

## **AREA 40 SPRING ASSEMBLY 2009**

**APRIL 18 & 19, 2009**

**AT THE YOGO INN**

**LEWISTOWN, MT**

### **Welcome to the Assembly**

Terry S., Alternate Delegate/Area Chair, opened the Assembly at 8 AM with the Serenity Prayer. Mark read the 12 Traditions; Karen read the short form of the 12 Concepts. April, the Area 40 Secretary, took the roll. There were 13 of 14 districts present with 104 voting members, and 44 visitors for a total of 148 attendees at the 2009 Spring Assembly.

### **Orientation to the Assembly- Carole B., Area 40 Delegate**

Good morning! My name is Carole Boerner and I am an alcoholic. It is my honor to serve you as your Delegate to the 59<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference. We are here today to obtain the conscience of Area 40 regarding items on the General Service Conference Agenda and some Area specific items. Our goal, as always, is to help the still suffering alcoholic so that when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, AA is there.

Would everyone who is here for his or her first Assembly please stand up? Thank you for being willing to serve AA. The spirit of rotation has always served AA well. Just like when a new woman comes to my home group, I have a heightened energy and enthusiasm is increased when I see someone new fired up for AA service.

Each DCM has a signup sheet and we would ask that everyone – especially General Service Representatives (GSR's) sign up. If you don't sign up with your DCM, you will not be considered a voting member. Also, non-voting members are asked to sign up so we have an idea how many people attended this assembly. Each DCM will turn the signup sheet into our Area Secretary, April.

AA business is conducted using substantial unanimity or 2/3 vote. Being such, we are mostly in agreement when an agenda item is approved. Recently, an item on the General Service Board Agenda failed lacking 2/3 vote. The item was routine in nature but the minority expressed their opinion, a change was made to the motion, and the motion passed. Or, more simply, this is a way for a bunch of disagreeable people like me to agree.

Our Area Chair, Terry S, compiled the agenda you have before you. For this Assembly, we will discuss items on the General Service Conference Agenda and Area 40 specific items.

But what do we do first? Well, the Area Committee, District Committee Members, and non-voting Area Committee members will give their reports. Then the individual committees will meet. As stated in Area 40's Policy and Procedure Manual, we utilize the committee system similar to that of the General Service Conference. At my first Assembly, we did not utilize the committee system and I think we spent most of Saturday figuring out which side of the room was to be non-smoking. I think Maryann W. was the Area Chair and Ed was Delegate.

Each committee consists of two DCM's, two District representatives and is chaired by the respective Committee Chair with a couple of exceptions. The Area Treasurer chairs finance and the committee consists of the Delegate, Area Chair, a DCM and a District Representative. Literature has one DCM and three District Representatives. Anyone can attend the committee meetings. If Area 40 specific items are voted on in the committee, only committee members vote. If the item is approved by the committee, it comes to the Assembly Floor as a made and seconded motion.

The Assembly has the opportunity to discuss and vote on the motion. This will require substantial unanimity. I can't express how important the minority opinion is to the Fellowship. If it seems like you have an opinion different from what you are hearing, it is your obligation as a member of Alcoholics Anonymous to speak up. Preferably, you would do this before the vote but please don't stay silent when minority opinion is called for.

However, most of the items we will discuss this weekend will be that of the General Service Conference Agenda – items affecting AA as a whole. Each committee will discuss the items of their committee and the respective Area Committee Chair will give a report. The Assembly will have opportunity to ask questions or make comments regarding the agenda items. Comments and questions are limited to 3 minutes and if someone has expressed your opinion from the mike, there is no need to repeat it. However, please share your thoughts with us. Everyone's opinion counts – it is your obligation to speak up.

I will be asking our Area Chair, Terry for a sense of the Area on many issues. This will give me an idea how the Area feels about these issues when it is time for me to vote at the Conference. However, many of the items will not come out of the Conference Committee in the same form it is on the agenda. But I will have an idea how the Area feels and will pray for guidance.

If you don't attend a committee meeting, Past Delegates Bob H. and Mark S will lead workshops. This afternoon, I will provide you my report and then we will begin discussing the agenda items from the floor. These workshops are very useful to the GSR's. Bob and Mark are very knowledgeable and have a wealth of experience to share.

Recently, I took on new duties for my job. I attended a meeting where everyone was talking about BEMAR. BEMAR this, BEMAR that, I had absolutely no clue what BEMAR was and couldn't figure it out. Much to my chagrin, I asked what's BEMAR? My point is that we all are new to our service positions. If you don't know what something is or you don't understand something, please ask. Past Delegates are great people to ask these questions of. They are hanging out in the back of the room.

The Past Delegates here today are Ed M., Panel 38, Bob H., Panel 42, Mark S., Panel 46, Loren B., Panel 50, Earl F., Panel 53, and Scott W., Panel 55. They would love to talk to you.

After the Committee Meetings and Workshops, I will give my report and take questions. Then we will plunge into the discussion of the Agenda items, which are presented by the Area Committee Chairs.

This evening, we will conduct breakout sessions for GSRs and DCMs. These sessions are opportunities to learn from your counterparts in other groups or districts. These sessions will be lead by Bob and Mark. In the back of the room, there are ask-it baskets. You can place your question in the respective basket for discussion during the breakout sessions.

Tomorrow morning there will be reports from the Roundups held around the State. Intergroups represented here today will also have an opportunity to give a report. Then Bob and Mark will provide Past Delegate sharing followed by more discussion of the agenda items. If time permits, general sharing will be allowed. The Area's Policy and Procedure Manual states that the Assembly shall end at Noon on Sunday.

Assemblies, like life, are much more fun for me when I am actively participating. I encourage you to participate and have fun!

### **Area Committee Member Reports**

#### **Area Chair/Alternate Delegate- Terry S.**

Good morning, Area 40!

Welcome to the first assembly of the 2009-2010 Area 40 rotation. Carole has already asked about folks here for their first assembly—would everyone who is here for their first assembly in their current position—be it past delegate, delegate or other area officer, standing committee chair, DCM, GSR, voting district rep to a committee—all of us who are here to do our new job for the first time—raise a hand. All right! The point is, we are all new, and we will learn together.

First of all, let me give you the dates for upcoming Area Assemblies (our coming attractions). Bill W. told us that “one day at a time” refers primarily to the emotional life of the individual, not that the individual, the group, or A.A. as a whole should give no thought whatever to how to function tomorrow or even in the more distant future [*As Bill Sees It*, 284], so we can and should plan ahead.

The fall 2009 dates are at the bottom of page 7 on our Spring Assembly's Agenda—September 19/20, '09. In 2010, the Spring Assembly will be April 10-11 and the Fall Assembly will be September 11-12. For 2011, the Spring Assembly will be April 9-10 and the Fall Assembly will be September 10-11, unless that conflicts with the 2011 West Central Regional Forum, in Iowa—I still do not have the confirmed dates for that event, and if we are in conflict with it, I will try to move the Fall Assembly—the folks here at the Yogo are very cooperative.

Over the first few months of this rotation I have been sending e-mails and snail mails to the Area Committee Chairs and Officers, and sometimes to the DCMs, providing information in various forms, including copies of the new Area Policies and Procedures, contact lists for the 2009-2010 Area Committee, identification of voting members of Area Standing Committees, agenda and background information, and other such business stuff. I also sent invitations to this Assembly to the 3 active Intergroups in Area 40, and (as Carole told you) there is slot for their reports on Sunday (I know that one of the 3 Intergroups has accepted the invitation).

I didn't have to leave home to participate in the audit of our financial records, 'cuz it happened in Helena in January.

We have already had a vacancy in one of our Area positions. These things do happen, but we hope they only happen once in awhile. Following our Policy and Procedures, I consulted with the Area committee and then appointed Tim H. as our new Archives Committee Chair for this rotation. We had another highly qualified candidate willing to serve, and I am keeping that person in mind should another vacancy occur. I have also participated in a CPC luncheon in District 71 and an Into Action Weekend in District 91, and am looking forward to next weekend's Spring Roundup in District 81.

I traveled to Casper, Wyoming for the West Central Regional AA Service Conference. The WCRAASC is a marvelous opportunity to find out more about the GSC agenda items, about how things are done and what is happening at the GSO and Trustee level of service, and to meet the folks involved in serve in our Region, at the GSO/Trustees and Area levels of service.

I sat in on District 51's teleconference preassembly, which is the first experiment with teleconferencing for any of our regular service meetings. I hope the folks who participated will provide their thoughts about that experience to District 51, and that this fall we will talk about how that went and whether we should keep working on doing it.

I participated in the (as far as I know) only face to face preassembly in the Area, at Boulder Hot Springs, with folks from Districts 41, 61, 71 and 72, as well as a few Area folks involved. It was helpful.

Part of my job is to educate trusted servants throughout the Area on placing items on the agenda for the Area Assembly as well as the General Service Conference. Carole already said that I would "love" to have your agenda items for this fall's Assembly by July 1, 2009. Let me say that differently. Under our Area Policy and Procedures, you've gotta get those agenda items, in writing, with any background material, to me by July 1, 2009. Do not expect to get an item on the agenda this fall if you miss that deadline. There just isn't any extra time to be late.

Beginning in May, I'm going to saddle up and start visiting business meetings around the Area. I'll be pestering you DCMs to confirm when your business meetings are held and which month would work best for my attendance and whether there is anything in particular I can do to be of service to you. If you have questions about agenda item preparation or anything else, call me, e-mail me, snail-mail me—let me know!

Send messages to Carole while she is in New York participating in the GSC, from Sunday April 26 through Saturday, May 2. Our past delegates have told us how uplifting it is, at the end of the very long days involved in the conference, to find correspondence from back home in Montana awaiting them. I have labels with the address, so see me to get some. Let's keep those cards and letters a'comin' in!

Thank you for the honor and the privilege to serve as your Area Chair and Alternate Delegate.

Terry S.

#### **Area Secretary- April A.**

Hello everyone, my name is April, I am an alcoholic, and Area 40 secretary for these next two years. Thank you for your trust in my ability, and the opportunity to serve.

Welcome to one and all. Especially welcome to the alcoholics new to Assembly, if you have any questions about what is going on feel free to ask Terry here. Now, I will take this time to explain a few procedures.

In order for all to share and to get through the myriad of business we have before us, I time the committee reports, DCM Reports, and all discussion from the floor. Each Area Committee and DCM has 5 minutes; discussion from the floor has three minutes.

DCM's I have put attendance sheets for each district on the tables by your nameplate, please have those filled out and hand them in to me by the first break which is at 945. I use this count from these sheets

to determine a quorum for voting purposes. Voting members are DCM's or their alternate, GSR's or their alternate, and Area Committee Chairs and Officers.

I have been busy updating our information at GSO through a website called New Vision. Carole has sent out spread sheets to all the districts. I need those back, or at least, I need a list of District Chairs and GSR's, with address, phone numbers, and e-mail address. I have a deadline on this so time is of the essence. If you have any questions, please come up and see me.

I need two copies of all reports given today; you may hand in legible hardcopies or e-mail your report to me. I also need the minutes from all your committee meetings and breakout sessions being held later today. Again, a legible hardcopy or e-mail will suit.

Recommendations from committees to come to the floor in the fall assembly were:

**Grapevine Committee:**

**RECOMMENDATION IS TO HAVE 6 ISSUES OF THE TRIANGLE ANNUALLY RATHER THAN 8.**

**Motion: For 4; Against 64—Motion failed, no minority opinion**

**Archives/Structure Committee recommends that Pre-Assemblies continue to be held in Area 40 prior to each Spring Assembly.**

**Vote—For 64 Against 8, Passed. no minority opinion expressed**

**Item #C—Evaluate the Area 40 workshops for usefulness and effectiveness.**

**. Vote: 58 for 15 Against -- Passed**

**The PI Committee recommends creating district level web links to a district level webpage on aamontana.org to be created by the Area Webmaster. All materials must be anonymity protected and in compliance with Area 40 Web Guidelines and the Area 40 Policy & Procedures.**

This motion was made, seconded, voted on and it was passed.

**Finance committee recommends: that Area 40 pay the 800 # bill in full as soon as possible.**

**Vote: 72 For 3 Against Passed**

**Public Information/Report & Charter—**

3) Review Area 40 website

**Recommend anonymity statement apply with exception of flyers where names of individuals, phone numbers, addresses, and email address be published.**

**Vote: 73 For, 7 Against –Passed**

**Other Issue: Recommendation to strike last sent of content section of Website guidelines to reflect current practices**

**Vote: 84 For, 1 Against –Passed**

4) Review Area 40's Policy and Procedure

**G8.8.6 Recommend to change policy to reflect adding an 800# information/contact lists as well as the meeting schedules.**

**Vote: 88 For, none Against – Passed**

**G8.8.8 Recommend amending Policy/Procedures to add "and additional email addresses for purposes of conducting Area 40 business".**

**Vote: 81 For, 3 Against – Passed**

Yours in service,

April

**Area Treasurer-Linda B.**

Hello, my name is Linda B and I am an alcoholic. Thank you for allowing me to be your area treasurer for the next two years. Welcome to everyone, especially to those who are attending their first assembly. Please ask questions and participate in the workshops and committee meetings. Questions and comments are necessary for a well informed group conscience. I have been asking plenty of questions from Curt, our outgoing treasurer. He has been very accommodating and is a wealth of information. Thanks, Curt.

The new address for Area 40 Treasurer is PO Box 21577, Billings MT, 59104. We need to inform our groups of the address change. I will have labels on the back table by the birthday envelopes for you to take home to your groups. The address can be found in the Triangle and I will see about having the address put on the area website.

Since starting this rotation, I've participated in the 2008 yearend audit in Helena on January 17<sup>th</sup>. Carole B, Terry S, Curt K, Andrew W, and I were present. The audit went very smooth. I participated in the first ever pre-assembly teleconference. Thank you to District 51 for hosting the event.

Area 40's 2008 yearend balance was \$24,070.48. Area 40 under spent the 2008 budget by \$4200. Did we do the work we set out to do? Did we do the services we could have done? With the economic turmoil and gas prices last fall, were we just prudent with 7<sup>th</sup> traditions funds or were we in fear of overspending? Our budget and the 7<sup>th</sup> traditions monies that our groups contribute to Area 40 are our means of carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

That being said, there are Area 40 financial reports on the table in the hall by the agendas and name tags... These reports will be included in the next Triangle. You will be able to see them on our area website also. Please share these with your home groups. The balance as of April 13 is \$23,655.56. The prudent reserve is \$10,303.00, the Archivist account balance is \$2,047.50, leaving us with an operating balance of \$11,305.06. The total income received this year has been \$8,652.70. Expenses paid through April 13<sup>th</sup> are \$7,843.48, leaving Area 40 with net income this year of \$809.22. Last year group's contributions were \$24,239.81. In the financial report you can see that group contributions to date are \$8,289.62 Our group contributions have been good the first part of this year. Thank you for your contributions. Typically, group contributions don't keep up with expenses the first part of the year. There are large expenses in the first part of the year with the WCRAASC, the Spring Assembly expenses, and the Delegate expenses with the General Service Conference. We are on the

right track, but please keep your group contributions coming in. We have a \$30,939 budget we approved at the last assembly. With so much discussion on self-support, we as individuals and in our home groups need to support those services we have voted to fund.

All agenda items for the Finance Committee are about self-support. The background information is large and represents a cross-section view from our fellowship on fully funding the General Service Office Services solely by group contributions. Discussion will be varied and informative. The final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole fellowship.

My question is, are we doing our part in self-support?

Thank you for allowing me to be of service, Linda B, Treasurer

### **Triangle Editor- Sharon S.**

Hi everybody. My name is Sharon S; I am an alcoholic and, thanks to your trust, your Triangle editor.

In November, I received a call from Carole, our then incoming Delegate, telling me that the Triangle editor-elect had resigned and that my name had come up, and asked if I would be willing to serve. It took awhile, but I said I would be willing and by Thanksgiving, I had the Triangle computer and files and a new service job!

I've had some fears. You know how it is if you're an alcoholic like me! In spite of the fear, I've shown up and had a great time doing January, February and March-April issues. My sponsor has agreed to be my final proofer, and I am so grateful. She is really good at catching things that that I miss! Hmmm! I also want to thank Alex, the Webmaster. The anonymity protected version of the Triangle is on the Area 40 website within minutes of when I send it.

I've had a great time doing the first three issues in spite of myself! I have had lots of articles contributed from Area officers and committee chairs, DCM's and GSR's. I sure hope that continues. This was one of my fears, that there wouldn't be enough and, so far, the participation has been great. So, thanks everyone. Those who haven't contributed yet, please noodle on your favorite AA topic and send me a little article or a good joke!

Groups (and individuals) are encouraged to subscribe to the Triangle, for \$10 a year. By past motion, groups receive the Triangle whether they subscribe or not. Currently, 76 groups have subscribed. There are 57 individual subscriptions. I send copies to all groups with a valid address, the DCM's, the Area Committee, and West Central Region Delegates, and individuals with a current subscription. I have been mailing approximately 300 copies.

I do have a couple of concerns. One, I am concerned that some groups are not getting the Triangle because I don't have the correct address, or that I don't have the group on my list at all. I have been communicating with the DCM's and I have a copy of the mailing list for each district. I sure would appreciate it if you have time to go over it, or stop by and visit with me sometime during the weekend to be sure I have the correct contact information for your group. I also have subscription forms if you want to subscribe or renew your subscription.

My second concern is that the Triangle meets your needs. I am open to any suggestions you may have and would love to visit with you during the weekend, or call or email me after you get home. I am also considering doing a Triangle Inventory, with questions such as: What is the basic purpose of the

Triangle; what more can the Triangle do to serve the groups in the Area? Is the media still appropriate (or should we use the WEB exclusively)? Should the Triangle be supported by group contributions? I would appreciate any comments or suggestions you have about this.

I put "extra" Triangles out on the back table, help yourselves. There's also a binder of recent issues, if you'd like to peruse.

This is really is a great job that you have trusted me with. Thank you for allowing me to serve!

Sharon S.

### **Area Archives- Tim H.**

Hi! My name is Tim H and I'm an alcoholic and Area 40 Archives Chair.

I feel compelled to try to put into words what it means for me to be able to take part in service at the Area level again. In the past I have attended assemblies as my Home Group's GSR, then as District 91's DCM. I stood for an Area chair position but was not elected. I left that Lewistown feeling that it was alright that I wouldn't be going back to Assembly with a service position. I also left with the mindset that my passionate beliefs and opinions were also alright. I didn't think I would miss Lewistown or the spirited debate and having to listen to people who didn't see things my way.

As time passed, especially around April and September, I became aware that something was missing. Even more importantly, I became aware that my passionate beliefs and opinions, which I voiced from the mic, were perhaps as much about my ego as they were about the issues themselves. I also began to realize, and ask myself, just how open a mind I had when I listened to those with a different point of view.

What happened was that I'd forgotten what my sponsor has pointed out to me time and time again. Willingness, honesty and open-mindedness are the essentials of recovery, and they are indispensable. There is a principle which is a bar against all information which is proof against all arguments, and which cannot fail to keep a man in everlasting ignorance. That principle is contempt prior to investigation. It is with the understanding of these essentials that I left this past Assembly, and it is with willingness, honesty and open-mindedness that I will attend the Fall Assembly. I am blessed in having been granted an opportunity to serve at the Area level. An opportunity that I didn't think I would miss until it was gone.

In service,

Tim H.

### **Corrections- Mary S.**

Good Morning, my name is Mary and I am your Area 40 Corrections Chair and an alcoholic. I am very happy to be here this morning. As of January of 2009 I have been busy gathering names of corrections chairs in each district.

The check book and bank account has been transferred to me and as of this morning we have a balance of \$3563.18. It may sound like a large amount of money but I realized that after several orders it goes pretty quickly. I have been receiving money from district pink cans and it is appreciated.

I was honored to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Corrections Workshop put on by district 61. They had an awesome turnout and each year it gets better and better. The food, fellowship and speakers were excellent. The professional speakers that spoke were very supportive of AA and are clearly working with us. The AA speakers who shared their experience strength and hope had a message of depth and weight.

I participated on the phone "Pre-Assembly" call in March and attended the Pre Assembly in Boulder Hot Springs.

I made the orientation at Montana State Prison and have attended a few meetings inside. Thank you to Helena and Anaconda folks, you have shared your expertise and have been most helpful. I am interested in hearing what each district is doing in *Corrections*. If I can be of service please let me know. If I don't know the answer I will ask someone that does.

I look forward to working with my committee.

Thanks for letting me serve, Mary S.

### **Treatment- Paula H.**

Area 40 treatment activities are in full swing. All but one district has a Treatment Chair, and I am getting regular reports on activities from a few districts. Other districts have invited me to their functions. It is an exciting time!

District 11 (Billings) is looking for treatment committee members. Billings takes two meetings a week to the local psychiatric facility and an informational meeting to Rimrock.

District 41 (Great Falls) is taking meetings once a week to Rocky Mountain Treatment Center. Jim W is in communication with Gateway Treatment Center hoping to institute meetings there. So far Benefice has not been receptive to AA's approaches.

District 42 (Shelby) is continuing to improve communications with the treatment folks on the Blackfoot Indian Reservation.

District 51 (Havre) is continuing in its successful efforts to hold meetings at treatment facilities in that vast, unpopulated area. The hand of AA is certainly being offered, if not always taken.

District 61 (Helena) held the 3rd Annual Corrections and Treatment workshop for professionals April 4. Five AA speakers and four professional speakers shared their experiences at the well-attended workshop. A delicious luncheon was served. Helena also takes meetings into MCDC the 2nd and 5th Saturdays of the month and members attended a Trainers training.

District 71 (Butte/Anaconda) held a pre-assembly April 5 at Boulder Hot

Springs. Folks from Great Falls, Bozeman, Missoula, Helena, Anaconda and Butte attended. A delightful lunch was served. Butte was also represented at the MCDC Trainers training and is responsible to take meetings in the 3rd Saturday of the month.

District 72 (Bozeman) takes meetings into MCDC the 1st Saturday of the month and members attended the Trainers training.

District 81 (Missoula) takes meetings into Teen Recovery Center and the Providence Center twice a month each. Groups rotate that responsibility. Training for people interested in taking meetings into Teen Recovery was held in March. Also in March, Joseph became a local trainer for MCDC. Missoula will now take a meeting into the Butte facility the fourth Saturday of every month. Helena will help until Missoula becomes established.

District 91 (Kalispell) is very active with Pathways, Alternative Youth Treatment Center, and Wilderness Treatment Center meetings covered by the Whitefish, Flathead Valley Serenity, Canyon, By the Book, and Columbia Falls groups. Many thanks to all of you who make that happen. Ted, like all of us, is getting his feet under him and is working on Watch West and MCDC.

As for my activities: I was invited to both the pre-assembly teleconference, hosted in Missoula by Dan K, DCM, and the pre-assembly at Bolder Hot Springs hosted by District 71. The fellowship in the hot springs was a great ending to a very nice day. I also attended the MCDC Trainers training, therefore I am prepared to train anyone who would like to go into MCDC, and get you in contact with the appropriate chair. I would like to thank Rob R, the MCDC liaison for his help. I was also invited to District 61's Corrections and Treatment workshop. It was interesting to hear about us from different perspectives. Lastly I have assembled a list of all treatment chairs in the state. If you want one, let me know and I'll see that you get one.

YIL&S

Paula H.

Area 40 Treatment Chair

**PI- Tim M.**

I would first like to thank the Assembly for electing me to this position. It has been, and continues to be, a great opportunity for growth.

What have I been doing since the first of the year?

- 1-888 number

Stay tuned, I will be sharing on this in a separate report.

- WCRSC

I attended the WCRSC in Casper Wyoming February 27<sup>th</sup> - March 1<sup>st</sup> arriving there on Thursday evening in the company of Carole our Delegate and Terry our Area Chair so they could attend the meetings on Friday prior to the start of the Conference.

A group of us attend the Beech St meeting on Thursday night and I not only got to be a part of some great AA sharing but also got to learn that where the meeting was being held was once a chicken coop and that the gentleman next to me was once the mayor of Casper.

The conference itself was an enlightening time;

- Hearing the floor debate on all the agenda items.
  - Listening to the comments from four Trustees past and present, (which we're put somewhat in a defensive position due to some of the agenda items and the floor sharing).
  - Attending breakout sessions on PI/CPC.
  - The Saturday night speaker Howard L., Southwest Trustee did a great job.
  - This also gave me a break from my day to day life of work and family to focus on the PI workbook, agenda items for PI and Reports & Charter, along with a few moments to check out the Harley and Yamaha dealerships in Casper.
- Phone conference preassembly

On March 21<sup>st</sup> I attended and shared in the first, (and personally I hope not the last) phone conferences to go over the agenda items that we will be going over this weekend. There were some technical issues, (we discovered just prior to the phone conference that dialing out of the local area from the location we were at had been blocked, so we had to go to plan B, using our cell phones). This made it hard to hear from both an incoming and outgoing perspective. Personally I looked at this as a positive since one of the reasons for preassemblies is to give the presenters a chance to "rehearse" prior to the assembly and we got that opportunity without much of an opportunity to be critiqued for content since .....well I think you get my point.

- Workshop in Lolo

On March 28<sup>th</sup> I was in Lolo to put on a PI/GSR workshop with former Delegate Mark S. for District 81 and 93. Much of my sharing was not my sharing at all but questions and comments on the 1-888 number. There was time remaining however to talk about what the PI committee does and does not do. I also felt privileged to get to share as a presenter along with Mark - Thank you Mark!

- Boulder Hot Springs preassembly

On April 5<sup>th</sup> I attended and participated in a preassembly at Boulder Hot Springs and hopefully it helped me prepare to present the agenda items this weekend. It also gave me the chance to talk some more about the PI committee.

Yours in Service,

Tim M., Area 40 PI Chair

### **CPC- Virginia R.**

My name is Virginia R. and I am an alcoholic. This is my first Area Chair position and I am delighted to serve. My first real service position in AA was as GSR for the Basic Twelve group in southern Minnesota. I was working as a housekeeper in a motel and scrimped and saved to buy an electric typewriter to make my reports more legible. As DCM in a Northern Illinois district, I began to learn how to use a word processor. Now, my first few months as the CPC chair have been eventful in that I am learning how to use my very first computer to send and receive emails and read disks. AA truly connects me to the world of other human beings! For those of you just beginning your AA service journey, CPC stands for Cooperation with the Professional Community and any of you is invited to sit in on our committee meeting.

I have gotten the opportunity to attend a few events since beginning my position. In January, I attended the CPC luncheon in Butte at which there was quite a successful turnout. There are other districts in Area 40 who have hosted such luncheons so if you are interested, help is available.

The Regional Service Conference in Casper at the end of February was inspirational to say the least. It is wonderful to get to meet enthusiastic alcoholics from the other states in the West Central Region.

The preassembly conference call in March was an innovative and enjoyable way to get us all together. I hope that we were able to give our delegate some food for thought and that we will continue to do so this weekend.

I would be delighted to attend any events your districts are planning or need help planning. There is quite a need for education of many of the professionals who come in contact with us. The disease of alcoholism is widely misunderstood by many of those in the fields of medicine, law enforcement and social services. By bringing the news of the hope of recovery to these people, we are helping the still suffering alcoholic to find the doors to AA.

There are many agencies that find the plight and the path of the alcoholic to be frustrating to say the least. We have the opportunity to bring AA information talks to Child and Family Services, probation officers, Adult Protective Services, social workers, clergy and others. There are many professional conferences which welcome our presence and we have AA literature which specifically address these groups. I hope that you will bring back some ideas to your districts as you get the opportunity to visit with each other this weekend.

Yours in love and service, Virginia R.

### **Grapevine- Rich K.**

First I would like to take this opportunity to thank Area 40 for electing me to the position of Grapevine Chair. I look forward to serving and anticipate that this term will be a lot of fun.

I met with my predecessor early this year and acquired the Area's collection of Grapevine materials and the display materials that are set up on a table. I have since then been in contact with the GVO and spent much time reviewing Grapevine materials. This research included a review of the growing library of tools and articles and audio material available online on our grapevine's online resources. The AA website, [aagrapevine.org](http://aagrapevine.org) is a fascinating and helpful site and I encourage all AA members that have the resources to visit and use this resource and share this resource with other

members, especially those that don't have online resources. I also have a handful of the March Grapevine which I shall be awarding to random people at this assembly. Say something really interesting and you might get one!

So far this year I have participated in the preassembly teleconference and would welcome any feedback from this event. It was useful, in my view, if it only forced me to review the agenda items in which the grapevine committee is charged with reviewing. I also attended the Regional Service Conference in Casper and thoroughly enjoyed the highly charged atmosphere of passionate AA members with genuine concern about AA's future. It is always a wonderful and educational experience to be among so many trusted servants with a remarkable history of General Service. Topics of interest to Grapevine followers this year include the "Gray Pages" and subscription guidelines for selling the Grapevine.

I have had calls, emails, and online chats with other Montana AA's interested in grapevine issues and I welcome and encourage that to continue. I also have a facebook presence, for those that know what that is, and all are encouraged to try to add me as a friend.

I plan to attend the Grapefest in Helena on June 13, and wish to thank the Helena folks for the invitation and I hope to see as many of you there as is possible.

Now, in the spirit of the Grapevine, I have decided to create a project of sorts. The idea is taken from the Grapevine itself. Specifically, the idea comes from the section titled "If Walls Could Talk..." I am sure all of you have seen this. What I'd like is to create SOMETHING, and I'm not sure what it will be yet. What I request from as many groups as possible is to send ME a photograph of your meeting place. You can of course send me a photo but I'd prefer some sort of digital image, so email it to me at rich.kardell@bresnan.net. I hope to have this project completed before this current rotation is finished. I'll let you all know more about exactly how the project will be presented and formatted. Remember; keep the confidentiality in the images!

#### **Literature- Lori F.** Literature Report – Spring Assembly 2009

Hello. My name is Lori F. and I am an alcoholic. It is my privilege to serve as your Area 40 Literature Committee Chair. I would like to add my sincere welcome to all, especially those who are attending their first assembly. I hope that you will enjoy the experience as much as I did at my first assembly – and still do!

"Of all the plans Bill and Dr. Bob had discussed in 1937, the proposal to publish a book about the program was the most realistic . . . By setting forth a clear statement of the recovery program, a book could prevent distortion of the message. . . . [Bill] had a great fear that the message might be misunderstood by alcoholics in distant places. It was one thing to pass on the message face to face, when one could personally observe the other's reactions and be present to respond to objections, questions or confusion. In print, there was no second chance. What was printed on the page might well be the only information the suffering alcoholic would have access to. It had to be powerful – and thorough. . . .By April, 1939, Alcoholics Anonymous was a fellowship with its own basic text and program." These words were taken from Chapter Eleven in the book *Pass It On, The story of Bill Wilson and how the A.A. message reached the world*. They caught my attention for two reasons. First, the stated intent of publishing the book was to keep the A.A. message consistent and undiluted so that the precise method used by the pioneers of A.A. to achieve sobriety could be passed on to and used by

millions of alcoholics in “distant places” and from Bill’s perspective, distant times as well. Second, the Big Book is celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary this month. From the first printing in 1939 through December 31, 2008, the English language Big Book distribution was 29,444,743 copies. This number includes the hardcover, soft cover, large print and pocket versions. Throughout the many printings of the four versions, the first 164 pages remain virtually unchanged from the first printing for the simple reason that this 12 Step program of recovery works as well today as it did in 1939!

I would like to call your attention to the Literature Display at the back of the room. Please take a moment this weekend to have a look at the wealth of material available to you through the General Service Office. The books and audio-visual materials are for display only and not for sale. However, feel free to take a literature catalog and order form. You may also help yourself to a pamphlet or two. The comedian George Carlin posed the question: “When you make a sandwich at home, do you reach down past the first few slices to get to the really good bread?” Today I’m asking you not to reach past the first few pamphlets in the rack to get to the “really good pamphlets.” The covers may be different, but the words inside are the same!

I hope that everyone in this room is in possession of “The A.A. Service Manual Combined with the Twelve Concepts for World Service,” but if you don’t have one yet, you will find them for sale near the literature display. They are \$2.50 each – please be self supporting and deposit your payment in the can provided. There are also a few large print service manuals available for \$7.50 each.

I have placed a packet of materials on each district table in hopes that it would reach the District Literature Chair people. Many of you are aware that the prices for books and booklets are set to increase starting July 1 of this year. I have put a list of the new prices in the packet as well as a literature catalog. The Big Book price will increase by \$2.00 making it \$8.00 (still a bargain!). The other books, including the service manual, will go up \$1.00, and booklets will go up \$.50. Now may be a good time for groups and districts to stock up on literature, hence the inclusion of the catalog. New catalogs reflecting the change will come out in June.

Have you ever asked yourself, “Why should I care if my group uses conference approved literature? What difference does it make? What is conference approved literature anyway?” Luckily for you, I have included a handout, coincidentally named “Conference Approved Literature” in the packet which answers these questions and more. Please feel free to copy and distribute this valuable service piece.

The final item in the packet is an Area 40 Lending Library Checkout Form. Part of my job as Literature Committee Chair is to maintain a library of audio and video tapes which can be checked out by districts, groups or individuals. I encourage you to take advantage of this service, particularly if you have a workshop or fellowship event coming up. Check out the literature display to see what’s available.

I want to mention two housekeeping items before I finish up. First, it didn’t take me too long to screw up in my new position. In my article in the February Triangle, I said that the Big Book was available in 45 languages – it’s actually 58! Second, I would like to get the contact information for all the District Literature Chairs (something I should have done already). If any are in attendance this weekend, please catch up with me during the assembly.

In closing, I would like to thank the previous Literature Chair, Linda B., for making the transition easy, and for being available to answer questions. I also want to thank District 51 for putting on the Pre-Assembly Teleconference in March and for inviting me to participate. The preparation for my portion of

the presentation was invaluable in helping me to get ready for this assembly. Thanks for your attention and for allowing me to serve,

Lori F., Area 40 Literature Committee Chair

**Webmaster –Alex M.**

I would like to welcome everyone who is new to the Area Assembly.

One more time, I would like to give a big thanks to the folks around the state that have volunteered to update the Districts meeting lists as well as the 800 volunteer lists. As has been the trend for a long time, we are seeing a steady increase in traffic to the site. The highest volume of users to our website continues to be folks looking for meetings.

On the 800 number front, there has been some progress since we last met. There are currently 209 volunteers on the list coming from 5 Districts. AnswerNet is still using the paper lists they have had for quite some time and will continue to use them until we get the bulk of the Districts up to speed with volunteers listed on the website. If you know anyone of have railroaded someone into this position just drop me an email and I will set you up with a userID and password plus instructions.

I have also seen a steady increase in Districts using the mini sites. If you would like a document, date or event posted to your mini site all you have to do is send me an email with the information.

Interesting statistic: day of the week we see the highest traffic - Monday

Thanks for trusting me as your webmaster. It is definitively a job I love.

Alex

**Area Archives- Gerry R.**

Good morning, My name is Gerry R. and I'm an Alcoholic. I also have the privilege of serving Area 40 as your Archivist. Welcome, as always, to old friends, new friends, and soon to be friends.

The first Assembly of a new service rotation is always an exciting time. You've already heard a ton of good advice on how to make the most of your time here, but for me it boils down to one simple word, contribute. We are all here as the result of other people placing their trust in us to do what's right for Area 40 and the still suffering alcoholic, we honor that trust by doing our best to make whatever contribution that we can to the effectiveness of our efforts here this weekend. Thank you all for your willingness to serve.

Since the Assembly last fall, things have gone fairly slow for the Area Archives. I was asked to bring an Archival display to the Fall Roundup in Kalispell and to the Attitude of Gratitude in Helena. Both displays were well received and both drew pretty good crowds. I am scheduled to have a display at the Spring Roundup in Missoula next weekend. Thank you District 81 for the invitation.

On the subject of Archival displays, I feel it is important to remind everyone that Area 40 has no budget for me to attend any functions other than these Assemblies. Area 40 also pays the rent for the repository in Helena, but that's as far as it goes. As such, it is important that when planning your event, if you want an Area Archival display, to budget in the expense of bringing the display to the event. Until Area 40 develops a line item in their budget for the Archivist to attend these events with displays, it is up to these events to be self-supporting and to budget for an Archival Display, just as they must budget for all their other expenses.

I am stepping off the soapbox.

This spring I took part in the first preassembly teleconference from Helena, and filled in for Archives Chair Tim H. at the Boulder preassembly.

Over the winter District 41 made a large donation of books, records, tapes, and other memorabilia to the Area 40 Archives. Sandra H. in particular, donated a large amount of books from her personal library. Many of these books were the titles that were read by the first 100 AA's. Thank you Sandra and District 41 for the generous contribution.

On a sadder note, this past March 9th, Father Martin, who was famous for his "Chalk Talks" on alcoholism and recovery, passed away. I have a handout, on his life and his passing, on the display table.

The display, as you can see, is titled *An Illustrated Vision For You*. I have always felt that the best way to make history come alive, is to go beyond simply telling people about it, and to show them the who, what and where of history. In the chapter *A Vision For You* in the Big Book, Bill does a great job of telling us about the beginnings of AA. This display tries to capture, in images, those people and places that he refers to in his short history lesson, as well as others that played key roles in our early years.

A couple of items on this weekend's agenda involve the possibility of Area 40 hosting the National AA Archives Workshop in 2011. I attended the workshop last fall in New York, and was charged with bringing as much from the workshop back to Area 40 as I could. These items are a continuation of my effort to do that. If the items are passed this weekend, I believe Area 40 stands a good chance of winning the bid and hosting the workshop.

If they don't pass, anyone who has ever been involved with running a roundup or a similar event will understand, I won't be heartbroken. Events like this are a lot of work, as they require months of planning and scheduling by many people.

I do however, think it would be an exciting and memorable event for everyone involved. The Area 40 fellowship would have the opportunity to gain an appreciation for the preservation of AA history, as well as a better understanding of their part in it, while participants from all around the country and Canada, would enjoy a chance to experience Montana and the Area 40 fellowship. The question is, does the Area 40 fellowship feel this is the right thing for them and for AA at this time. Whatever is decided here this weekend, I am grateful to have had this chance to place this opportunity before the assembly, and I am confident that its decision will be the right one, whether it passes, or not.

What a joy to be sober today. What a privilege to be of service. Thank you for both.

Gerry R.  
Area 40 Archivist

**Area Advisor-** Scott W. for **Andrew W.**

Greetings everyone. Unfortunately I am going to miss my first Assembly as Area Advisor. I will be in Texas for my niece's wedding. So I have asked Scott to fill in for me in Lewistown. I am confident the task of keeping an eye on the coffee at the Assembly is in good hands.

In January, I headed to Helena to meet with Carole, Linda, Curt, and Terry for the passing of the Area 40 treasury and a brief audit. The audit went well and the books are now in Linda's capable hands. Late that month, I headed to New York to have a little fun while the General Service Board Weekend was going on. While I was there I made sure to turn in the sharing from Area 40 on "the benefits and liabilities, both spiritual and practical of fully funding G.S.O. Services to the Fellowship (G.S.O. functional expenses) by the voluntary contributions of A.A. members and groups." Thanks to everyone who sent me information from across Area 40 on this and thanks to everyone who participated in the discussions. We certainly had a wide range of viewpoints on this matter. At the end of February, I had the pleasure of attending the West Central Regional AA Service Conference in Casper, Wyoming. Area 40 was well represented at the conference.

I have also assured Scott that this report will be brief so I will wrap this up. Rotating from being delegate has been a good adjustment for me. Life continues to remain interesting. It is now my privilege and pleasure to serve Area 40 as Area Advisor (though I am missing this Assembly!). I look forward to seeing some of you at the Spring Roundup the week after the Assembly and again in September at the Fall Assembly.

Yours in love and service,  
Andrew W.  
Area 40 Advisor

### **District 11**

January 2009 District 11 began its new rotation period with a full compliment of new incoming district representatives except for the district secretary, who was the secretary previously. District 11 hosted a GSR school workshop in conjunction with District 12 in January to provide a forum and broad overview of the AA Service structure for incoming GSR's, district service members and guests. The event was well attended and representative of the AA community in the two districts. The event was co-chaired by Carole B., current Area 40 Delegate, and Scott W., past Area 40 Delegate. hand outs regarding the AA service structure were provided.

Currently the PI/CPC committee has had the opportunity to present several informational events in the local community and area hospital. These events were well attended. The PI/CPC committee is also seeking volunteers to assemble a list of local hotels to place AA pamphlets and meeting schedules for the surrounding area.

During the last election District 11 created a new district liaison position to assist with the integration of the new toll free hotline and ensure active phone contact lists are maintained and updated. Since this is a new position in the district it was felt there was a need to develop a job description to ensure continued continuity and success. District 11 has assumed financial responsibility to the districts portion of the toll free hot line service from South Central Montana Intergroup and made arrangements to reimburse them for previous expenses encumbered for our district. This item represents approximately \$1200 of additional budgetary expenditure to the districts' operating budget in addition to maintaining the current expenses for the service.

Corrections Committee is working to ensure literature is made available to the local prison and city jail institutions. Currently several local groups are committed to taking meetings to both the men and women's facilities and attendance and participation are good.

Treatment Committee ensures meetings are conducted twice a week at the psych center from the local group pool. The groups are selected from the hat each month for the upcoming month, thus ensuring rotation and diversity within the AA community.

Archives committee is actively scheduling and conducting interviews with AA members with 20 years sobriety or more in order to capture their story of recovery on magnetic media as well as an opportunity to other relevant historical information about AA in our district.

Alanon committee has established a local telephone number for the district and is also assembling a mailing to go to local church professionals for information regarding AFG's.

Billings will be hosting the 2010 Spring Round Up, May 14-16 at the Crown Plaza.

Currently District 11 is self supporting. although there has been a slight decrease in group contributions it is felt this is not unusual and we believe as we continue to provide additional opportunity to serve and carry the message the needed financial contributions will be present to ensure our financial obligations and commitments are met.

District 11 has seen a renewed spirit of participation to ensure our singleness of purpose. Meeting attendance throughout the district is increasing with only a few groups reporting decreased attendance.

Respectfully Submitted, Colby D. DCM District 11

### **District 12**

Greetings Area 40, my name is Nick D. and I'm an Alcoholic and the D.C.M. from District 12.

Currently we have 10 groups in District 12:

Absarokee Group, Absarokee

Clark Fork Group, Fromberg

Harlowton Group, Harlowton

Hays Group, Absarokee

Joliet Group, Joliet

Laurel Home Group, Laurel

No Name Group, Columbus

Now Group, Big Timber

Rock Creek Group, Red Lodge

Stillwater Group, Columbus

Of the 10 groups 7 are active in our district. There are 32 meetings a week held in District 12. We hold our district meeting on the third Sunday of odd months at 4 pm at the Little Stone Church located at 205 E. 4th St. in Columbus.

Already this year, Districts 11 and 12 together put on a G.S.R. school in January that was well attended by both Districts. Thanks to Scott W. and Carol B. for presenting a very informative workshop, and to Colby D. for hosting this event. We also had a 800 number workshop at our March district meeting followed by a pot luck. That was also well attended and presented by Carol B., as Tim M. had a scheduling conflict. Something about his wife, an anniversary and some reservation. But not exactly in that order.

We hold two events a year to help raise funds for District 12. The first is the Mid Winter Social that was held on Feb. 21 in Joliet. We had a great turn out for good food, fun and fellowship. We were fortunate to have Teresa and Kurt K from Helena as our speakers. I would like to thank them, and everyone, who attended and helped make this event a success. Our other event for the year is the Fireman's Point camp out on the Stillwater River. That is tentatively scheduled for August 8th and 9th. We will be having Carol B. give her Delegate report and a pot luck followed by a campfire meeting on Saturday night. Please come join us for fishing, rafting, fun and fellowship. We will have the Fireman's Point flyers available soon on the area 40 web site, aa-montana.com.

### **District 21**

DCM Rob P. had strep throat and was unable to attend the Assembly. They are having a camp out on Ft Peck reservoir the 3<sup>rd</sup> week end in June, with a potluck. Fliers will be forthcoming.

### **District 23**

Regards from the Sunrise District:

I am Mike M. and I am an alcoholic. This is my first report as DCM. The past seven months have seen the district's groups remain steady. The Savage, MT Big Book Discovery Group; the Life Again in Glendive; the Welcome Home and the Monday Noon Group in Sidney.

Glendive meetings are three days a week, with the Saturday evening meeting recently becoming a "candlelight" meeting.

Sidney's groups meet 4 days a week between them, and continue to be stable with good growth in the numbers in attendance. Tuesday's and Sunday's continue to be the most well attended meetings. Sidney

is getting a few newcomers and some others, who have been “out again”, have fortunately made it back. It has also been encouraging to see more motivated young people show up.

The Savage group is holding its own. Many people are traveling from Sidney to support that group and read the Big Book every Wednesday.

We have had several District 23 get togethers at the Savage Community Center in Savage, MT which has included open meetings, potlucks, and karaoke, which seems to be a draw for young folks. I would especially like to thank Tim A. for his DJ duties at these get togethers. Once in a while, we also throw in a District meeting. Keep your eyes posted on the Area 40 website for upcoming events, as folks from north of Savage and North Dakota seem to be regular attendees.

Service work is being done on the home front by some of our newcomers, but unfortunately, life is making it hard for them to come to this Assembly, so hopefully I will see them at the next one.

I would like to thank District 23 for allowing me to serve. I truly enjoy seeing old friends, making new ones, and the passion of AA I see at these assemblies. It helps my recovery immensely. Thank you so much.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Michael M., DCM Dist 23

### **District 31**

District 31 has a total of 24 meetings in the six towns. Attendance is variable but usually good and groups welcome visitors with open arms. There are meeting cards on the back table for our district. A meeting has been started at the Miles City halfway house and is being well supported by the local groups.

Currently we have a camp out planned for the first week end in June. It will be at the Far West Campground and boat launch on the Yellowstone river at Rosebud, sponsored by the Forsyth groups and district 31. Everyone is welcome to attend. There will also be a district meeting that week end.

Thank you and God Bless You All.

Respectfully Submitted, Jim G., DCM District 31.

### **District 41**

I'm Lee, alcoholic and DCM for District 41, Area 40. At this time we hold District meetings in Great Falls, MT

I am very grateful to serve as this rotation's DCM. While this group of committee members is mixed with enthusiastic first time chairpersons, it is also fortunate enough to have members who have served in other capacities at the district and Area levels. I have noticed this group is also supported by past chair members through facilitating helpful, knowledge concerning past actions. When I stepped up to serve I wanted to give back some of the benefits gained through unity and service. I am finding that I continue to benefit through this new organization and these new relationships.

There are over 70 meetings in a week with about two dozen groups to choose from. A few of our long standing groups have closed their doors but new ones have opened as members moved to different, stronger groups. Some of these groups have added additional meeting times to our schedule and allow AA to grow.

So far in this rotation we have participated in the West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference in Wyoming, and a pre-assembly in Boulder Hot Springs, MT. Our past DCM, Mary S, has taken a position as Area Corrections Chair. She gave a great presentation at the Boulder pre-assembly as well as at the first ever teleconference pre assembly (hosted by district 51). As fortune would work things out, our district is on her committee. Very strong interest in this part of the service position by our district chairs as well as past members will certainly allow to bring some strong cards to the Area Committee Table.

We have increasing interest by several new to district participation groups with GSR's showing up at the district meetings. Some of these members join us this week end with interest and support on the Area level. As for anyone in any district this is a chance to get to know your counterparts in other districts and to continue to feel a part of the whole of AA. I trust that new relationships started here, within this structure, will allow us all to grow in the fellowship, and make this rotation of great service to Area 40. Thank you, Lee T. District 41 DCM

#### **District 42**

Good morning. We are still holding meetings in Browning, Chester, Choteau, Conrad, Cut Bank, East Glacier, Shelby, and Valier. The meetings are on the Area 40 website. District meets every 3rd Sunday. The Lake Francis Roundup is scheduled for the weekend of July 24, 25, and 26.

We are still taking meeting into the CCA Prison in Shelby. It seems that our meetings are growing a little. Please come and visit us if you get up that way. You can also check out the new wind farm between Shelby and Cutbank.

In service, Gerald L. District 42 DCM

#### **District 51**

District 51 has eight (8) active groups, two (2) inactive groups, and a couple of meetings held that are not connected to a group. One of the inactive groups has moved it's time, day, and location to try to get started again; the other inactive group has decided to not be affiliated with AA. Of the active groups, four (4) have GSRs, three (3) of whom are active in District. There are two (2) daily meetings and on any given day a third meeting is held somewhere. On Sunday's the other meeting option is a jail meeting which to attend an AA member must have prior approval. We have two speaker meetings a month, both groups are always looking for people willing to share their story of recovery. If you will be in the Havre vicinity on the third Sunday or on the last Friday night of the month, and are willing to speak, let us know.

All Committee Chairs and Service positions are filled and at least one committee actually has committee members! Our new CPC Chair plans to hold a first-ever or first annual CPC luncheon during the fall Havre AA mini-conference. The mini-conference dates are September 25-27<sup>th</sup>. Our Grapevine Chair is sponsoring her sponsees into service by having them distribute old copies of the Grapevine. We have not had a Treatment Chair for at least two rotations, our new Treatment Chair is communicating with the two treatment centers located within District 51 on how AA can be of service to them. We have a tremendous PI Chair. All Committee Chairs have a heart for AA and are actively pursuing our 5<sup>th</sup> Tradition.

District 51 supports the toll-free AREA-wide hotline and has disconnected our local number and cell phone. This has resulted in a huge reduction in our monthly phone bill. Thereby freeing up significant District funds to pursue other avenues to reach the still suffering alcoholic, which is why we can sponsor a luncheon for community professionals this fall.

For the first time in remembered history, District 51 sent their DCM to a Regional Service Conference. For that I thank them; it was a tremendous learning experience. And I thank Terry for asking me to give the report on the WCRAASC on Sunday of this Assembly.

District 51 held it's first GSR school in February. It was well attended, and all in attendance learned something. The school was conducted by Joe H from District 41.

We have moved our District Meeting site and time. Foods being a bringer of people, we now hold our District meeting prior to the monthly pot-luck and speaker meeting held at the Alano Club on the third Sunday. Attendance has picked up. In May we will start to have someone share on a concept at our meetings.

District 51 also hosted the first-ever, first annual pre-assembly teleconference. Six (6) of the fourteen (14) Districts within our Area participated. All Area Chairs were able to share on their agenda items, there was time for questions and discussion, and the feedback was very positive. We have not received the bill from the teleconference company so we do not know the cost to our District yet; two Districts sent in 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition to help defray the cost. We would consider hosting a teleconference pre-assembly again due to the reduction in travel expense especially for the outlying groups and rural Districts.

Within our District, upcoming events include four (4) camp-outs, held in June, July, August, and September. Be sure and watch the Triangle and the AREA website for those dates and locations. Last year we had visitors come from Colorado who learned of our party in the Grapevine. We have our Delegate, Carole, scheduled to visit us in October. And the mini-conference in September.

I believe we are a close-knit District. All groups have members who are active in the events held in the District. I am proud to service District 51 as their DCM.

### **District 61**

I had the privilege and good luck in rotating in as DCM of a vital, lively district which was doing well when I got her, thanks to the untiring work of Tim M., my predecessor. The District has more than 100 regular meetings per week, with a lively rate of new meetings springing up as older meetings have quietly disappeared. There is healthy experimentation with new and different meetings: women's meetings, step and big book study meetings, and speaker meetings.

There are 27 or 28 groups which could send GSR's to District every month; in the past, 14 or 15 GSR's at a district meeting was considered a good turnout. At our last meeting, we had 22 GSR's in attendance and participating, as well as a healthy number of folks who just came for the entertainment.

Our 53<sup>rd</sup> annual Attitude of Gratitude last fall actually ran in the black without charging a registration fee; a committee is forming and plans are already underway to make this fall's event a success. We co-hosted both telephone conference and live, face to face Preassemblies in early April. The turnout was excellent, and I believe that the District 61 GSR's are as well-prepared for this Assembly as possible.

The District has strong connections with both the treatment system and with corrections. We are taking regular meetings into all three county jails, as well as the youth facility in Boulder, the Meth treatment facility also in Boulder, MCDC, the WATCh program, and Helena Pre Release center. On April 4<sup>th</sup>, we hosted our third Annual Treatment and Corrections workshop in Helena, with 110 professionals and alcoholics in attendance. This workshop had a profound affect on both the attending alcoholics as well as the professionals – we really believe that this effort bridges a gap between the professionals who get an opportunity to see that the police officers, prosecutors, judges, prison administrators, treatment professionals and probation and parole officers are a vibrant, caring and integral part of recovery. A signal event at the workshop occurred when successful graduates of the WATCh program were asked to stand. District Judge Dorothy McCarter, who sentences alcoholic felony DUI offenders to WATCh every week, was visibly moved by the number of sober men and women who stood in witness to the fact the this program works.

It is a privilege to be a part of the great bunch of recovering women and men who serve the communities of Helena, Boulder, Townsend, Lincoln and White Sulfur Springs. Alcoholism is a family disease; recovery is a community asset. In Service, Tom D. DCM District 61

### **District 71**

My name is Kevin M. and I am the new DCM for District 71. We are blessed to have many correctional facilities to bring AA meetings into and, hopefully, "plant the seed". Being a DCM has been a great way

to give back to AA and help other alcoholics in the way that AA has helped all of us when we walked into our first meeting.

Our district is located in southwest Montana and covers a large area. There are AA meetings in Butte, Deer Lodge, Drummond, Dillon, and many other small towns, There are 25 registered groups with a total of 83 registered meetings a week in our district. We hold our district meetings in Butte on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month at St. Anne's School at 8:10 p.m. Usually, around 15 people attend and we have all of our service positions filled.

I am grateful to be able to help carry the message into correctional and treatment facilities. AA meetings are held at Warm Springs, WATCh West and S.T.A.R.T. (which are located on the Warm Springs campus), the Butte jail, Montana Chemical Dependency Center (MCDC) which is in Butte, and the Montana State Prison (MSP). Weekly AA meetings include: a Warm Springs meeting on Tuesday (6 pm); the WATCh program that begins at 7pm; Saturday mornings at the S.T.A.R.T. program at 9:45. Usually about 5-10 people attend. There are AA meetings at the Butte Silver Bow jail on Thursday from 7-9 pm. Every Saturday at 1 o'clock there are two meetings at MSO, one on the high-side and one on the low-side. Lastly, MCDC has AA meetings every Saturday from 6 to approximately 7:30. Monthly AA meetings include: a Bridging the Gap meeting at the WATCh program on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 7 pm; a speaker meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 2:30 pm; a Bridging the Gap meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month at 7:15 pm at MCDC. Our district and District 61 hold a meeting on the first Saturday of every month at the prison. District 71 is a very active district that is devoted to service work. Therefore, at times things can get hectic, but somehow we always end up getting done what needs to be done.

On January 31<sup>st</sup> we held an AA professional luncheon in Butte at the War Bonnet Inn from 10 am – 2pm. We had 5 professional speakers that spoke about alcoholism in the field and what AA did for them. At the end there was question and answer session that went well. Hopefully, every year we can get more professional educated about Alcoholics Anonymous so that the still suffering alcoholic can find an easier path into AA. We had a great literature display that helped explain AA as a whole and I would like to thank Terry S., Peg H., and Teresa S. for helping make this luncheon a success.

On February 21<sup>st</sup> we hosted AA Day at St. Anne's Church Hall that went from 1 pm – 11 pm. Scott W. (past delegate) drove all the way over from Billings and gave an excellent GSR Workshop presentation, thank you Scott. There was a fantastic potluck that included KOA chicken and barbecued ribs. Also, 25 people from the Connections-Corrections program (CCP) attended. They helped support the event by bringing two huge beautiful cakes. Also, there was an open AA meeting followed by a dance with a live band. All in all, it was a fund day with lots of sharing.

On February 28<sup>th</sup> we hosted a mandatory orientation to train AA servants on MCDC guidelines to, in turn, familiarize volunteers who are interested in attending AA meetings within the facility with these guidelines. MCDC will no longer have anything to do with hosting orientations; we will be responsible for this. There was a broad range of topics covered that included do's and don'ts, acceptable behavior and dress, appropriate discussion during AA meetings, and how to handle violations of signed policies. About 25 from District 41, 61, 72, and 71 attended.

And last, but not least, on April 5<sup>th</sup> our district, with the help of District 61, hosted a pre-assembly at Boulder Hot Springs from 12 to 4 pm. We had a pretty good turnout; I think about 35 people showed up and the weather couldn't have been any nicer. There was tons of fabulous food, coffee, and ice cold water to tide us over and I think we managed to get everything covered that we will be discussing this weekend. Lastly, I would like to thank Peg H. for all the wonderful baked goods, District 61 for help in making this a success, and to all the Area 40 chairs who showed up.

To sum things up, Tom S. (District Secretary), Peg H. (Alt. DCM) and I plan on attending most of the groups in our district to enlighten them about District 71 and to gain knowledge of how their groups function. Also, we plan on having a District Day sometime this summer at Washoe Park, hopefully a campout.

In service, Kevin M., District 71 DCM

### **District 72**

Quite a few new faces at District Meetings – rotation has brought in new GSRs, and some GSRs rotating into chair positions. I am happy to rotating back into being involved at District level.

District 72 ranges from West Yellowstone to the South, North to Wilsall, and west at Virginia City, East to Livingston. We have 89 meetings currently, in thirteen towns.

So far this year, we were snowed out our December meeting, so had a catch up meeting in January with reports from our outgoing trusted servants, and a GSR School by Lori F for incoming GSRs.

In February, four of us from District 72 attended the West Central Regional service conference in Casper; I found it quite helpful in reporting back to my District in an informed way. I am planning on attending the 2009 Regional Forum in Minnesota. When I reported back that the 2010 Regional Forum topic is “Carrying the Message to the Native American Community”, that generated interest among our Native membership regarding participating in that Forum in some way.

We also had a number of D72 members attend the Preconference Assembly meeting in Boulder, and again, I found that helpful in getting clarity on some of the more involved issues.

We have had very strong District attendance from our new GSRs- the enthusiasm is palpable, and it's been great to see such enthusiasm from new recruits. Also, our district chairs are keeping busy – we have busy treatment and institutions chairs, keeping meetings going into the jails, taking a meeting to pre-release group in Bozeman, and making trips to Butte and Deer Lodge to support those meetings. We have heavy attendance from Watch program folks. Our Young Peoples meeting is thriving, which is good. We had a semester lapse in meetings at MSU due to a SNAFU in room reservations, but we have now have a room reserved for the next year, so we are set to resume M/W/F meetings on campus, which is great, because we have a lot of members in school or working at MSU.

I've started visiting our 89 meetings now, and am grateful to my employer who is letting me flex my schedule to go visit the distant meetings in our area.

We have a variety of upcoming events. Our Alano Club hosts quite a few events by groups, and our Young people's meeting is into its third year of having quarterly bonfire speaker meetings, which have had good attendance, even in the dead of winter, the next one is on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, Livingston is having a Traditions Workshop on May 16<sup>th</sup>, Carole is coming to give her Delegates report in June, the Pony Meeting has their annual picnic I believe in July,

.October 2-4 Fri, Sat, Sun

FALL ROUNDUP - Best Western Grantree Hotel – Bozeman

### **District 81**

Greetings fellow Area 40 AA's, I'm Dan K. and I'm an alcoholic. I'm privileged and honored to be the DCM of District 81 and my home is in Missoula. Our district stretches west to Haugen and Thompson Falls, north to Polson, east to Seeley Lake and south to Missoula. We currently have 34 active groups on our schedule. There are 90 meeting opportunities per week on that schedule with 53 in Missoula and 37 in the outlying areas.

District 81 AA participation is awesome! We are blessed to have incredible enthusiasm both in meeting attendance and willingness to be of service. At a Sunday morning speaker meeting in Missoula, attendance averages 100 or more consistently. At the High Noon Group it's often times difficult to find

a seat. The 8:00am Sunrise Group quite often numbers 80 or more. The Silvertip Group has had to expand to using two rooms instead of one. We've had many new groups continue to grow and old ones go through many great changes. The Missoula Group has had to share their meeting place space with a daytime homeless shelter and they have risen to that challenge very well. There isn't time to mention all our groups so I'll just say that we are very grateful to have such wonderful groups in District 81!

The fellowship of AA members in District 81 is also awesome! The AA family in our area is as diverse, loving, helpful and connected. We have a tremendous number of young people in our fellowship that help to keep us fresh and vibrant and we have lots of long term sobriety that helps to keep us all growing. And there is so much variety in between that our AA family is very healthy. The fellowship of District 81 is a shining example of one alcoholic helping another just as Bill W. and Dr. Bob had hoped for!

I want to extend a very personal thank you to all the members of our District 81 fellowship who have given their time and energy to being of service to AA. Without you we could not stay glued together like we do. Service includes so many different things: meeting openers, coffee makers, group officers, GSR's, district chairs, individual sponsors, correction meeting sponsors, etc. You are so appreciated for all you do, thanks!

Since taking over as DCM we've been very busy in our district. Mike R., District 81 alternate DCM and I have been visiting the groups at a rate of three to four a month. At that rate we should get to all the groups at least twice in our rotation. I attended the West Central Regional Conference Feb. 27-March 1 in Casper, Wyo. and had a great time there. It was an experience I would repeat if I get the opportunity. It was especially nice to hang out with our Montana delegation that weekend. Paula H. and I sat in on the pre-assembly teleconference on March 21<sup>st</sup> and enjoyed that experience. We had a co-operative District 93 and District 81 PI/GSR workshop in Lolo on March 28<sup>th</sup>. Our Area 40 PI chair Tim M. and our past Area 40 Delegate Mark S. were kind enough to do presentations at that workshop. It was a lot of fun and very informative, thank you both very much.

I am on the Spring 2009 Roundup committee and we have been very busy getting ready to have a great event for all of you April 24-26 in Missoula. I hope you are planning on attending and there are lots of registration forms and newcomer scholarship fliers on the back table for you to take with you. We are looking forward to our Area 40 Delegate Carole B. coming to Missoula on May 17<sup>th</sup> for our district meeting to give her Delegate's report after her return from New York. We are also planning our Annual Founder's Day Picnic for June 13<sup>th</sup> at Franklin Park in Missoula. We have a speaker/discussion panel before the picnic and a youngster/oldster softball game as a tradition. We've learned it's no fun if you don't have fun. I'm grateful to be of service, happy trudging and God bless you all! Dan K.

### **District 91**

Greetings to all from District 91 in beautiful northwest Montana. Our district covers the Tobacco and Flathead Valleys from Eureka on the Canadian border to Elmo on Flathead Lake. We are sober and well

and excited to be thawing from a long winter. AA is thriving in our neck of the woods, and I feel privileged and honored to be a part of that.

There are approximately 21 registered groups in our area with 10 of these groups regularly attending our District meetings. These meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month at 3 PM. The location varies throughout the valley with different groups hosting each month.

The district meetings are chaired by the alternate DCM and include reports from each GSR, committee members, DCM and alternate DCM. We also include the concepts in each meeting. The short form of the concepts is read along with the steps, and the concept of the month is elaborated upon by a volunteer each month. I know that I have learned a lot from this process.

Our District voted to assist groups with financial need to send GSR's to Assembly this spring. My alternate DCM Sam B. contacted groups that weren't regularly at the District meetings and informed them of this opportunity. Unfortunately, we were only asked to assist 2 groups. I'm pleased we could help them, wish it were more. One of the many goals I have as DCM is to spread the joy of general service involvement and to increase participation at District and Area from our district's members. We'll keep working on it.

Our Delegate Carole B. will give her report to our district July 26. Time and location to be finalized soon. Stop by if you're in the neighborhood.

Our District's Into Action event in February was a great success. Great speakers (Donna H, and Chuck B), great workshops and great potluck were enjoyed by many. Thanks to our Area Chair Terry S. for attending as well. I encourage all to attend next year.

I represented our district at the West Central Regional AA Service Conference in Casper, WY in February. It was very informative and a little bit scary. I was very impressed with the passion for AA that I witnessed. Of course I came back knowing lots more than when I started. I will also travel to St. Cloud, MN in September for the Regional Forum and I look forward to interact with GSO at that event.

There are numerous sober campouts planned in our outdoor paradise including my home group's Founders Day campout at Tally Lake by Whitefish on June 12-14. Many of the campout details and dates are on the Area website. Our Intergroup also posts these on their website and has a flyer for the whole summer. It is available at

Thanks for allowing me to serve.

Libbie L., DCM District 91

### **District 93**

Hello Area 40 Assembly, my name is Eric D. and I am an alcoholic. My sobriety date is July 29th, 2004. I think the district nominated and elected me DCM after I had got up and gone to the bathroom and when I came back-surprise! But I am grateful to be serving in this rotation and service has been a big part of this alcoholic's sobriety. Besides, my sponsor told me to do it! We at District 93 are a team and our team consists of four officers; DCM, Alternate DCM, Secretary, And Treasurer, and ten District Chairs; Archives, CPC, Corrections, Grapevine, Literature, PI, Special Events, Tokens, Treatment, and Web Liaison.

District 93 starts at Lolo, Which is nine miles south of Missoula, and continues 50 or so miles and ends deep in the

Bitterroot Valley at Darby/Conner. The District consists of 12 groups and 2 meetings with almost 100% participation at the District meetings every third Sunday of the month at the Victor Senior Center, 4:00pm.

Last month on March 28th we put on a GRS/PI workshop along with District 81. Thank you to Dan K., Tim M., Mark S., and all who participated. Our next big event will be the annual District 93 Campout on Father's Day weekend June 19th through the 21st. Our Ares Delegate Carole will be giving her Delegates Report from New York lakeside Sunday morning at Painted Rocks Reservoir Campground. Flyers are on the table as well as a map on the back. All are invited and we have reserved most of the campsites. Look for the signs going up the West Fork off Highway 93 South. Thanks goes out to many in the District, other Districts, and Area Chairs for helping me it what at first seemed like an overwhelming service position. I will be sure to stay in my chair during the next elections!

Yours In Service, Eric.

### **Delegate's Report**

My name is Carole B. and I am an alcoholic. I have the privilege of serving as your delegate this rotation. Since my election, I have had emotions swinging from feeling overwhelmed to confidence, from fear to excitement, and from concern to absolute peace knowing God is in charge. I think I have just hit the tip of the iceberg in the realization that God is in charge and we wouldn't be here if He wasn't. It is definitely not about me.

My first conference will be the 59<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference and therefore, I am a Panel 59 Delegate.

I began performing some Delegate duties in November first by visiting with Andrew in Missoula. I asked him many questions and then emailed him more when I got home. Next, the West Central Region Trustee, Ken B. from Nebraska, began conducting conference calls with all the Delegates. The first call had Panel 57, 58, and 59 delegates on the call. It was great to have Andrew on that call. As a Panel 57 Delegate, he's a seasoned veteran.

A bit about our Trustee, Ken has been a great communicator. We have had three conference calls and a fourth is scheduled for Sunday afternoon. Ken has provided the minutes from both General Service Board meetings he has attended. I very much appreciate it.

Sometime in January, I received an email from a staffer at GSO. I was very excited to be included with the likes of Leonard B., Jim E., and other servants of AA. That soon diminished with the ensuing hundreds of emails I have received since. I think that this level of communication can be good. I also think it can lead to much miscommunication. So, I'm trying to look at the facts and not jump to my own conclusions.

Well, what have I been doing for you since January? It's been about getting in the car. January 16, I got in the car with Don and Linda B. We headed to Helena to conduct the Area Audit required every two years by the Area's Policy and Procedure manual. Curt K., Andrew, Terry S., Linda and I went through the Area's books. We are in good shape thanks to your efforts.

Next I got in the car with Terry S. and Tim M. to head to the West Central Regional Service Conference in Casper. We had a great time. Area 40 was well represented with 4 Area Chairs, 9 DCMs, 2 Past Delegates, several GSRs and Alternates, and several other trusted servants. We discussed the General Service Conference agenda at length. Terry and I attended the Delegate's only meeting on Thursday night. Once again, I had made a judgment about one of the items on the meeting's agenda. That item was clapping to indicate you agree with someone speaking at the microphone. Prior to the meeting, I had thought there was absolutely no harm in expressing my enthusiasm on an issue. It was presented that it may also be squashing the enthusiasm of someone in the minority and that person may not feel confident enough to speak to their opinion. Friday morning and early afternoon, the Panel 59 Delegates were orientated by the Past Delegates from the Region. Friday evening Colby D., DCM District 11 and Libbie L., DCM District 91 did a fabulous job with their presentations. Howard L., Southeast Regional Trustee, gave the Saturday night talk. Past Trustees Gary K. and Chuck B were in attendance as well as several of the Area 10 – Colorado current and Past Delegates.

Tim was excited on the way home that I got a call from the Area 40 Toll Free number. I was excited to have a good cup of coffee.

Next I got in the car with Virginia R. and went to Columbus to do a PI Workshop for Tim who had double booked himself. My Conference Committee is PI so I was excited to hear how some of Area 40 feels about the Conference's agenda on PI and to talk about the 888 number.

The next weekend I happened to be in Helena where a bunch of us got together for the first ever Pre-Assembly Conference Call. Thank you District 51 for coordinating this effort. This is certainly a cost saving way of doing a pre-Assembly. I am interested to know how many people were on the call. I am interested to hear what folks on the call thought of doing a pre-assembly by telephone. Our Trustee is also interested.

Next, I got in the car with my sister to head to Boulder for a Pre-Assembly. We did a side trip to Butte to see our brother who was recuperating from surgery. The Pre-Assembly was well attended and we had a great discussion of all the agenda items.

To get here, I got in the car with Virginia R. and Carol C., Brownbaggers GSR. If you're not getting in the car with someone, you're missing out.

In February, I downloaded the background information from GSO's secure site and then sent CD's out to Terry, the DCM's and the Past Delegates who requested them. The agenda is full. Ken passed along to the Delegates the agenda items tabled and not considered. Many agenda items are submitted each year and it's a big job to set the General Service Conference Agenda. Some background material suggests that the Conference Committee on Agenda should be a year-round working committee to set the Agenda. This will be an interesting one to watch.

My Conference Committee, Public Information, has a full agenda as well. We've been warned to come prepared. I can't wait to meet Irene who currently sits on the PI desk at GSO. She's been very helpful thus far. In reviewing the background information, I got it. To keep this together, we need much work

at the local level and at GSO. GSO can put out lots of Public Service Announcements but if no one answers the 888 number how do prospective members find us? We may be moving 4 videos for the young people's project forward. These are very good.

PI provides guidance to the website, aa.org. Have you been on this site? Much, much information is available. You can even have them email electronic versions of Box 459, Markings, and other newsletters that are also available on-line.

I will fly out to New York on Friday. My friend Deborah, a former Helenaite, will meet me there. I will continue a tradition of having dinner on Saturday night with Mary D., a former Bitterrooter and now a GSO staffer. My sponsor, Carleen, will join us Saturday night. Lori G., Area 41 Delegate, has provided much needed information regarding proper attire. My clothes are not packed but are pressed and ready to go.

Then it all begins with the Delegate's only meeting Saturday night, the pre-conference on remote communities Sunday morning, joint Trustee and Conference Committee meetings Sunday afternoon, and the banquet on Sunday night. The Conference is scheduled to end Friday evening.

In the last month, two conference members passed away - our AAWS Trustee, John S. and Area 12 - Delaware Delegate Joe S. A subtle reminder that being active in AA doesn't make us immortal or above life's problems.

If you wish to write to me while at the conference, please do so at

Carole B.

Crown Plaza Times Square Hotel

1605 Broadway at West 49th Street

New York, NY 10019

I will have my Blackberry and laptop but they won't be on during the conference. Your phone call, text message or email would be great to help me remember why I am there - for you.

I will return to Billings late on May 2. What's next? Get in the car! Delegate's reports are scheduled in several districts and it is my hope that I make it to all districts. Thus far, I have scheduled:

May 9 - District 11

May 17 - District 81

June 13 - District 61

June 20 - District 72

June 21 - District 93

July 26 - District 91

August 8 – District 12

August 15 – District 23

October 18 – District 51

DCM's, if you have not scheduled a Delegate's report, please get with me and we'll see when we can get it done.

The West Central Regional Forum is September 11-13 in St. Cloud, Minnesota. It looks to be a good time. Ken B., West Central Regional Trustee will join us for the Fall Assembly September 19-20. This assembly is typically devoted to conducting the business of Area 40. Terry S., our Area Chair, would love to have agenda items submitted for this by July 1.

A few words about the importance of being a GSR, this position is vital to the health of AA as a whole. If not for this communication link, your Delegate would not be able to carry the conscience of Area 40 to the General Service Conference. Likewise, the Delegate relies on communication with the DCM and GSR to provide information to the Fellowship. Thank you for serving your group.

GSO communicates directly with groups mostly by providing a copy of the newsletter *Box 459* which will now be published quarterly. Please make sure that your DCM has your updated group contact information. DCM's, please work closely with our Area Secretary, April and our Area Newsletter Editor, Sharon to assure the most up-to-date information is available. Sharon has worked very hard to attempt to get the most current information so that your group receives the newsletter. The information contained in the newsletter is very useful and fun to read.

I heard a well-known political figure say that AA is the only true democratic society. Everyone's opinion matters, period. We strongly believe in the minority opinion and it is your and my duty to assure that the minority opinion is heard. The voice of each member, be it that of a GSR, DCM, or coffee pourer matters. I can only take your collective conscience to the Conference if you communicate it to me.

One of my favorite things to do today is to be with you. Serving Area 40 has been one of the highlights of my life and I suspect this will be an experience of a lifetime. I appreciate your confidence in me even when I don't have confidence in myself. I really get that Alcoholic Anonymous is fragile and we are the ones who can make it stronger.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do to serve you. Any questions?

In Love and Service,

Carole B.

## **DCM Breakout Session - Mark S.**

- A. How to get more GSRs involved.
  - 1. Have food.
  - 2. Carry the meeting to a halfway house
  - 3. Sponsor people into service
  - 4. Rotate District meetings to different home groups
  - 5. Get a bunch of people to go on a road trip
  - 6. organize a district carpool at the District meeting
  - 7. bring someone new to the District meeting
- B. Success stories- what's working
  - 1. Two districts combined and put on a GSR school
  - 2. Let groups resolve their own problems
  - 3. Mega committees
    - PI and Corrections committees put on a combined luncheon.
  - 4. Road trips
  - 5. Enthusiastic young people's group, they have quarterly camp outs.
  - 6. Have lots of activities
  - 7. Letting young people get involved in corrections work
  - 8. Whatever works is what works
  - 9. Don't be afraid to ask for help
- C. How to revitalize the CPC Committee
  - 1. Find someone who is passionate
  - 2. Go out into the community, answer requests for information on AA
  - 3. Put on CPC luncheon
  - 4. Tell people what AA does and does not do
  - 5. Start small, keep after it
  - 6. Don't let people move away
  - 7. Have some structure for people to follow

8. Enthusiasm breeds enthusiasm
9. Hand out pamphlets to doctors

### **GSR Breakout Session**

The meeting was called to order by Bob H. and opened with the Serenity Prayer.

Questions were posed from the Ask It Basket and from the floor. Scott W and Bob H took turns with the Ask It Basket questions.

- A. How do we get people to participate in business meetings in our Home Groups?
  - B. Announce meeting as opportunity for service, though that usually doesn't get much response.
  - C. Have a bulletin board and have points that may be considered controversial posted to pique interest.
  - D. Bring food.
  - E. Hold group business meetings before regular meetings.
  - F. When starting with good participation, keep order and avoid stronger "opinions" outlasting other members who may want to also participate.
  - G. Enthusiasm! Through sponsorship bring people into service.
  - H. Make an announcement like, "If you want to live, show up!"
  - I. Have a set night for business meeting (such as, 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of each month) and keep it to a 1-hour limit.
  - J. Allow meeting to go for only ½ hour and press for compromise.
  - K. If a meeting has 40 members and set business meeting night, remember you can lead a horse to water but you can't make them drink, but you CAN salt their hay and they'll get thirsty!  
Encouraging new people to get involved and participate.
  - L. To get people interested in service, you have to make service interesting. Make sure that there is a job for everyone.
1. What notes should be taken at a District meeting? What do we report?
    - A. All motions should be recorded. Report the outcome of all motions. Take notes on upcoming events.
    - B. Take notes on all reports given. Especially finance.
    - C. Keep track of agenda from District to make sure information is being relayed to Home Groups.
    - D.

2. Talk about court decision not to require people to attend meetings. Is this helpful?
  - A. This is an outside issue.
  - B. Experience is it's ineffective to make people attend meetings.
  - C. A person's sponsor told them that when there were more court slips than dollars in the basket, it was a good meeting.
  - D. Have an in group workshop on "How to Chair A Meeting".
3. How do you get people to be sponsors?
  - A. Read sponsorship pamphlet and take the suggestions it offers.
  - B. Be willing to pass on to sponsees that they must be willing to sponsor.
  - C. When approached by someone for sponsorship – channel him or her to someone else that you also sponsor.
  - D. Workshops on sponsorship are helpful. Make announcement for willing Temporary sponsors within your home group.
  - E. Someone offered to be an AA friend rather than a sponsor, but insist that they also get a sponsor.
  - F. "Get In the Car"...make it fun.
  - G. Sharing experience strength and hope in meetings to become an attraction rather than a promoter.
  - H. Sponsors encourage sponsorship.
4. What are some of the methods of paying attention at Group Conscience meetings?
  - A. Take minutes.
5. How much time is normally spent to properly do GSR work?
  - A. There is a pamphlet on GSR that covers responsibilities.
  - B. Ultimately there will be 24 home group meetings to chair, 24 district meetings with 24 reports to give on those, 4 Area Assemblies, and other meetings with home group to review agenda items or take care of other pressing Home Group business.
6. Whose responsibility is it to talk to the GSR if they aren't attending meetings or participating in GSR responsibilities?
  - A. District can solicit participation by calling them and asking what they can do to help.
  - B. It's the groups' responsibility to see that the trusted servant does their job.
  - C. GSR is responsible to step up.

- D. Educate the people standing for these positions BEFORE they are elected.
- E. If you get no response it's the group's job to relieve them of their duties and elect someone who is willing to serve in this capacity for your group.
- F. Scott W, past Area Advisor said that he got calls continually from people complaining that "they weren't doing it right." He asked are you throwing rocks or are you finding a solution?

7. Our group announces for people willing to sponsor but from within our group only.

Is this being exclusive and is it wrong because it's for home group members only?

- A. The right to present sponsorship as a strong link in recovery is a good tool.
- B. Each group has the right to be autonomous.
- C. It's more about the newcomer than the Home Group is.
- D. How else do you find a sponsor for newcomers?
- E. Sponsorship is very encouraged, but not a given right. Newcomers should be presented with the option of sponsorship.
- F. Newcomers don't understand Home Groups or elections.
- G. We must give it away to keep it. It's not up to the group to decide it's for Home Group members only.
- H. Autonomy of this group is solid because of this meeting announcement.

8. How do we get GSR's to participate in District meetings?

- A. People do this because they want to give back and find out how it all works.
- B. Ride together and then eat somewhere. Food is an attraction.
- C. I do it because my sponsor digs it!
- D. Need communication like from District to meetings. It's important.
- E. Sponsoring your trusted servant.
- F. Not just GSR's go to district meetings. There are many service positions available.

9. How do we get our group to take interest in General Service at District and Area?

- A. Having informed GSR's and asking questions.

B. I went to district meetings before I ever got a GSR position to find out what it was.

C. They trusted ME! They asked ME to do the job! (Gratitude)

D. We want what they have so we do what they do.

10. Does our group pay for GSR expenses to attend and Area Assembly?

A. Yes, it's important to be self-supporting and this is something GSR's do for their group.

11. What do we do when groups can't afford to send a representative?

A. As to be subsidized by the district.

B. As other alcoholics for financial help.

C. Double up on rides and rooms whenever possible.

12. Do the groups pay for meals as well?

A. Yes, all expenses should be covered. Be frugal with their money but expenses should be taken care of.

Meeting closed at 10PM with the Serenity Prayer.

### **Area Committee Reports**

#### **Archives/Area 40 Structure and Policies Area 40 Archive Committee Minutes**

Chair            Tim H

Dist 11           Colby D

Dist 23           Mike M

Dist 71           Kevin M

Dist 91           Leo M

#### Agenda Items

A. Review contents of Archive Workbook. All reviewed workbook and found it satisfactory.

B. Discuss ideas to make AA's archives and history more readily available to the fellowship.

1. First step is to save them.

2. The committee voted unanimously that the Area should have a budget line item for the Archivist to cover travel expenses to the Districts.

3. Look into composing an AA history in Montana book or booklet.

4. Area and District Archives could be presented in the Triangle.

5. Post an Archives page on the District's websites.
6. Host the 2011 National Archives Workshop.
7. Districts could host 'Archives' potlucks with District Archive chairs asking GSRs in that District to present an Archive item at the event. Also invite the Area Archives Chair and Archivist to take part.

It was agreed by all that enthusiasm begins at the grass roots level. A sponsor working with a sponsee going through books such as AA comes of Age and Dr. Bob and the Good Old Timers.

### **Structures and Policies**

1. Consider a request that Area 40 submit a proposal at the 2009 National AA Archives Workshop to host the 2011 National AA Archives Workshop.

It was brought up that those who attend service functions such as this Assembly or the West Central Service Conference, Special Forums, and Round Ups leave with a renewed passion for service. That passion is then passed through Districts, Home Groups and from sponsor to sponsee. The committee feels that the same would happen after the National AA Archives Workshop.

There are usually 6 Archive displays at the workshop. They come from surrounding Areas and are funded by those Areas. Also included are displays from the General Service Office and Gail L brings an Archives display from Akron Ohio.

It was voiced in committee that if our Area doesn't make a bid for this workshop, an Area close to us may. Should that happen, it may impede this workshop from coming to this part of the country any time soon.

The committee went over the pros and cons of this item and recommends, by unanimous vote, that Area submit a proposal to host the 2011 National AA Archives Workshop.

2. Consider a request that Area 40 fund the Area Archivist to attend the 2009 National AA Archives Workshop in Woodlands Hills, CA, to present an Area 40 proposal to host the 2011 National AA Archives Workshop (funding not to exceed \$1500)

The committee recommends by unanimous vote that Area 40 pass this request.

Therefore, the Archives Committee recommends that Area 40 fund the Archivist to attend the 2009 National AA Archives Workshop in Woodland Hills, CA (not to exceed \$1500) to make a bid that Area 40 host the 2011 National AA Archives Workshop, to be held in Helena MT.

**Floor Discussion: Scott W. asked that the committee reconsider the motion and rephrase to not include a location as part of the motion.**

**It was asked of the Area Archivist: if we send you to the 2009 workshop does that mean you will be going to the 2010 workshop also? Answer: No.**

**Connie R. talked about being enthusiastic and about our history and how this is a one-of-a-kind opportunity.**

**Bob H asked "who hosts this, who can attend this workshop?" Answer: Kalispell and Bozeman were recommended because of proximity to parks and sightseeing . Helena was also recommended**

because it is the location of Area 40's archival repository. All AA members can attend. There is usually a registration fee and banquet cost as well.

Gerry R. Area Archivist volunteered to organize hosting the workshop, he feels it might be easier to organize in his hometown which is where the archives are as well.

It was asked if we could propose to put a bid in to host the 2011 Archives Workshop and come up with a location at a later time.

It was cautioned that it cannot be too much later because it should be part of the proposal we make to the Workshop committee

The committee then rephrased their recommendation to exclude the location where the workshop will be held.

Vote: 96 For; 6 Opposed.

#### Minority Opinion:

Linda B we just approved to spend up to \$1,500, which means we just increased the budget by \$1,500. Is this prudent use of money at this time?

Thanks to everyone on the committee for their hard work.

In service, Tim H

#### Corrections/International Conventions-Regional Forums

A. Review contents Of Corrections Kit and workbook.

We reviewed the contents of the kit had some general discussion and were satisfied with contents at this time.

B. Consider alternatives to biennial mailing to corrections professionals, focusing on those that may be more effective and fiscally prudent.

Our discussion was focused on meeting in person with those correctional professionals on a face to face basis. We agreed that using the tools provided for us in the workbook and the use of the new DVD were a great way to make personal contact with these professionals. Emphasis on accountability on our part through showing up, being of service and available to those professionals is an essential and effective way to keep the message of AA going inside the walls. We discussed the effectiveness of correctional luncheons and workshops as well as keeping literature available.

A. Consider updating the pamphlet "It sure beats sitting in a cell".

B. We discussed the language that seemed "archaic" to possible newcomers or young people who might be reading the pamphlet. The word "GROOVY" and "FOLKS" were the words in question. We thought because it is a personal story we can't change the wording. We thought that maybe a story of experience, strength and hope of young inmates might be a solution. The wording in our committee did not bother the majority of us.

B. Discuss the issues that may be involved in AA members complying with the rules of correctional facilities, such as signing "sponsorship agreements" or legally binding documents.

We discussed anonymity and confidentiality of one alcoholic to another. Each institution has its own culture and needs. We need to be vigilant and possibly let inmates know what types of things we may have to report as a possible solution. We discussed the PREA act which requires any volunteer by law to report any sexual misconduct. We agreed that any assistance from GSO in our literature to help guide us would be an asset for us.

**Sense of the Area : Against**

**Floor Discussion:**

**Bob H. We go in as AA members and should refuse to sign legal documents and sponsorship agreements. Be careful!**

**Amelia: What is a sponsorship agreement? Answer: A document which an inmate fills in and a sponsor signs.**

**Rebecca is AA being asked to sign these? This would be an outside issue. Answer: We have simply been asked to discuss the issue and to offer guidance to those that are being asked to sign these.**

**Gerry : We need to understand these institutions and their needs.**

**Gene: Tradition six is being broken**

**Carleen: We go in and we share; but we have been asked not to do drunk-a-logs. This is along the same lines as the agenda item which talks about developing a piece of literature. The Prius Act is a law, we aren't going to change that.**

### ***International Conventions-Regional Forums***

- A. Discuss an anonymity-protected photograph of the flag ceremony to be taken at the 2010 International Convention.

We agreed that it needs to happen

- B. Consider a broadcast of the 2010 International Convention Opening Flag Ceremony similar to the encrypted, anonymity-protected, delayed extranet broadcast of the 2005 International convention Opening Flag Ceremony.

We agreed to the broadcast.

- C. Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional and Local Forums:

Ties into our next item

- D. Area 40 Agenda Item for International and Regional Forums:

*Discuss a recommendation from The 2008 Area 40 Corrections Committee that Area 40 request a local Forum from the General Service Office.*

Recommendation:

*Area 40 Corrections Committee requests a Local Forum from the General Service Office to be held in the spring of 2011 in Great Falls, MT.*

*Recommendation Passed*

**Floor discussion:**

**What are regional and local forums?**

**Bill:** we can get answers from GSO through this local forum. Prius Pact

**Glen:** Can we decide what subject we want? answer: It is on corrections.

**Bob H :** How about splitting the locations?(One day one place and the next day a different place). How did it become to be just a corrections forum?

**Other committees and other locations can put in bids for having the forum.**

**Vote: 65 For; 23 Against.**

*Any district wanting to place a bid for location as well as theme(s) for our Local Forum may submit it to our Area Chair by July 1, 2009. It will then be placed on the Fall Assembly Agenda*

In Service, Mary S

### **CPC/Trustees**

No Report sent.

**C. Floor discussion: Donna H. I feel it is important to stick to conference approved literature.**

**Sense of the Area on allowing fill in trustees a term of their own. OK**

**Bob H I would like the trustee's resume's to go to the whole conference rather than to just the committee that votes on them.**

### **Finance**

Thank you for the 5 committee voting members and the 10 interested AA'ers that participated in this standing committee meeting. A special thank you to Deb, for taking wonderful notes. We met both before and after lunch with much discussion.

A couple of financial housekeeping points:

1. In compliance with the tax exempt organization tax codes, the committee reviewed the 990 EZ Tax Exempt documents and found all material appropriate. Our committee unanimously voted to approve the tax papers. It is recommended that Area 40 send these documents on to the Internal Revenue Service.

2. There will be quarterly Area 40 financials reports in our area newsletter, The Triangle. The committee agreed that these reports need to be easily read and that they will increase awareness of self-support.

I would like to change the order of the agenda items. We will start with first with Agenda item

B: Discuss request to produce a Seventh Tradition Poster:

The sense of the committee is that we don't need this poster. It is redundant, we already have literature that speaks to the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition, it's a gimmick, is it necessary for the fellowship as a whole??, and is it prudent use of AA monies, it's a waste of resources.

**Sense of the Area: opposed.**

Agenda item C: Discuss other aspects of self-support.

The Financial report can be found in the General Service Conference Final Report. In 2008, to be self-supporting to the GSO services, an individual would have to contribute each \$6.88. It would cost groups \$155 per year for self support at the General Service level. The General Service Office is prudently cutting costs. Carole B. read a few of these cost reductions. The Home Group pamphlet group inventory helps the home group look at self-support. Attending your home group business meeting is important. Your voice and your vote counts and we all become better informed. Read the pamphlets!! One comment is that God doesn't furnish free coffee. There is a new self support service material postcard to leave on the tables at our home groups. It is also great to give to newcomers. . These are F-42 in the literature catalog. There is a new group treasurer packet. FV-19. I would like to read a service piece that is great. 'But, we do have expenses'. (included) We have a communication highway between the group and the GSR. We have to "pay it forward". There are service pieces that were handed out to the DCM's this weekend. They refer to the Group Contribution envelope and the Birthday Plan. Once again, bring these to the attention of the fellowship that may not be aware of them.

**Floor Discussion:**

**Larry: I am confused; if we have no money for coffee and no money to give to district does that mean we are not being self supporting? Answer: You are; these figures are for groups to use as guidelines for making splits.**

Agenda item A: Review material submitted from the Fellowship concerning the 2008 Conference Advisory Action "the trustees" Finance and Budgetary Committee gather input from the fellowship on the benefits and liabilities, both spiritual and practical of fully funding G.S.O. Services to the Fellowship (GSO functional expenses) by the voluntary contributions of AA members and groups.

Material has been read, opinions have been given and some of the discussion is as follows: For many years there has been discussion that WE would be better off if the General Service Office and services could be funded by the voluntary contributions from the AA groups and members. If that is achieved, revenues from literature sales will only be needed in amounts necessary to cover the actual costs associated with literature production and to maintain a Prudent Reserve Fund. Bill Wilson was not clear in his writings as to which direction we should take. In a June 1955 Grapevine article (page 159 of Language of the Heart) he seems to complain that we had to rely on literature profits for ten of the last fifteen years. But, in Concept XII, Warranty Two, he says these book profits aren't really profits, instead they are "the sum of a great many contributions which the book buyers make. Bill also remarks that the use of money in AA is a matter of the gravest importance. Where its use ends and the misuse begins is the point we should vigilantly watch. That the voluntary contributions or pledges of AA member should be our principal and eventually sole support; that this kind of self-support would always prevent our clubs and offices from getting out of hand, because their funds could readily be cut off whenever they failed to serve us well. In reviewing the sharing, it was noted that only 35 out of 93 delegate areas responded. We have not heard from 2/3 of our delegate areas. We felt that more information is necessary and that this process of an open dialog will only benefit our fellowship as a whole. Our

committee loved the idea of being self-supporting, but are not sure how the practical application is to take place. It is not a cut and dried idea. How do we define profit? Are we being supported by outside entities? As long as the fellowship doesn't have to change they won't. If we would set literature prices based on production and cost, then the fellowship would have to become accountable to those services that want provided and then, fully support this proposal by their individual and group contributions. The spiritual benefits of this self support will allow us to be responsible adults, we will pay our debt to the man or woman who took the time to pass the AA message on to me, and we will be fully vested in OUR AA live of recovery, service and unity.

**Floor discussion:**

**Virginia :** what is the reason behind this issue? To lower the price of literature or to keep literature prices the same? **Answer:** I have no answer to that. It is thought that some just want total power of the purse, some just argue that we are not self supporting.

**Tim:** Literature can help regulate the money that AA has, we need to maintain nonprofit status. To do that we need to keep below a certain number of dollars, literature can help us be flexible when we raise and lower literature prices.

**We need to watch how much money for literature comes from non AA sources. Last year 17.7% of profit came from non AA sources.**

**It's appalling that we cannot pay \$6.15 per person, or \$155 per group per year to an organization that saved our life.**

**Lori:** We need to pay for services that we ask for.

**Frank:** listening to the topic...we have workshops and programs about the 7<sup>th</sup> tradition, is literature we sell called self supporting?

**Bob H:** The floating cap is for the prudent reserve and to avoid fluctuation of the price of our literature. We are only 83% self supporting because 17% is from outside AA.

**We need to spend within our means, we need to cut back sometimes.**

**Connie R:** Gratitude is action! Stop talking and just do it, 2020 is long enough away.

**Mark S:** The ultimate user of AA literature is the drunk regardless of how they got it. We are self supporting.

**Kent:** I don't feel comfortable mandating to groups what they should give. AA is a good bargain even at \$5 a meeting.

**Ed:** How many use the birthday envelope? How many put \$6 in an envelope and send it in?

**Rick:** We have 50 to 60 years of history using literature sales that won't change. Literature helps GSO and helps get services out there.

**Tom:** We need to remember to help the still suffering alcoholic we need to keep prices reasonable.

**Are we going to charge dues and fees if self supporting is required?**

**Loren: Nothing is permanent, even if we approve this, we could change it back next year.**

**Donna H: It's not about the price of a book, it's about being self supporting, like adults.**

**Sense of the Area: on being self supporting by 2020 without use of proceeds from literature sales. Opposed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Linda B.

### **Grapevine/Policy and Admissions**

Committee Meeting Notes

The committee meeting was chaired by Rich K. Others in attendance were Gary S, Gary E, Dan, and Libbie, who were all voting members. Sandy A and Mary also attended with Mary acting as secretary.

The meeting began with a general discussion of our duties and introductions by those in attendance.

First item to be discussed was the **item A**, the review of the AA Grapevine and La Vina Workbook. Discussion included the welcoming packets from the website and the password privileges that the Grapevine Chair has on the website. The Committee discussed in depth the offerings of the Grapevine online and also the contents of the Grapevine representative handbooks.

**No discussion.**

**Item B** was the famous Gray Pages, titled officially as Alcoholism at Large. We discussed the history of the Gray Pages, and the motion made by the Texas AA Group which laid out in detail how they were in violation of several traditions, and also the details of how the Gray Pages were well within the Grapevine's charter. We reviewed the reasons both pro and con for the continuation of the section titled Alcoholism at Large. After much discussion the sense of the room was 4 in and 2 out, and the voting members voted 3 to 2 in favor of keeping the Alcoholism at Large section in the Grapevine.

**Without these pages then the grapevine might not mean anything to professionals it might be given to. The Big Book has The Doctor's Opinion.**

**Is money taken for the information printed in the gray pages? Answer: No.**

**If we are breaking the traditions then why are we even discussing it? We don't break the traditions.**

**Bob H: read the statement of purpose to the assembly and pointed out that we are violating traditions. We need to be careful about insinuating affiliation**

**Sense of the Area:**

**Item C** was the Consideration of a request that the 2004 Conference Advisory Action be Rescinded. After much discussion, it was concluded that the policy ought to be clarified into a single statement about what our policy ought to be regarding standardization of sales policies. The discussion included consideration of nondiscriminatory sales practices and whether or not intergroups were trusted servants, and what exactly the definition of who a trusted servant is. It was agreeable to how it is written now if trusted servants identification is clarified.

**Sense of the Area on passing this item: For**

### **The Policy and Admissions**

Items for discussion; **Item A** was well received by the committee and we gave it a thumbs up.

**Floor discussion:**

**Donna H: Do they pay for their own attendance? Answer: I believe they pay for their own attendance.**

**Item B** which was a review of the dates of the 2012 General Service Conference and we concurred that the dates being considered were given ample consideration and nothing was left out of the decision process.

**No discussion.**

**Item C** pertained to the report of the General Service Board Summary of Responses to Inventory Questions Pertaining to Regional Composition and Structure. Questions were raised about whether block voting prevented regions with less areas from having a reasonable chance of having the trustee selected from specific regions. We were in agreement that the Responses be reviewed.

**No discussion.**

**Item D**, which was a consideration for a request to formulate a procedure for filing a minority appeal directly with the General Service Conference. The committee was in agreement that we ought to make such a consideration, and that a method for submitting a minority appeal is developed.

**No discussion.**

**Item E** was discussed also. This item dealt with a request for a General Service Conference inventory. We questioned whether or not the schedule was so full that a inventory might be onerous and whether or not it would be done every year or perhaps who would be involved in the inventory process. We also discussed the need for a determination of who would develop the format for said inventory. We agreed that the inventory is generally a good idea.

**Floor discussion:**

**What kind of inventory? Answer: Like a group inventory: reviewing if using resources wisely, good use of money, time, ect.**

Respectfully submitted,

Rich K, Grapevine/Policy and Admissions Chair

**Literature – Lori F.**

The Literature committee was represented by Nick D., DCM-12, Jim G., DCM-31, Mary M., DR-91 and Larry D., DR-93. I would like to thank Frank B. from District 72 for taking notes and recording the votes. We also had six other A.A.s sit in on and participate in our meeting. The meeting was opened with the Serenity Prayer, followed by discussion of the agenda.

- A. Review the revised draft pamphlet "The A.A. Member – Medications and Other Drugs."
- Revision was proposed by Area 20 Northern Illinois in December 2006.
  - Pamphlet revision to include current experience became GSC Advisory Action in 2007
  - Revised draft is now ready for review
  - All six stories were retained and five stories were added, including some from people who take medications for treatment of mental illnesses.
  - Manuscript was also reviewed by a physician.
  - The summary at the end of the pamphlet was removed as it is identical to information included in the introduction.
  - If approved, pamphlet will go to the printer by July and be available early Fall.
  - Pamphlet is only available to Conference Literature Committee member at this time, so we had no material to review.
- B. Review the revised draft pamphlet "A.A. for the Native North American."
- Pamphlet revision stemmed from a request from Area 8 San Diego-Imperial for a booklet of Native North American Indian stories in January 2005.
  - The Trustees Literature Committee instead recommended updating the pamphlet to reflect current experience.
  - Pamphlet revision became a GSC Advisory Action in 2006. Pamphlet was produced in 1989 and has not been revised until now.
  - Out of 71 stories submitted, 15 stories were chosen; 7 from men, eight from women; 10 from the U.S., 5 from Canada. One original story (Esther's story) was retained.
  - Pamphlet is only available to Conference Literature Committee member at this time, so we had no material to review.

**No discussion on A or B.**

- C. Consider request that the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" be reviewed toward eliminating or revising outmoded ethnic, cultural and vocational references.
- Item proposed by Area 54 Northeast Ohio
  - The reason is that the choice of wording and overall tone of the Q&A paragraph on the bottom of page 9 and continuing to page 10 is outdated and demeaning ethnically and culturally.
  - References found objectionable include Irish-American, homemaker, and the idea that a black feels most at ease with another black.
  - At least this paragraph, and perhaps the entire pamphlet, should be critically reviewed to eliminate or revise outdated ethnic, cultural and vocational references.

The committee agreed that we should be aware of possibly offensive terminology – we want to attract, not offend and scare people away. We should also always keep in mind the expense of revisions. On our first vote, the committee was 4-1 in favor of this item. Minority opinion was expressed that the item was too vague with no specific terminology suggestions. We voted to reconsider. Further discussion pointed out that this only asked for a review of the pamphlet in question. Sense of the committee was unanimously in favor of this item.

**No discussion.**

### **Sense of the Area: For**

- D. Consider request to develop a new Special Needs recovery pamphlet for newcomers or prospective A.A. members.
- Item was proposed by GSO staff person who has the Special Needs/Accessibilities assignment based on her experience and the experience of her predecessor. Also upon needs expressed to her by the fellowship.
  - Reasons: to raise the consciousness of all AA members as to the challenges faced by AA members with special needs; to welcome newcomers; this may attract those with physical, mental and accessibility challenges.
  - Consider also using large print, easy to read format; using stories and sharing from AA members with emphasis on a broad spectrum of disabilities.
  - Current literature (all service material) which addresses Special Needs:
    1. AA Guideline "Serving Alcoholics with Special Needs"
    2. AA Guideline "Carrying the Message to the Deaf Alcoholic"
    3. Workbook "Serving Alcoholics with Special Needs"

The committee agreed that we have literature that addresses Special Needs and questioned whether we are relying too much on literature to carry the message. It was also suggested that all read the literature that we have available. The sense of the committee was 4-1 opposed to pamphlet development at this time. In dissent, it was expressed that perhaps we are inadvertently being insensitive to suffering alcoholics. We ask our employers, families and friends to understand our alcoholism – are we hypocritical in being resistant to understanding those with special needs?

### **Floor discussion:**

**Larry: If we want to address problems in AA then more work needs to be done for emotional, mental, physically and otherwise challenged so they don't feel left out or different.**

**Sense of the Area: Opposed.**

- E. Consider request to add a sentence to the pamphlet "A Newcomer Asks" that encourages newcomers to obtain and study the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*.
- Item proposed by the Area 75 Southern Wisconsin Literature Committee.
  - Reasons: the Big Book is our basic text containing the recommended program of recovery; a newcomer's first contact with AA may not come at a meeting where he would most likely be encouraged to obtain a book.
  - This pamphlet was adapted from one published by GSO London in 1979 and approved in 1980. There have been no revisions to date other than design changes.
- There was resistance in the committee to the phrase "obtain and study," again questioning whether we are relying on literature to do our job. The sentiment was expressed that it is best to go through the book with a sponsor. Our program is shared one alcoholic to another. The committee was not as resistant to a phrase that only encouraged a newcomer to "obtain" a book. The sense of the committee was 4-1 opposed to this sentence addition.
- Sense of the Area: Opposed.**
- F. Consider request to change the title of the pamphlet "44 Questions" to "Frequently Asked Questions About A.A."
- Request came from Area 51 North Carolina. Original request, also from Area 51, was a suggestion to change the pamphlet title to "FAQ" with the subtitle "Frequently Asked Questions"

about AA.” This became a recommendation at the 2008 GSC, but did not become an advisory action.

- Reasons: It is thought that the title “44 Questions” does little to convey that the contents of the pamphlet are designed to answer common questions from interested persons; opinion is that most people are confused by this title.
- The subtitle “44 Questions and Answers about the AA Program of Recovery from Alcoholism” was eliminated in 1988.

The committee was generally in favor of this more descriptive title, although one person’s group thought the title was fine, it’s ours and doesn’t need to change. One pro is that with this change, more questions could be added without changing the title. The sense of the committee was unanimously in favor of the title change.

**Floor discussion:**

**Donna : the expense to do this might be needless. We need to think long and hard on this before voting to spend the money.**

**Frank: Was the committee for or against? Answer: the committee was for.**

**Linda: the cost is minimal.**

**Sense of the Area: half For; half Against.**

- G. Discuss whether there is a need to develop Conference-approved literature that focuses on the topics of spirituality, and agnostics or atheists/nonbelievers in A.A.
- One request from Area 17 Hawaii in February 2008 was to develop a pamphlet including current experience and personal stories from AA member who have achieved and maintained sobriety and are either atheist or agnostic.
  - One request from Area 54 Northeast Ohio in September 2008 was to explore creation of a video addressing the spiritual vs. religious nature of AA.
  - No action was taken by the Trustee’s Literature Committee other than to forward this discussion topic
  - Reasons for requests include: many people are put off by what they perceive to be the religious nature of AA and this may create a barrier; although an outside issue, some courts have ruled that AA is a religion; some atheists feel pressured to conform to a belief in a higher power.
  - Currently, many of our pamphlets contain some explanation of the spiritual nature of the program.
  - Literature addressing this issue includes: the “We Agnostics” chapter in the Big Book; the booklet “Came to Believe”; articles in the Grapevine and other publications such as “About AA”; the Grapevine Book “Spiritual Awakenings – Journeys of the Spirit”; Grapevine CDs containing selections from this book; Grapevine CDs “Pathways to Spirituality.”

The committee felt that we have plenty of current literature that addresses spiritual issues. We seem to have too many pamphlets addressing specific groups as it is. This type of pamphlet would muddy the waters of a simple program. Alcohol was our higher power before we got here whether we were agnostic/atheist or not. It was questioned whether we could get a conference approved pamphlet that addresses this issue without changing the program. It was emphatically felt that THIS IS A SPIRITUAL PROGRAM! The sense of the committee was unanimously opposed to developing new literature focusing on this topic.

**Sense of the Area: Opposed.**

- H. Consider request to publish a book of stories from members in remote communities.
- Requested by Area 72 Western Washington
  - Idea is that the booklet would consist of stories submitted by members living in remote areas, possibly from stories submitted to and published by the AA Grapevine.

- Definition of Remote Communities is generally understood to be “any community where it is difficult to carry the message because of language, culture or geography.”

The committee felt that although this may be useful for identification, do we really need more literature? The Grapevine publishes this type of story and it was thought that this is something the Grapevine might want to look at producing. A suggestion came up that we could look at what others who publish recovery material – those “in it for the money” – are doing to see if this is addressed. For profits publish what sells, and if they are doing it, there may be a need. The sense of the committee was 4-1 opposed to development of this booklet.

**Floor discussion:**

**Gerry: We have enough literature out there.**

**Earl: We need to get the message out there to areas that do have difficulties being reached. I am interested in this and AA needs to be aware of this. I am not necessarily endorsing more literature though.**

**Sense of the Area: Opposed.**

I. Consider request to develop a second volume of *Daily Reflections*.

- Requested from Area 51 North Carolina and Area 16 Georgia in November/December 2008. There was also a request in 2007 from a different Area.
- Neither proposed a second volume to replace or revise the current volume, but to augment it.
- Reasons for request included: it’s been nearly 20 years since the first volume was published in 1990; first volume contains references to quotes which appear only in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of the Big Book; there is an expressed need for additional conference approved meditations to aid in our daily spiritual journey.

The committee thought that because there are so many books of this type other than the first Daily Reflections, this may be an overload. The sentiment was that the one we have is fine other than the non-availability in hard cover. One person thought that it might be nice to re-order the meditations. It was mentioned that each time a piece of literature is read, often something new is revealed. One member said that the readings are new to him each year as he forgets from year to year. The sense of the committee was unanimously opposed to a new volume.

**Floor discussion:**

**Peg: We do need more conference approved literature for meetings.**

**Deb: My group is opposed to another Daily Reflections because the first one took a long time. Too much expense at this time.**

**Rick: Alanon has three daily devotion books. I am not opposed.**

**Glen: there are already too many books to set up.**

**Geoff: Too many topics come from the Daily Reflections in group meetings, we forget about the Big Book. I am opposed to another Daily Reflections.**

**Jeannette: I love the Daily Reflections, it is not old or redundant. We just need the one, if we need more inspiration we can use other things.**

**I love the Daily Reflections but it is the opinions of individuals in AA.**

**Connie: the history of Daily Reflections is that it was produced by AAWS in response to the 24 hour book. There is no need for other things.**

**Randy: Daily Reflections might be old but not outdated.**

**It is up to the groups to read what they want to read.**

**Sense of the Area: Opposed.**

J. Consider request to develop a video on the General Service Representative (G.S.R.).

- Proposed by Area 36 Southern Minnesota in October 2008

- Reasons included: there is a need for consistent and complete message to convey the duties of the GSR; it would be a tool that could be used at District Meetings and group business meetings to generate interest in service; many meeting attendees have a difficult time reading and this would remove a barrier to service
- This would not be intended to replace service sponsorship or the Service Manual, but to supplement.
- The Trustees' Literature Committee agreed to forward the request to the Conference Committee with the suggestion that the committee consider updating the existing video "Your AA General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure" and consider adding an episode for both GSR and DCM.
- Current literature addressing GSR duties, etc. includes: GSR Pamphlet; Circles of Love and Service Pamphlet; Inside AA Pamphlet; The AA Group Pamphlet; the AA Service Manual Chapter 2.

The committee viewed the video "Your AA General Service Office, etc." length 21:49. It was remarked that many of those new in service have trouble finding information. Most thought it would be better to have a separate video rather than adding to the existing one. Many people don't even know these videos exist until they've been here a while. It was generally felt that this type of "training" is better done one on one, with GSR schools, and with service materials available. There was also a concern that groups may feel they are being instructed by the GSO. The sense of the committee was unanimously opposed to production of new video.

**Sense of the Area: Opposed.**

In closing, the committee kicked around a few ideas concerning our lending library. Everyone was asked to gather input from Districts and groups regarding the general usefulness of the library and whether changes need to be made. This may result in a future recommendation to Are 40.

### **Public Information/Report and Charter**

- A. Consider 2008 annual report from the trustees' Committee on Public Information regarding GSO's A.A. Web site.

*By unanimous vote the committee accepted the report submitted by the Trustees' Committee on Public Information.*

**No discussion.**

- B. Consider a request to add the text "Provide initial motivation" to the section "What A.A. does NOT do" in the pamphlet "A.A. at a Glance."

*Comments from the committee were:*

- *Do we provide initial motivation when we sign cards?*
- *Attraction vs. Promotion*
- *This makes this pamphlet consistent with other AA literature so we should do it.*

*By unanimous vote the committee felt this should be done.*

**No discussion.**

**Sense of the Area: half For; half Against.**

- C. Review updated text and graphics of the pamphlet “A Message to Teenagers...,” which utilizes selected text and graphics from the current “Too Young?” pamphlet.

*The committee felt that the more we can relate to teenagers the better.*

*By unanimous vote the committee felt this new pamphlet should was a good thing.*

**No discussion.**

- D. Consider draft wall poster for young people with information about Alcoholics Anonymous.

*Comments from the committee were:*

- *Felt the poster was “Cheesy”.*
- *Concern that young people would not relate to it.*

*The committee unanimously agreed that the poster needed to go back to the drawing board and that young people should be brought in to work on it.*

**No discussion.**

- E. Consider request “to develop a generic A.A. poster or posters for places such as hospitals, places of employment, doctors’ offices, etc.”

*Comments from the committee were:*

- *This is promotion.*
- *One member commented that Drinking and Driving posters did not stop him from doing it, (He has six DUI’s)..*

*The committees vote was split;*

*3 - No, 1 - Yes, 1 - Abstained.*

**Floor Discussion:**

**It seems like posters and pamphlets are promotion and it also seems like they are produced to take the place of one-on-one contact.**

**Bob: The poster is almost the same as a billboard, we need to *carry* the message. We need to do our 12 step work one-on-one.**

**Donna: We just need t stop spending money; we have PSA’s already.**

**Sense of the Area: Opposed.**

- F. Public Service Announcements (P.S.A.s):

1. Review current television P.S.A.s for relevance and usefulness.

2. Assess the need for a new television P.S.A.
3. Review report on centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the 2008 television P.S.A., "I Thought."
4. Review revised draft script of "Combination Radio P.S.A.s on CD," and consider recording revised script at a cost not to exceed \$20,000.

*The committee unanimously agreed with the recommendations on items 1 & 2. Reviewed the report on "I Thought" and also unanimously felt it was fine. By unanimous vote they also agreed with item number 4.*

**No discussion.**

- G. Consider draft of the "A.A. Videos for Young People Project."

*Although we did not get to see this video we did hear that Carole our Delegate did and heard her comments that they were all good but one was outstanding. The committee unanimously voiced their approval of this project.*

**Floor discussion:**

**Glen: All I needed at 16 was a Big Book. This is going to cost money to revise. I did *not* want to feel different because I was young.**

**Amelia: This movie will need too many revisions and the movie isn't really necessary. All I need is the AA meetings and *not* to feel different because I am young.**

**Maybe this is a good idea but for online use and not as movie for distribution.**

**Glen: We should use every means we can to reach young people.**

**Ann: I was exposed to AA at 12, 15, & 17.**

**I wanted the video , it cost \$3,000. but it only reaches 1% of population. We need to reach everyone.**

- H. Consider draft 2010 Alcoholics Anonymous Membership Survey Questionnaire.

*The committee unanimously agreed that the survey questionnaire was fine the way it is.*

**No discussion**

- I. Consider the need to clarify the importance of not breaking anonymity of living A.A. members in memorial announcements when one of our Fellowship dies.

*The committee unanimously agreed that this is out of the scope of A.A.*

**Floor discussion:**

**Maybe CPC can contact the newspapers.**

**Sense of the Area: Opposed.**

- J. Discuss suggestion that Public Information committees “explore the use of the A.A. Grapevine and La Viña in their endeavors.”

Suggestions from the committee were:

*District PI committees should be encouraged to buy subscriptions to the GV and La Viña and distribute them in Doctors’ offices, auto dealerships, banks, hair salons, ...anywhere people have to wait and might pick one up.*

**No discussion.**

- K. Review contents of P.I. Kit and Workbook.

*The committee unanimously agreed that the content of the workbook was fine.*

**No discussion.**

**Area 40 Agenda Item for PI:**

Area 40 – PI - 1-888-Report

The Area 40 1-888 number has given rise to many challenges in our Area. Some of these have been technical in nature; some have been along the lines of coordination and organization; but none of these compare to the opportunity this has given us grow in Unity. My second sponsor always started his sharing in a first step meeting with the same statement; the first word of the first step is “We”. The spiritual significance of this tiny, two letter words continues to amaze me. I question if I will ever fully grasp and comprehend its full significances.

Now on to the numbers:

In the fall of 2006 an ad-hoc committee was formed to look into the possibility and feasibility of implementing a statewide number. That study used the four largest districts, in our area; Billings-District 11, Missoula-District 81, Helena-District 61 and Bozeman-District 72 to come up with some numbers on call counts and the overall cost to these districts for their answering service. The table below represents the current “Statewide” call counts for the first quarter of 2009, the counts reported by the ad-hoc committee for the last quarter of 2006 and the savings by implementing the statewide service.

Month	Calls	Minutes	Patches	Cost
January	152	304	12	\$190.50
February	779	350	16	\$152.00
March	664	285	17	\$175.00
Base Cost (\$55 per month)				\$165

Totals thru March 2009	1595	939	45	\$682.50
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2006	*3962	4375	*52	\$1959
<b>Savings</b>				\$1276.50

\* The number of Hits on the Area Website for meeting information has consistently gone up since the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2006 which may explain the reason for the decrease in call volume. What has stayed relatively the same however is the number of patch calls, (someone being connected to an alcoholic), yet the price has been reduced and the coverage increased from four districts to all fourteen.

There have been three reported complaints in the first quarter of 2009. These have been due to people calling and getting put on hold, (elevator music), or not getting connected to an operator at all.

Things that still need to be addressed to improve the service are:

- If you become aware of a problem with the service please note the following;
  - a. What time the problem occurred,
  - b. What the date was that it occurred,
  - c. A brief explanation of what the problem was,
  - d. Contact Debra Rogers, General Manager of AnswerNet Montana at;

Tel: 1-406-238-4607

1-800-264-2338

efax: 1-800-230-9871

fax: 1-406-248-9371

email: [debra.rogers@answernet.com](mailto:debra.rogers@answernet.com)

- e. Please cc: the Area 40 PI chair also.
- The DCM's, and any District Answering service chairs that have requested a copy, receive a spreadsheet every month with the amount each District owes. The spreadsheet contains pages for all the months dating back to the end of 2008. If you have not paid a previous month's bill, you need to go to that page to see what you owe for that month and also pay that amount. The last month is not a running total but just what you owe for that month. Mail your payments to:

AnswerNet

735 Grand Ave.

Billings, MT 59102

*Please remember to note what District the payment is for on your check!*

- The last thing, and the most important, is that all of the Districts are responsible for keeping their contact information up to date. This is one of the benefits of the service. In communications with AnswerNet the Area Web Master and I discovered that they were using paper list, and some of them have not been updated in as much as four years.

This is accomplished by each Districts Answering Service chair going to a secured area on the Area 40 website to enter the contact names they have gathered on the paper form, (also available for download from the area website), they have circulated throughout their district. If you have not already done so please contact our Area 40 webmaster Alex M. for access to this secured site.

Remember that your district gets billed .50 cents a minute so it behooves you to train your contacts to get the number of the caller and call them back to save your district from getting excessive amounts!

Thank You for listening to me, and letting me be a part of the "We"!

Are there any questions?

### **Report and Charter**

A. *The A.A. Service Manual*, 2009 – 2010 Edition:

1. Consider adding the term of non-trustee directors to the section describing how non-trustee directors are selected, on page S75.

*The committee unanimously felt this was a good idea.*

2. Consider suggestion to add a locally developed G.S.R. Preamble to *The A.A. Service Manual*.  
*The committee unanimously felt this presented a clearer and more concise statement of what a GSR does than the opening paragraph on S26 does.*

### **Floor Discussion:**

**Bob H: Why do we want a Preamble? if we do this we will need one for everyone. Is this to replace text or to add to it?**

**Sense of the Area: Opposed.**

3. Consider proposal that every change to *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service* be approved by the General Service Conference.

*Comments from the committee were:*

- *This is micro managing,*
- *Concept III - We should trust our trusted servants,*
- *All changes should be noted and members of the fellowship who want to know what they are should have access to this information*

*The Committee unanimously felt that all these suggestions could be met if we used technology and put version control on the Service manual and placed the ability to access all the versions on the A.A. website.*

**Floor discussion:**

**Colby: Does this prevent us from editorializing? Answer: No, it allows us to track changes.**

**Bob H: We are talking every change. This is in answer to having it changed outside the conference one time. We need to guard and approve any changes at the General Service Conference.**

**Sense of the Area: half For; half Against.**

4. Consider suggestion to change the title "Conference Language" on page S19 to "Glossary of Conference Terms."

*The Committee unanimously felt this change should not be made.*

**No discussion.**

5. Consider suggestion to add text regarding the desirability of business or professional background for regional and at-large trustees to the section of *The A.A. Service Manual* on "Qualifications of an Effective Trustee" on page S63.

*The Committee unanimously felt this was a bad idea that could exclude some very qualified candidates from considerations.*

**No discussion.**

**Sense of the Area: Opposed.**

6. Review suggested revisions to Chapters 10 and 12 regarding the A.A. Grapevine.

*The Committee reviewed a lot of the revisions but time did not allow us to review all of it. What they did review they unanimously felt that it was in line with what the stated purpose of the revisions were for - "making the information accurate and up to date."*

**No discussion.**

7. Consider revised suggestion regarding the term of service of Appointed Committee Members on page S70.

*The Committee unanimously felt this was a good idea.*

**No discussion.**

8. Consider request to clarify language on page S65 regarding nominating a regional trustee candidate in the same year when nominating a trustee-at-large candidate.

*After having trouble just trying to decipher what this agenda item was trying to accomplish the Committee unanimously felt this was a good idea because it did make it clearer to understand.*

**No discussion.**

9. Review letter requesting an “inventory” of various items related to the General Service Conference Charter.

*The Committee felt that inventories are a good thing but also felt we are crossing over the line into not trusting our trusted servants. The letter to the conference from Michelle M. in the background also closed by saying “After a meticulous search - this is all she could find”, about this matter so we questioned why this item was even on the agenda.*

**No discussion.**

10. Consider suggestion to insert the page reference “(see page S63)” in the section on Regional Trustees found on page S65.

*The Committee unanimously felt this was a good idea because it made it easier to follow.*

**No discussion.**

11. Consider suggestion to add cross-references to area numbers and area names.

*The Committee unanimously felt this was a good idea.*

**No discussion.**

12. Review list of suggested additional changes.

*The Committee unanimously felt these changes should be made.*

**No discussion.**

- B. A.A. Directories (Canada, Western U.S., and Eastern U.S.): review list of suggested changes.

*The Committee unanimously felt these changes should be made.*

**No discussion.**

- C. Discuss General Service Conference Final Report.

*Although the Committee did not unanimously agree to all the content in the report they did unanimously agree that the format and presentations was fine.*

**No discussion.**

### **Treatment/Agenda**

Thank you to all who came to the Treatment Committee breakout. Your contributions to the discussions are most valuable. Fourteen people were present and 4 of the five committee members: Joe H, District 41 standing in for Jim W; Tom D, DCM District 61, Peggy, District 71 standing in for April S and myself.

Our first Agenda Item is Treatment

A. Review revised video, Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous.

We watched the video, noticing a few things.

-The third edition of the Big Book was used instead of the 4th.

-The audio seemed to say that AA is responsible for getting the newcomer to meetings.

-Full faces of actors might be helpful to relieve the tedium of sterile backs, gesticulating hands, and shuffling feet.

**No discussion.**

B. Discuss a proposal that Treatment Facilities literature include information that would assist Treatment Facilities committees with their effort to inform treatment professionals about AA and to carry the AA message to patients in out-patient treatment programs.

The committee decided that new literature is not needed. We need to get the info we have out to treatment centers. We need to make contacts. There was one opposing comment on the floor.

**Floor discussion:**

**Billi Jo: We need to have comments specific to outpatient treatment and comments specific to inpatient treatment because they are so different from each other.**

**Nick: I never saw films or AA people in treatment.**

**Donna: To get information into the treatment centers falls under the duties of the CPC committee. We are talking about a literature piece that is redundant to CPC efforts.**

**Connie: We need better communication between committees to keep this straight.**

**Sense of the Area: Opposed.**

C. Discuss request that the Conference Committee on Treatment Committees expand its scope to include services to Special Needs Committees and that the name of the committee be changed to the "Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities/Special Needs."

The committee agreed that accountability is needed, but think that CPC would be a better choice for oversight since it's responsibility is community relations.

**No discussion.**

### **Sense of the Area: Opposed**

D. Discuss specific possible uses of the AA Grapevine and La Vina in Treatment endeavors.

Some suggestions were made:

- Each group buy a subscription to donate to treatment facilities.
- Take old Grapevines into treatment facilities.
- Districts buy a subscription for each District Chair to use in their efforts.

**No discussion.**

E. Review contents of TF Kit and Workbook.

A couple of suggestions came out of committee:

- Include a Bridging the Gap letter example to patients.
- Edit in various places the phrase "experience of 60 plus years" to 75 plus years.

**No discussion.**

### **Agenda**

A. Review suggestions for the theme of the 2010 General Service Conference.

The committee liked the theme "Transcending the Generations."

**No discussion.**

B. Discuss presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2010 General Service Conference.

The top 4 were:

#12. Just Don't Drink and Go to Meetings vs. Trust God, Clean House and Work with Others

- #8. Setting an Example - Attract Into Service
- #32. Unity - Focus on the Still-Suffering Alcoholic
- #44. General Service Conference Agenda Selection Process

C. Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2010 General Service Conference.

I got mixed up on this so we chose from the wrong list, but the selections were:

- #8. Together We Can!
- #17. Reaching to the Younger Alcoholic
- #58. The Attraction of Sobriety
- #43. Anonymity in a Changing World

D. Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form.

The committee agreed that the question about participation in the Conference by classification should be removed.

There were two other matters. One in the background material of item B about returning the responsibility of setting the agenda to the Agenda Committee; the other asked by letter from the Treatment Facilities Coordinator, Warren Stafford, at GSO about full faces of actors being used in videos.

-Returning the responsibility of setting the agenda to the Agenda Committee.

The A.A. Service Manual states on page S60 "AGENDA (trustees' committee: General Service Conference): Reviews and approves overall format and content of the agenda for the annual Conference meeting; has the year-round job of communicating with G.S.O. on subjects for the Conference agenda and theme."

>From the background material it seems that beginning in the 1970s that responsibility was shifted to other committees and later to the staff without vote or even mention in the minutes of the Agenda Committee or the other committees. Four Areas have requested that the setting of the agenda should again be the responsibility of the Agenda Committee as stated in the Service Manual, but this concern was not on the Spring 2009 agenda.

The committee agreed that this concern should be looked into.

-Full faces of actors being used in videos with a disclaimer.

The committee agreed that using full faces of actors would make the

videos more interesting and that a disclaimer should be used. This comment will be sent, as requested, to the CPC staff person at GSO.

**Floor discussion:**

**Loren: We can't really get a sense of the area because it wasn't presented.**

**Bob: We are going to see this and hear a lot about it. We need to have cooperation with conference and trustee committees so the fellowship can get items on the agenda.**

**Scott: I suggest we write up an agenda item for the next area assembly. The topic is too murky right now.**

After our business we had a general discussion about matters that are concerning District Treatment Committee Chairs.

Thank you for allowing me to serve!

Paula H  
Treatment Chair  
Area 40

**Round Up Reports:**

**2008 Fall Round Up:** Kalispell. Mary M

Hi I'm Mary and I'm an alcoholic, co-chair of the 2008 Fall Round Up held September 26-28.

Thank you Tim H for chairing this event, which was a great success. We had many great people that helped from all over Flathead Valley . Thank you to all that attended.

We had about 450 people register.

The event was self-supporting and we were able to send seed money to the Spring Round Up in Missoula , which by the way is next weekend [in case you have not heard]. We also did splits on the remaining funds.

If anyone has any questions, please come up and ask me.

In service, Mary M

**2009 Spring Round Up:** Missoula. Dave L.

From : The 2009 Spring Round Up Committee

Greetings fellow AA's,

My name is Dave L .... I am a grateful and sober member of alcoholics anonymous and Chair of the Round Up Committee.

We are in the final stage of planning for the Spring Round Up April 24-26 in Missoula. There has been tremendous volunteerism from the Missoula AA community and it is great to witness so much "gratitude in action".

We had two primary goals 20 months ago when we started this process.

First- To provide an affordable round up event so that everyone could afford to attend. Other than the cost of the meals which are higher than I would have liked, the \$20 registration fee covers all of events, panel and speakers meetings, hospitality and snacks, childcare and very important to the committee members, a bottomless cup of coffee.

Second-Attract as many new comers as possible. We decided to waive the registration fee for anyone with less than 6 month sobriety and tried to spread this notice Area wide. It will be interesting to see the result at the Saturday Night sobriety countdown.

As you might understand, any illusion of control by me has been smashed and it has taken on a life of its own. It is akin to opening the corral gate and watching which way the horses go. It has been a fun and rewarding experience.

We have mailed 2500 flyers to Area DCM's for distribution to local groups and contacts in other states, and of course put notice in program publications. To date we have approximately 250 registrations from Montana and 11 other states. I am very excited to see old friends and talk program over a good cup of coffee. We hope that everyone will enjoy the weekend and that it enhances their sobriety.

Finally, I would like to announce we will have a "Round Up Insights" meeting Sunday 26 at the Double Tree right after the Brunch for past and future Round Up chairs and other interested parties.

YIS, Dave

### **Intergroup Reports**

Park County Intergroup: We at Park County Intergroup are dedicated to carrying the message and providing the fellowship events for the unity of the groups in the Park County area. We always refer to the AA Service Manual.

Park County Intergroup maintains a phone information number, where we can give callers information on where the closest meeting is. We maintain a list of people to go on 12 step calls. we publish and distribute a meeting list of the meetings in all of Park County. We also put out a brochure called "Who Me?".

We are planning a workshop in May on the Traditions. We had our annual corned beef and cabbage dinner last month. We are already geared up for our annual camp out on July 10-12, 2009. At that we will have a potluck dinner at 5:30 PM with a speaker to follow at 7:30 PM. I brought flyers, or call Mark C.. We are expecting a big turn out this year so now is not too early to register.

We also host an alcathon on Christmas Eve through Christmas Day, and a party on New Year's Eve.

We have a medallion meeting every first Saturday of the month, where we give out medallions to whoever signs up for reaching a milestone in the past month. Then we have a speaker or call up meeting. We have a cake donated by a member (very good) and our business meeting follows, where we encourage every group in Park County to send someone so we can plan what the groups want of us, while following the guidelines.

We now have a library of conference approved books in Park County and you can order any of the literature from us. So, other than not having a Public Information Committee and publishing a newsletter, we are fulfilling five of the seven things the Service Manual says we are to do.

Mary P, Park County Intergroup

**WCRAASC Report** :Billi Jo D.

WCRAASC Our Commitment to Carry AA's Message — Enthusiasm and Gratitude in Action

I want to thank Terry for asking me to give this report. Knowing that I would have to answer to you for my attendance at the WCRAASC I paid particular attention to all that I saw and heard.

The conference guidelines stated: The purpose of the WCRAASC is to develop greater unity among members, groups, and areas of the West Central Region; to encourage the exchange of ideas and experiences; and to provide an opportunity for members to discuss pertinent aspects of AA.

We fulfilled the first purpose of developing greater unity by the several AA meetings, Ask-It-Basket, coffee breaks, and fellowship. As well as by the discussions and sessions.

The second purpose to encourage the exchange of ideas and experiences was fulfilled by the General Sessions and by Breakout sessions. The General Sessions were conducted by four delegates from around the region. During each general session, two people from that Area shared on the topic of the session followed by sharing from the floor at the microphones. Area 40 conducted the first general session. The presenters were Libbie L. DCM from District 91 and Colby D. DCM from District 11. Other Areas that conducted sessions were AREA 24 Iowa; AREA 35 southern Minnesota; and AREA 52 North Dakota.

For the two breakout sessions we had a choice of five options each time. At the first break out, I attended the DCM session moderated by Kelly D. from AREA 35 northern Minnesota. What I bring back to you from this session is AREA 52, North Dakota's lapel pin "Get in the Car." As DCMs our leadership to our districts is that of education and participation. Let us "get in the car" by inviting others to join us in the joy of service by participating in everything we can in our districts, in our groups, and in our Area.

At the second breakout, I attended the GSR session moderated by Nick D. AREA 40 District 12 DCM. Half to three-quarters of the attendees were new GSRs. What I bring back to you is the need for those with experience to teach and to show new GSRs about their service position; the importance of sponsorship in service. Sponsorship in recovery is vital to our very lives. Sponsorship in service may be just as vital to our fellowship.

The third purpose of a conference: providing an opportunity for members to discuss pertinent aspects of AA was fulfilled during the four sessions in which the GSC agenda items were discussed. Hours of discussion went into these sessions, lasting until well after 11:00 pm every night. These were the same agenda items we discussed here this weekend.

To add to the communication at the conference, the regional trustee report was given not only by our own west central regional trustee Ken B. but he invited four past and present AA Trustees (all Class B Trustees) to share. What I heard was: together we can; passion for AA; uninformed minority can destroy AA; difficulties on every level; what are we going to rely on — spiritual principles or business decisions; watching our Trustees is a good thing to do — what do we do when we think no one is watching is a measure of our integrity; Trust God, ourselves, and others - however, others must demonstrate trustworthiness; and a Conference is a demonstration of coming together to do the best we can for AA.

Why do we need service conferences? We need to adhere to and to practice the upside down triangle of the AA service structure. Let me editorialize and summarize the opening remarks given in 1954. We, you and I, may not need a General Service Conference to ensure our own recovery. But. We do need a GSC to ensure AA will be there for someone who is not yet sober in AA. We need GSC because we must protect the fellowship from an invasion of egos. We need GSC to ensure that change within AA comes only as a response to the needs and the wants of all AA members and not as a response of only a few AA members such as Trustees, Delegates, or Board Members.

At the WCRAASC, what I saw was all kinds of people coming together with love and passion for AA, for recovery, and for service to the fellowship. Thank you.

### **Past Delegate Sharing:**

**Mark S. and Bob H.** Thank you for sharing your journeys of recovery and service, in Area 40, with us at the Area Assembly.

**General Sharing Session.**

**Prayer and Meeting is Adjourned.**

**Travel safely!**

**Next Area Assembly is in Lewistown, MT at the Yogo Inn on September 18 & 19.**

