel 65

9:15-10:30 Floor Assembly – Committee Reports, Motions, and Discussion (continued) 10:30-

10:45 Coffee Break

10:45-12:00 Floor Assembly – Committee Reports, Motions, and Discussion (continued) followed
by general sharing as time allows.