

Area 40 Spring Assembly Minutes
Great Falls & Hybrid Assembly via Zoom
April 4-6, 2025

Table of Contents

[Assembly Welcome](#)

[Assembly Welcome Friday Evening – Jessica E W](#)

[Assembly Welcome Friday Evening – Lisa C](#)

[Assembly Welcome Saturday: 5](#)

[Roll Call: 8](#)

[Secretary Report: 10](#)

[Motions from Fall 2024 Assembly: 10](#)

[Elections and Motions from Spring 2025: 11](#)

[Financial Highlights: 12](#)

[Area Chair Report: 12](#)

[Delegate Report: 13](#)

[DCM Reports](#)

[District 11 Report: 15](#)

[District 12 Report: 16](#)

District 21: No Report

District 23: No Report

District 31 No Report

[District 41 Report: 17](#)

[District 42 Report: 17](#)

[District 51 Report: 17](#)

[District 61 Report: 18](#)

[District 71: Report 18](#)

[District 72 Report: 19](#)

[District 81: Report 20](#)

[District 91 Report: 21](#)

[District 93 Report: 22](#)

[Standing Committee Reports](#)

[Archives/Area 40 Structure & Policy: 22](#)

[Archivist Report: 23](#)

[Grapevine/Policy & Admissions: 26](#)

[Public Information/Website: 28](#)

[Webmaster Report: 28](#)

[Area 40 Website Guidelines Review & Action Ad-Hoc Committee Recommendations: 29](#)

[Cooperation with the Professional Community/Trustees: 33](#)

[Finance: 36](#)

[Corrections/International Conventions: 40](#)

[Treatment Facilities/Agenda: 41](#)

[Bridging the Gap: 42](#)

[Hotline/Report & Charter: 44](#)

[Literature: 46](#)

GSR Breakout: Transcript not available at the time of this release.

[DCM Breakout: 48](#)

[Roundup Reports: 49](#)

Intergroup Report: Transcript not available at the time of this release.

[General Service Conference Report: 50](#)

Past Delegate Sharing: Transcript not available at the time of this release

[Open Sharing: 51](#)

[Appendix 1: Area 40 Financial Highlights: 52](#)

[Appendix 2: GSR Workshop: 58](#)

[Appendix 3: 12 Concepts Workshop: 88](#)

[Appendix 4: Panel 75 Orientation: 101](#)

Friday, April 4, 2025

Assembly Welcome

➤ **ASSEMBLY WELCOME, FRIDAY EVENING – JESSICA E W**

I'm the current Area Chair and Alternate Delegate for Area 40, and I'm honored to serve in this capacity. It's an honor to personally welcome you to Area 40's Spring Assembly.

Would all of the **first-time attendees** please stand or raise if you are on our virtual platform, please raise your hand?

Welcome to your first Area 40 Assembly. Thank you for being here and serving Alcoholics Anonymous in this way. On behalf of the area committee, welcome. There are so many people around that would be delighted to help you this weekend. Please, if you have questions, ask anyone of us.

At some point during this weekend, introduce yourself to someone who is currently serving on the area committee and let them know that this is your first assembly OR go to the microphone at least once to comment on an agenda item or share during the sharing session. For those attending virtually, you can introduce yourself to one of the Area trusted servants on Zoom – Alex, Jack, Mike – or reach out by email, text, or phone to one of the other area chairs.

Visitors, District Reps, GSRS, DCMs, alternates, and past Delegates, thank you all for your time and service to show up here, with your smiles, your hearts, your love for Alcoholics Anonymous. Past Delegates, can you please stand.

For anyone who has questions this weekend, these are some of your people. They are a wealth of knowledge.

Our Area 40 delegate Lisa will head to New York City in a few weeks, where she'll join with 92 other delegates from the US and Canada. Lisa will be Area 40's spiritual contribution to the General Service Conference, or you'll see denoted GSC in places, and one of our goals this weekend is to help her prepare by carrying the voices of our groups. There is some fairly considerable background information on the agenda items, which is available on the Area 40 dashboard. If you haven't yet seen the background material, your DCM can help you access it. We encourage you to ask questions throughout the weekend at the mic, but in the interest of time, we also encourage you to look through the background material for the issues you care about to see whether it contains answers to some of your questions.

Throughout the weekend, I implore you to look around the room. See each other. Recall the spirit that leads us, the 36 Principals of the steps, Traditions, and Concepts that guide us, and recall that from the moment a potential member hears of our solution through a professional, sees our public information that spreads across the globe, hears a message of hope at a Treatments Facility, hears our literature in an audiobook when in custody, or walk into your group still jittery, in despair and, in need.....

Every service component matters...how we serve in our groups, in our districts, and in our area....We are Area 40, yet we are part of an even greater whole. We may disagree, but we can choose to do with grace and curiosity. We are different from what we may see out of here. We have a primary purpose, and because we love Alcoholics Anonymous, we have a responsibility in our Fellowship. During this weekend, we will look at both Area 40 Agenda Items and the GSC items for Lisa as what was earlier mentioned.

Our secretary, Jessica S-K has printed our assembly agenda that you can find on the back table, and the most recent version, Alex M our Webmaster has posted on our Calendar of Events on the Website.

Why We Need a Conference: Jessica T.

Kacie T. Lead attendees in a Communication Game – Kacie N.

➤ **ASSEMBLY WELCOME, FRIDAY EVENING- LISA C**

Good evening! My name is Lisa C., and I am an alcoholic. It is my honor and responsibility to serve as your Delegate for this rotation. Thank you for being here with us on this Friday night... some of you drove a long way, some of you may have left work a little early to get here... some of you may have left a lot early. All of you have given up spending the weekend at home on the couch to be here to serve Area 40 this weekend, and if it crossed your mind on the way here that you're not sure that was the best idea you ever had, I guarantee you're not the only one. But I hope that by the time you're heading back home on Sunday, you'll be really glad you came... that you'll feel connected and well-informed and reinvigorated to go back to your districts and home groups and do your part to carry the message, whether that's as a GSR or DCM or committee chair or home group member this rotation.

We have a few things to tell you about what's going to happen this weekend, but before we get to that, we want to do something that's hopefully a little more fun. Our past delegate and current area advisor, Kacie N., is here – as always – to bring the fun, so I'm going to turn this over to her.

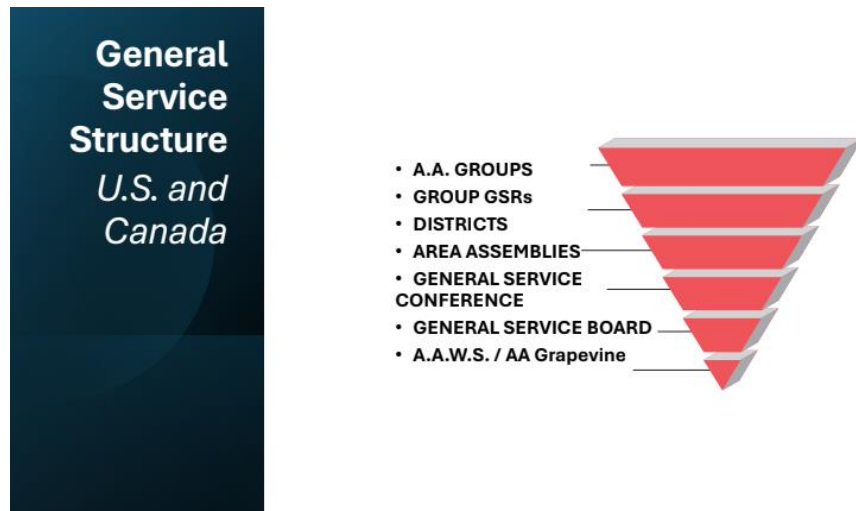
How many of you are GSRs? How many of you are new GSRs as of this past January?
How many are here for your first assembly?



The brochure on the left is the current General Service Representative Brochure... and it's great, it's got a lot of good information in it. But the one on the right is what the cover of the brochure looked like in 2014, when I became a GSR for the first time. I became a GSR very early in sobriety. I asked my new home group for a service position, and GSR was the only one available, so I said, "great, I'll take it" without having any idea what I was getting used to. Then my sponsor gives me this brochure – the one on the right – and it says "May Be the Most Important Job in AA." I think I skipped right over the "May Be" part, because I definitely got the idea that my new job was the most important job in AA. Which gave me feelings of both – "This is gonna be a disaster, they're really gonna regret this," and also "Hmm. Look at me. I guess my home group really knows how to recognize talent."

That was twelve years ago, and I've been involved in General Service ever since.

Someone in my home group told me during those early days, “GSR? You’re gonna be going to district? Oh, you’re gonna be sober forever.” I really wanted to be sober forever, and I didn’t really understand that he was being facetious, so I vowed early on that I would go to district forever so that I could be sober forever. Luckily, I discovered that I really love general service, so it hasn’t been hard to stick around. I got bit by the service bug at my first district meeting, and I’ve never looked back, being willing to take a turn at whatever needed doing wherever I ended up. And after having done service at positions throughout the service structure, I can say with some experience behind it that I really wish they hadn’t dropped the tagline from the older GSR brochure. Because GSR is definitely the most important job in AA.



The Groups are at the top, then the GSRs, and that is the layer that connects a group to everything else in the triangle – district, area, GSC, the GSB, etc. Without a GSR, a group is really on its own. Some groups choose that, and they like it that way, and groups are autonomous, so I’m not here to say that that’s wrong. But without a GSR, some groups might feel a little like the folks on Zoom felt during our game a few minutes ago – confused, annoyed, left out. There is no connection for those groups to any of the events and service opportunities in our district and no information about anything going on at other levels of service. GSRs are the conduit to gather all that information from lower down on the triangle and bring it back.

CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP

Each year, there are approximately 135 voting members of the General Service Conference acting together as guardians of A.A. and of the Steps and Traditions. They are composed generally as follows:

- 93 area delegates (who make up at least two-thirds of the Conference body)
- 21 trustees of the General Service Board
- 6 nontrustee directors from A.A.W.S. and Grapevine
- 15 A.A. staff at the General Service Office (A.A.W.S., Grapevine and La Viña)

And if there's something your home group needs in order to more effectively carry the message, GSRs are the conduit for that too. The General Service Conference takes its instructions about what the fellowship needs from the groups. Sometimes an agenda item comes from aggregated groups – from a district or an area or a collection of areas – but others come from a single group with an important idea for AA. And even the ones that have aggregated wider support, the support is often for an idea that started in a home group.

In 2023, Kacie conducted a workshop in June on how to write an agenda item, and a member from Great Falls brought an idea to have AA create a pamphlet for the unhoused. Area 40 voted on it at our fall assembly, and we sent it to GSO. It went on the agenda for the 74th

The final agenda for any Conference consists of items suggested by:

- Individual A.A. members
- Groups
- Delegates
- Trustees
- Area assemblies
- Area committee members
- Directors and staff members of A.A.W.S. and the Grapevine

GSRs may have ideas for an agenda item, including some brought to them by group members. Experience suggests that they may want to discuss them first with their groups, then at district or area meetings. A district or an area can then forward it to the staff member at G.S.O. who is currently serving as Conference coordinator.

GSC, and it was assigned to the CPC committee. The CPC committee ultimately decided not to recommend creating a pamphlet. The committee agreed and discussed on the floor of the conference that the unhoused are underserved by current AA resources, but the committee was unsure that a pamphlet would be the best way of reaching them. Other ways of reaching out to this group are under discussion this year within conference committees, and if there are no agenda items this year, perhaps there will need to be some in the future.

75th General Service Conference Agenda and Background Material

<https://www.aa-montana.org/dashboard>

Username: dashboard

Password: xwPa4SKy

If you haven't already accessed the background material, there are slips of paper on each of the tables with the information about where to find it and how to log in. It will be helpful to have this available to you tomorrow. If you don't have it available, you can ask the chair who's presenting an item to share what they've gleaned from the background material, but please only make this request for items

that are extra important to you and/or your group. We have so much to get through, and there isn't time to summarize the background on every item.

How the Conference Operates & Discuss, Review, Consider – There are copies of both of

these documents on the table in the back of the room. If you haven't already read these documents, grab copies and take a look tonight or tomorrow morning, before we get started. They'll give you the basics on a lot of the work we'll do this weekend.

Questions? Whatever question is on your mind, other people probably also need to hear the

answer. Don't let the whole weekend pass without going to the mic. It's easier now than it will be later in the weekend! Fewer people! Ask questions all weekend long of each other or of me or of any of the people on the area committee.

Close with Responsibility Statement

➤ **AREA STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING:**

- Jessica E.W led the committee through an Ice breaker to get to know each other.
- Reviewed Policy and Procedures and Area Service Structure.
- Walked through the meaning of Review Discuss and Consider.
- Updates from: Webmaster, Secretray, Treasurer

Saturday, April 5, 2025

12 Traditions: Holly, District 51 GSR, Third Step Group

12 Concepts: Malcom, District 71, GSR and Grapevine Rep.

➤ **ASSEMBLY WELCOME, SATURDAY MORNING- LISA C.**

Good morning, everyone! I'm Lisa, and I'm an alcoholic. It's an honor and a privilege to get the opportunity to serve Area 40 as your delegate. It's the beginning of the rotation, and I'm doing this for the first time, so I'm a little nervous. My guess is that some of you are too. Let's take a moment of silence to ask for courage, if we need it, and for whatever other help we may require as we work together this weekend. ... Thank you.

If you are a GSR here at Assembly for the first time, will you please stand? Online, if you're a first-time attending GSR, please raise your hand? If you made it to the session last night, you heard me mention that the GSR brochure used to have the tagline "May Be The Most Important Job In AA." Which I read at the time that I became a GSR as "DEFINITELY The Most Important Job in AA." Joking aside, you do play a crucial and indispensable role. You're the links that enable me as the Delegate to go to the General Service Conference in a few weeks and talk knowledgably about how the groups in Area 40 are carrying the message and what the groups in our Area need in order to keep doing that as effectively as possible going forward. Thank you for your service, and thank you so much for joining us this weekend.

New GSRs, please remain standing, and now I'm going to ask everyone who is here at Assembly for the first time to also stand. Online, if this is your first assembly, please raise your hand. I hope you'll find service at the Area level as exciting, rewarding, and as fun as I have. I attended my first Assembly six years ago as a new DCM. I remember sitting in this room as our then-brand new Delegate Paul L. gave his first Delegate's Report, and I remember feeling so inspired by his love of service. I needed

every bit of that inspiration to stay present and engaged as we then plowed through our 94 agenda items. I remember driving home that Sunday with a peaceful, joyful sense that my heart was very full. I hope all of you experience that feeling as you're heading home tomorrow.

Everyone sitting down, please take a look at everyone standing up, and think for a moment about the people who helped you feel a part of when you were at Assembly for the first time. Please try to be that person for at least one of the new folks here with us this weekend.

Will all DCMs please stand? Thank you for your willingness to be a leader in your districts and to connect your districts to Area and other entities down the triangle. DCMs should be spending some time this morning completing the sign-in sheet for their districts, and those need to be turned into our secretary Jess by 10:00 am. Voting members attending virtually please let Alex M know that you're a voting member, so that we can be sure to count you when we're setting our quorum.

At this Assembly, among other things, we will be voting on some Area 40 Agenda Items. We'll also be reviewing the 95 Agenda Items that will be dealt with at the upcoming General Service Conference in New York City, April 27-May 3. Area 40 operates on a Committee system much like the General Service Conference. The GSC Agenda Items are divided between thirteen conference committees. Eight of the thirteen have a direct Area 40 counterpart, and the remaining five are assigned to some of our committee chairs as secondary assignments. At 9:30 this morning, we'll have breakout sessions for each of our area 40 committees. If you're a DCM, you've already been assigned to a committee, and if you're currently chairing a committee for your district, you may also be assigned to a committee (double check with your DCM if you're not sure). If you haven't been assigned to a committee, you're welcome to attend the meeting for any committee that interests you.

You're also welcome to stay right here in this room all morning, for the workshops presented by two of our former delegates. Can I ask our former delegates to please stand? (Recognize each.) Libbie L. and Gerry R. will be running the workshops this morning, and we'll hear from them tomorrow morning about their experience, strength, and hope. Tonight, they'll lead ask-it basket sessions, one for new GSRs and one for new DCMs. Those are conducted in a loose discussion format using questions from the "Ask-It-Baskets" that are placed at the back of the room. If you're new in your service position, I highly encourage you to attend. I guarantee you'll have questions as we go through things this weekend, and that's a really good place to find some answers.

Do we have any past Trustees here this weekend? If so, please stand. I also want to recognize Earl F., who was elected in the spring as Area 40's candidate for trustee-at-large. The vote for that position will happen at the GSC later this month.

Each committee meeting will have a report from the chair, a review of activities and events taking place area-wide that pertain to that committee, and any Area 40 agenda items assigned to that committee. The committee will also review the GSC items assigned to that committee. The background material related to those items will be available so that an informed discussion can be held about each item. If necessary, the committee may vote on some of its agenda items, and it may bring a recommendation to the Assembly, which we will then all discuss. Anyone who attends a committee will be permitted to speak during the discussion of agenda items, but if an item is to be voted on, only assigned committee members will vote.

After the committee meetings, when we reconvene, the chair of each Area Committee will give a report. The Chair will address most if not all of the items assigned to their committee, and all of you will have an opportunity to speak to the agenda items that are of interest to you and/or to your groups.

When you want to make a comment or ask a question about an item, we ask that you use one of the microphones on the floor. Jessica as the Area Chair will call on you. This portion of the Assembly will be conducted according to a loose interpretation of Robert's Rules of Order as outlined in the document "How the Conference Operates."

General Guidelines for Sharing from the Floor:

- People wishing to speak please line up at the microphones and the chair will call on you in order.
- Introduce yourself each time you speak by name, District/Home group and service position.
- Each person may have 3 minutes to share. Jess as the secretary has a timer, and she has a cowbell, and she's not afraid to use it.
- Please get really close to the microphone... so close it will feel a little weird. That's how you know you're doing it right. Otherwise it becomes really tough for the people on Zoom to hear your comments.
- If someone else makes the point you were going to make, please feel free to sit back down and wait for the next opportunity to share. We want to hear from everyone, but we also have a lengthy agenda to get through, so repetition of points is something we try to avoid when we can.
- Our Area Chair has the discretion to decide when to end discussion of an item. If we move on at some point before you have a chance to say your piece, please reach out to me directly, in person this weekend or by phone or email afterwards. There are business cards on the table, and I'll ask our tech team to make sure the folks on zoom also get my email and phone number.
- We ask that everyone who wants to comment on an item has a turn to speak before anyone comes to the mic to address that item for a second time.
- We also ask that you refrain from applauding when people share, so as not to discourage sharing from people who have an opposing opinion or information to share.
- Finally, listen with an open mind, particularly to those with an opinion different from your own. Some of you have heard me tell the story of my first West Central Regional Service Conference, which I was attending as a new DCM. I was diligently taking notes on the discussion, trying to understand what people were talking about. I realized halfway through the weekend that I was only writing down the comments I agreed with. When I was reporting back to my district, I probably wouldn't need the notes to tell them why something I thought was a good idea was a good idea. I needed notes to tell them why some people – other people who love AA enough to spend a whole weekend or several weekends talking about this stuff – why some of those people think it's a bad idea.

We will do some voting this weekend. I've asked a few people to be designated vote counters, and I'll ask them to come to the front of the room to count. We'll vote by raising our hands. The people

eligible to vote during the floor assembly are GSRs, DCMs, and Area 40 Chairs and Officers. If you're an alternate-GSR or an alternate-DCM, you're eligible to vote only if the GSR or DCM your serving with is not present for the vote. When you sign in with your DCM, that's a good time to ask if you're a voting member if you're unsure about that.

When we discuss the GSC Items, we won't be taking formal votes. On items that are especially important or that generate a lot of discussion, I may ask for a sense of the area. When a request is made for a sense of the area, everyone present – in person and online – is eligible to raise their hand to indicate that they're for or against an item.

We'll break for dinner from 5:00-7:00, and then we'll reconvene for more floor assembly work until 8:45 pm. At 9:00 we will have a Breakout session for GSRs and DCMs that will be led by Libbie and Gerry. There will be fun and fellowship and many, many board games in the room next door starting at 9:30 pm. You may be pretty tired by that time, and if that's the case, feel free to come in your pjs. You won't be the only one.

Tomorrow morning at 8:30 am, we'll resume the work set out on the agenda, and that will continue until noon... ish. If you're an early riser, there will be an optional regular old no-business, AA meeting at 7 am in the Russell room.

Before I wrap up here, I need to take a minute to recognize our tech committee, Mike D., Jack W., and Sam. They work around the clock during these weekends to make sure we have the tech we need in person and to try to ensure the fullest possible participation for those joining us on zoom. We're scheduled for a pretty long day today, but I guarantee our tech folks were here before we all started coming in this morning, and they'll be here after we all leave tonight. They have a huge Yeti cooler over there full of energy drinks. Please join me for a moment in thanking them for all they do for our Area.

I encourage all of you to jump in, participate, and make the most of your experience this weekend. Make your voices heard so that I can bring an informed group conscience from Area 40 to the GSC. And have fun! To quote something our delegate said at my first assembly, "You're among friends here, old friends, new friends, and friends you haven't met yet." Thank you.

➤ ROLL CALL

ROLL CALL (Vote Count)				
Name	Service Position	Present		
Lisa C	Area 40 Delegate	x		
Jessica E W	Area 40 Chair/Alt. Delegate	x		
Lynne W.	Treasurer	X		
Jessica S-K	Secretary	x		
Jody T	Archives Chair	x		
Karon K.	CPC Chair	x		

Daniel S	Corrections Chair	x		
Hugh M.	Grapevine Chair	x		
Lance W.	Hotline Chair	x		
Rebecca S-W	Literature Chair	x		
Mark H.	Public Information (PI) Chair	x		
Ty K.	Treatment Chair	x		
Kacie N.	Area Advisor	x		
Rick H.	Archivist	x		
Sean R.	Alt Bridging the Gap	x		
Mike D	Co-Technology	x		
Jack W	Co-Technology	x		
Alex M	Webmaster	x	Voting Members	Non-Voting Members
Pat P.	D 11 DCM	x	10	5
Bob F.	D 12 DCM	x	4	3
	D 21 DCM			
Steve S	D 23 DCM			
Kathy B (online)	D 31 DCM	x	1	
Dawn B.	Alt D 41 DCM	x	5	4
Theresa L.	D 42 DCM	x	4	1
Gene A.	D 51 DCM	x	5	1
Nathan S.	D 61 DCM	x	14	
Brandi W	D 71 DCM	x	9	1
Lenore M.	D 72 DCM	x	9	1
Carly B.	D 81 DCM	x	11	3
Eli S.	D 91 DCM	x	8	6

Libba C	D 93 DCM	x	7	2
	Totals:	18	94	
	Online Voting Members	12		
	Voting Members Present		108	
	Quorum (2/3)		72	

➤ **SECRETARY REPORT, SECRETARY REPORT, JESSICA S-K**

Heyyyyyyyyyy Area 40,

My name is Jess, and I am an alcoholic. I have the privilege of serving as your Area 40 Secretary and Registrar. I want to take a moment to thank Lynn for all of her help in transitioning me into this position. I would be totally in the dark if it weren't for her willingness to show me the ropes.

Most of this report is housekeeping information for you to keep in mind over the weekend. Just so everyone knows I still don't fully know what I am doing and if you have suggestions or need me to do something I am not doing, please reach out.

Each district has a folder with their group contact list, sign-in sheets, group change forms, district # cheat sheets, and the path to download the dashboard on their tables. Please return your district sign-in sheet to me by 10 AM so we can establish a quorum. Your sign-in sheet should only list the people from your district who are attending the assembly in person. If someone from your district is attending virtually, please do not list that person on your sign-in sheet, as they will be counted by one of our Zoom advisors. If you submitted a sign-in sheet and need to add or remove someone, please let me know.

DCMs, if you have not already done so, please email me your report before the end of the assembly.

Committee chairs, please email me your reports along with any notes or minutes taken during your committee meetings and a list of the voting members in attendance. If your committee brings a recommendation to the floor, please email me a written copy prior to presenting the motion at secretary@aa-montana.org.

If you have a report for any AA business this week, please email it to me, so I can make sure it is included in our minutes.

The DCM and GSR "ask-it" baskets are at the back of the room near the coffee. There are pens and paper, and all they need are your questions. If you have a question ask it. We are all learning together.

If there's anything I've forgotten or if there's anything I can do to help you in your service position, please feel free to reach out. I am extremely grateful for AA and for the service structure. It's such a privilege to be sober and in this room with all of you as we work to ensure the message continues to be carried.

MOTIONS FROM FALL 2024 ASSEMBLY

Archives/Structure and Policy

Motion: Item B. The Committee recommends to adopt the revisions to the Area 40 Policy & Procedures Manual proposed by the Ad Hoc Committee on Area 40 Policy & Procedures Revisions.

Vote - In favor: 86 Opposed: 0 **Passed**

Motion: Item C. The Committee recommends the proposal requesting that Area 40 provide guidance on process for Districts wishing to host a Preassembly event & that Area 40 can provide funding for Area 40 officers and chairs to travel to attend Preassemblies.

Vote - In favor: 64 Opposed: 10 Abstained: 10 **Passed**

Minority Opinion heard, **Motion to Reconsider:** In Favor: 21 Opposed: 53 Failed

➤ **MOTIONS AND ELECTIONS FROM THIS ASSEMBLY**

Bridging the Gap Chair – Simple Majority

- Voting Members: 108
- Votes needed: 55

Candidate	Vote
Sean R.	62
Jessica T.	4
Bruser	6
Ryan	27

Archives/Structure and Policy

Motion: The committee recommends adding a line item to the Area 40 budget to defray the cost of pre-assemblies for Area Chairs and Officers to participate. Understanding that districts are autonomous, districts are primarily responsible for covering the cost of a district pre-assembly. The budget line item should be no greater than \$750.00 and should only be used if the district is financially unable to fund the event.

Vote - In Favor: 98 Opposed: 8 Abstain: 4 minority opinion: heard, no motion to reconsider
Motion PASSED

Public Information

The PI committee recommends the Area adopt the updated Area 40 website guidelines for improved grammar and formatting; clarity; singleness of purpose; meetings, service events and fellowship event access and promotion; and to provide more specific criteria for the Area 40 Webmaster

Vote - In Favor: 101 Against: 1 Abstain: 1 minority opinion: None **Motion PASSED**

Finance

Motion Area 40 Finance Committee Recommends: To fund the West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference (WCRAASC) Registration Fee for each of our Area 40 Committee Chairs and Area Officers, rotating and non-rotating, up to 16 people.

Vote: In Favor: 84 Against: 11 Abstain: 6 minority opinion: heard, no motion to reconsider **Motion PASSED**

➤ **FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS LYNNE W.**

- [Appendix 1](#)

➤ **CHAIR REPORT JESSICA E.W.**

Good morning Area 40, I'm Jessica E. W., and I'm an alcoholic. I have the great privilege of serving as your Area 40 Chair and Alternate Delegate during this rotation. Before the start of my rotation, I received a lot of support from Lisa to help me prepare for stepping into my new role. We set up monthly meeting times, and she passed on an incredible timeline that spoke to my data-loving, organizational heart. I received so many beautiful emails from across the US and Canada with congratulations and best wishes.

I started attending the North American Alternate Delegate meeting and a second monthly Area Chair meeting which have been incredibly useful to connect with other people in my position across our 93 areas. I also have the opportunity to sit in with our Delegate for our West Central Regional Delegates monthly meeting. I got started on a virtual welcome meeting with all chairs and DCMs that was held in January. We discussed the deadline for agenda items; using the Dashboard, the process of distributing Area 40 background information; West Central Regional AA Service Conference(WCRAASC); in-person Pre-Assembly plans for the area and a virtual option; and DCM/District Rep Committee Assignments. It was well attended. I also had the opportunity to attend the District 91 Into Action where we got to meet the new panel of District members. Susan did a great job m'cing a service bingo, and they had a great panel and speaker.

I also traveled with our Area Advisor, Kacie N. while attending our Area Concept Study virtually and prying her brain on our way to participate in the financial audit. Gosh, Area 40 we are so lucky. I have leaned on so many of our past delegates and area chairs in the last few months, and I honestly have such a deep affection for and relationship with all of them. Somewhere between Kalispell and Bozeman, I found myself explaining why we needed to manually pour washer fluid onto the windshield. I mean, we made it, in the sun, and I participated in the financial audit with Lisa, Kacie, Jake our past Treasurer, and new treasurer Lynne W. Well, it was stormy on the way back. I cannot explain how hard we had to laugh, no matter where you are in your AA journey, my 18-year-old teenage Jessica was on display as I was reminded, that I didn't have to live that way anymore. Kacie did decline to ride in my sweet camper truck for preassembly, but I know she'll forget about it in the future.

In February I got the privilege to put together our ambitious agenda....the first time..I was sending Alex, our Webmaster new updates this morning...I was grateful for the flyers that were passed on to me for our assembly and preassembly that I got updated and sent out to the area.

The first weekend in March I got to attend the West Central Regional AA Service Conference in Casper. I was able to sit in on the West Central Delegates meeting and the Delegates meeting which were so informative. I was grateful that Lisa asked both Lenore, District 72 DCM and I to sit on a panel. We had such a large presence in Casper. It was such a gift to get to know everyone a little better, sit with you, and even though it got way past my bedtime as we pushed into Saturday night, to be shoulder to shoulder with you was incredible.

Earlier in February I worked with Lisa to get the format set for the Area 40 virtual Preassembly that was held on March 8th. The following week I attended preassembly in Missoula. Thank you to 93,91, and 81 for hosting

Preassembly. What a great event and it was so good to engage with people who have thoughtfully contemplated the agenda items we will look at this weekend. Two weeks later I attended the District 11, 12, and 31 Preassembly in Billings. Again, it was so useful to hear the voices of members in our Area. Thank you to all who served for these events and for inviting us to participate. Who opened your homes. Who welcomed us. Between the three preassemblies, I thought there were over 140 attendees. We may not always agree with the format of a meeting, who leads the district meeting, how much is required for the prudent reserve, or some of the harder conversations we may have this weekend, but I know that we are bound by the same deadly disease, rooted in the same solutions, and finding joy and camaraderie in service. What a gift to breathe today, to be free from the insanity of the disease and my crazy brain. A peace and joy that surpasses anything I could've asked for. Thank you for trusting me to serve in this way. Please reach out if there is any way that I can serve your districts

In love and service,
Jessica E. W.

➤ **DELEGATE REPORT LISA C.**

I'm Lisa, I'm an alcoholic. I have the privilege and responsibility of serving as your Panel 75 Delegate. There have been 74 General Service Conferences since the first one in 1951, and I'll serve at the 75th at the end of this month. Each delegate is assigned to a committee, and I've been assigned to the Corrections committee. We've already had two meetings via zoom, one of which was a joint meeting with the trustees' corrections committee. I'm really looking forward to meeting my fellow committee members and getting to work together in person, not least because Nick, the GSO staff member assigned to our committee, has promised to bring us all real, genuine NYC bagels.

I want to go back a few years to December 6, 2013, which was the night I went to my first AA meeting. It was one of those lovely Montana days where the high was -8, and it was pitch dark by 4:45. It felt like the coldest, darkest night of my entire life, which really suited my sense of the dramatic. I said that it was my first AA meeting, and I said very little else. They gave me a copy of *Living Sober*, because that's what they do for newcomers at that meeting. They also gave me a printed schedule of all the meetings in the district, on which lots of women in attendance wrote their phone numbers. They invited me to come back the next night.

I went home and started reading *Living Sober*, glass in hand. I read until I spilled my cocktail on the book, and then I cried until I passed out. But when I woke up the next day, I felt the tiniest bit of hope for the first time in ages, and six days later, I got my first 24 hours. I haven't had to take a drink since.

I'm telling you this because one of the most important things that has happened to me as a delegate really brought me back to that night in 2013. We had a General Sharing Session in February via Zoom, which was the first time all the members of the conference met. Non-trustee Director John Weis – who some members of Area 40 got to meet recently at the Plain Language Big Book Study – pointed out that all of the alcoholics who will attend the 75th General Service Conference have that opportunity because of work done and choices made by the alcoholics in General Service who came before us. A conference approved *Living Sober* in 1975, and AAWS ensured that new editions were printed, so that a box was available in 2013 when the group I attended wanted to purchase them. A Public Information chair for District 72 made sure there was an accurate printed meeting schedule available that night, and a GSR made sure their group had enough copies to hand out to newcomers. And it's partly because of the things those people did that I get to attend the General Service Conference this spring and attempt – along with 134 or so other conference members – to take some actions that might mean that someone who is suffering today receives a message of hope at a time when they're able to hear it. That person might attend the 87th or 88th or 90th General Service Conference down the road and attempt to do the same thing. I cried when John said that at the General Sharing Session, and I've gotten choked up whenever I've tried to tell the story since, and I know I'll cry when I read this in my report, but that's okay. As a lot of you know, I'm a cryer. It's pretty much inevitable.

We're all a part of the work that tries to make that moment happen for the people who need it. We're all here this weekend because of how much we want that to happen for people. All of the agenda items we'll talk about this weekend are about that in one way or another. The more directly an item is tied to that, the more important I tend to think it is.

One of the things we'll talk about this weekend is whether we should update *Living Sober*, which turns 50 this year, and is – in some places – showing its age. For example, in the list of suggested hobbies one might take up to replace drinking, the book mentions macramé and correspondence courses. Now let's pretend that after I read that book in 2013, I took up macramé, and it changed my life. It really helped me get and stay sober. And let's say I go to the Conference and speak out strongly in favor of *not* updating *Living Sober*, but the Conference decides by substantial unanimity to go the other way. What do I do from that point forward? Do I report back to Area 40 that a travesty has been committed by the General Service Conference? Do I discourage groups in our Area from buying the new book? Do I try to bring an agenda item to next year's conference to see if I can get a different outcome?

It's clear that the answers to all these questions is “no” if we're talking about something like macramé, which I think it's safe to say has never gotten anyone sober. Do the answers change if we're talking about something more serious? The Declaration of Unity says that on AA unity depend our lives and the lives of those to come. Does that mean that I ought to try to cultivate unity on an issue even if I think the Fellowship has gone in the wrong direction?

With few exceptions, I think the answer is yes. I'm a little bit haunted by a moment that happened at the West Central Service Conference in Casper last month. A woman who was a first-time attendee stood up on Saturday afternoon and pointed at the banner behind the podium – which had the conference theme of “Working Together, Increasing Trust” printed on it – and she told us all in no uncertain terms that if that was our mission, we were failing. She did not see us working together, and we were not increasing trust. It really made me think differently about some of the sharing that had happened earlier that day and the day before, and about how much the apparent dissent within some of the ranks nearer the bottom of the triangle really affected this woman participating for the first time.

Since that weekend, I've been thinking a lot about how I intend to communicate when a disagreement ends and an issue is resolved, especially when it's resolved contrary to my preferred outcome. How do I report honestly and authentically while also – hopefully – minimizing the chances that my report backs cause anyone to feel the way that woman in Casper was feeling? I don't know the answer. I don't even know if there is an answer. But it's a question I'll be keeping top-of-mind as I try to fulfill the responsibilities Area 40 has entrusted to me.

My family has a tradition called “two goods, one bad.” As kids get older, they get less communicative, and when you ask a teenager how their day was or how the movie was or how a class is going, you might get a one-word response, if you're lucky. So when that happens, my husband and I often follow up with “Tell me two goods, and one bad.” I told you about the woman in Casper who was having a bad time at the conference. So I'd like to also tell you two goods. I could tell you twenty goods without breaking a sweat – it was a really, really great weekend. But I'll stick with two. First, when I was presenting my agenda items, Kacie – via Zoom – made a comment, but she prefaced it by saying, “you're doing so good, and I love you so much.” It was hilarious and adorable and so kind, and for a minute, West Central felt just like home. The second is that 38 people from Area 40 went to West Central this year – 38 PEOPLE! I'm sure we set a record, and I know those 38 people provided some very solid corroborating evidence to back me up when I tell other delegates that Area 40 is the best Area.

There's one other thing I want to say today, which is that when I came to Area Assembly for the first time six years ago, there was not a thought in my head that I would ever serve Area as a Delegate. If anyone had told me then that I should consider standing someday, I would have had a long list of dealbreaker reasons why that would never happen: “I have kids, I have a job, I'm afraid of public speaking, I'm shy, I'm too new in sobriety, I don't know Robert's Rules of Order, and I don't want to learn them!” But it turns out none of those things were actually dealbreakers. Whatever your own mental list of dealbreakers is, they might not actually be dealbreakers

either. When my sponsees tell me they can't do something, I tell them, "don't put limits on what God can do." But if left to my own devices, I would definitely have put limits in place that would have prevented me from the incredible opportunity I have to be Area 40's spiritual contribution to the General Service Conference. Luckily, I wasn't left to my own devices. I received encouragement from a lot of people in the room right now, and I will be forever grateful for that encouragement.

Our next few delegates are almost certainly in the room right now, whether they know it or not. Emily Dickinson said, "If your nerve deny you, go above your nerve," and that is kind of my mantra during the scary times of being a Delegate. If you're passionate about service, Area 40 needs you, so abandon yourself to God as you understand God, go beyond your nerve, and let's get to work.

➤ **DCM REPORTS**

○ **DISTRICT 11 REPORT**

Greetings from District 11!

We cover an area from Roundup to Hardin. There are 123 meetings a week in the district with 26 active groups. Our newest group in District 11, the Ballantine Group, was formed near the end of last year. Serving the Ballantine community with 2 meetings a week.

We hit the ground running with a Service Orientation Workshop on January 11th, geared toward the new GSRs and committee chairs. The original plan was for the Area Delegate, Lisa C. to lead the workshop, but that plan was disrupted by inclement weather and Ice roads. New plans quickly developed with Lynne W. (Area Treasurer), graciously agreeing to lead the workshop. Pizza was served, outgoing GSRs and committee chairs shared their experience of what they learned during the last rotation, and we ended the workshop with a rousing round of AA and Service Trivia.

We have been very busy this rotation with 9 active committee chairs, Intergroup and Al-Anon liaisons, and 13 active GSRs. The majority of the committee chairs hold monthly committee meetings filled with active AA members serving and actively working within their respective committees. We have been blessed with an abundance of work to do and members willing to serve.

Early in this rotation I reached out to the District 12 DCM Bob F. and the District 31 DCM Kathie B. and began discussing the idea of joining together to support a Joint District Pre-Assembly. We presented the proposal to each of our districts and groups. Gratefully all three DCMs receive approval to move forward with the proposed plan. Invitations were sent out to the Area 40 Delegate and Area 40 Committee Chairs requesting their participation in the Pre-Assembly Event hosted by Districts 11, 12 and 31 held at the 644 Group in Billings on March 22nd. We thank the Area Delegate, Area Chair, and the 6 Area Committee Chairs that traveled for the event and led discussion, the GSRs and members from all three districts that brought potluck dishes, attended and participated, the 644 Group for providing their meeting space and especially the DCMs and planning committee members. You all made this a great event with lots of information, food, fellowship, and unity.

Our district CPC Committee along with several of our district committee chairs, GSRs and AA members have been serving on the planning committee for this year's AA:A Resource Workshop. A workshop for AA and the Professional Community. This workshop is scheduled for Friday, May 16th at the Billings Public Library. Online registration is required as space is limited. Please join us for this event.

I am incredibly grateful to the District 11 officers committee, Alt-DCM – Mark W., Secretary – April T. and Treasurer – Debbie D. We are in constant communication with each other and meet monthly to collaborate on the upcoming district agenda, review the treasurers report, share information and thoughts on improving our district meetings. It is a joy to be learning and serving together.

As Alcoholics in action, we continue to ask for God's strength and guidance. May we have the courage and unity to do the work he lays out for us.

In Love and Service,
Pat P.

- **DISTRICT 12 REPORT**

Greetings from District 12 which encompasses Absarokee, Big Timber, Columbus, Harlowton, Joliet, Laurel, and Red Lodge. All Home Groups report strong and steady attendance. The groups have been blessed with steady contributions. They have all contributed to Area and GSO as best they could.

Jason S. our GSR from Red Lodge and Greg T Alternate DCM worked hard at contacting Big Timber and Harlowton, bringing in new contact information. Big Timber holds 4 meetings a week, Harlowton has a new GSR and we are interacting once again at the District level.

Joe G our treatment chair continues to have success bringing the AA message to Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch. They have recently merged and undergone an ownership change, but Joe and his group still continue to bring meetings every other Wednesday to the Ranch. They established a monthly speaker meeting that has had tremendous success with the youth. Greg F is continuing his work on trying to get a state wide zoom call for youth.

Our Mid-Winter Social was held on February 15th with the theme of Life on Life's terms. We had 190+ in attendance. Sliced up 60# of beef and Turkey. We enjoyed some delicious culinary sides and deserts while listening to great Al-Anon and AA speakers. The silent auction was fun with items from wood carvings to bicycles. The sobriety count down totals were 1080 years, 3 months and 14 days.

We joined forces with District 11 and 31 to put on a preassembly. A big thanks to Patrick from District 11 for coordinating and hosting. A big shout out to Area 40 officers and committee Chairs for their time and knowledge. I heard many comments about how prepared each of you were. We all went away, better prepared for this weekend. Again, thank you for your commitment to time and talents. We are all very lucky to have you in your positions.

We are looking forward to our summer camp out, August 8-10 at Fireman's point outside of Columbus Montana. Save the Date, start looking for your ideal spam recipe to share with the campers and enjoy two wonderful evenings under the stars of the big southeastern Montana sky. Our flyer will be on the Area 40 website.

Thank you

Yours in Service

Bob F, DCM District 12

- **District 21 Report**

No Report

- **District 23 Report**

No Report

- **District 31 Report**

No Report

○ **DISTRICT 41 REPORT**

Hello Area, 40, my name is Dawn and I am a past DCM, standing in as DCM. Lewistown Founders Day, April 12th. Spring Roundup May 2nd, 3rd, and 4th at the Heritage Inn. Founders Day, Great Falls at Ryans Dam. Building Bridges with the Community - Public Information Workshop Date TBD. Fellowship at the Falls - September 5th and 6th. A thriving new meeting formed on Sunday at 11AM Time Square Serenity Unity Campout will be June 20th, 22nd, and 2023.

○ **DISTRICT 42 REPORT**

October 2024 we had elections. We have meetings in Augusta, Browning, Cutbank, Conrad, Choteau, Dutton, East Glacier, Kevin, Shelby and Valier. January we got meeting schedules printed for distribution. Jerry became our Bridging the gap District representative. March a new meeting started in Valier, 530 pm on Wednesdays at the civic center. East Glacier Grizzly Group is hosting a potluck/speaker meeting 6pm, April 10 at the women's club. Dutton has a monthly potluck, Aprils will be the 23rd, always on a Wednesday at 630. We will have literature table at the Cut Bank Chamber of commerce wellness day later this month.

Thank you for letting me serve

Theresa L.

○ **DISTRICT 51 REPORT**

AA District 51 has had an eventful and successful year. This report highlights the key activities, events, and accomplishments of the district over the past six months, reflecting our commitment to serving the community and supporting individuals in their journey towards sobriety.

District 51 took over from the Fireside Group our annual New Years Eve Party. The Party was held as Usual at the First Lutheran Church. Attendance was fair and food was excellent, but we have a few items that we can improve on.

We have plans underway for the Havre Mini Conference to be held the last week of September although District is not a part of the planning. We do, however, provide the recording of the speakers for the Mini conference.

I attended the WSCR AA conference in Casper, Wy. So, hope to be somewhat prepared for this weekends events. We had two attendees from Havre, and I thank our past DCM Ryan for his help in Driving and keeping abreast of what was happening. I also got to meet Mike whom I have known for four years through zoom as a result of the Covid Epidemic. What amazing connections we have had as a result of being forced on line to keep AA relevant.

As of yet we have the PI chair still open, and we have consolidated a couple of the other chairs to keep participation and full structure significant for our district. We have combined, for instance, Hotline and BTG chairs, into one as they are not real active positions at this time.

I have a goal to attend every group in our district in person for this rotation and hope to do so more than once. So far I have attended the Golden Triangle Group in Rudyard, Dutton Group in District 42, and three groups in Havre. For a retired guy I have a busier than usual schedule which is making it harder than I had anticipated. Still, I am looking forward to full and exciting rotation.

Thanks

Gene A DCM District 51.

- **DISTRICT 61 REPORT**

Greetings Area 40, I'm alcoholic named Nate and I am the current DCM for district 61. Our district covers the Helena area, including meetings in Townsend, Lincoln, Elliston, Boulder & White Sulphur Springs. We have about 10 active meetings per day in our district; plenty of opportunities for drunks to find a meeting.

We hold a hybrid district business meeting on the first Thursday of the month, all are welcome. We have had great participation in this new rotation with lots of new and familiar faces, it's a pleasure to see so many alcoholics getting involved with service.

This spring we had a new GSR workshop put on by our Workshops Chair Wendy, it was a fun event and well attended. In March the It's In The Book group put on their 28th annual Pockets of Enthusiasm event over St. Patrick's day weekend. They put on a fantastic event with great speakers, and over 135 attendees!

District 61 operates a brick & mortar bookstore, open 4 days a week and offering a wide variety of AA & Grapevine books. If you find yourself in Helena on Monday, Thursday Friday or Saturday from 11:30-1:30 feel free to stop by and pick up some literature.

Coming up in April we have our annual Treatment & Corrections workshop on the 26th from 11-3. This event is free for professionals, \$20 for alcoholics.

We are all looking forward to hosting the Fall 2025 Area 40 Roundup in Helena Montana! October 3rd-5th at the Great Northern Hotel, our Roundup committee is putting together what is sure to be an amazing roundup with speakers, panels, fellowship and plenty of hot coffee. I hope to see you all there. To quote chapter 7 of the Big Book: *this is an experience you must not miss, we know you will not want to miss it!*

Thanks – Nate S.

- **DISTRICT 71 REPORT**

Thank you so much to everyone and all your handwork to put this together. Thank you for everyone's support especially Jessica W. Who has gone above and beyond to check and see if we needed anything. I'm very grateful to be of service and honored to get to be a part of all this.

Recently I have been able to attend the West Central Regional Service Conference as well as the Pre Assembly in Missoula, both online. Both conferences were wonderful and I was able to see and hear beautifully. So thank you to the IT team who makes sure that all goes smoothly.

We have been very active in District 71, with a total of 29 groups with 12 that are active at the district level. Today we are very excited to have 10 GSR's with us at Area. All of our chair positions are filled with amazing members. We had our Spring Round up in October that was amazing. Thank you to all who attended and helped. We have had a Sober Ski at Discover Ski Basin as well as a Chili Cookoff. Currently we are looking forward to the Bridging the Gap workshop that we will be hosting on May 17th in Dillon as well as a campout at Sheep's Head Pavilion over Fathers day weekend. As soon as we have a flyer we will make sure that is posted.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

Brandi W.

○ **DISTRICT 72 REPORT**

Hello Area 40! I am Lenore, alcoholic and the DCM for District 72 in Area 40. My home group is the HOW Group in Bozeman and my sobriety date is July first, 2012.

I am so excited and nervous to be here! I want to thank our Delegate Lisa for giving me a chance to share at the WCRAASC and help me overcome any microphone fear! Hopefully it lasts...

So far, this rotation has shown me the importance of the voices of the GSR's, District Committee Chairs, and District Officers and the importance of unity and cooperation in AA to make all meetings a place where people feel safe. I am so grateful to my fellow District Officers for their guidance and support when we needed to make an uncomfortable decision to keep our monthly District 72 meetings a safe place to be.

I am reminded of the love that AA members have for AA and of the love and support I felt when I first came into these rooms. This was one of the big things that allowed me to stay here (and allows me to keep staying here).

I am so grateful to be serving with AWESOME Committee Chairs, GSR's and District Officers!

We have a few new groups in our District, including a Spanish-speaking group in Bozeman and an LGBTQ+ and Friends meeting in Bozeman.

Our District has 57 different meetings and 37 confirmed Groups spread throughout Bozeman, Belgrade, Livingston, Three Forks, Emigrant, Gardiner, Ennis, Wilsall, West Yellowstone, Big Sky, Gallatin Gateway, Manhattan, Virginia City, Cook City/Silvergate.

Our Treasurer is navigating using Quickbooks at the District level for the first time, which is going well, but there is a lot to learn! This decision was made last year because we were using very "breakable" spreadsheets for our District financial reports. We are also working on getting a debit card for the district.

In the last rotation, we spent a lot of time updating our District Guidelines and making sure that all our service position descriptions were up to date. We also created a technology committee to assist with new technologies as they arise. They have been extremely helpful in allowing our District business meetings to be hybrid.

Programs in the Gallatin County Detention Center seem to be running more often, so we can bring more AA meetings into that jail. There was a time when short staffing led to program cancellations fairly often.

We also take a meeting to MCDC each month.

Our CPC Committee has been making well-received presentations for MSU Nursing Students, and another one will be scheduled for this summer.

Now that the snow is melting, our Alternate DCM Meghan and I are going to start visiting all the groups in our district, so I am very much looking forward to that!

EVENTS:

So far this year:

-Primary Purpose has had a speaker event

-District 72 has hosted a GSR workshop.
-On 7/26 we will have a District Day Special Event with a Delegates report from Lisa before the meeting on the same day.
-We will have sober softball, which will start soon as long as the weather cooperates!
-I am sure that this summer, we will get some campouts on the calendar! -We will also be having the HOW Group speaker event on Saturday, 10/11. I am sure our awesome District special events planner, Amy, will have some additional special events coming up throughout the year!

I am beyond excited and humbled that they are letting someone like me represent District 72? I mean, come on!! I came to my very first Area Assembly when I was around 3 months sober with my sponsor. I thought you all were insane! I never could have dreamed that I would be one of you crazy people speaking total gibberish at a microphone, but here I am! Service work has saved my life several times already in the years I have been sober, so I never want to stop! Thank you District 72 for allowing me to serve and for being such an awesome District! I also want to thank my Sponsor for showing me the way. AND, the person that brought me to my very first AA meeting (she is here)- I love you so much Kitty! And thank you Area 40 for being super awesome! I am so very lucky!

In Love & Service,

Lenore

○ **DISTRICT 81 REPORT**

Greetings from District 81!

I am so excited to serve as the District 81 DCM for this rotation and be back in the service structure again. The last time I was at an Area Assembly it was in Lewistown, so I'm thrilled to be here representing my District and get to see so many old friends. District 81 is located in Western Montana and around 100 meetings a week and approximately 44 groups – Our largest population center is Missoula, but we have lots of meetings in the surrounding rural areas which include Alberton, Arlee, Bonner, Clinton, Frenchtown, Hot Springs, Pablo, Plains, Polson, Potomac, Ronan, Seely Lake, St. Ignatius, St. Regis, Superior, Thompson Falls, and Trout Creek. Our newest meeting Rose and Thorn meets Wednesday and Sundays 1:30 in Missoula.

Our District meets monthly on the 3rd Sunday of the month at the 4th D club in Missoula and on Zoom. Attendance have been steadily growing each month. In March we had 17 GSRs present. My Alternate DCM, Sage and I have made it our goal this year to attend every meeting in our district and as many business meetings as we can to help grow that participation and make sure all of our groups feel represented and that their voices are heard. We also started the year with a District inventory. We have been working with groups to get their thorough and honest feedback and are compiling all of those answers into actionable items. Our district also has a lot of money, which we won't complain about. I love this opportunity for our committee chairs to get creative with how they use their budgets and to be able to support our Area 40 with our contributions. With our surplus, we were also able to help the GSRs whose group could not fully afford to send them to Area with the funds to be able to attend in person.

Our committee chairs have hit the ground running and most have monthly committee meetings. The only vacant position we have currently is Archives Chair. Our Bridging the Gap chair Angela has partnered with our CPC chair Elena and they are working with Providence, the hospital in Missoula, to set up bedside 12 step calls. This has been a labor of love for some time, but we are really excited that it's in the home stretch. I'm so proud of the hard work they've put into it to make this a reality. Our PI chair, Rick is working with our CPC chair to create

and streamline the list of professionals in our community so that we can continue to serve our community. We hosted a Pre-Assembly in March in Missoula with District 91 and 93. The event was a success, and we couldn't have done it without our Events Chair Janis and her trusty sidekick Bruizer.

We host the Annual Founder's Day camp out at the Lubrecht Experimental Forest organized by AA members and in collaboration with Alanon. This event is in its fifth year so we hope you save the dates June 6-8. More info to come.

We are so excited to host the Fall 2026 Round-Up and will be electing a chair next month at our District Meeting. I can't say it enough how grateful I am to serve in this rotation with such an incredible group of humans. And I especially want to thank my alternate Sage for keeping my head on straight. I'm so happy we get to work together as a team.

Thank you so much for letting me serve,

Carly B.

○ **DISTRICT 91 REPORT**

Hello, I'm Eli S. and I'm happy to be the DCM for District 91. District 91 meets monthly on the last Sunday of each month at 3 p.m. at the Alano Club in Kalispell. If you're in town and interested, pop on by. We also have food if that interests you. The meeting is also a hybrid meeting so you can even Zoom in if you wish. See the virtual meeting listings at aa.montana.org for more details. In that case you will have to provide your own food. Sorry.

As a new DCM, I've spent most of my year learning the ins and outs of our district. I have learned to embrace the confusion and chaos with the Serenity Prayer regularly on my lips. I've also had the fantastic opportunity to attend district groups and meetings that I haven't been able to attend prior to my chair position and I've made myself available to those groups. I was also grateful to attend my first West Central Regional Service Conference in my old hometown of Casper, Wyoming this past month. The event was not only a terrific way to get ready for our own spring assembly, but also to reacquaint myself with Area 40's service members many of whom I've gotten to know well in the last two years that I served as GSR. The conference was well represented by a literal van full of District 91 members driven by Bruzier from District 81 in Missoula. I'm happy to say they survived the trip and are all alive and well. Speaking of which, our district also teamed up with districts 81 and 93 to host a pre-assembly in Missoula on March 15. We were thankful for all of the Area chairs who attended and everyone else from the corresponding districts that showed up for a day of fun breakout rooms and a deep dive into this year's agenda.

Our Into Action event was held on February 1st. The event featured a GSR school, a 'newbie' panel featuring new AA members and their experience in service, and a speaker meeting featuring Josh L., a wonderful speaker from Columbia Falls.

District 91 has a lot of stuff coming down the pipeline. We are steeped in Fellowship! Camping season will soon be upon us and so we have the Serenity Group from Kalispell hosting their Founder's Day camp out on June 6-8, Canyon Group out of Columbia Falls hosting its campout at Big Creek on June 12 - 15 and Flathead Valley Intergroup doing it up at Emery Bay on August 21-24.

District 91 also hosts a Christmas Alcolthon, that's 24 hours of meetings every Christmas Eve through Christmas Day, again with food because food is good. There are also plans to host workshops this year to help our home groups eager for service.

Finally, District 91 is looking forward to 2026 when we will host the Spring Roundup! Our spring roundup committee are hard at work to create an amazing, fun event for everybody, full of hope, experience and also probably food.

Yours In Service,

Eli S.

District 91 DCM

- **DISTRICT 93 REPORT**

Hey all, Libba, alcoholic, DCM, District 93.

Some of you may know, I served as DCM for part of last rotation along with our Alt, Jolene, because those positions were open for 10 months in our District. So as the election approached last fall, we were asked to stand again for a full rotation and honored to be voted in.

District 93 is the smallest in our Area but we are full of wonderful recovery. We currently have 16 Registered Groups in the Bitterroot Valley stretching from small town Connor, 61 miles North to Lolo Montana. We now have a BTG chair, which is awesome. We have however, still struggled to fill positions in our District, and still have 3 open.

We have 1 treatment facility, and a second site just about to open that we are preparing to bring AA meetings into. We have a jail in Hamilton where meetings are held once a week.

Last Fall, our District passed a motion to host a Concepts Workshop, unfortunately we ran out of time, but we look forward to having this Workshop sometime this year!!! Look for those fliers on the website!

I'm excited to announce that we have two campouts at Lake Como this summer, the first is Founder's Day camp out June 6th -8th, where our Delegate Lisa will come down for her Report, AA Speakers, and much more. The flier is on the website and the back table, please take some. Our second campout will be Labor Day weekend, those fliers will be uploaded to the website as the date approaches.

I would like to thank the District Chairs and GSRs along with my family, sponsor, service sponsor, sponsees and friends that have really helped me in so many ways through some recently challenging and uncertain times in my life.

There's so much more I could tell you about our small but mighty District, but my 2 minutes are probably about up, so now you'll just need to come visit us to see for yourselves. I hope you do visit!

Thank you for the opportunity for me to participate in my recovery today.

Love you all.

➤ **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

ARCHIVES/STRUCTURE AND POLICY: JODY T.

Archives – Area 40

1. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Archives Chair

Area 40 Archives/Structure and Policy Again, thank you for allowing me to be of service and saving my life. February 28th through March 2nd, 2025 I was able to attend the WCRAASC in Casper, Wy. What a very informative weekend, not to mention long. Going over all of the 75th General Service Conference Committees Agenda Items, I feel so much more informed and then again so many questions. Area 40 had 42 members present and trust me we made ourselves known. The vast knowledge that members shared was awesome. The speaker, Marita R. was incredible. Also, our very own Lisa C. Area 40, Panel 75 Delegates gave a presentation “Closing the Gap: How do we make the voice of every Group count?”. Truly a very educational weekend.

Thanks to Libbie and Earl for getting out our Area 40 Policy & Procedures 2024 Fall Revision. It is on our aa-montana.org website for all to see. And thank you Lisa for looking it over and correcting some of the numbers!!!

I was able to put together all of the evaluations from our 2024 Fall Assembly and it is available on our Area website. Thank you, Alex. And with the help of Jessica E., ok she did the work and is a great teacher, we were able to put together the evaluation for our upcoming Spring Assembly. This too shall be available on our website and printed. This one will be extremely helpful in the future.

One of my biggest hopes, is to get to Ennis and meet with Rick and see some of our Montana history. In the past I have tried to let others know just how important it is to do the interviews with some of our old timers and also some of the newcomers. A couple of years back I asked Earl for a copy of the sample interview questions. I was able to do two interviews in District 40. Honestly, those were some of the best conversations I have had, I love getting to know others stories. If you have a District Archives, please look into getting some of those interviews done and sent to Rick, our Area 40 Archivist. I do have those pages if you would like me to get them to you.

Saturday March 8th, we had our Zoom pre-assembly. Great attendance and very good way to prepare for Spring Assembly 2025. So many valuable questions and answers.

Saturday March 15th, I attended Pre-Assembly in Missoula for Districts 81,91 & 93. Truly an honor to be a part of all of this. This was a very well put together pre-assembly. Thank you for allowing me to be there, not only learn more, but also to practice for Assembly.

Thank you again for allowing me to be of service.

Jody T. Area 40 Archives/Structure and Policy

2. REVIEW ASSEMBLY REPORT OR THE AREA 40 ARCHIVIST, RICK H.

Hello, Area 40!

My name is Rick, and I am an alcoholic. I am currently three months into my new service position as Area 40 Archivist. Since being elected last fall, I have alternated between... “This is going to be so cool!” to being overwhelmed with the amount of stuff that can be done to “I think I need to call Paul L. and see if he still wants the position.” A standard alcoholic reaction to change.

On the first of October after the fall assembly, my son arrived in Montana for a two-week vacation. We had been planning for a long time. I know you are thinking, “What does this have to do with Area 40 archives?” Bear with me. I was a drunk dad for the first decade of my kids’ lives. I would always promise to do things with them and never follow through. So, part of my amends to them is to do things with them. Well, I had a plan for this two-week vacation. The first couple of days would be spent sorting and packing his stuff from his room when he lived with me before college. Then we would leisurely drive it all back to Portland, Maine where he lives. That is not what happened. God had a different plan. We drove to Maine in five days. On the fifth morning we were in Ticonderoga, NY mapping out our route to Portland when I noticed that we were really close to a place called East Dorset, Vermont. This is where the archival history part comes in. For those of you who aren’t aware, East Dorset is the birthplace of Bill W. My son and I were given a private tour of the Wilson House. We got to see the

back room where Bill was born and the lamp that has been on 24/7 ever since Bill died. After we left the house, we went to the cemetery where Bill and Lois are buried. Standing by the headstones on a picture perfect, fall colors, blue sky, Vermont day with my son taking a couple pictures, I had a most profound experience. I can't really describe it, but I just knew that everything in my life up to that point had happened for a reason and would continue to. Being a good alcoholic, that feeling was crowded out by worldly clamors later that night. I dropped Tommy off in Portland, met his girlfriend, ate tacos, got in the car and drove back to Montana in a little over 50 hours. I don't recommend that!

Back to the archives. Earl gave me a tour of the storage unit in December. I didn't get back to it until just before the first event I was invited to, Founders Day in Billings. I definitely will need to learn to manage my time quite a bit better. The roads in the winter are a bit of an issue. So, it takes me longer to get to the unit. At the Founders Day event I was able to take a piece of Billings AA that a friend of mine, Bert W., in Bozeman had acquired. It was a 1948 first edition big book that belonged to his friend J.P.'s dad. Also with it was a letter from J.P. recounting the events of his dad getting sober in early AA in Billings. It also explained how the book came into his possession. I apologize to districts 11 and 12 for the archival display as it is the same one as Founders Day. Like I said, time management.

The upcoming events I have been invited to are the Roundup in Great Falls the first weekend in May, and the Fall Roundup in Helena. Currently, I have been in contact with the district 72 Archives Chair and Joanne is willing to help me to get a bit more organized. I also have a couple of other members who have approached me wanting to help.

I am grateful for my life today and have to always remember that I know only a little, God will constantly disclose more to me and to us.

In Loving Service,

Rick W., Area 40 Archivist

3. Review activities of Archives Committees in Groups and Districts throughout Area 40

Both Chris and Bob have reached out and asked lots of questions
Bob has no archives chair district 12

Chris 91 hasn't done anything no storage unit with control has been located. So archives are being stored at Steve house

Dawn doesn't have archives report. They do have a storage unit that has a bunch of stuff but doesn't have a key to lock really sad cause there no person in their

Leo district 51 has a archives doesn't attend district meeting but is very busy and active with the archives. keeps records with any that happens in the district they also have all their speaker on a web address.
51SPEAKERS.ORG

Carleen she has provide the Archives chair with speaker tapes from way back and would like to gets past tapes to archives.

Sage we don't have a chair she just stepped down we have a Club house that we rent a space for our archives. We are working on policy and procedures for our district but we are needing a new chair before we can get that started.

We talked about the need to transfer old tapes and CD to digital files for easier storage.

Area 40 Structure and Policy

A. Review Fall 2024 Assembly Evaluation Report

Area 40 Assembly Evaluation

Fall Assembly

September 13th -15th, 2024

*The purpose of the evaluation is to provide information that all can hear, see and participate.

1. How did you attend Area Assembly? In person 65

2. Did you have background information prior to Assembly? Yes—48; No—17

3. Did you attend a Committee meeting? Which one? Comments? Yes—39; No 12. PI—4; Literature—9; Hotline—3; CPC—5; Treatment—3; Corrections—3; Grapevine—3; Archives—5; Workshop—15. *Kept losing bandwidth in breakout rooms. *Pay attention to the zoom participants. *Need better seating.

4. Could you hear in the Main meeting room and the committee meeting rooms? How was seating? Hearing: Yes 60. Seating: Good—30; Adequate—15. *Larger Districts need more seating available. *Zoom in to see smaller print. *Too cold, some areas had the vents right over their tables.

5. Did you feel you could participate throughout the Assembly?

Comments: Yes—60; No—1; Almost—1. *Very welcoming. *Too cold. *Great Assembly. *First time here and can hardly wait till April. *Willing to stand. *Excellent streamline voting process. *Election took too long (less repeating). *Technology could be used more to help with voting. *Felt rushed, ran out of time. *Use Friday for people who want to stand for a position.

For spring 2025 assembly

Make sure to print clear and make sure to have every one fill this out. It help not only with attending this but to Help Area advisor to work with the hotel.

B. Determine if there is a need for an Ad-Hoc Committee to be assigned to address the motion passed at the Fall 2024 Assembly which states, “The Committee recommends the proposal requesting that Area 40 provide guidance on process for Districts wishing to host a Preassembly event & that Area 40 can provide funding for Area 40 officers and chairs to travel to attend Preassemblies”.

We went into a lot of talk about this. We talked about the pass ad hoc committee that was formed in spring 2007 and went to fall 2008. And those results.

We talked about how we need to be self-supporting threw are own contribution and if a district invites an Area chair, they need to cover the cost and only after they have been able to cover the cost at their best ability then they could ask area.

We talked about how hosting with other district you can split the cost to cover all expenses.

We also said that district chair and DCM could host a preassembly and present the background and agenda item to their district without area chair if they can't afford it.

We talked about the history of preassembly and Kacie say we can make a recommendation in committee and present to the floor to be recommended.

We also would Need to clarification of what is need and doesn't need area chair to be there the district chair can be there. Clear charge on what we want the ad hoc committee look at.

We called to vote and didn't pass to create ad hoc.

We suggest that the verbiage be addressed in the policy and procedure revision in the fall based off the last ad hoc committee final decision in 2008

Archives – GSC

A. Review content and format of Archives Workbook.

Nice to go through and high light and look up words recommend to go through and highlight the things that you don't know or that stands out to you.

GRAPEVINE AND LA VINA/POLICY AND ADMISSIONS: HUGH M.

Grapevine and La Viña – Area 40

1. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Grapevine and La Viña Chair

Hello, my name is Hugh alcoholic. Proud to be serving as your area 40 grapevine chair in January. I was able to attend a virtual workshop. Put on by grapevine, inc. It was a great experience and awesome to meet all the staff at the grapevine office. It will be very informative, and I look forward to working with them all to grow our Magazine, I was proud to be able to go to the west Central conference. In Casper, the turnout from area 40 was amazing. And we definitely were the loudest and most excited about being there on the 8th of March. I was able to attend and present at our virtual pre assembly. Then I traveled to Missoula and attend the pre. Assembly on the 15th a great job was done by all 3 districts, setting it up. I look forward to serving and working with all the districts. Please call me or email me if you need any help. Currently, we have 347 subscriptions in our area 40. I would love to see well over 400 before I rotate out so. Let's work on bringing those numbers up and loving service, Hugh.

2. Review activities of Grapevine and La Viña Committees in Groups and Districts throughout Area 40

We had 10 people in our breakout room and one online. We had great discussions about ways to increase the subscriptions, and not only of the grapevine, but of the Lavinia, I feel great about the grapevine reps throughout our area, who are just as hungry as myself to increase the numbers of Of our subscriptions, thank you to Carly, for taking great notes. We had some great discussion on certain agenda. Items, which I'm sure will continue on the floor once again, thank you for allowing me to serve.

Hugh

Grapevine and La Viña – GSC

A. Review AA Grapevine Workbook.

Reviewed

- A. Consider the list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2026 or after.**

Considered

- B. Review the 5-year financial plan for La Viña.**

Reviewed

- C. Review the progress report on a plan for a more effective La Viña subscription procedure, fulfillment process and customer service experience.**

Reviewed

- D. Review the financial reporting system for the Grapevine and La Viña.**

Reviewed

- E. Consider request to revise the pamphlet “Grapevine and La Vina: Our meetings in print.” (PAI 79)**

Reviewed

- F. Review report on “AAGV/La Viña media platforms.” * Note: This item was forwarded from the Public Information agenda as part of the 2025 Equitable Distribution Plan (EDW).**

Reviewed

Policy and Admissions – GSC

- A. Review GSO general manager’s report regarding General Service Conference site selection.**

Reviewed

- B. Review dates for the 2029 General Service Conference.**

Reviewed

- C. Discuss Equitable Distribution of Workload (EDW) progress report and draft plan.**

Discussed

- D. Discuss the process of Simple Majority Items.**

Discussed

- E. Consider request that a Super Majority of voting members be required to change or amend Founders Literature. (PAI 36, 93, 96)**

a. Consensus of the committee was split evenly.

b. Sense of the Area: majority in favor

- F. Consider a request to develop guidelines for the roles and responsibilities of temporary replacement delegates. (New Item)**

Considered

- G. Consider request to prioritize a list of selection criteria to inform the committee selection process.(New Item)**

Considered

PUBLIC INFORMATION & WEBSITE – MARK H. & ALEX M.

Public Information – Area 40

1. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Public Information Chair

Greetings area 40. My name is Mark and I'm an alcoholic. It's my privilege to be serving you as the P.I. chair.

Since the elections I've been trying to prepare for this rotation. I'm trying to figure all the different areas this position helps to serve. I've been reading background material from previous rotations and trying to become familiar with new agendas. I've been reaching out to committee members and look forward to working with them.

I've been starting to attend and participate in some events. I was part of the area 40 group that attended W.C.R.AA in Casper Wy.. I've participated in the virtual and both live preassemblies. Glad to see these happening again. Always good to have discussions with people to get thoughts and ideas on how to help serve and grow in this position.

If there's anything that I can do feel free to reach me anytime. Look forward to serving Area 40.

In love and service,

Mark H.

2. REVIEW ASSEMBLY REPORT OF THE AREA 40 WEBMASTER, ALEX M.

<https://www.aa-montana.org>

Greetings Area 40, I am Alex, alcoholic, currently serving as your Area 40 Webmaster.

I have appointed Jake L as our Area 40 Alternate Webmaster—who has enthusiastically volunteered for the position. His previous experience and technical expertise make him a great fit for this role!

I want to encourage DCMs and PI chairs to introduce the elected admins for their Districts at your District meetings.

If you require assistance in obtaining this information, please contact me at webmaster@aamontana.org. Maintaining an up-to-date online listing of our meetings is crucial for those who are still struggling with alcoholism.

I am surprised that, despite the trend toward in-person meetings, virtual meetings page continue to be a popular choice for our visitors, ranking second only to the homepage. Our user engagement is a little higher since my last report with approximately 130 thousand page views. We saw 7,468 downloads underlying the importance of the flyers that are sent by all the Districts and Groups.

A big thanks to all District Admins that work hard to keep up the meeting listings database for our Area. Accurate records are so important for the still suffering alcoholic! Thank you for your continued trust in me as your webmaster!

In love and Service,
Alex M.

3. Review activities of Public Information Committees in Groups and Districts throughout Area 40

Reports given, activities reviewed

- Ryan M district 51 is expecting to take over the role of PI Chair in his district
- Libba DCM District 93, 93 has a CPC/PI chair and they are looking forward to serving
- Rick, PI chair for district 31 – works with district CPC chair doing a presentation for nurses at UM, making business cards for BTG/Hotline
- Don, PI chair district 11 – also working with CPC, working on adding grapevines to the free libraries, participates in the 12-step call list at the hospitals, currently working on using the transit system in Billings to present PSA's on the transit system, also working with the colleges in the Billings area to do outreach.
- Theresa R, PI district 61 – currently locating the racks for pamphlets/meeting lists and making sure they are full, also distributing the QR code for meeting lists.
- Danielle, district 91 – new to the position and getting started!
- Erica, district 11 – interest in how area 40 is working with the meeting guide app (that's how people are finding meetings in district 11)

4. Review the final report of the Ad-Hoc Committee which was charged to determine if Area 40 should adopt more detailed guidelines for the Area 40 website and, if so, to recommend to the Area such guidelines no later than the 2024 Fall Assembly.

- -Katelyn presented the Ad Hoc committee's report
- There was a question if/when a backup webmaster would come to be. Alex informed the committee that there are 2 potential candidates in the area who have expressed interest.
- Alex noted that issues concerning permissible/non-permissible flyers are *extremely* rare.
- Alex was asked if he is supportive of the Ad Hoc's recommendation – he is
 - The PI Committee recommends that area 40 adopt the updated website guidelines as written by the Ad Hoc committee.
 - 5 voting members, 5 for, 0 opposed, the seconded motion passes with unanimity
 - A friendly rewording was adopted by the committee after clarification from Kacie N.

AREA 40 WEBSITE GUIDELINES

REVIEW & ACTION AD-HOC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

PI Area 40 Agenda Item 4

Ad-Hoc Committee Final Report

- A. Area 40 Website Guidelines Review & Action Ad-Hoc Committee Recommendations
- B. Current Guidelines: <https://www.aa-montana.org/committee.php?q=Website%20Guidelines>
- C. Proposed Area 40 Website Guidelines

Section I: Statement of Purpose

- The revised statement of purpose outlines the objectives of the website, including maintaining updated information on online meetings, and focusing on serving all Area 40 A.A. members and the still suffering alcoholic.
- The committee recommends adopting the revised statement for clarity of purpose for the role of the website and the website visitors.

Section II: Disclaimer

- The disclaimer section has been expanded to include a provision specifically addressing the posting of flyers and event information, emphasizing that Area 40 neither endorses nor opposes the content contained therein.
- Recommend incorporating the revised disclaimer into the official website guidelines to illustrate Area 40's neutrality towards the activities and events posted on the website.

Section III: Ownership

- The ownership section retains the existing framework and designates the alternate Webmaster as an additional technical contact.
- Recommend updating the website ownership information to include the Alternate Webmaster in the event one is appointed. This will allow for an alternate to step into the role of the technical contact as needed.

Section IV: Content

- The revised content section outlines current submission procedures for group information, meeting minutes and maintenance of district mini-sites. It also introduces guidelines for relevant flyers and event submissions to be posted.
- Recommend adopting the revised content section to clarify processes for submission of district minutes, meeting information changes and updates to the mini-sites. These changes aim to improve clarity and consistency in content management on the Area 40 A.A. website.

Section V: Website Management

- The website management section has been retitled to replace the section previously titled "Website Committee". The section was updated to include provisions for access and security measures in the revised guidelines. The website management procedures have been elaborated, including responsibilities of the Webmaster, alternate Webmaster, and the Area 40 PI Committee. Additionally, the role of the Public Information (PI) Committee in website management is delineated, per Area 40 Policy and Procedure.
- Recommend the guidelines include measures for providing access/login information to designated individuals, and identifies the PI committee as the primary channel for processing website changes.

Section VI: Anonymity

- Anonymity provisions remain largely consistent with the old guidelines, with minor adjustments to include permissions for publishing contact information on flyers.
- Recommend adopting updated anonymity guidelines to include the exception of names and numbers being posted on event flyers with express permission of these individuals.

Conclusion:

In addition to the above specifications, the proposed Area 40 Website Guidelines have been revised for improved clarity and legibility. It is the opinion of this ad hoc committee that adopting the recommended guidelines would benefit Area 40 by providing clearer guidance, improving content management processes, enhancing website functionality, assuring anonymity, and upholding A.A.'s three legacies of recovery, unity, and service.

With regard to the subject of permissible event flyers to be posted to the Area calendar, it is the feeling of the ad hoc committee that event flyers should be posted so long as they appear to fall within the definition provided by The General Service Office (G.S.O) of an A.A. event. Per G.S.O., "The criteria generally in place for an event to be considered 'an A.A. event' is that it be put on by A.A.s, for A.A.s and about A.A." As G.S.O's definition does not include stipulations for adherence to the Traditions in G.S.O's definition of an A.A. event, the committee feels that it is appropriate to apply this criteria for screening event flyers, as opposed to the expectation that the Webmaster, or their alternate, assess an event's adherence to the Twelve Traditions to determine its eligibility for posting. In the absence of an Area group conscience mandating the adherence to the Twelve Traditions for all events posted to the website, the committee believes that adopting G.S.O's definition as criteria will facilitate improved accessibility to meetings, events, and fellowship opportunities for Area 40 A.A. members and the still suffering-alcoholic.

References:

1. G.S.O. A.A. Guidelines - Conference, Conventions and Roundups.
https://www.aa.org/sites/default/files/literature/assets/mg-04_conferenceandconv.pdf.

Proposed Area 40 Website Guidelines**Section I: Statement of Purpose**

- A. To serve all A.A. members and the still suffering alcoholic in Area 40 by providing access to online and local meetings and contact information.
- B. To provide general information about Alcoholics Anonymous.
- C. To provide information about Area 40 A.A. events.
- D. To serve Area 40 AA members, Group Service Representatives (GSRs), District Committee members (DCMs) and Area 40 Committee members and service chairs by providing current information about Area 40 service activity and business.

Section II: Disclaimer

- A. This site is neither endorsed nor approved by Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. (AAWS) or any given Internet provider.
- B. No copyrighted material shall be purposefully posted herein without the express permission of those individuals or institutions possessing ownership of said copyrights. Alcoholics Anonymous®, AA®, and The Big Book® are registered trademarks of AAWS, The Grapevine®, and AA Grapevine® are registered trademarks of The AA Grapevine, Inc.
- C. Flyers and event information are posted as a courtesy for Area 40 groups, meetings, or service entities; Area 40 neither endorses nor opposes the content contained therein.

Section III: Ownership

- A. This website, its registered web name, and all software associated with the development and maintenance of this site are property of Area 40 Inc.
- B. In keeping with Tradition Seven of the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous, the Area 40 Assembly pays all fees and expenses associated with this site.
- C. Area 40 Inc. shall be named as the owner of the domain registration. The billing contact shall be the Area Treasurer.
- D. The technical contact shall be the Area 40 Webmaster or the alternate Webmaster.

Section IV: Content

- A. Information contained on this site is provided by the district and area committees within Area 40 and the State of Montana. The members of these committees are responsible for the maintenance and accuracy of this information.
- B. No telephone numbers will be listed except for the Area 40 Hotline, intergroup telephone numbers and numbers included on event flyers, with the permission of the person listed.
- C. Flyers and information for AA events are to be submitted to the Webmaster for posting. Per the General Service Office (GSO), "The criteria generally in place for an event to be considered 'an A.A. event' is that it be put on by A.A.s, for A.A.s and about A.A."
- D. Group information:
 - a. Group information may be submitted, changed or removed from this site by a district representative by submitting the necessary information to the Area 40 Webmaster via email or by sending the information to the Webmaster's regular mailing address.
- E. District Committee meeting minutes
 - a. Districts shall provide their district committee meeting minutes to the Webmaster to be uploaded to the appropriate District Mini-site.
- F. District Mini-sites.
 - a. Information for mini-sites is to be submitted by the districts to the Webmaster to update.
- G. Meeting information

- a. Any changes to meeting schedules are to be updated directly on the website by a designated person in each district.

Section V: Website Management

- A. Except as described in Section IV.G, the Webmaster and their alternate will have sole responsibility for updating the website content. The Webmaster collects information from Area and District committee members, reviews all proposed changes with the Delegate and updates the website. This person also deals directly with the Web hosting service regarding technical matters and reports current status to the Area Assembly.
 - a. For security purposes, the Webmaster will provide access/login information to the Area chair to be used in the event the Webmaster (and/or their alternate) are unable to fulfill the requirements of their position.
- B. Per Area 40 Policy and Procedure, “Any changes, alterations, or matters of policy concerning the website are channeled through the Public Information Committee and the Area 40 Assembly.”

Section VI: Anonymity

- A. Names of individuals, individual phone numbers, addresses, or email addresses will not be published in any content of this site, except for flyers where names of individuals, phone numbers, addresses and email addresses may be published with the express permission of the individual whose name and contact information shall be included.

Public Information – GSC

A. Review the 2025 Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan.

Reviewed

B. Public Service Announcements (PSAs):

1. Review PSAs for Relevance and Usefulness Reviewed

- a. Review the 2025 report on the “Relevance and Usefulness of Audio and Video PSAs.”
- b. Review plan for evaluating Spanish and French language PSAs.

2. Review progress report on the Mesmerize Point PSA distribution channel. Reviewed

3. Consider suggestion to develop new video PSA. (New Item)

There was a discussion of cost, and the committee reviewed the efficacy/cost benefit analysis of PSA’s coming from GSO

- Rick suggested if we are having good results in GF and Helena, maybe the committee can reach out to other distribution networks to see if we can increase efficacy in other parts of the state.

4. Review report and tracking of distribution of PSAs.

C. Review report on the GSO Podcast, “Our Primary Purpose.” Reviewed

D. Review report on AAWS YouTube Channel.” Reviewed

E. Review report on “Google Ads.”

-there was discussion about what happens after we hit the \$10,000 threshold, there doesn’t seem to be any guidance on that.

-The question was asked: can keyword searches for AA directly link to the meeting guide app?

F. Review report on “Meeting Guide app.” Reviewed

G. Review report on GSO’s A.A. website. Reviewed

H. Review report for “AAWS Online Business Profiles.” Reviewed

I. Review progress report on developing communications to address anonymity and social media. Reviewed

J. Review progress report on analytics reporting. Reviewed

- K. **Review progress report on communicating with young people.** Reviewed
- L. **Discuss Public Information pamphlets/materials.** Discussed
- M. **Review report from the A.A. Membership Survey working group.** Reviewed
- N. **Review progress report on Young People 's video project.** Reviewed
- O. **Review content and format of P.I. Kit and Workbook.** Reviewed

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY/TRUSTEES - KARON K.

Cooperation with the Professional Community – Area 40

1. Review assembly report of the Area 40 CPC Chair

Hello, Area 40. I'm Karon, and I'm an alcoholic. I'm your CPC Committee Chair. I am grateful to all of you for entrusting me to this service. I want to acknowledge the help from those who have gone before me and shared the wisdom of their experience. Particularly helpful were the orientation session for new chairs, Ty K, the former CPC chair, for his reflections, Delegate Lisa C's encouragement, and Area Chair, Jessica E W for routinely checking in with me to provide advice and assistance.

For some of you, this may be your first area assembly, and the acronyms may be mystifying. Cooperation with the Professional Community is most often referred to simply as CPC. Its purpose is to inform professionals and future professionals about AA: what we are, where we are, what we can do, and what we cannot do. We attempt to establish better communication between AA and professionals. The Area CPC chair is charged with providing a clearinghouse of information relevant to CPC's purpose, coordinating the exchange of ideas and resources between districts, and working with District CPC chairs to find productive and creative ways of cooperating without affiliating with third parties who may encounter future members of Alcoholics Anonymous.

At the start of my rotation, I contacted the voting members on my committee to be sure they could participate in this assembly. I also reached out to all the DCMs in the Area for contact information in order to connect with their CPC chairs. Currently nine of the fourteen districts have CPC positions filled. I have spoken to all nine, conducting a brief needs assessment to determine how I might facilitate their work and share resources I have found useful. Those individuals have responded positively to participating in regular meetings, perhaps quarterly, for CPC chairs and committee members to share project plans and activities that might be adapted or replicated in other districts.

Area Treatment Chair, Ty K was contacted by a community outreach coordinator at Ideal Option, a low-barrier medication assisted treatment organization with facilities in nine locations in Montana. He included me in the initial discussion to determine how we might collaborate. I provided information for their nursing staff to attend the April 9 training for professionals sponsored and presented by AA Nurses for Recovery, a national network of nurses in AA. Our plans may include a meeting with professional staff in the Ideal Option locations to inform them about AA and facilitate connections with Treatment, Bridging the Gap, and CPC chairs in districts with Ideal Option facilities.

The Montana Primary Care Association brings together the state's addiction physicians, nurses and nurse practitioners, pharmacists and counselors for training and shared experience in dealing with substance abuse disorders. AA has been a welcome participant in their events. We are hoping to exhibit and provide speaker recommendations for their 6th annual Pain and Addiction Network Conference in June, when attendance is anticipated to be around 100 professionals.

Finally, in response to an open request from the GSO CPC desk, I submitted a proposal to speak at one of the CPC sessions at the AA International Convention. I have been notified that my proposal was selected for the

session: AA as a Community Resource. At meetings of the National PI/CPC Working Group, we often hear about projects in other state's districts or intergroups that involve dozens of CPC committee members and their funds that exceed the total operating funds in most Montana districts. Many are serving populations larger than the entire population of the state of Montana. My presentation will focus on some of the strategies that districts in Montana have effectively employed to reach professionals using far more limited human and financial resources.

Thank you. I am deeply honored for the opportunity to serve.

Karon K

2. Review activities of CPC Committees in Groups and Districts throughout Area 40

Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee Report

Attendees: Karon K, Area 40 CPC Chair, Joe G, Treatment & CPC Chair D12; Jason S, GSR D12; Ariel, GSR D91; Brandi, DCM D71; Charles H, GSR D11; Mitch, CPC Chair D11, Dirk S, CPC Chair D71; Betty M, CPC Chair D72; Jay S, CPC Chair D51; Antoinette, CPC Chair D91; Theresa L, DCM D42; Elena C, CPC Chair D81.

I want to thank all who attended the CPC meeting and particularly Betty M for taking notes of our discussions. Our committee of CPC chairs, voting members and other Assembly attendees with interests in CPC activities met to discuss CPC activities and CPC/Trustees agenda items.

At the start of this rotation, nine of the fourteen districts have CPC chairs. Those that do not are sparsely populated, with fewer members in their districts, so it can be difficult to fill all service positions or form committees to support the chair. Many of the chairs conduct their CPC activities themselves. Two chairs have only just been selected for their positions and are spinning up quickly. Regardless of how early it is in this new rotation, Area 40 CPC committees have been quite active.

- After a successful CPC workshop last year, Mitch A in District 11 has begun planning for the second annual AA: A Resource Workshop for the professional community to be held at the Billings Public Library on May 16. Speakers include professionals from the Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office and Community Crisis Center. The committee is reaching out to the professional community via email, post, and personally delivering invitations to invite them and their colleagues. An ongoing challenge for the committee is having enough volunteers to cover the twelve step call requests to local medical facilities (especially female calls). The committee has also been actively cooperating with and participating in other district committees as well.
- Joe G in District 12 is serving dual roles—as both Treatment and CPC chairs. His plans include continuing to work with the Stillwater Youth Center and the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch where he already has connections with their professional staff.
- In District 51, Jay S initially has considered developing a video best suited to his community of professionals, drawing on other resources that he finds useful. He reports developing connections and rapport with medical professionals can be problematic, as many CPC committees experience. He is also reaching out to clergy in his area.
- Dirk S in District 71 has assembled relevant AA literature and distributed packets to health and mental health professionals. These include the AA Fact Sheet, AA for the Health Care Professional, and district schedules. He has also distributed schedules to hospitals, mental health centers, the courthouse and jail, and will soon reach out to probation offices in Anaconda.

- In District 72, Betty M and the CPC committee began their planning and invited their Al-Anon partners to join in a panel presentation for MSU nursing students. It was well received, and they have been asked to repeat it in the upcoming summer session. Love, INC is an internationally based non-profit that provides spiritual, physical, and other support to those in need by serving as a network hub for local churches. After connecting with them, the committee is targeting June for a similar panel presentation. The district CPC and PI committees are discussing planning a joint project to bring a similar program and information to seniors in the district. They have updated contact information data base to increase its effectiveness for use and are reviewing literature and other information to determine what if anything might be done to increase their effectiveness in attracting viewers.
- Elena C is CPC Chair in District 81. She has formed the district CPC committee which meets monthly. They are compiling a contact list of professionals who work with alcoholics, beginning with social workers. They are also finalizing a needs assessment survey and a cover letter to send to these professionals and will be adding these documents to the district's google drive for sustainability purposes. Survey responses and contact list will be used to plan how to meet these professionals' needs and invite them to a workshop in Missoula in the future. The committee is also preparing to send members to speak at classes for nursing students at the University of Montana in April. The committee is sending two members to the Treatment/Corrections workshop for professionals in Helena on April 26, to learn how to hold a successful workshop here in Missoula.
- In District 91, Antoinette M is attending a variety of meetings in the district to find out who are the CPC for their groups. She has reached out to staff at Flathead County Courthouse to find out to whom she can reach out to and share AA information.
- In District 93, Chris T has been personally distributing flyers in doctor's offices, parole offices and more. He is running up against the problem some other CPC and PI committees have that some hospitals are no longer allowing AA schedules to be distributed there.

These reports triggered robust discussions that emphasized the value of these opportunities to share information among districts. Three issues in particular generated lively discussion:

1. The need for committees to preserve and make available committee resources and information for the efficient transition of new chairs and committee members. Some chairs experience having little or no information to draw on such as contact lists of previously known professionals.
2. The problem of reaching professionals in effective and efficient ways. Security filters, firewalls, etc. may make reaching out to professionals via email less successful if mail is blocked or quarantined prior to delivery to the intended individual.
3. The 1995 federal district court case prohibiting judicial officials from mandating AA attendance. The good news is that despite that, many treatment court officials are friends of AA.

Cooperation with the Professional Community – GSC

G. Review progress report on AAWS LinkedIn page.

We reviewed the report and had no comment.

B. Review progress report on the development of outward facing pamphlet for mental health professionals.

We reviewed the report and had no comment.

C. Review content and format of CPC Kit and Workbook.

We reviewed the report and noted that changes recommended previously have been made.

D. Review progress report on the effective use of CPC videos on aa.org.

We reviewed the report and had no comment.

E. Discuss shared experience in informing professionals how A.A. can serve as a resource for unhoused and neurodivergent alcoholics.

We do not have any direct experience with informing professionals how AA can serve as a resource for unhoused and neurodivergent alcoholics. We agreed that when we meet with professionals to talk about Alcoholics Anonymous, we do not discriminate when we discuss our membership. Our program of action works for all who sincerely want to stop drinking, are rigorously honest and work the spiritual program of action. There were comments about how the Plain Language workbook has been useful in working with alcoholics who have literacy and comprehension issues.

Trustees – GSC

A. Review resumes of candidates for:

1. Southeast Regional Trustee

There are no resumes to review as those are only provided to voting members.

2. East Central Regional Trustee

There are no resumes to review as those are only provided to voting members.

3. Trustee-at-Large/U.S.

There are no resumes to review as those are only provided to voting members.

B. Review slate of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.

C. Review slate of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc.

D. Review slate of directors of AA Grapevine, Inc.

E. Review progress report of the revised pamphlet “Do You Think You’re Different?”

We reviewed the progress report.

F. Review Censure Process Proposal. (New Item)

We reached consensus supporting this item, confirming the need for a formal and transparent process for censure, should an occasion arise for it to be implemented.

G. Consider the request to include the version of A.A. Comes of Age, Lasker Award text in the book, Alcoholics Anonymous. (PAI 24 and 63)* Note: This item was forwarded from the Literature Agenda as part of the 2025 Equitable Distribution Plan (EDW).

We engaged in lively discussion on this item. There was general support for including the full text of the award based on how influential it might be in the context of CPC work with professionals who might regard this award as prestigious. *(Subsequent to our meeting, I discovered that the Lasker Award is one of the most prestigious honors in medical science, often referred to as “America’s Nobels.”)* There was some ambivalence expressed about its importance to the alcoholic reader, wondering how this inclusion would be helpful in fulfilling our primary purpose of staying sober and helping other alcoholics achieve sobriety. Also, the Lasker award was presented in 1951 - 55 years ago, and there was some question if material that dated material would be effective. It describes who we are and what we do but how would it make a difference, and to whom?

FINANCE – LYNNE W.

Finance – Area 40

In attendance

Voting members: Lynne W., Lisa C-D. Delegate, Lenore M DCM 72, Jessica E-W. Chair, Molly Dist. 41

Non-Voting: Sammi P. Alt-GSR Dist. 11, Jess R. Dist 81, Nancy GSR Dist. 91, Tom Treasurer Dist. 71, Matt Treasurer, Carla GSR Dist. 61, and April T Dist. 11

1. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Treasurer

Hi Ya'll, I'm Lynne & I'm an alcoholic.

I'll start with the numbers. In 2024:

- budget was: \$46,750
- total contributions: \$45,162.84, with 128 distinct entities contributing.
- expenses: \$42,449.17
- under budget by \$4,300.83

So far in 2025, as of April 1, 2025:

- budget is: \$54,565
- contribution total: \$7,613.05
- expenses: \$7,472
- full balance in checking account: \$28,486.77

It has been quite the journey already as your Area 40 Treasurer. We did the Area Audit on January 18. We had a snafu getting our names on the bank account. The laws have changed, so the process has changed, & the bankers we each talked to in our different cities didn't necessarily talk to each other. There was a couple weeks where I couldn't legally write checks on the Area 40 bank account, even though all involved agreed I should be able to. We had to wait for all the paperwork to go through, and in the end I was able to legally write checks to cover our bills before anything was past due. I sent off our contribution to the General Service Conference right away. Also, I have filed all necessary paperwork with the state & feds.

A huge project I faced was understanding QuickBooks & getting it up to date with all the data I need so I can give the reports ya'll are expecting to see. The budget we voted in back in September was made in Excel, and what I've found out is that QB doesn't want to talk to Excel unless all these minute details I don't understand are all in order. It took me 3 weeks to get the budget loaded. From there, I had to get it to tell me the numbers I want to see, & only the numbers I want to see. I hope you like the new format of the by Committee or Project expenses, I chose it because I personally understand the information better when it is in a nice colorful pie chart.

I went to the West Central Regional AA Service Conference where I met other Area Treasurers and past treasurers. Their experience was invaluable to me. It helped give me the confidence needed to successfully fulfil my position. I will be honest, the degree of autonomy I have as your Area 40 Treasurer is absolutely terrifying to me. Other Areas have booklets explaining all the Treasurer duties, and we have about page and a half in our Policy & Procedures. Since I like regulation, & I am not confident enough in my accounting skills to wing this position solo, I set up a Committee to get us all successfully through this rotation.

I have been working with Area Chair Jessica & Delegate Lisa to make sure we are all on the same page with the interpretation of Area finance policy. I scoured our Policy & Procedures, looked through all the Finance Past Motions, and glanced at the rest of them to see if there are relevant items pertaining to the budget. This rotation, I want to emphasize the importance of getting ready for our next tax bracket. Our P&P states all reimbursements need to have receipts, so please all, help me follow through with that. I will get your reimbursements out to you in a timely manner, within a week of receiving your request. I am begging ya'll to support me in the quest for receipts.

As for the committee, Debbie D was my first recruit. Since she has way more experience being an AA treasurer than me. Julie R, as one of my predecessors, was very kind to me when I called her convinced I was going to fail at this & screw up Area finances for years to come. She is willing to serve as my, “Oh my #@&*!, is this really correct?????” point of contact. Colleen N turned out to be my unicorn: an AA member with knowledge of QB, professional bookkeeping experience, and enough time & dedication to commit to helping me the duration of this rotation. She has agreed to reconcile the accounts at the end of each month, and as an outside the committee member of AA she also gives this rotation another layer of accountability.

I have asked Lenore M to be an active member of the committee. As DCM of 72, she is also a voting member. I asked if she would serve as my double-checker. I will send her my personal expense reports for her to add up and approve before I write myself any checks on the Area account. She enthusiastically said yes, and so far has performed her duties wonderfully.

One of the things I found out as the Service Conference is that many Areas have a line item on their budget for a professional review, and this person also double checks the taxes. In a few of the Areas I talked with, they have a non-AA Special Worker overseeing the accounts. We have a budget of over \$50,000 for the first time. If our income is over that amount for 3 years, it changes the way we report. We still won't have to pay taxes, but the postcard for reporting to the government turns into a 4 page document that I would not feel comfortable filling out without the help of a professional. So far this rotation, I have been working with Don Lovelace at Dakota Wealth Management who has offered professional guidance but not an actual review of our books. He ensured me that I am within current laws & on the right track, and can offer a referral if we as an Area decide to hire a professional to oversee the Treasurer position moving forward.

I think that wraps it up from me. I want to let ya'll know how grateful I am for the opportunity to serve as your Area 40 Treasurer.

Lynne W

Questions brought to the Treasurer included if a call was put out for aid within the rooms before outside aid was used. The Treasurer's committee consists of members familiar with both Excel and QuickBooks. Research concluded that outside aid costs approximately \$1,000, but in this case there was no charge. The question was asked if the Area could benefit from a more detailed P&P, the answer was yes. Lastly, this was not the first year the Area has used QuickBooks.

2. Consider the agenda item proposal to fund the West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference (WCRAASC) Registration Fee for each of our Area 40 Committee Chairs and Area Officers each year.

Discussion stated that there are 9-13 chairs, not including officers that could attend the WCRAASC, at most 16. Registration fee includes in-person and online attendance, with a usual cost of 25 to 40 dollars. The intent of the agenda item is that by paying for registration it will remove a barrier, therefore encourage attendance. Concerns were discussed that current usage of prudent reserve coupled with more expenses may be counterproductive. Data provided that while prudent reserve is being used currently the overall position is not deficient. Yearly the budget increases by 17 percent. Desire to include Tech guys.

Motion amended to add: To fund the West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference (WCRAASC) Registration Fee for each of our Area 40 Committee Chairs and Area Officers, rotating and non-rotating, up to 16 people.

Area Committee vote: 4 for, 0 against, and 1 abstained.

Finance GSC

- A. Consider a request to reaffirm the 1975 Advisory Action that delegates emphasize to the groups the effect that inflation has had on the contribution of dollars and the necessity for adjusting contributions accordingly, to support services provided by the General Service Board. [Floor Action from the 74th General Service Conference].**

Discussion questioned referenced the Preamble “no dues or fees” and was countered with inflation details and 7th tradition explanation of being self-supporting. It was asked what is more useful, yearly or monthly contributions to Area, answered with it doesn’t matter but monthly is preferred. Also, the amount contributed to Area to the number of active groups of the Area.

- B. Review suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference.**

It costs \$9,900 for one delegate to attend the General Service Conference (GSC). The Area is responsible for \$2,200 of that cost. The amount is set by the General Service Organization (GSO), and the remaining \$7,700 is absorbed by GSO.

- C. Review the Conference-approved level of \$10,000 for individual bequests to the General Service Board from A.A. members.**

No discussion.

- D. Review the Conference-approved maximum annual contribution of \$7,500 to the General Service Board from an individual A.A. member.**

Questions were made of possibly making this an embedded item in the structure, adjusting for inflation yearly, with review every 5 years to improve efficiency.

- E. Review Self-Support Packet.**

Self- Support Packet was discussed.

- F. Consider a request to remove the phrase, “A group may also decline to hear reports from a GSR at all” from page 10 in the A.A. Service Manual. (PAI 72)* Note: This item was forwarded from the Report and Charter agenda as part of the 2025 Equitable Distribution Plan (EDW).**

Treasurer read the sentence in its paragraph for context. Of the committee members, 3 voted for it to be removed, 1 against, and 1 abstained, compared to an even split between all people present. The minority opinion fell to Tradition 4, of letting groups decide how to conduct themselves. It was stated that some groups don't require that GSRs make a report, with others not wanting to hear the report. Concern was stated that including the statement condones or encourages groups to not listen to reports from GSRs. The voting members voted to remove it, the census of the entire meeting was split down the middle.

****Finance Committee**

Tech co-chair reached out to chairs about reimbursement of rental car costs to attend Area. The Co-chair's personal car was in the shop and he was unable to borrow a car for the weekend. It was deemed that sharing a ride wasn't feasible due to the distance required to gather equipment and space required to transport said equipment.

The P&P reimburses chairs for travel including \$0.05 per mile, food, gas, and lodging, and doesn’t prohibit rental cars. There is also a line item for Tech Support that could possibly be used. Keeping in mind principles over personalities to ensure that whomever it is will get the same support. The treasurer has authority to make the decision and then later consult the committee. The Tech guys make it possible for so many to attend virtually. Questions of what would happen if tech guys were not available, what would be Area’s next option. Area 40 can afford it. **Voting committee members: Approved with 4**

Corrections – Area 40

1. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Corrections Chair

Greetings area 40

Thank you for allowing me to be of service. Since the beginning of the rotation I forgot how much of a hassle it was to get on a bank account. With that being sorted out I have started to get information about what districts are in need of literature. I have sent out literature to billings. The current area 40 pink can account is po box 232 Missoula, Mt, 59806. I know some groups are sending contributions to the old Po Box. I have reached out to my committee and encouraged them to look at the background information. A few districts have reached out to me about starting jail meetings in their districts. I am very excited to report that Butte and Cutbank have been looking into starting new jail meetings in their districts. One struggle that I know I lack is answering emails in a timely manner. While I am still figuring out what is my service position at the area level I look forward to seeing what I can contribute as your area 40 corrections chair.

2. Report on Pink Can income and disbursement

Beginning balance \$6,499.93 today balance \$ 7,391.92 24 big books \$297.22

3. Review activities of Corrections Committees in Groups and Districts throughout Area 40

District 41 has difficulty getting into the county facility. Thriving in juvenile corrections. Building bridge community workshop. Public is on alcoholics side.

District 71 has a lot of facilities. Some of the facilities are good. Has struggled getting into Anaconda jail. Butte has 1 pod at a time, so it takes days to get the whole facility with meetings.

District 91 has 1 jail in Kalispell. Alot of woman and not enough men.

District 51 Established meeting at hill county jail, hoping to get into ort Belknap soon. Need literature

The prison has a need of plbb

Corrections – GSC

A. Review content and format of Corrections Kit and Workbook.

Available as a pdf, reviewed workbook and discussed how important the workbook is.

B. Review progress report on development of a pamphlet on the transgender alcoholic in A.A.+

In the process of electing a chair by April 15, 2025.

C. Review Data from Tablet Vendor Edovo. (New Item)

Edovo is a software to be uploaded to tablets in corrections facilities. There are 9 facilities in Montana. Edovo is a educational, vocational, and treatment programing.

Audio books have a much higher rate of completion than eBooks. The department of corrections has a form from edovo to remove content that does not meet the needs of DOC. It is a great way to help get our literature into facilities

D. Review Corrections Survey. (New Item)

Not a lot of discussion

E. Consider request to update Appendix IV in the book Alcoholics Anonymous to include other awards and commendations received by AA since 1951. (PAI 65)* Note: This item was forwarded from the Literature agenda as part of the 2025 Equitable Distribution Plan (EDW).

What other awards? Will this make AA more helpful to the professional committee?

Google search says Gold Key Award in 1951, Franciscan key in 1967, volunteer action award 1983 president action award 1983

All in favor

International Conventions and Regional Forums – GSC

A. Discuss the upcoming 2025 International Convention.

Reviewed the schedule and its happening in July 3-6

B. Review progress report on the development of new declaration to be adopted at the 2030 International Convention.

No discussion

C. Consider that all Sovereign States flags be a part of the Flag Ceremony at an International Convention. (PAI 10)

A huge need for representation for indigenous members. Lengthy discussion. What is a sovereign nation? Are all nations going to be represented? What's the ceremony look like?

3 in favor 1 abstained

D. Discuss ways to encourage interest and participation at Regional Forums.

It's happening in Omaha, Nebraska, September 19-21

E. Review Final Report of the Subcommittee on Regional Forums Improvements.

Not a lot of information, no discussion

F. Review Report from Subcommittee to Review Regional Forums Request for Information (RFI) Forms.

Not a lot of information

TREATMENT AND ACCESSIBILITIES/AGENDA – TY K

Treatment and Accessibilities - Area 40

1. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Treatment and Accessibilities Chair

Hello Area 40

In February I was contacted by a treatment facility located in Cut Bank and Glasgow looking to make connections with local AA. A meeting was scheduled and I invited Karon, the area CPC Chair, to join in our initial meeting. This meeting with Ideal Option turned out to be a

very helpful connection. We learned that they have 9 locations across the state and are looking forward to a future relationship with AA. Karon and I met and discussed what literature and information we would like to provide and decided it would be good for Bridging the gap to be included in our next meeting. I am looking forward to reaching out to other facilities and making more of these connections.

In March I attended the Area 40 pre assembly and presented the Treatment/Accessibilities agenda items. Thank you for allowing me to serve!

2. REVIEW ASSEMBLY REPORT OF THE ALT AREA 40 BRIDGING THE GAP CHAIR, SEAN R.

Area 40 Bridging the Gap Committee Mission Statement:

The purpose of the Temporary Contact Program is to "Bridge the Gap" between A.A. meetings in treatment facilities, hospitals, prisons, and jails and the first A.A. meetings upon release in the home community. Volunteer members of Alcoholics Anonymous usually acting in pairs, meet the client or inmate after release and accompany them to their first A.A. meeting. Like all 12th-step work, this is never paid for. It is the goal of Area 40 - Montana Bridging the Gap Committee, Treatment Facilities Committee, and Corrections Committee to make this vital 12th-step work possible statewide.



2025 Spring Assembly BTG Report

Greetings Area 40,

My name is Sean Ringer, and for the past 2 and a half years, I've had the honor and privilege of serving as your Alternate Bridging the Gap Chair. After Fall Assembly last year, Jessica and I met numerous times to plan her transition out of the BTG Chair position, and to prepare me to fulfill the duties of BTG Chair, as outlined in the Area 40 policy and procedures, until a new Chair could be elected during the 2025 Spring Assembly. In November, Jessica and I met with a few other committee members to begin the planning process for the upcoming BTG Outreach Workshop, which will be held in Dillon on May 17th; please feel free to take some flyers back to your groups and districts with you! We also set our rotation meeting for February, where all incoming and outgoing district BTG Chairs meet so that the incoming chairs can ask any questions they have, and pick the brains of the outgoing committee members. Throughout November and December, Jessica worked with the incoming District BTG chairs to make sure they had the necessary materials either digitally, or by mailing them hard copies. She also made herself available for training sessions to ensure that they were set up for success, and she made sure to update the BTG Committee contact list for the upcoming rotation as best as possible before rotating on.

On January 1st, I officially began fulfilling the duties of the BTG Chair. Over the past few months, I have continued to work with new district chairs as they get elected, to ensure they have all of the necessary BTG information. I have also continued to update our BTG Committee contact list as more positions across our Area have been filled. We held our rotation meeting in February and received a lot of positive feedback from the incoming chairs. Our committee has been actively planning the upcoming Outreach Workshop and is really looking forward to carrying the BTG message to Dillon in May! Between January 1st and March 24th, we bridged 28 gaps via the Area 40 online BTG form. While most of the Temporary Contact Requests were for cities in Montana, we successfully connected 5 Participants with Volunteers in Spokane, Boise, Concord NH, Mission Viejo CA, and Orofino ID.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your Area 40 Alt BTG Chair.

3. Review activities of Treatment Committees in Groups and Districts throughout Area 40

Treatment committees are alive and well in Area 40. In our committee, there was representation from District 11, 61, 71, 72, 81, and 93. All of these districts have old and new relationships with treatment centers and are very active in these facilities.

Treatment - GSC

A. Review progress report on Military Outreach Project.

There was not anything to review

B. Review progress report on shared experience from Fellowship on outreach efforts to A.A. members in the military and veterans.

We discussed outreach to veterans and challenges associated with bringing meetings into the VA rehab facility in Helena.

C. Review progress report on the Accessibilities Resources flyer made available on aa.org.

Nothing to review

D. Review progress report on the update of service material with shared experience from neurodivergent alcoholics.

We reviewed it with approval.

E. Review revision of the conference-approved flyer "Where do I go from here" (F-4).

F. Review contents and format of Treatment Kit and Workbook.

We reviewed and discussed the treatment kit. No new suggestions.

G. Review contents and format of Accessibilities Kit and Workbook.

We briefly reviewed the accessibilities kit and discussed accessibilities issues that have come up around the area.

H. Review resource lists for Remote Communities and Cooperation with Elder Community.

We discussed outreach to the elder community

Agenda - GSC

A. Review suggestions for the theme of the 2026 General Service Conference.

The committee said anything but 4! (4.Alcoholics Anonymous (Post Pandemic): Love and Tolerance of Others is our Code!) We liked # 5. A.A. through the ages – always evolving but never changing.

B. Review presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2026 General Service Conference.

We reviewed no suggestions

C. Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2026 General Service Conference.

We discussed, no suggestions

D. Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form, distribution process and 2024 Evaluation Summary.

We did not feel we knew enough about the conference to review this item.

E. Discuss the 2024 progress report on Conference improvement.

We did not feel we knew enough about the conference to discuss this item.

F. Review feedback from 2024 Delegate Chairs on quarterly communications.

We did not feel we knew enough about the conference to review this item.

G. Discuss plan to print and distribute the comprehensive summary of the 2025 General Service Conference Inventory.

We did not feel we knew enough about the conference to discuss this item.

H. Discuss 2024 progress report on Conference Inventory.

We did not feel we knew enough about the conference to discuss this item.

I. Consider the request to suspend oral presentations of all Area Service Highlights and continue printing highlights in the final report. (PAIs 20 and 32)

The committee was in favor of keeping the oral presentations from what we have heard from past delegates' experience.

J. Consider a proposed pilot for a Harmony and Effectiveness Session. (New Item)

We discussed and we hoped for more feedback and information from past delegates

HOTLINE/REPORT AND CHARTER – LANCE W.

Hotline – Area 40

A. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Hotline Chair.

Hello Area 40.

My name is Lance W. and I am an alcoholic. It is truly an honor and privilege to be serving you all as your Area40 Hotline Chair.

I had some fear coming into this rotation, probably like any other service position I held in the past. But I know how much hard work has been put into this committee to get it where it is today. I want to Thank Bruizer for continuing to help me as I get acquainted in this position. So far it has been very eye opening how important having a hotline position is. It should make sense right? Well whatever the reasoning is. I have been very moved on some of the calls I have taken and

Some of the calls you all had received. So big thanks for any of you in this room or not that had the willingness to help as I forwarded along a caller. It can be like the front line when someone is calling about getting to a meeting and they can not stop drinking or they do not like where alcohol has taken them. To be able to send them meeting info, or to tell them hang in there so n so will give you a call and meet you at a meeting tonight. What a blessing.

Now I had some calls like; So n So is calling about if a member of the meeting they went too can bring them a pack of smokes. Which would be nice, kind of mad. I never used that one in my early days. Or another, they insisted on praying over Me for calling them back. It's kind of tough to kindly tell them about maybe considering meetings while they're in the middle of giving me a sermon.

The hotline calls I take are the ones that are missed. So it is very important if we are to sign up to volunteer that we are able to be there to answer. For the most part I think the people that have been apart of this have been doing an excellent job. Thank you.

Quick run through what I have been doing. There has been a total of 202 calls for Jan, feb, and march 2025.

Districts Calls

11	4
12	1
21	0
23	0
31	1
41	0
42	1
51	0
61	3
71	0
72	3
81	6
91	3
93	2

All Other calls have mainly consisted of meeting locations, one was a gal in a small town wanting to start up a meeting. I was able to pass her along to another member. So in hopes I can continue the hard work and provide effective communication throughout our districts. Ok last time, I want to Thank each and everyone of you for being here and continuing to have the willingness to keep an open line for the alcoholic. Thank you.

Love and Service
Lance W.

B. Review activities of Hotline Committees and Chairpersons in Groups and Districts throughout Area 40.

Reviewed

Report and Charter – GSC

A. Discuss the A.A. Service Manual, 2026-2028 Edition:

- 1. Review list of editorial updates.**
- 2. Review progress report on the development of a new section. “Amendments” to be added to the Twelve Concepts for World Service.**
- 3. Consider a request to remove the word “woman” from the Concept IV essay. (PAI 75,124)**
Note: Item 3A on the preliminary agenda, “Consider a request to remove the phrase, “A group may also decline to hear reports from a GSR at all” from page 10 in the A.A. Service Manual. (PAI 72)” was forwarded to the Finance agenda as part of the 2025 Equitable Distribution Plan (EDW).

All items were discussed, reviewed and considered.

B. Consider a request to expand Article Three in the Conference Charter to protect the co-Founders’ writings. (PAIs 81,15, 26 and 109)

Considered

C. Review progress report on exploring the creation of a corresponding Trustees' committee for Report and Charter.

Reviewed

D. Discuss General Service Conference Final Report.

Discussed

LITERATURE – REBECCA S.-Q.

Literature – Area 40

Present:

Name	District	Voting Member?
Daniels M	11	Y
Susan H	91	Y
Kathie B (online)	31	Y
Dan F	51	Y
Mark W	11	N
Catherine B	71	N
Mary D	81	N (back up for 31 if needed)
Sandy S	SWMT Intergroup	N
Rikki L	41	N
Matthew R	72	N
Robin Z*	91	N
Mary Helen	11	N

*Notetaker extraordinaire

1. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Literature Chair

Dear Area 40,

Since January, Jessica graciously met with me and explained some of the duties of the literature chair. She also gave me the materials for the display. Lastly, she sent me an inventory with suggested items that I needed to order, specifically, more service manuals.

They are on the table and are \$4. Please put the money in the jar.

Service manuals are the only books for sale. Everything else on the display is for display only.

I was able to go to the pre-assembly in Billings, hosted by Districts 11, 12, and 31. We started with a great potluck. Very auspicious.

Patrick introduced the Area committee chairs that were present and we got down to reviewing, considering and discussing.

I look forward to hearing what the committee has to say when we meet this weekend.

More will be revealed,
Rebecca

B. Review activities of Literature Committees in Groups and Districts throughout Area 40

Each present District Literature Chair gave updates.

District 11: Healthcare and Corrections on May 18th.

District 91: Groups can order book through the District now.

District 81: Literature Chair keeps literature in her house! PLBB is very popular.

District 51: Have most books except PLBB. Have re-ordered.

Literature – GSC

- A. Annual review of recovery literature matrix.x**
- B. Review draft of the revised pamphlet “The Twelve Steps Illustrated.”**
- C. Review draft of the revised pamphlet “A.A. for the Native North American.”**
- D. Review progress report on the development of the Fourth Edition of the book= Alcohólicos Anónimos - Spanish.**
- E. Review the progress report of the Fifth Edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous.**
- F. Review draft of the developed video animation of the pamphlet “The Twelve Concepts Illustrated.”**
- G. Review draft of revisions to the pamphlet “Questions and Answers on Sponsorship.”**
- H. Review progress report on the development of a pamphlet for the Asian and Asian American Alcoholic.**

ITEMS A-H items were reviewed. Reviewed the matrix in the background information.

- I. Consider request that the Twelve Concepts for World Service and essays on the Twelve Concepts for World Service be included in the current publication, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. (PAI 23)**

Rebecca read excerpts from background information. Daniels M read the 12 Concepts out of the Service Manual. Discuss went around the table. The pros and cons are:

CONS

Will it remain in the Service Manual as well?

\$\$\$

The size of the book will be too big.

Digital is more effective and less expensive.

Too intimidating

Don't fix what isn't broken

It's part of the adventure of moving into service

PROS

More widespread exposure

Publish 12 and 12 AND 12x12x12?

Can be used more easily in our daily life

Adding the Concepts to the 12x12 does not preclude creating a digital version.

Voting members were in favor of considering adding the Concepts to the 12x12. The votes was 3-2.

J. Consider request to update the book Living Sober. PAI PAIs 34, 64, 106, 90, 92, 121,122)

Rebecca read excerpts from the background language and explained that "plain language" is a specific, defined writing style.

CONS

There have been too many changes.

Older AAs relate to the book as it is.

\$\$\$

PROS

This book is already geared to newcomers and needs to adapt to today's newcomers, including topics relating to social media, virtual meetings, etc.

It's an update rather than a new book.

Don't fear change - it may help a newcomer.

Voting members were in favor of considering an updated version of the Living Sober book. The votes was 4-1.

K. Discuss Plain Language Big Book review process.

The committee discussed. We reviewed the flowchart and Rebecca and Susan H did their best to explain it. The editorial changes are not up to us. The professionals can find the missed commas and misspellings. The substantive materials is what we alcoholics know. We want to get the message out to help whoever needs it.

Respectively submitted,

Rebecca SQ

Literature Chair

➤ **GSR Breakout:** Transcript not available at the time of this release.

➤ **DCM BREAKOUT:**

Thanks to Carly B DCM 81 for taking notes for this lively discussion

DCM breakout/Ask it Basket

- When should you start reading the background information?
- How do you delegate and support your ALT DCM but not blur the lines between roles?
 - Communication is key

- Be direct and have a clear line of where we both are at in our respective roles and what we do and don't do.
- Don't be afraid to speak up in a district meeting if you disagree with an alternate while they are leading the business meeting.
- don't dictate anyone else's experience, just try to be helpful.
- Just because my experience was different doesn't mean there's isn't just as valid.
- I have to remember what it was like to not know, because just because I do know doesn't mean I wasn't where they were at one point.
- Egos on both sides Alt vs DCM
- Principles before personalities.
- Think outside the box
- Take the time to talk to your Alternate so they know what you are trying to accomplish.
- We are trusted servants but we are also leaders.
- We have to ask for what we want
- How do you navigate when an ALT oversteps?
- Get on the same page, not be afraid to confront things when they need to be addressed.
- Redirecting energy – instead of making them go away, give them something to do.
- Doormat vs. steamroller- be somewhere in the middle.

Sunday, April 6, 2025

➤ **ROUNDUP REPORTS**

○ **Spring Round Up 2025**

The Committee is working hard and coming together nicely. I am looking forward to all the fun we will have.

Brandy has lots of fun planned for everyone and April is gathering lots of cool raffle items and gifts.

Kathy is putting together some yummy treats for the hospitality room. "Remember they have to stay in the

hospitality room." We have a great group of speakers lined up, including our own Area Treasurer Lynn W. We

will have literature and other items for sale. While we are not able to do credit cards, however there is an ATM

Machine on the premises. We will also take checks and cash with a smile. Early registration is \$40 and on April

17th. You can register online, by mail and for an extra \$5 at the door. There are flyers and event programs available at the back table.

Yours in Service,

Dawn B.

○ **Fall 2025 Round Up**

Transcript not available at the time of this release.

○ **Spring 2026 Round Up**

Happy Spring- Recovery Fam!

Things are well underway for The 2026 "Any Lengths" Roundup. District 91 is honored to be able to Host. The

"Any Lengths" NW Montana Branding, was voted on as a recurring theme with the intention of creating a

wonderful and memorable welcome to our little part of the world. Our hopes are that our creative team can

continue to create graphic assets and decorations that will save time and money for future Round-up Committees.

Our teams are continuing to grow, and ideas are flowing.

The support of AA / Al-anon Members has been fantastic as we progress. Everyone knows that May 1st, 2nd, and 3rd are definitely a little ways away. We just don't want the Round-Up to be like the unsuitable underwear that you chose to wear on that long hike or bike ride... You knew "Creepin Up" was inevitable.

Workshops are coming together, along with meditation sessions, marathon meetings, Old Timers Panel, and our Speakers are locked in.

Friday Night we will hear What it was like, What happened, and What it's like now from-
Dean H. From Whitefish

The Saturday Night Main Speaker will be: Ralph W. From Los Angeles and lastly for an AWESOME Send Off on Sunday Morning after meditation, you will have the wonderful opportunity to hear from the HEART of Theresa F. From Los Angeles - A true Angel from the City of Angels.

For those of you who like to read ahead, you can find recordings of B.B. Workshops and other A.A. events where Ralph and Theresa have spoken in the past.

The "Any Lengths" Entertainment Committee, will provide Live Music performed by a group of sober musicians in our area, there will be the traditional opening night Jam Session (so if you're a singer or musician or can keep a beat- bring your acoustic instruments and share your recovery through music) If you enjoy healing through the creative process, come listen, support and Sing or Lip-Sink-Along. In addition, there will be a Dance, an Art Room, Marathon Meetings, and as much proof as we can possibly provide to show that- We are ABSOLUTELY NOT A Glum Lot!

The 2026 Any Lengths Spring Round Up will be a fun and interactive conference and we hope that you will join us. So, from District 91 to our extended AA Family, we need a little favor: We ask that what you hear here, when you leave here, that you DO NOT let it stay here. Please go back to your groups, Campouts, Float Trips, and the other AA gatherings that you will attend between now and May 1st 2026, and promote the doo-doo out this Round-Up.

If you're still confused about Tradition 11, wear something attractive while you promote it.

Grateful to serve,
Nino and Victoria G.

If you have any questions please see me for Roundup Chairs' contact info-

➤ **WCRAASC FIRST TIMER REPORT RIKKI L.**

Hi my name is Rikki L. and I am an alcoholic. I do not currently hold a GSR or DCM position but I hope to someday. For now, I keep myself busy with secretarial duties for my District and my home group.

This was my first West Central Regional conference that I attended and I was honored to be able to experience it. When I was asked to provide a report on it by Jessica E.W., my initial response was fear. I wanted to say no, but what has worked for me so far in Alcoholics Anonymous is to usually do the opposite. Also, I couldn't say no to the puppy dog eyes she gave me. And I'm glad I agreed, because what I learned as I was taking notes was eye opening.

When I first came to Alcoholics Anonymous just over a year ago, I had no idea the work and thought that went into carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic. I realized that for many of us AA's, this way of life isn't just going to meetings, working the steps, and sponsoring, it's also about donating your time to meticulously go item by item through an agenda with well thought out proposals that ultimately impacts Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. It was a privilege to witness firsthand the devotion and care that goes into this process. I noticed that as people went up to the microphone to share their opinions, which sometimes differed, that everyone listened with respect. I realized that the common goal of this event was unity, not division, even if there was disagreement. Sometimes it takes division before harmony can happen. Something was said about this that really made an impact on me: "We have to reflect if the way we are acting is causing disunity. It starts with the individual, keeping an open mind and an open heart."

I had the opportunity to attend a workshop about three legacy sponsorship: unity, service, and recovery. As someone who has just recently started sponsoring, I gained valuable insight into the perspective of others who sponsor. The main message I received during the workshop is this: service work makes good 12 step work possible. And what that means to me is that if I do acts of service, I stay integrated in AA and I also have the opportunity to daily apply the 12 steps into my recovery and into my sponsorship of others.

On the final day during the ask-it-basket, a question was posed: how do you let go and let god when you don't like what is happening in AA today? How do you trust? The answer: none of us were able to trust or conduct ourselves when we first got here. This is where concept 2 comes into play: through a group conscience, A.A. groups delegate to the conference complete authority and thereby made the Conference the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society. Through this delegation of authority, we recognize that everyone is a worthy part of the structure.

There was probably a lot that I missed over the weekend, but what I did notice was that in every interaction there was willingness: to be there, to listen, to connect, and to understand.

And I have to give a shout out to Area 40: we filled 1/3 of the room and were hands down the rowdiest bunch. I was so proud then to be a part of our awesome fellowship, and I am today.

➤ **OPEN SHARING**

- GSR Rose and Thorn - District 81 – thank you!
- GSR Third Step Group - District 51 – We need more people involved. We are working on it. Thank you for letting me participate.
- Antinio, newcomer 10/17/2024 came to be a part
- Denise, Whitefish Group sees all the work it takes and dedication
- Therasa, GSR for Sister-to-Sister - District 61 Amazed at how much goes into assembly and how important it is.
- Lindsay, Central Montana Group - GSR first time being of service and first assembly – I am full of fear and it is God that has got me through this and my sobriety. I encourage others to participate.
- Lane from District 12 - Harlowton Group GSR – 10 months and 10 days sober – told he would be the group GSR. Reaching out to Sean to get Bridging the Gap in Harlowton. Thank you!
- Joanna, District 72, alt GSR for the How Group in Bozeman first assembly appreciate all the Chairs and the work they have put into Montana AA and to be able to participate in her sobriety.
- Donna, GSR for Keep it Simple - District 71 – thanks everyone that has come today. Today has been a very good experience. Thank everyone and their hard work that makes it possible for recovering alcoholics.

- April, GSR for Cut Bank Group - District 42 – Grateful to be her. First time attending. Happy to be here and see how things work
- JB, GSR of the Sunset Group in Missoula – thank you to Carly and Lisa and Jessica for all the work they have done to put this on. Incredible
- Larry District 91 No Name Group – Really fascinating and learning experience. This has been really eye-opening. Thank you for being here and for the learning experience.
- Mitch District 11 644 Group – God does not choose the qualified he qualifies the chosen. We can do what I cannot.
- Matthew GSR How Group - District 71 – Lisa I am so grateful to have you as our delegate and how lucky we are to have you and how cool it is to have you come from District 72
- Colter, District 41 - Great Falls Third Assembly can't get enough of these.
- Mary, Helena District 11/24/2021 – first time participating and this is awesome. If it hadn't been for people to encourage me, I don't have to do this I want to do this.
- Bradie, District 41, Mustard Seed Chair, Corrections Chair – Wanted to step down from my position because I didn't think I was getting the message behind the walls. Thank you to everyone who was in the corrections committee. Hearing from others that I am not alone has made a difference
- Paul S. District 72, GSR This has been great. The Passion. There has been a lot of information but there has also been a lot of passion.
- Tonya, District 72 has been so accepting and welcoming. Area has been boring but fun. It has been great to meet everyone and I feel great about my future.

➤ APPENDIX 1

SPRING 2025 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Bill W. "Respecting Money"
from Language of the Heart:

"When we meet and defeat the
temptation to take large gifts, we are
only being prudent. But when we
are generous with the hat we give a
token that we are grateful for our
blessings and evidence that we are
eager to share what we have found
with all those who still suffer."
-Nov. 1957

Please Know: This presentation uses images from Meta AI &
images © AA World Services, Inc. All adaptations made by the author, Lynne W.

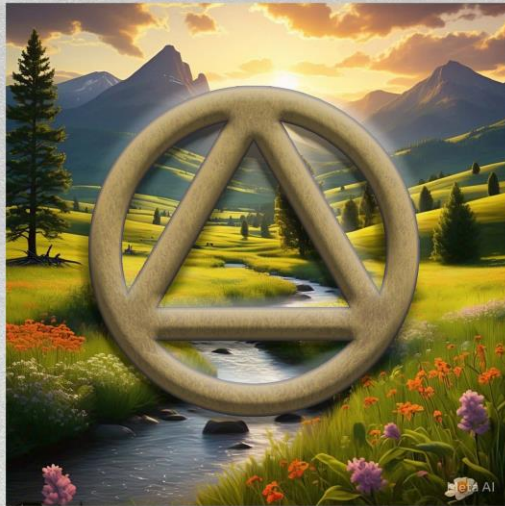
AREA 40

KEY

— DISTRICT LINES • CITY

— HIGHWAY OR INTERSTATE • CITY—PARTICIPATE IN NO SERVICE STRUCTURE

SPRING 2025 UPDATES



- So far, under budget.
- Getting the accounts switched over was a multi-week process.
- Started building the Finance Committee.
- Quickbooks and Excel are two completely different spreadsheets.
- Research, research, research.
- Contributions down from last year.
- All tax paperwork has been filed with state & feds.



10 YEAR COMPARISON, 2015-2025 JANUARY 1-MARCH 15



So far this year: 36 contributing groups

- Contributions: \$7,571.18 (13% of budget)
- Expenses: \$6,881.98



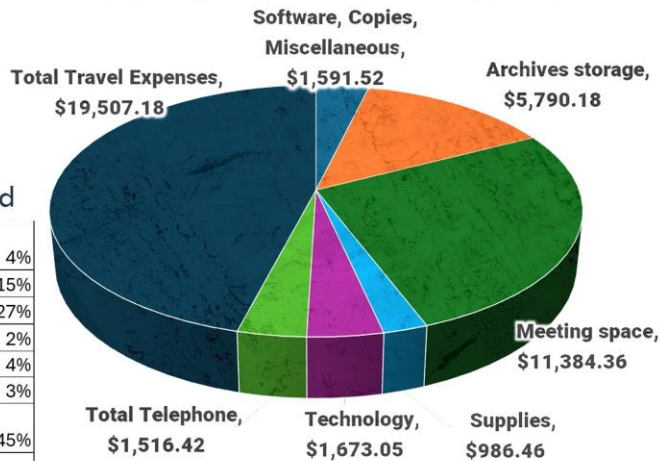
Line Item #	2025 Budget
1 Spring Assembly	14,500.00
2 Fall Assembly	14,500.00
3 Regional Service Conference	2,300.00
4 Regional Forum	2,000.00
5 Regional Trustee	800.00
6 Delegate Expenses	
7 Area 40 share to GSC	2,200.00
8 Other Expenses	500.00
9 Other Expenses NYC	600.00
10 Roundups	500.00
11 Travel expenses	2,000.00
12 Total Delegate Expenses	5,800.00
13 Area Chair (Alt Del) Expenses	600.00
14 Archivist Account	
15 Archivist Display/Supplies & Travel	240.00
16 Archives Storage & Utilities	6,000.00
17 Total Archivist Account	6,240.00
18 Literature	
19 General literature purchases	200.00
20 Total Literature	200.00
21 Bridging the Gap	
22 BTGWW	0.00
23 Annual BTG Workshop	1,000.00
24 Total Bridging the Gap	1,000.00
25 Public Information	
26 Area Hotline Expenses	1,380.00
27 Directory Listings	0.00
28 Total Public Information	1,380.00
29 Technology	
30 Computer Hardware/Software	125.00
31 Equipment & Hardware	300.00
32 Software	100.00
33 Supplies	100.00
34 Website	200.00
35 Total Technology	825.00
36 Committee Chair Post/Supplies	400.00
37 Committee Chair Travel	2,500.00
38 Ad Hoc Committee	0.00
39 Other/Nat'l Workshops	1,500.00
40 Annual Filing Fee	20.00
TOTAL	54,565.00
	PR: \$18,183.33

YEAR END 2024 FINANCIAL REVIEW

- Total Contributions: \$45,162.84
- 2024 Budget: \$46,750
- Expenses: \$42,449.17
up 15% from 2023
- Under Budget: \$4,300.83
- 128 groups, districts, intergroups, individuals, & Roundups contributed

2024 EXPENSES	Software, Copies, Miscellaneous	1,591.52	4%
	Archives storage	5,790.18	15%
	Meeting space	11,384.36	27%
	Supplies	986.46	2%
	Technology	1,673.05	4%
	Total Telephone	\$ 1,516.42	3%
	Total Travel Expenses	\$19,507.18	45%
	Total Expenditures	\$42,449.17	

2024 EXPENSE BREADOWN



RESEARCH

- The bank & filing laws are changing.
- Some groups had difficulty switching signers, as we did with the Area 40 accounts.
- If your homegroup, district, or intergroup has an annual income over \$5,000, look into filing form 990-N.
- If Area 40 has gross income over \$50,000 for the next 3 years, reporting gets more difficult.

(990 is a 4 page document,
990-N is a postcard)

A.A.® Guidelines

Question: How do we obtain an employer identification number (EIN) number for our group checking account?*

Answer: Local U.S. entities can obtain an EIN from the I.R.S. To get this number, fill out I.R.S. Form SS-4, "Application for Employer Identification Number," or apply online at www.irs.gov. This number applies even though the group is not an employer. Look for the section about obtaining an EIN for banking purposes only. The form asks if there is one group exemption number that applies to all, and there is not. Be sure to ask your financial institution for their requirements.

MG-15 Finance

IRS website information taken from:
<https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/annual-electronic-filing-requirement-for-small-exempt-organizations-form-990-n-e-postcard>



SEARCH | HELP | MENU

Ready to file?

Form 990-N is easy to complete. You'll need only eight items of basic information about your organization.

- Employer identification number (EIN), also known as a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)
- Tax year (calendar or fiscal filer)
- Legal name and mailing address
- Any other names the organization uses
- Name and address of a principal officer
- Website address if the organization has one
- Confirmation that the organization's annual gross receipts are \$50,000 or less
- If applicable, a statement that the organization has terminated or is terminating (going out of business)

For more information about these items, see [Form 990-N: Information Reported](#).

Do not use a smart phone or tablet to file your Form 990-N.

POLICY & PROCEDURES EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT



We ask our Area Standing Committee:

- Be available to committees, districts, and groups to provide experience, strength, and hope with respect to our third legacy of service.
- An interest in **providing leadership** in the Area 40 service structure.
- Organizational skills for keeping records, **leading committee meetings and workshops**, and reporting to the Assembly.

See standing committee guidelines on procedure for preparing and presenting agenda items.

General Guidelines, p. 14

P&P 5.h.xi says:

i. Area Committee members [...] who are not reimbursed in the capacity of GSR or DCM, shall be reimbursed for all miles driven on Area 40 business, at a rate of \$0.05 per mile, as well as actual spent monies of food, gas and lodging. No money will be paid without proper receipts. The use of the Area Committee Expense Form is suggested.

Past Motions

- Fall 1988: It was agreed that Area Committee Members and any ad hoc committee chairman, who is not reimbursed in capacity of G.S.R. or D.C.M., be reimbursed for actual spent monies of food, gas, and lodging

INSTITUTIONAL KNOWLEDGE EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

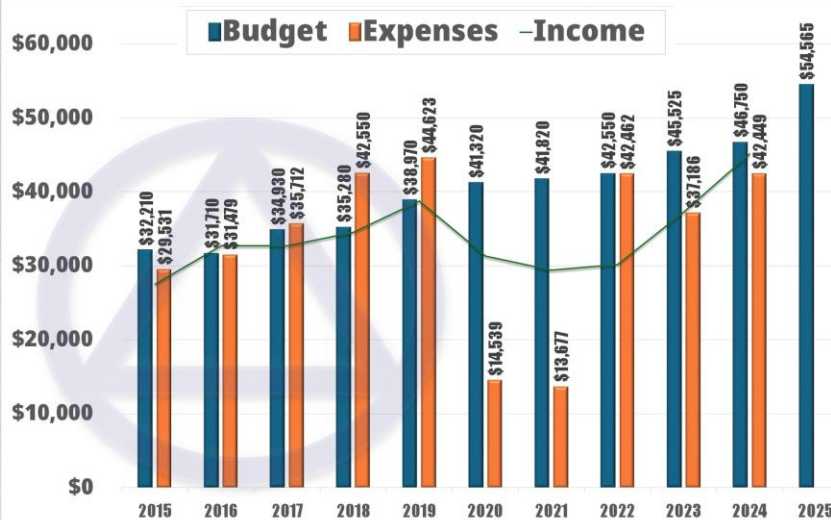
- Line Item #37 says the Committee Chairs have \$2,500 to spend on travel
- There is no clear definition on how to spend this line item
- Traditionally, Chairs had a \$200 annual travel budget, outside of Assembly costs

Suggestion: For local events, split the cost of Gas, Food, Hotel between Area, District, Groups, & have a 7th Tradition at the event.

- “[...] no one should be excluded from service because of finances”*
- We want the Area Standing Committee Chairs to be accessible to the Area they serve
- All reimbursement requests need to have receipts
- All decisions can be reviewed by the Finance Committee

*MG-15-Finances, p. 4

YEAR END COMPARISON 2015-2025 BUDGET VS EXPENSES

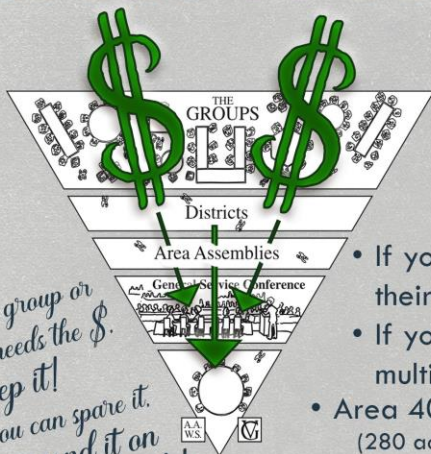


Year	Budget	Expenses	Income
2015	\$32,210	\$29,531	\$27,539.00
2016	\$31,710	\$31,479	\$32,724.00
2017	\$34,930	\$35,712	\$32,736.00
2018	\$35,280	\$42,550	\$34,544.23
2019	\$38,970	\$44,623	\$38,771.92
2020	\$41,320	\$14,539	\$31,298.54
2021	\$41,820	\$13,677	\$29,423.00
2022	\$42,550	\$42,462	\$30,149.54
2023	\$45,525	\$37,186	\$37,242.82
2024	\$46,750	\$42,449	\$45,162.84
2025	\$54,565		

Blue numbers mean expenses were higher than income for the year.



REPORT TO YOUR GROUPS



If your group or district needs the \$, keep it!
If you can spare it, please send it on down the triangle! AA

- Budget over \$50,000 for the first time
- Contributions lower than last year at this time
- We will dip into Prudent Reserve for Spring Assembly (Budget: \$14,500)
- Please, support the budget we approved last year!
- If your group, district, or intergroup has extra \$\$\$ for their split, **please consider** prioritizing Area 40
- If you're inclined to send monthly, I will gleefully take multiple deposits to the bank
- Area 40 Budget: \$54,565, works out to \$195 per group (280 active groups in Area 40)
- Bank Account: **\$28,117** (as of 3/15/2025)
- Prudent Reserve: **\$18,188**
- Operating Expenses: **\$9,929**

NEW P.O. BOX FOR 2025 CONTRIBUTIONS

**Area 40, Inc.
P.O. Box 43
Billings, MT 59103**



**Area 40 Pink Can Fund
P.O. Box 232
Missoula, MT 59806**

SPRING 2025 FINANCE COMMITTEE

Thank you!!

Voting

- Lenore M
- Jessica EW
- Lisa CD
- TBD Dist. 41

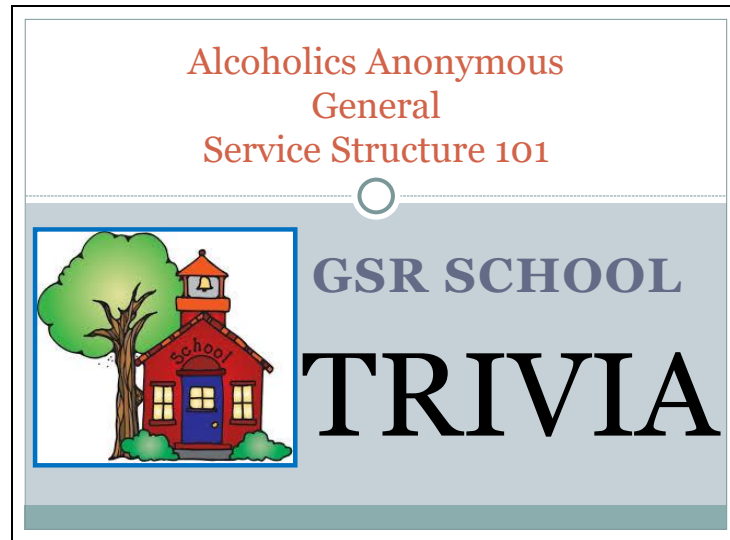
Non-Voting

- Colleen N
- Debbie D
- Julie R

Special Workers

- Dakota Wealth Management
- Quickbooks Help Professionals





Number 1.

- By the time I had completed the course, I knew the _____ was not for me. The inviting maelstrom of Wall Street had me in its grip.

Bill W. From Bill's Story

Number 2.



- I was graduated “summa cum laude” in the eyes of the _____ fraternity, but not in the eyes of the Dean.
Dr.Bob in Doctor Bob’s Nightmare

Number 3.



- What book, which is published ever other year, do we use to guide our work at Group, District, Area, Regional, and Worldwide Level?
- It is combined with the Twelve Concepts of World Service.

Number 4.



- The initials GSR stand for . . . ?

Number 5.



- a) How many Districts in your Area?
- b) What is your District Number?

Number 6.



- The initials DCM stand for . . . ?

Number 7.



- Who is your DCM?

Number 8.



- To which Area do you belong?

Number 9.



- How many times a year do you meet as an Area? (Assemblies)

Number 10.



- How many Delegates are there per Area?

Number 11.



- In which state is the General Service Conference (GSC) held each year? (non-virtual)

Number 12.



- The General Service Board (GSB) is made up of how many Trustees?

YIKES!!

Bill W.

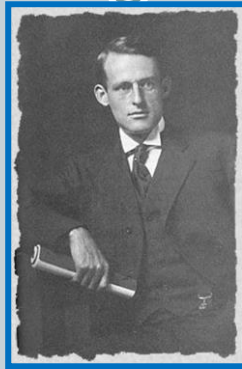


Number 1.

- By the time I had completed the course, I knew the _____ was not for me. The inviting maelstrom of Wall Street had me in its grip.
- Pg 2 *Alcoholics Anonymous*

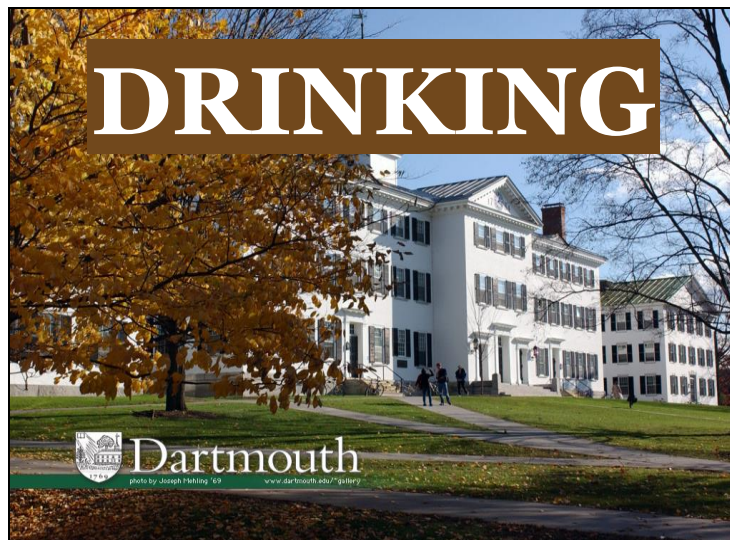


Dr. Bob

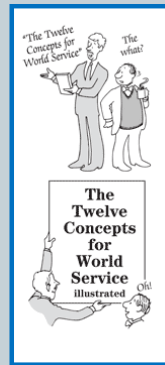


Number 2.

- I was graduated “summa cum laude” in the eyes of the _____ fraternity, but not in the eyes of the Dean.
- Pg 172 *Alcoholics Anonymous*



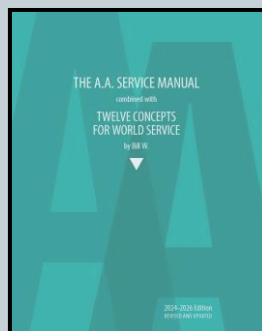
References



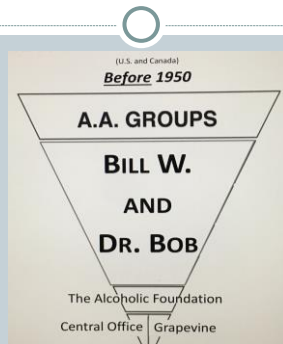
Number 3.

- What book, which is published ever other year, do we use to guide our work at Group, District, Area, Regional, and Worldwide Level? It also contains the Twelve Concepts.

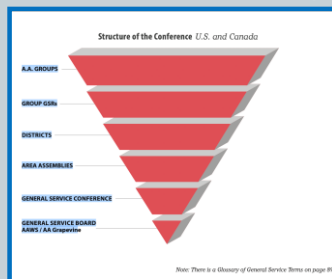
3. AA Service Manual



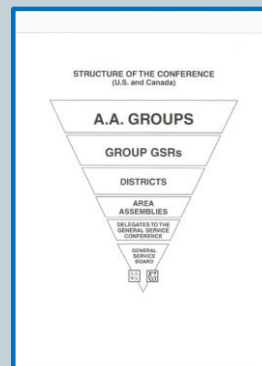
Service Structure Before 1950



Structure of the Conference

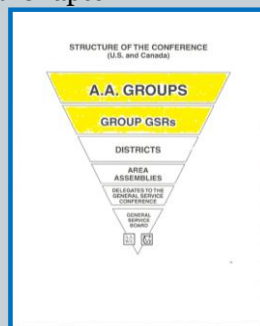


- Pages 3 & 107
Service Manual



AA Groups and Group GSR's

- Service Manual Chapter 1



What is a Group? Group Business/Conscious Meeting?

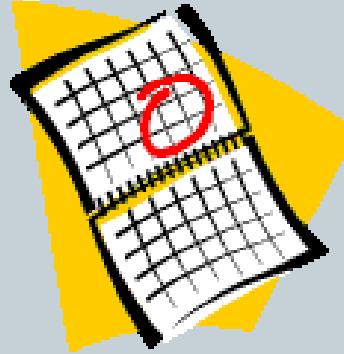
6. Your Group is the basic unit



The local group is the basic unit of A.A. world service. Group needs, group attitudes, and group support determine the type and amount of service G.S.O. can render.

Where and When Are Business Meetings Held?

- When Called
- Monthly

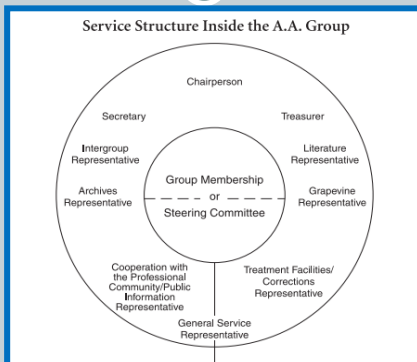


Who Goes to These Meetings?

- GSR
- Alternate GSR
- Committee Chairs & Service Reps
- Home Group Members
- Interested Visitors



Group Service Structure



What Do We Do There ?



Agenda Submission

● Group
Dependent



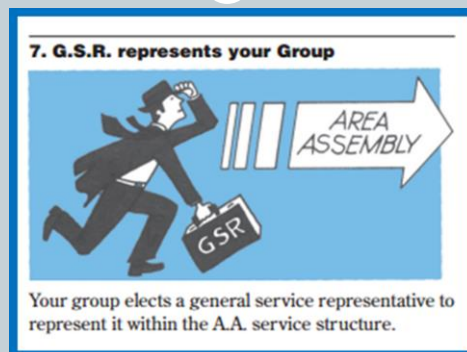
Number 4.

- The initials GSR stand for . . . ?

4. General Service Representative



Representative for General Service



GSR Duties

Duties

- G.S.R.s attend district meetings.
- They also attend area assemblies.
- G.S.R.s serve as the mail contact with the General Service Office, and they are listed in the A.A. directories as contacts for their groups. They receive the G.S.O. bulletin Box 4-5-9, and keep their groups abreast of A.A. activities all over the world.
- They serve as mail contact with their district committee member and with the area committee.
- G.S.R.s supply their D.C.M.s with up-to-date group information, which is relayed to G.S.O., either directly to the Records department or through the area registrar updating G.S.O.'s database, for inclusion in the directories and for G.S.O. mailings.
- They are knowledgeable about material available from G.S.O.—new literature, guidelines, bulletins, videos, tapes, kits, etc.—and they are responsible for passing such information on to the groups.
- They learn everything they can about the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts and are familiar with this manual, the books *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* and *A.A. Comes of Age*, *Twelve Concepts for World Service*, and the pamphlets "The A.A. Group," "A.A. Tradition – How It Developed," "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated," and "The Twelve Concepts Illustrated."
- They usually serve on group steering committees.
- They work with group treasurers to develop practical plans for group support of G.S.O., such as the Regular Contribution Plan and the Birthday Plan. They encour-

S26

● Page 8 Service Manual

Group Information Change Form

- Group Changes and GSR kits
- Service Manual Page 117

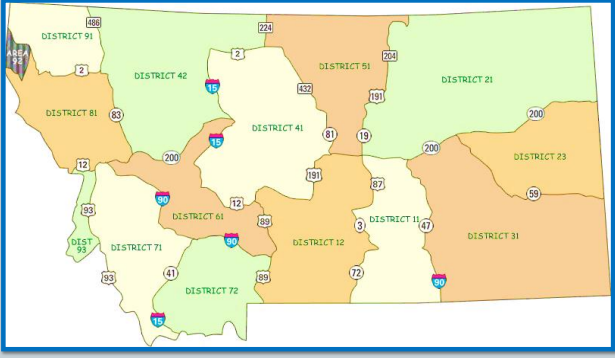
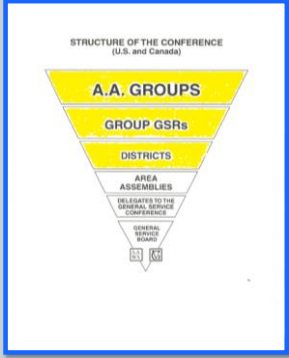
GSR Kit Contents

CONTENTS OF GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (G.S.R.) KIT

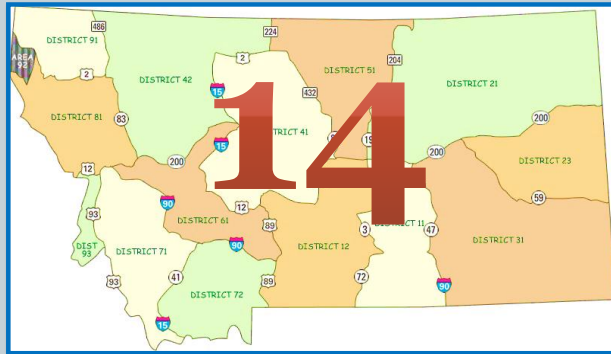
List of Kit Contents (this page)	(GSRKITW)
BOOKS:	
<i>The A.A. Service Manual: Twelve Concepts for World Service</i>	(SM-31)
SERVICE MATERIAL:	
Memo to you, the new G.S.R.*	(P-37)
Self-Support, World Service, and Spirituality Map	(P-3)
Your A.A. General Service Office	(P-4)
Contributions Correspondence	(P-5)
A.A. Group Information Change Form	(P-28)
Self-Support Card	(P-42)
The A.A. Group Treasurer	(P-96)
Your Group's Tradition Contribution: Carrying Our Message Beyond Your Home Group	(P-303)
Group Contributions Envelope*	(P-3)
Birthday Contributions Envelope	(P-3)
Concepts Checklist	(SMF-51)
Traditions Checklist	(SMF-131)
Self and A.A.: Our Common Welfare	(SMF-209)
PAMPHLETS:	
Twelve Concepts Illustrated	(P-4)
The A.A. Group	(P-14)
Inside A.A.	(P-14)
G.S.R., General Service Representative	(P-19)
Twelve Traditions Illustrated	(P-43)
Concepts of Love and Service	(P-43)
Grapevine and La Vida	(P-52)
CATALOGS/ORDER FORMS:	
Literature Catalog (includes A.A.W.S. and A.A. Grapevine material)	(P-10)
AA GRAPEVINE RESOURCES:	
Available through the A.A. Grapevine website at www.aagrapevine.org/magazines	
AA Grapevine Today/La Vida May issue page flyer*	(P-188)
Audio Year Card*	(P-190)
AA Grapevine Booklet*	(P-201)
How to Support Our Grapevine & Carry the Message*	(P-204)

Rev. 12/21*

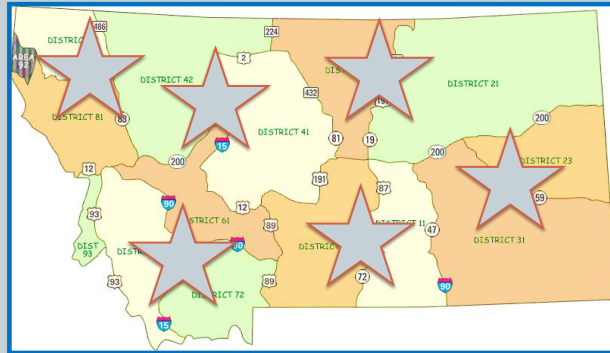
GSRKITW



5a. How Many Districts?



5b. Your District?



Where and When Are District Meetings Held?

- Monthly
- Locations Vary



Who Goes to These Meetings?

- DCM and Alternate
- District Chair Members
- Group GSR's
- Interested Visitors



Committee System



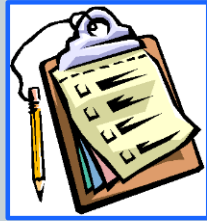
What Do We Do There ?

9. Area and District Committees and meetings



Area committee meetings and district meetings for G.S.R.s and the D.C.M. (district committee member) are held monthly or quarterly to discuss service needs, and to report on world services. (Your area chairperson's name and address are listed in the appropriate A.A. directory.)

Agenda Submission



- District Dependent

PROPOSAL FORM

(1) Describe the proposal:

(2) List the proposal benefits:

(3) Cost Estimate:

(4) List additional background material(s) included with the proposal:

(5) How the proposal originated:

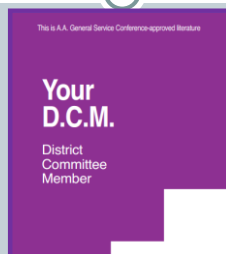
(6) Why the proposal should be considered:

(7) Final comments:

Number 6.

- The initials DCM stand for . . . ?

6. DCM Stand For?



District Committee Member

Number 7.

• Who is your DCM?

DCM Duties

Duties

The D.C.M.'s job is primarily that of two-way communication. The D.C.M.:

- Regularly attends all district meetings and area assemblies.
- Receives reports from the groups through G.S.R.s and through frequent personal contacts with groups in the district.
- Holds regular meetings of all G.S.R.s in the district.
- Helps the Conference delegate cover the area, which would be impossible for the delegate to do on a group-by-group basis.
- Assists the delegate in obtaining group information in time to meet the deadline for A.A. directories.
- Keeps G.S.R.s informed about Conference activities; this includes setting up opportunities for the delegate's Conference report, occasionally making the Conference report if the delegate cannot be present, and inviting the delegate to regular district meetings.
- Makes sure that G.S.R.s are acquainted with *The A.A. Service Manual*, the *Twelve Concepts for World Service*, the G.S.O. bulletin Box 4-5-9, workbooks and guidelines from G.S.O., and any other service material.
- Helps G.S.R.s make interesting reports to groups, and encourages them to bring new A.A. members to service events.
- Keeps groups informed about Conference-approved books and pamphlets.
- Organizes workshops and/or sharing sessions on service activities.
- Regularly keeps in touch with the alternate D.C.M. and the delegate; sends district minutes to the delegate and alternate, and exchanges them with other districts.
- Brings Traditions problems to the attention of the delegate.
- Makes a regular practice of *talking to groups* (new and old) on the responsibilities of general service work.

A.A. GROUPS

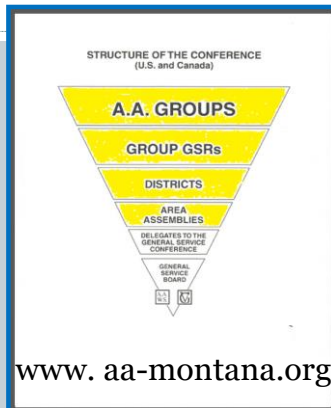
GROUP G.S.R.s

DISTRICT COMMITTEES

• Page 15 Service Manual

Area Service Structure

Chapters 3 and 4



What is Area? Area Assembly?



Page 92 Service Manual

Number 8.

- To which Area do you belong?

8. Your Area



Where Does Your Assembly Meet?



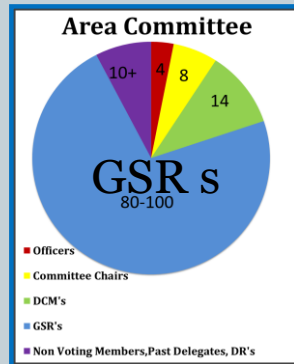
Number 9.

- How many times a year do you meet as an Area? (Assemblies)

9. How Many Assemblies?



Who Goes to Area Assembly?



Area Committee		
Officers	Standing Committee Chairs —Secondary Assignments	Group and District Representatives
Delegate	Archives	General Service Reps (GSR)
Alternate Delegate/Area Chair	—Area 40 Structure and Policy	District Committee Members (DCM)
Secretary	Cooperation with the Professional Community	
Treasurer	—Trustees	
	Corrections	
Area Advisor (Immediate past delegate)	—International Conventions	Non Rotating Positions
	Finance	Archivist
	(chaired by the Treasurer)	Bridging the Gap
	Grapevine	Tech Co-Chairs
	—Policy and Admissions	Webmaster
	Hotline	
	—Report and Charter	
	Literature	
	Public Information	
	Treatment/Accessibilities	
	—Agenda	

Voting at Assembly

Voting Members on the Assembly Floor	Voting Members in Standing Committee Meetings	Non Voting Members
Officers	Committee Chairperson	Tech Team
Standing Committee Chairs	Assigned DCM's	Past Delegates
Area Advisor	Assigned District Reps (DR's)	Visiting Trustees
Archivist		Alternates
Bridging the Gap		Visitors
Webmaster		
GSR's		
DCM's		

What Do We Do At Area Assembly?

7. G.S.R. represents your Group



Your group elects a general service representative to represent it within the AA service structure.

8. Assemblies elect delegates and Committees



Each AA area in the U.S. and Canada holds an area assembly to elect a delegate (and alternate) and committee officers to serve for two years.

9. Area and District Committees and meetings



Area committee meetings and district meetings for G.S.R.s and the D.C.M. (district committee members) are held monthly or quarterly to discuss service needs, and to report on world service. (Your area chairperson's name and address are listed in the appropriate AA directory)

Area 40 Fall Assembly Agenda Yogo Inn – Lewistown, MT September 19-21, 2014

FRIDAY SESSION

8:00-10:00 Assembly Welcome Session

Welcome: Sharon S. – Area 40 Delegate
Answering Service Workshop: Luke S. – Area 40 PI Chair
Leadership in AA: Terry S. – Area 40 Advisor

SATURDAY SESSION

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

8:00-9:00 **Welcome** – Serenity Prayer, Traditions, Concepts, Housekeeping
Roll Call, Passed Actions of last Assembly – Area Secretary
Financial Highlights – Area Treasurer
Orientation to the Assembly – Delegate
DCM Reports (hard stop at 9:00 am, continued Sunday morning)

9:00-9:45 **Election Orientation/Posting Nominees for Delegate** – Terry S.

9:45-10:00 **Coffee Break**

10:00-12:00 Standing Committee Meetings:

Archives/Area 40 Structure & Policy.....Kendall Room
CPC/Trustees.....Room 256
Corrections/International Conventions.....Room 252
Finance.....Room 270
Grapevine/Policy & Admissions (GSC).....Room 164
Literature.....Chokecherry Room
Public Information/Report and Charter & Website.....Gypsum Room
Treatment/Special Needs/Agenda.....Room 150

(Committee Chairs-If your committee does not finish its business during this session, please notify the Area Chair)

Area 40 Agenda Submission

AREA 40 AGENDA ITEM PROPOSAL FORM

- (1) Describe the proposal:
- (2) List the proposal benefits:
- (3) Cost Estimate:
- (4) List additional background material(s) included with the proposal:
- (5) How the proposal originated:
- (6) Why the proposal should be considered:
- (7) Final comments:

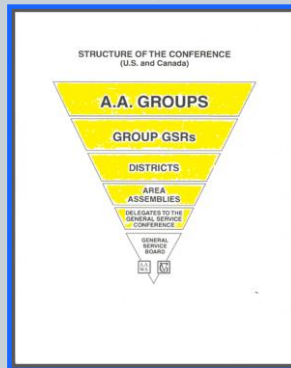
Deadline for Submission

Spring-February 1

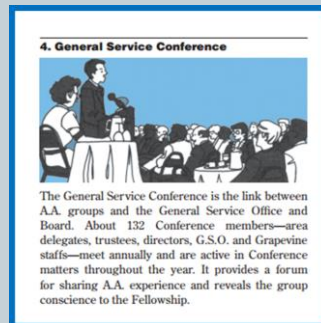
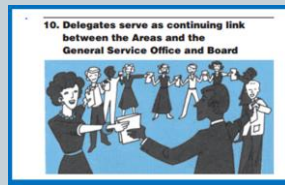
Fall-August 1

Delegates to the General Service Conference

- Chapters 5
- 6 & 7



What is a Delegate? General Service Conference?



Number 10.

- How many Delegates are there per Area?

10. Delegates per Area?



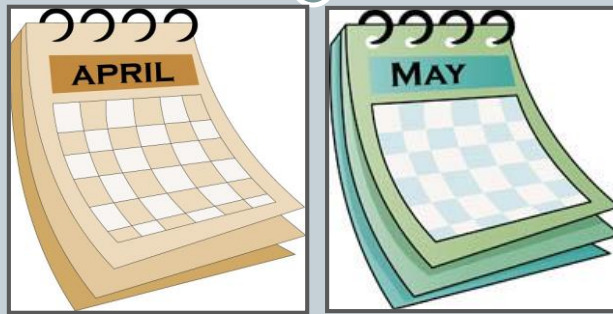
Number 11.

- In which state is the General Service Conference (GSC) held each year?

11. Where?



When? Spring of Every Year



What Do We Do There?



11. Conference sessions

Conference members meet annually for six days. They review reports on activities of G.S.O. and on General Service Board, and on service needs all over the world.

They also review significant trends and developments in A.A. Each Conference member is encouraged to act as a representative of A.A., not just one area.

Who Are The Conference Participants?



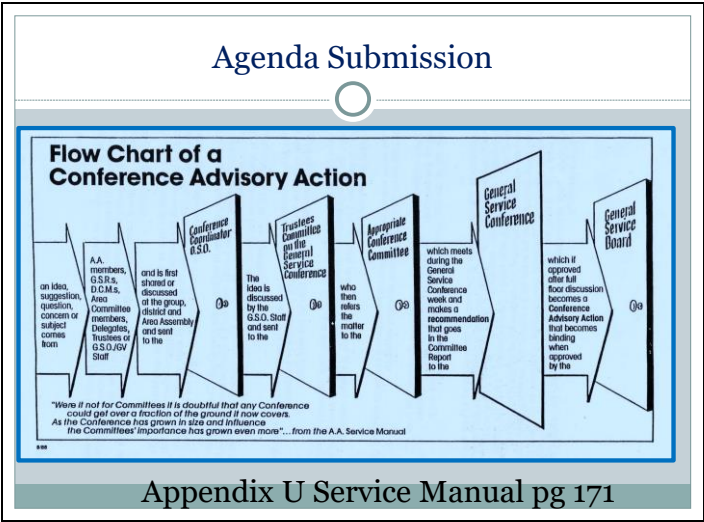
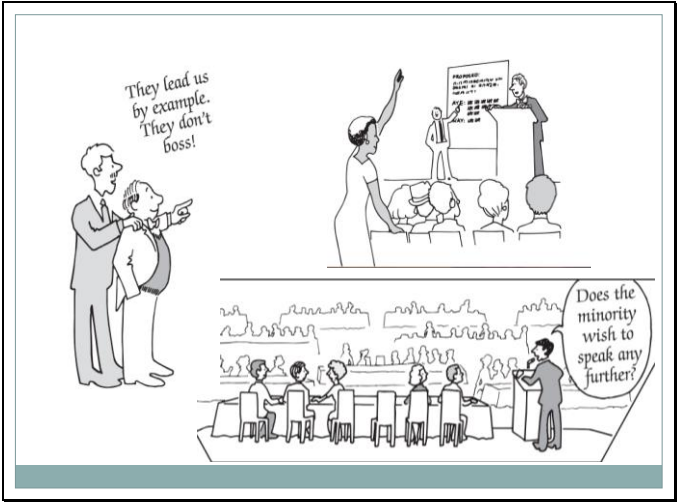
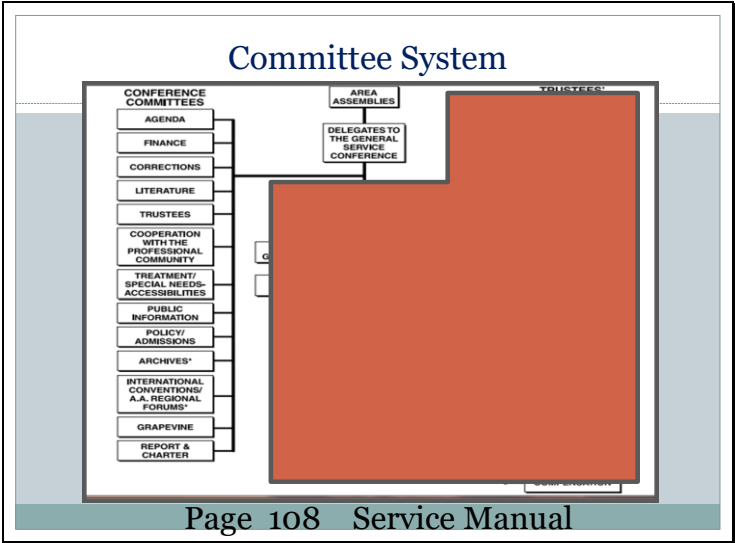
93

21-22

6

(---15---)

Page 40 Service Manual



Agenda Submission

- Deadline for GSC Agenda Submission is
September 15
- Final Agenda and Background
information are available
mid February

Regions



8 Regions in US and Canada Pg 93

- Western Canada
- Eastern Canada
- Pacific
- Southwest
- West Central
- East Central
- Southeast
- Northeast



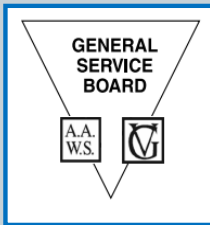
Page S68 Service Manual

Where and When Do They Meet?

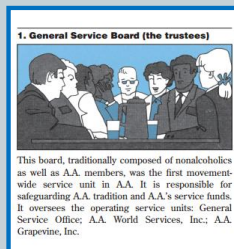
- In New York
- Quarterly

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
General Service Board Meeting	General Service Board Meeting					

What is the General Service Board?



Who Makes Up the Board?



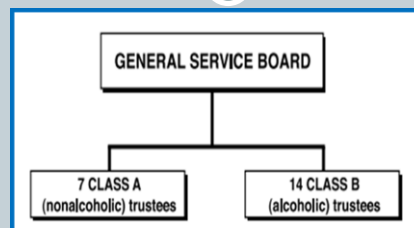
This board, traditionally composed of nonalcoholics as well as A.A. members, was the first movement-wide service unit in A.A. It is responsible for safeguarding A.A. tradition and A.A.'s service funds. It oversees the operating service units: General Service Office; A.A. World Services, Inc.; A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

- Trustees

Number 12.

- The General Service Board (GSB) is made up of how many Trustees?

12. How Many Trustees?



21-22

Page 50 Service Manual

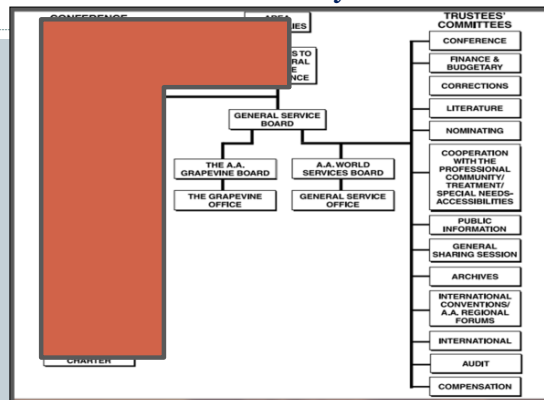
Class B Trustees

- 8 Regional Trustees
- 4 General Service Trustees
- 2 Trustees At Large US and Canada



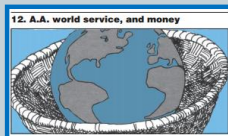
Page 52 Service Manual

Committee System



Page 108 Service Manual

What Do We Do There?

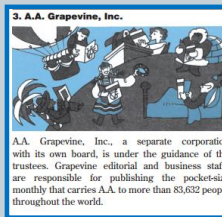


2. General Service Office (G.S.O.)

G.S.O., in New York City, serves as the center of A.A. activities under the guidance of A.A. World Services, Inc., the General Service Board, and the General Service Conference (U.S. and Canada).

At G.S.O., about 80 A.A.s and non-A.A.s are involved in helping groups with problems, dealing with the general public, publishing *Blue Book* and other bulletins, maintaining contact with more than 1,500 groups in institutions, and helping over 45,700 groups overseas.

Here, too, are centered the vital publishing and distribution of basic books and recovery and service pamphlets—running to a yearly total of approximately 5,600,000 pieces.



A.A. Grapevine, Inc., a separate corporation with its own board, is under the guidance of the trustees. Grapevine editorial and business staffs are responsible for publishing the pocket-size monthly that carries A.A. to more than 85,632 people throughout the world.

Extra Credit # 13

- He [a doctor] thought all alcoholics should constantly have _____ available for its quick energy value at times of fatigue.

● Page 133-4 *Alcoholics Anonymous*

Chocolate!



Why Do We Do This?



To Stay Sober and Carry the Message to the Still Suffering

➤ APPENDIX 3: CONCEPTS WORKSHOP, GERRY R.

Slide 1



Slide 2

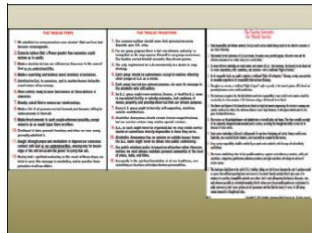
Welcome!

In this workshop I'll be presenting, what I hope, is a helpful way of looking at the 12 Concepts for any of you who may be struggling with seeing how they might have anything to do with the Level of service work that you're involved in. And, to do that, I'll be sharing a story with you that I call,

Joe the Coffeemaker
and the Concepts



Slide 3



Slide 4



Slide 5



Slide 6



Before we begin the story, let's take an initial glance at the 12 Concepts. And, a glance is really all it takes – especially when we see them like we often do hanging on the meeting room wall next to the Steps and Traditions, I've had a friend of mine say he thinks that they look like a legal document. He went on to say that, because of his past “dealings” with the law, whenever he sees anything that looks like a legal document, he tries to stay as far away from it as possible. That's not an uncommon reaction... especially with many of us in A.A.

When I first learned about the Concepts, my own reaction was a little less mature than his. I had just started to get a handle on the Steps – then I was introduced to the Traditions. They were a little overwhelming... But when they told me about the Concepts. My reaction was “OH, STOP IT! How many lists of “Twelve Things” did Bill make up here??? Later, after I'd actually read them, I thought like many folks do “These are for other people, not me.” SO, let's begin there...

With the common misconception that the Concepts apply to only a certain level of the service structure. It's easy to see how that happened right? For starters... this diagram of the “General Service Conference Structure” is intimidating to look at all by itself. It looks like exactly what it is – a corporate organizational chart – where everything and everyone has a little box of their own.

I don't do boxes... I didn't come here to do boxes.

Let's be honest... When you have an organizational chart that looks like this And then you read the Concepts narrative that describes how the Conference, Trustees, and Board all relate to one another, It's easy to think that the Concepts are intended for “THOSE” people in those offices, or boxes Certainly not my Homegroup, my District, or even my Area

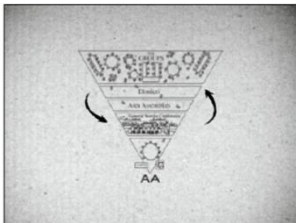
Slide 7



Slide 8



Slide 9



Slide 10



Then... To make matters worse – the Concepts go on to mention things like

“Charter and Bylaws,” “corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants,” and “separate corporations.”

It all begs the question – How the hell does any of this apply to me as a GSR?

But Bill said quite clearly that these principles can “be used to good effect throughout our entire structure.”

So how does that work?

The upside-down triangle is, without a doubt, The most iconic symbol we use to depict the A.A. service structure.

However, this particular version of the upside-down Triangle, from our current service manual

Is not my favorite version. It shows the basic components of the structure, but it really shows nothing about how we all relate to one another.

And, it does nothing to answer the question, “How do we keep this structure balanced – especially now that we have it resting on that tiny little point?”

My favorite version of the A.A. Service Triangle comes from the Twelve Concepts Illustrated Pamphlet

With some slight modification on my part, this is what that looks like

I like this version because it’s kinda messy and very busy... just like AA

The arrows I added here suggest a lot of movement and also represent consistent, ongoing communication

This version spins like a top – and it shows people traveling and communicating up and down the triangle.

The static red triangle just doesn’t cut it for me.

Bill said that our arms of service are “active”

It’s through maintaining our activity – through all the ways that we carry our life-giving message

That’s how we maintain our balance

We’re always moving – just like a top If we stop moving

We tip over and die.

Bill understood a thing or two about keeping A.A. in balance

You might say that – Bill had A.A. on his mind – **a lot**

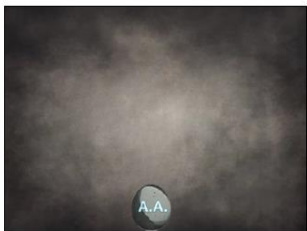
He knew the program needed to be kept in balance

and that, **as founders**, it was up to him and Dr. Bob to do that

Then, when Dr. Bob got sick, **the realization hit him that...** one day...

They both would be gone

Slide 11



He knew that, like that static red triangle standing on its point,
Left by itself... A.A. would sooner or later get nudged by something or
someone, and tip over
When that happened...
It would then fade away just as other movements had.

Slide 12



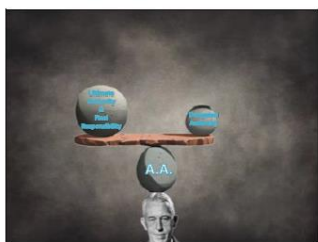
Bill didn't want that to happen so...
He had started to make an effort to preserve A.A.
Before Dr Bob passed away... They developed a Board of Trustees for
A.A.
to help them manage the financial and service concerns of the program.

Slide 13



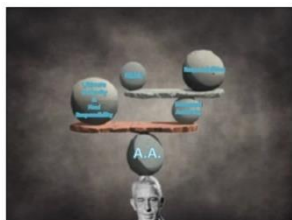
He and Dr Bob served as the go-betweens for the two bodies...
meaning...
They literally went from the Groups, to the Board and back again with
news and information about they were both doing
They were always in motion, just like that second Service Triangle that
I showed you. THEIR MOVEMENT kept things balanced.
Eventually, Bill came to see that, after he and Dr. Bob were gone, there
needed to be some way of maintaining that balance between the groups
and the Trustees.

Slide 14



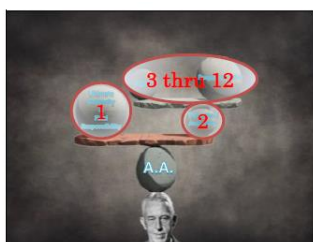
He considered the dynamics of this relationship – and recognized that, if
this was going to work
He recognized that the Groups had to possess the “Ultimate Authority
and Final Responsibility” in order to effectively decide the direction of
Alcoholics Anonymous
The challenge with that though is – if the groups decided everything
The Trustees, or the “Delegated Authority” would end up serving no
purpose at all
Also,

Slide 15



The many different voices in the groups would certainly disagree often
and eventually cause chaos
Because of this... there would be no effective leaders and... there
would be no balance. In his words, anarchy would reign.
He knew that the groups needed leaders with more agency, more
influence, than what “mob rule” allowed for in order to handle A.A.’s
important daily affairs effectively
He also realized that the Delegated Authority, or our “Trusted Servants”
needed something on their side to serve as an effective counterbalance
to the immense power of the groups.
What that meant was... our Trusted Servants needed to be endowed
with certain Rights and Responsibilities
These rights and responsibilities, these principles of service, would
serve as an effective counterbalance to the Ultimate Authority and Final
Responsibility of the Groups
In this way, a delicate, but dynamic balance is achieved
What you see here is a very basic diagram of how all the Concepts work
to help us achieve balance at
Every level of our Service Structure.
Groups & GSRs... Districts & DCMs... Areas & Delegates
Every Trusted Servant in A.A. is endowed with certain Rights and
Responsibilities depending on what their position is.

Slide 16



What we see here is the entire process for how the 12 Concepts work together to help us maintain balance in A.A.

1. In Concept One, the groups hold the Ultimate Authority and Final Responsibility

2. Concept Two identifies the need for allowing Delegated Authority to handle the day to day functioning of our Fellowship – whether that position is making coffee, being the GSR, DCM, Delegate, or, even chair of the GSB. And...

The rest of the Concepts describe how balance is achieved between the Service Entity, in Concept One and the Trusted Servants in Concept Two.

This is done by outlining the rights and responsibilities of the Trusted Servants with respect to that relationship in Concepts Three, through Twelve.

Slide 17



Bill describes these principles of balance at length in his essays on the Concepts in the A.A. Service Manual

He does a great job but, honestly, and unfortunately, many people tune out because...

Many feel like they're reading the formula for balance from a physics equation. They often get overwhelmed, shut the book and never come back

Here's a fun A.A. history fact:

We all know that, when Bill wrote the Steps, Dr. Bob told him "Keep it simple, Bill."

Some of us know that, Earl T. a founder of A.A. in Chicago, helped him write the short form of the Traditions,

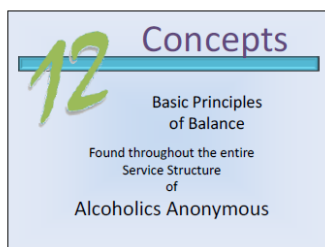
But... the short form of the Concepts was written by a committee, and passed by the GSC in 1971. Bill wrote the long form, but not the short form.

The committee said that he read them and gave them a "thumbs up," before he died earlier that same year.

Personally, I think the committee missed identifying some basic, and important, principles of balance...

When you build anything that requires achieving a balance that is this delicate and this spiritual, you need to speak the language of the heart, not physics.

Slide 18



So

The Twelve Concepts, at their core, are based on these Basic Principles of Balance that are found throughout the

ENTIRE Service Structure of Alcoholics Anonymous

I've long believed that the Short Form of the Concepts would be better understood, and more readily embraced by the fellowship, if some of them were "rephrased" to help point that out.

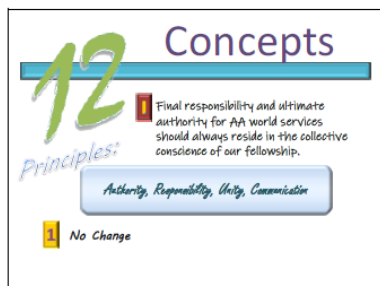
Some, but not all.

I'll share which ones might benefit from some

"rephrasing." in the story I'm about to tell you... about a fellow named Joe,

First, Let's look at Concept One.

Slide 19



What you see here is a panel that I'll use to discuss each Concept

It has three parts, the first with the red rectangle, with the Roman numeral, will show the number and text of the Concept as it's written in its current short form.

The second part, the center, light blue panel, will list some of the basic principles that I've identified as being related to the Concept,

This is by no means a complete list, they're just some of the first ones that come to mind for me. You might be able to add more

The third part, marked by the yellow rectangle with the regular number in it, will show either how I suggest the Short Form of the Concept be rephrased or, as you see here, just the words no change, indicating that no change is needed.

Concept One is one of four Concepts that I feel need no rephrasing. The reason for that is that they're already written in a way that the entire fellowship can relate to them.

In this case, Concept One acknowledges the position of the groups as having the final responsibility and ultimate authority for our services and our common welfare.

Slide 20



Whether yours is a small-town home group, or a larger meeting of a few hundred people,

As A.A. members, we all have the opportunity to say how we feel about how our group should function and how we can best carry our life-saving message.

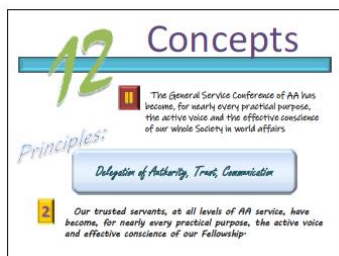
Our voice, combined with that of our Fellow group members, heard through our GSR, is what gives A.A. its direction.

Tradition Two tells us that *"For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience."*

It then goes on to say, *"Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern."*

That's a great lead in to Concept Two and the beginning of Joe's story.

Slide 21



Concept Two describes how we delegate authority to our Trusted Servants.

Now... as it's currently written, one would think this applies only to the General Service Conference.

Some argue that it refers to "The Conference," in its broadest sense, which suggests that everyone, from GSR to GSB Chair is part of "The Conference."

But honestly, this is the only place where I've ever heard that broad of a reference used.

As you see, at the bottom, my suggested revision speaks to *Trusted Servants at all levels of A.A. Service.*

A.A. provides so many opportunities for us to be of service, many of which actually lay outside the formal A.A. Service Structure.

These Concepts... These Principles of Service... apply to us all.

Slide 22



A common interpretation of Concept Two would assume that it applies only to the GSC and its committee's – like the one in this picture.

This is a drawing from the 2018 General Service Conference Final Report

It shows a committee that I served on at the General Service Conference that year.

While everyone at that table was very aware of the role that Concept Two played in guiding out work there,

We were also well aware that it guides other Trusted Servants in their work as well.

For example.

Slide 23



I'd like you all to meet Joe.

Joe is a professional barista and a very grateful recovering alcoholic

You can see his gratitude in his big grin.

His world right now is all about Black Coffee and Pink Clouds

You see... As luck would have it, the position of coffeemaker recently came open in Joe's homegroup.

Joe stood for the position and, surprise, surprise, he got the position

Did I mention Joe was very grateful?

Joe is also acquiring a basic understanding of the Concepts. And, like me, he also believes that they apply to ALL levels of service.

He knows that, although Concept Three references only *"the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committee, and executives..."*

It also gives him the right of decision as coffeemaker, a truly Trusted Servant of his homegroup.

This was good, because Joe had a favorite coffee...

and he wanted to share it with his homegroup.

Slide 24



Slide 25



Slothy Coffee!

It's made from only the finest Peruvian coffee beans and, I'm told, that its special flavor is derived from the fact that 10% of every package contains

"special flavor pellets" that are, shall we say, *"processed"* through the internal organs of the rare Peruvian Sloth which feeds upon the Peruvian coffee plants.

I'm told it's delicious.

The old-timers of his home group were curious about the "unique" flavor, so...

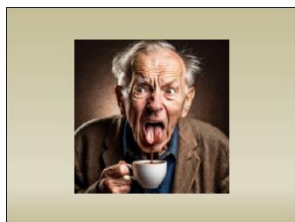
being "Homies" Joe decided to share the secret about the "special flavor pellets" with them.

Needless to say...

They were not impressed.

And, they immediately told Joe...

Slide 26



Slide 27



Slide 28



Slide 29



Slide 30



Slide 31



Slide 32



Slide 33

“Joe, we know you have the right of decision,
but we really want to drink regular A.A. Coffee at our meeting.”
Joe was disappointed

In fact, there was a bit of a standoff
Joe didn’t want to be micro-managed, but the old-timers still insisted
that they have their regular A.A. coffee.
Rather than be buffaloed...
Joe knew that Concept Four, The right of Participation, allowed every
homegroup member a say in making the group decisions,
So, he brought the matter to a vote at the next homegroup business
meeting.

The vote was taken.
Joe could only vote once, but he voted extra hard.
And he was encouraged to see that he had quite a few folks on his side.

But then the old-timers voted.
Needless to say, Joe was again disappointed... BUT!

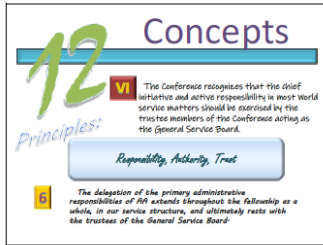
He knew that Concept Five granted him the “Right of Appeal.”
We often call that “Minority Opinion,”
And Joe felt he had an interesting point that hadn’t been discussed
previously that just might make people reconsider their vote

He pointed out...
“Did you know that...
In Slothy Coffee,
The unique blend of caffeine from the coffee beans... and the residual
DNA in the sloth dung
Not only provide a helpful burst of energy, without the jitters you get
from regular coffee –
But they’re also a great source of protein?”

For some odd reason...
No one changed their vote.
Joe was again so disappointed.



Slide 34



But – his disappointment didn’t last long.

He knew that although Concept Six might sound like “*the chief initiative and active responsibility for service matters*” pertains only to the Trustees of the General Service Board,

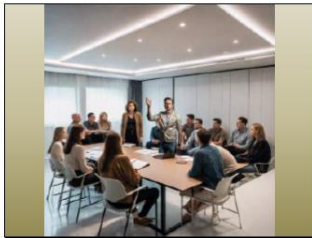
It actually extends to every service entity in A.A. including Areas, Districts and Homegroups.

Here, Joe made a common mistake

He was so focused on Concept Six, that he forgot about the Traditions...

He thought that the District Committee might be able to help him set his group straight, so...

Slide 35



He went to district.

He went thinking that he might be able to find someone to help him convince his homegroup to respect his decision as a Trusted Servant.

What he heard though, was a reminder about Tradition Four that said “*each group is autonomous*” and that his homegroup was free to do whatever they wanted with their coffee.

After the district meeting though, the DCM approached him and said she liked Slothy Coffee, and then...

asked if he’d be interested in making coffee for the next District meeting.

Slide 36

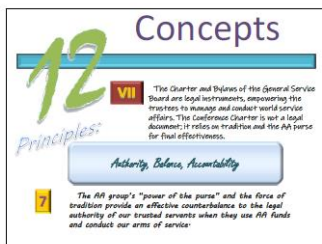


And, just like that...

Joe was back in business!

That is... until

Slide 37



Unfortunately, the district groups caught wind of the price of *Slothy Coffee*. Several of them told the DCM that if their district didn’t stop paying so much for coffee, they would stop sending in their 7th Tradition contributions.

Joe learned the hard way that, even though his District used “Legal Instruments,” to conduct it’s affairs, just like the GSB does in Concept Seven. They are also controlled in how they did that by the Fellowship through the traditional “*Power of the Purse.*”

Here’s how that works.

Slide 38



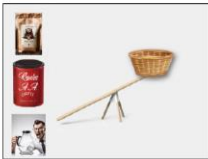
This is where the real balancing act takes place

Joe forgot that while Group and District Treasurers have the legal right to sign a check (which is a legal instrument) for their expenditures

Their Fellowships can control what they can, or can't, buy through how much money they put in the basket.

So... no money in the basket means...

Slide 39



No check and...

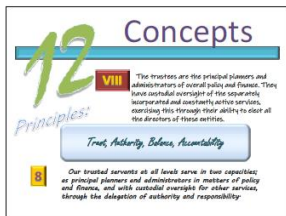
NO COFFEE!!!

Slide 40



Now Joe was concerned and disappointed.

Slide 41



So, he went back to the Concepts

He thought, surely there must be some solution he could find that would allow him to win this fight.

He studied Concept Eight and... There it was!

It said that the Trustees were the principal planners and administrators of “OVERALL” policy and finance for A.A.

In his effort to find a weapon to win his fight, he reasoned that that the DCM was the district's trusted servant so...

That made the DCM the principal planner and administrator for district finances.

What that meant was...

The DCM was

The principal planner and administrator of the district budget!

So, for the sole purpose of having winning this fight and having his way...

(Not to mention being a blatant grab for power and prestige)

Slide 42



Slide 43



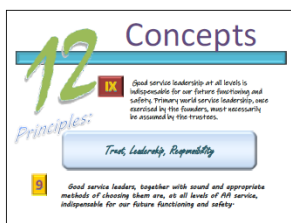
He stood for DCM.

And...

Surprise, surprise

He was elected.

Slide 44



Slide 45



Slide 46



Slide 47



Slide 48



Slide 49

Now... he did glance through Concept Nine before he stood for the position and he JUST KNEW
That he could be more than just a “Good service leader.”
He could be a “*GREAT service leader*”

Like Bill, he fancied himself the leader of people
He knew that he could guide his district out of the badlands of bad coffee
And into the land of caffeinated contentment
He would be the one that everyone would look to for both lattes and leadership
What he found instead was...

The Land of Lattes and Leadership was not exactly what he thought it would be.
His great vision and bright ideas were the last thing anyone wanted to listen to.
Everyone had their own vision and their own bright ideas – and they weren’t afraid to share them.
In fact, instead of listening to his ideas, they insisted that he listen to theirs.
He found that when he tried to push people to accept his plans – they pushed back, and twice as hard.
Simply said, his experience of being in a position of leadership, did not match his expectations.
Slide

Joe was at an impasse... He felt confused and alone.

Like many inexperienced Trusted Servants, he didn’t realize the true purpose or the actual process of, what we call, “**Servant Leadership in A.A.**”
He had so many goals that he had wanted to achieve, but now, they seemed so unreachable
He just couldn’t get where he wanted to go.
Then, one day...

As he sat alone, sipping his favorite Slothy Coffee drink,
a half-caf
Half-soy
Half-almond milk
Double pump of Vanilla
Caramel drizzled
Cinnamon sprinkled latte –
with a three-legacy swirl on top
It hit him.

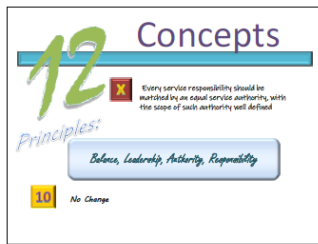
Servant leadership was not about getting what *HE WANTED*



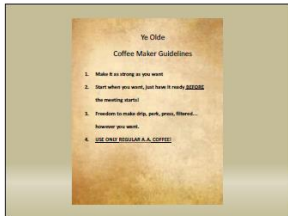
Slide 50



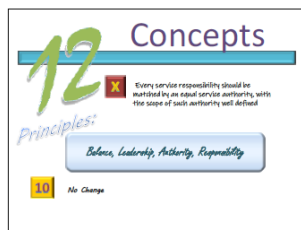
Slide 51



Slide 52



Slide 53



Servant Leadership was about helping the fellowship get what *THEY* WANTED.

He suddenly remembered a line from the Big Book that said...

"Our real purpose is to fit ourselves to be of maximum service to God and those about us,"

He then understood what Concept Ten was all about

After rereading the Concept, he recognized the need for maintaining balance between

Responsibility and Authority

He also realized that things might have been a whole lot less stressful for him if only

His homegroup had developed a set of Trusted Servant guidelines

That he could have read BEFORE he took the position of Coffeemaker.

Maybe, something like this...

Ye Olde Coffee Maker Guidelines 1. Make it as strong as you want 2. Start when you want, just have it ready BEFORE the meeting starts! 3. Freedom to make drip, perk, press, filtered... however you want. 4. USE ONLY REGULAR A.A. COFFEE!

He had learned the hard way what Concept Eleven told him.

That he COULDN'T, SHOULDN'T and DOESN'T serve the Fellowship alone and needs to constantly seek guidance.

That the Trustees aren't the only ones who should have helpful people around them

He also realized he "PROBABLY" went from coffeemaker to DCM a bit too fast and should have taken the time to learn more and to listen to those with experience.

It was another hard lesson that we sometimes put people in positions too soon for their good and too soon for them to be useful to the Fellowship.

After learning these valuable lessons, Joe's life in service suddenly changed for the better

Slide 54



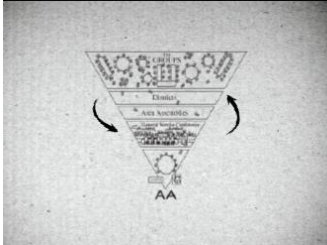
It was by working with good people and receiving good guidance that the basic principles of BALANCE eventually took center stage in Joe's service work
Communication, Cooperation, Tolerance,
Patience,
Trust, and Love
all helped him to feel part of something much bigger than him
He came to find great joy in simply being "One among many."
He even learned to tolerate "Regular A.A. Coffee."

Slide 55



The warranties of Concept Twelve are pretty clear cut. They refine, repeat, or rephrase many of the principles found in the previous eleven.
The version I offer here does not change the warranties, but merely addresses better how they apply to the entire fellowship.
The six warranties of AA, as they apply to our entire service structure, are;
That no member shall be the holder of perilous wealth or power; That sufficient operating funds, plus and ample reserve, be our prudent financial principle; That no member be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any other; That all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and whenever possible by substantial unanimity; That no AA action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; That AA shall always remain democratic in thought and action.
In his introduction to the Concepts, Bill W. says that they are "an interpretation" of A.A.'s world service structure.
This presentation is intended to be merely another interpretation of that same structure.
While it's important to define and keep in mind the special relationship between the General Service Conference and the General Service Board, my hope is that now it's just a little easier to see how the same principles exist in, and guide, similar relationships in service throughout our Entire Fellowship.
Thank you for your attention.
I'm happy to try to answer any questions?

Slide 56



➤ APPENDIX 4: PANEL 75 ORIENTATION

Area 40 - Panel 75 January 26, 2025 Meeting Minutes

- 1) Roll Call – JSK
 - a) Attendees: CPC Chair - Karon K.; Corrections Chair - Daniel S.; Treasurer/Finance Chair - Lynne W.; Grapevine and La Viña Chair - Hugh M.; Hotline Chair - Lance W.; Literature Chair - Rebecca S-Q; Treatment Chair - Ty K.; Public Information (PI) Chair - Mark H.; Delegate - Lisa C.; Area Chair/Alt. Delegate - Jessica E.W.; Secretary - Jessica (Jess) S-K; Area Advisor - Kacie N.; Archivist - Rick H.; Alternate BTG Chair - Sean R.; Webmaster - Alex M.; District 11 (Billings) - Pat P.; District 12 (Laurel) - Bob F.; District 51 (Havre) - Gene A.; District 61 (Helena) - Nathan S.; District 71 (Butte) - Brandi D.; District 72 (Bozeman) - Lenore M.; District 91 (Kalispell/Whitefish) - Eli S.; District 93 (Hamilton) - Libba C.; District 11 (Billings) - Mark W.
- 2) Action Item: Update Panel 75 Contact Information as soon as possible.
- 3) Welcome and Updates - Lisa C.

- a) Overview of service structure and upcoming conference.
 - i) Conference agenda explanation and committee assignments.
 - ii) Action Item: Committee chairs should familiarize themselves with background materials for their committees and secondary committees before the assembly. DCMS should be well informed in advance of assembly in order to ensure GSRS and groups have the information required to be well informed at Assembly.
 - b) Background Material
 - i) Availability: Dashboard will have materials in late February.
 - ii) Action Item: DCMs to review and distribute background materials to districts before the assembly.
 - c) WSRAASC - In-Person or Online
 - i) Pre-Assembly Plans:
 - ii) Area 40 is planning an online pre-assembly on March 8th.
 - iii) Districts 81, 93, 91, and 11 planning in-person pre-assemblies (dates TBD).
 - (1) Action Item: Encourage DCMs and GSRS to attend and share info with groups.
 - d) Committee Assignments
 - i) Reviewed committee assignments.
 - (1) Action Item: Committee Chairs should contact committee members to ensure they will have at least 4 members per committee.
 - (a) Focus on reliable and consistent participation.
- 4) Dashboard – Alex
- a) Update: Alex walked through Dashboard.
 - b) Availability: Background materials to be available in mid to late February.
 - c) Action Item: Committee chairs and DCMs will be notified when materials are available.
 - i) Reminder: Do not share links or materials on social media.
- 5) WSRAASC - 2/28-3/2 - Area Advisor – Kacie
- a) Discussion of WSRAASC in Casper, WY.
 - b) Pre-registration required for both in-person and online participation.
 - c) Lisa can share the agenda order for virtual participants (contact her Friday/Saturday).
 - d) Action Item: Be sure to register and if you are planning on hosting a group make sure all attendees register.
- 6) Pre-Assembly Details - Jessica and Lisa
- a) Action Item: Districts needing committee chairs to travel should coordinate with Jessica E-W and Lisa in advance.
 - i) Discussion on how to ensure coverage and clarify funding for pre-assembly. This is an issue that is currently being addressed at Area. Districts are asked to communicate well in advance if they need financial support for Committee Chairs to come to preassemblies.
- 7) Additional Questions - Jessica and Lisa
- a) Pink Can Account Access
 - i) Lynne is working on transferring the Pink Can account. Some delays, but progress is being made.
 - (1) Action Item: Lynne will notify everyone when the Pink Can account has been set up
 - ii) Group Numbers
 - (1) We are waiting for GSO to provide access to group numbers on the website.
 - B. Action Item: Jessica S-K will notify DCMS when we have access to GSO's Fellowship Connection.