

Area 40 Fall Assembly Minutes
Great Falls & Hybrid Assembly via Zoom
September 12-14, 2025

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Friday Night Session – Panel 75 Delegate Lisa C. Area

Welcome, let's find our seats. Welcome Area 40 to our Fall Assembly. My name is Lisa, and I have the honor of serving as your Panel 75 Delegate. I want 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 by participating 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, please say hi and introduce yourself to someone who is currently serving on the area committee and let them know that this is your first assembly OR if you feel inclined, go to the microphone at least once to comment on an agenda item or share during the sharing session that will be held on Sunday. For those attending virtually, you can introduce yourself to one of the Area trusted servants on Zoom – Alex M, our Webmaster, Jack, and Mike our Tech Co-chairs – or reach out by email, text, or phone to one of the other area chairs.

Visitors, District Representatives, General Service Representatives (GSRs), District Committee Members (DCMs), alternates, and past Delegates, thank you all for your time and service and for continuing to show up here with 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. This weekend we have our past delegate and past West Central Regional Trustee, Andrew W., joining us. Charlie H., our current West Central Regional Trustee from Nebraska, has sadly had travel disruptions because of the Thunderstorms over Denver, and he will not be able to join us this weekend as planned.

A new Class A trustee – a non-alcoholic friend of AA serving on the General Service Board – joined the board this past May. Her name is Kelly Parsley, and she'll be joining us on Saturday.

Voting members, our Area Chair Jessica E. W. has worked with Alex our Webmaster to make sure the background material for this weekend's agenda items can be found on the AA dashboard. This includes.

- 2026 Area 40 Proposed Budget
- Agenda items under Structure and Policy which include Bridging the Gap (BTG) and language pertaining to Preassemblies.

If you haven't yet seen the background material, your District Committee Member (DCM) can help you access it. We encourage you to ask questions throughout the weekend at the microphone, 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.

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

At this time, I'd like to ask Aryel to read "Why We Need a Conference."

A few housekeeping items; please only smoke outside, away from the doors. Please look around your spaces before you leave. Dispose of your debris appropriately through the weekend. If you have questions regarding the hotel, Kacie N., our Area Advisor is available.

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There are a few updates to our agenda, one of which, which I will again announce tomorrow, is two room changes for committee meetings, which our Tech Committee will put on up on the projector screens.

DCMs, you'll need to submit a sign-in sheet tomorrow morning that lists every voting member from your district who is attending in person by 10 am to our Secretary Jessica. Don't worry about people from your district who are attending virtually, they'll be counted separately online and added to the number of voting members.

For this purpose, voting members are DCMs and any GSRs from your district who are present in person. Alternate DCMs and alternate GSRs are voting members only if the DCM or GSR are not voting. If a district representative from your district is attending assembly in order to serve on a committee – for example, if District 11's Grapevine Chair is attending in order to serve on the Area Grapevine Committee – the district rep is a voting member of the Grapevine committee, but they should not vote on items that come to the assembly floor.

You'll hear this a few more times this weekend. If you have any questions about whether you're a voting member or not, please talk to your DCM. Regardless of whether a person is a voting member or not, your voice is welcome both on the floor and in committee meetings. Your input is not only welcome... hearing your reasons for and in opposition is why we're here! We hope that all of you will comment and contribute this weekend regarding the agenda items that are important to you and your groups and districts.

We have some opportunities this weekend that are not on our agenda – Early Bird AA meetings on both Saturday and Sunday. If you would like to participate, the Tech Team will post the details on the screen. Bruzier from District 81 will chair the Saturday morning meeting. Theresa L. will chair the Sunday Meeting. They will be hybrid and held in the Russel room.

The members of the Area Committee and DCMs are going to leave us now and head to a meeting across the hall in the Russel Room. Everyone else, we're going to stay in this room and do an activity. [Wait a minute while other meeting attendees leave.]

This activity is something we did on Friday night several years ago when I was attending my first Area Assembly. When it comes to carrying the message, we spend a lot of time looking for the gaps, looking at where we could do better, how we might improve. And that's great.

But for this exercise, we're going to come at it a little differently. We're going to talk about how we're succeeding. Every person sitting in this room is a success story. AA's message reached you when you were ready to hear it, and you kept coming back.

So, we're going to pair off, and each of you is going to tell your partner how AA's message first reached you and why you kept coming back. Spend about five minutes explaining that to your partner. Partners, listen up, because in the next phase of this, we're going to form slightly bigger groups of 4-8, and you're going to tell that group your partner's success story. For now, come on up and grab a playing card. If you have a Queen of Hearts, find the person with the other red queen... the Queen of Diamonds is your partner for these first few minutes.

[Partner up the people online. Pause for ten minutes while pairs tell each other their stories.]

Okay, now we're going to join forces and gather in groups by card numbers. All the twos, find each other and sit down together. All the fours, find each other and form a group. Each of you will tell the group your partner's story. As a group, listen for themes that come up in the ways people heard the message and the reasons people stuck around. Write those down on the poster paper on the tables. If there aren't any common themes and you're all unique, write down your unique reasons. The goal is to end up with a poster that has some words and phrases that convey something about our fellowship's successes in all of our stories. We'll hang the posters on the wall behind us and can enjoy them all weekend.

[Pause for twenty to thirty minutes.]

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Thank you everyone for being here tonight and participating in this activity. Let's circle up and pray.

Area Standing Committee Chair Meeting– Jessica E.W.

1. Welcome and overview of the agenda topics for this meeting.
 - a. PnP Standing Committee Meeting II, C. and I and II - Handout
 - i. Committee Meeting (attendees, voting members, choosing a secretary. Time-out by 11:45 am
 - ii. How I will proceed through agenda items, timing per item (ref pg 2 of handout)
 - iii. Procedure for agenda items (pg2) resulting in a recommendation or not.
 - iv. Suggestions for writing a clear proposal.
 - b. General Service Conference (GSC) Background
 - i. Final background material is not out yet. Jessica provided DCMs and Chairs with the available materials and answered questions in preparation for committee meetings.
 - c. 2028 Bid Proposals for the WCRAASC
 - i. Jessica walked through the proposal process and answered questions.
 - d. Secretary Announcements
 - e. Treasurer Announcements

Assembly Welcome Saturday – Lisa C.

Orientation to the Assembly – Panel 75 Delegate Lisa C. Area 40 (Montana)

Good morning, everyone! I'm Lisa, and I'm an alcoholic. It's an honor and a privilege to have the opportunity to serve Area 40 as your Panel 75 delegate.

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? Some of the folks here may have heard me mention before that the GSR brochure used to have the title "GSR: May Be the Most Important Job In AA." Which I've never forgotten, because it both exhilarated and terrified me when I became a GSR. These days, with a better understanding of AA's service structure and the upside-down triangle, I understand that title a little better. You do play a crucial and indispensable role. You're the links that enable me as the Area's Delegate to understand 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. So, 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 else 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 remember driving home on Sunday after my first time here feeling peaceful, joyful, and inspired. Also very tired. But happy in a way that I've come to expect after getting to spend a few days with this many people who love AA and are willing to go to these lengths to serve. 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 someone 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

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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.

Area 40 operates on a committee system much like the General Service Conference and much like the systems used by many of your districts. The GSC has thirteen conference committees, eight of which have a direct Area 40 counterpart. The remaining five are assigned to some of our area 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.

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. You may also hear some discussion of agenda items that that committee's General Service Conference counterpart worked on last spring. There is background material related to some of these agenda items available on the Area 40 dashboard so that an informed discussion can be held about each item. The committee may vote on some of its agenda items, and may bring a recommendation to the Assembly, which we will then all discuss. Anyone who attends a committee is welcome to speak during the discussion of agenda items, but if an item is to be voted on, only assigned committee members will vote.

While the committees are meeting, there will also be a workshop held in this room, which you're also welcome to attend. Our former delegate and former West Central Regional Trustee Andrew W. will talk to you about the Ninth Tradition and the Ninth Concept. Andrew and another of Area's trusted servants will lead ask-it basket sessions, one for GSRs and one for DCMs. Those are conducted in a loose discussion format using questions from the "Ask-It-Baskets" that are on the table at the back of the room.

Can I ask all of our past delegates to stand? Thank you for your service to Area 40 and for your continued service by being here this weekend. If any of you have questions as we go through things this weekend, these are the people who know the answers. At some point this weekend, you may see me, or another member of the Area Committee pause uncertainly, and when we do, our eyes will automatically turn to wherever the past delegates are sitting, which is kind of the Area equivalent of "phone a friend."

As I mentioned earlier, Andrew W. is a past trustee of the GSB. We also have a current trustee here, Kelly Parsley, who joined the GSB as a Class A trustee about four months ago. [ask Kelly to stand, ask everyone to welcome her with a round of applause] As some of you know, the GSB is composed of fourteen alcoholic or Class B trustees and seven Class A trustees, non-alcoholic friends of AA, who, remarkably, are willing to volunteer long hours of service for years at a time. We're delighted to have someone from Montana serving in that capacity for the first time, and we're so glad she can be here with us this weekend.

After the committee meetings and workshop this morning, we'll break for lunch. When we reconvene, I'll give a Delegate's Report, followed by some time for questions and answers. Then we'll begin what's called the Floor Assembly, with committee reports, motions, and discussion of the issues on our agenda. The committee Chairs will address most if not all of the items assigned to their committees, 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."

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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 lot to get through, so repetition of points is something we try to avoid when we can.
- 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. Something that you've seen if you've been in General Service for a while – something that you'll see before long if you're newer, possibly even this weekend – is you'll see an issue discussed, voted on, and decided, and then when we hear a minority opinion, some of us change our minds. If enough of us do that, we may move to reconsider the issue, in which case we discuss again, and vote again, and we might decide that the issue should come out the other way. It's not the most time-efficient way to conduct business, but there are more important things than efficiency... like ensuring everyone's voice is heard and ensuring that our decisions, as much as possible, reflect a fully informed group conscience. So, listen with an open mind, and if you feel an issue has been decided wrongly, don't be shy about speaking up. Your voice may be the one that changes our minds.

We will do some voting this weekend. We've asked a few people to be designated vote counters, and when the time comes, Jessica will 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 you're 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.

We'll break for dinner this evening from 5:00-7:00, and then we'll reconvene for more floor assembly work until 8:45 pm. At 9:00 we'll have the breakout sessions for GSRs and DCMs that I mentioned earlier. And there will be fun and fellowship and 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 alone.

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 AA meeting at 7 am in the Russell room across the hall.

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Before I wrap up here, I need to take a minute to recognize our tech committee, Mike D., Jack W. They work tirelessly throughout assembly 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. 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. 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. Have fun and make your voices heard! Whether this is your first Area Assembly or your fifth or your fifteenth, it can be hard to go to the mic. Do it anyway. Our group conscience will be less fully informed if you hang back. If you get really nervous – like I used to and sometimes still do – you can borrow my shorthand version of the third step prayer, if you think it might help: “relieve me of the bondage of self.” When I remember to ask for that relief, I’m able to think less of how I might look or sound and more of how I might be useful. If you see someone who seems to be hesitating about going to the mic, nudge them! And if you get nudged, try not to resent it. I was nudged a lot of years ago, when I needed nudges in order to find my voice. Now I’m one of the nudgers, which is how it works.

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 for your service to Area 40 and for giving me the opportunity to serve alongside you. And with that, I’ll turn things over to Jess S-K, our Area 40 secretary, for the roll call.

Roll Call – Jessica S-K

ROLL CALL (Vote Count)				
Name	Service Position	Present	Voting Members	Non-Voting Members
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		

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Mark H.	Public Information (PI) Chair	X		
Ty K.	Treatment Chair	X		
Kacie N.	Area Advisor	X		
Rick H.	Archivist	X		
Sean R.	Bridging the Gap	X		
Mike D	Co-Technology	X		
Jack W	Co-Technology	X		
Alex M	Webmaster	X		
Jake L.	Alt. Webmaster	X		
			16	3
			Voting Members	Non-Voting Members
Pat P.	D 11 DCM	X	8	
Bob F.	D 12 DCM	X	3	
	D 21 DCM			
Steve S	D 23 DCM			
Kathy B (online)	D 31 DCM	X	1	
Grant M.	D 41 DCM	X	4	
Theresa L.	D 42 DCM	x	5	
Gene A.	D 51 DCM	X	2	
Nathan S.	D 61 DCM	X	10	
Brandi W	D 71 DCM	X	5	
Lenore M.	D 72 DCM	X	9	

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Carly B.	D 81 DCM	X	10	
Eli S.	D 91 DCM	X	9	
Libba C	D 93 DCM	X	7	
	Totals:		73	26
	Online Voting Members		9	
	Voting Members Present		117	
	Quorum (2/3)		78	

Secretary Report

Heyyyyyyyyy Area 40,

My name is Jess, and I am an alcoholic. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Area 40 Secretary and Registrar.

For those of you that may be elected to this position in future rotations, here is a pro-tip, always remember to check the staple/collate box on your print order, otherwise you will end up hand stapling all of the agendas – a lesson in acceptance for sure.

I was able to attend the GSO registrar listening session. This is a is a great opportunity provided by GSO to ask question and learn how to better use Fellowship Connection. Fellowship Connection is the GSO website where Area Registrars like me can update records, view current information, search filter, and download custom reports including groups by district, service position and contacts. Did you know that currently 54,616 groups are registered on Fellowship Connection? Pretty cool right? GSO is also working on developing tools to decrease duplication on the site so stay tuned.

Now for some housekeeping

- 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 tech 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.
- There are DCM and GSR “ask-it” baskets are at the back of the room near the coffee. Please ask questions, it helps us all learn and improve our involvement in the AA service structure.

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If there's anything I have forgotten or if there's anything I can do to help you in your service position, please feel free to reach out. I am deeply grateful for alcoholics anonymous and the opportunity to serve.

Motions and Past Actions from Spring 2025 Area 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

Motion: 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**

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Motions and Past actions from This Assembly

Finance

Motion: Finance Committee recommends the proposed 2026 budget as presented. (See Appendix 1)

Vote: In Favor: 88 Against: 1 Abstain: 3 No Minority Opinion **Motion PASSED**

Archives/Area 40 Structure & Policy

Archives/Area Structure and Policy Recommend: BTG Chair guideline “G” on page 31 of the Fall 2024 revision of the Area 40 Policy and Procedures to revised that it reads, “In the event of a vacancy, selects an Alternate Area BTG Chair and provides the candidate for Area 40 Treatment Committee review.”

Motion to table until the end of Assembly so the committee can revise the language of the motion.

Vote: In favor 70 Opposed 13 Abstained 8 **Motion PASSED**

Motion to untable the Archives/Structure and Policy Agenda Item

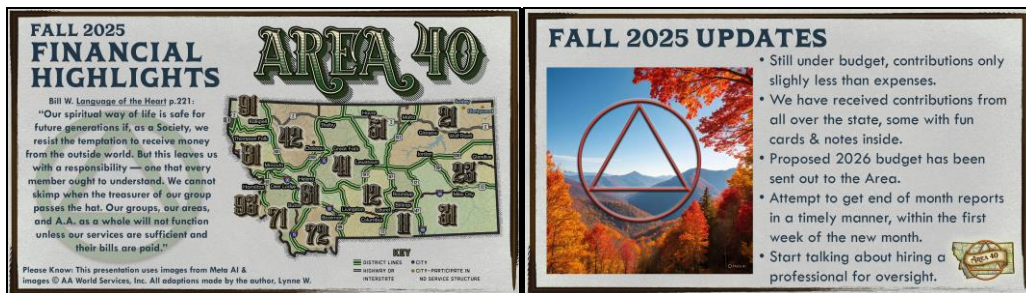
Vote: In favor: 78 Opposed: 1 Abstained: 1 **Motion PASSED**

Revised Motion Presented by the Archives/Structure and Policy Committee:

The Archives/Area 40 Structure and Policy Committee recommends the BTG Chair guideline “G” on page 31 of the Fall 2024 revision of the Area 40 Policy and Procedures be revised to read, “If The Alternate Bridging the Gap Chair position is vacant, the Area BTG chair selects an Alternate Area BTG Chair and presents the candidate for the Area 40 Treatment Committee to review.”

Vote: In Favor: 79 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 1 **Motion: PASSED**

Financial Highlights – Lynne W.



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P.O. BOX FOR 2025 CONTRIBUTIONS

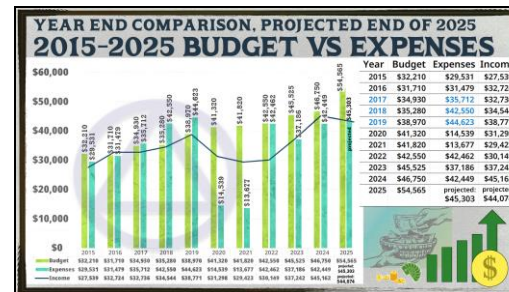
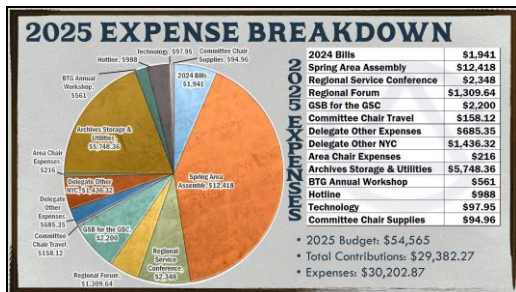
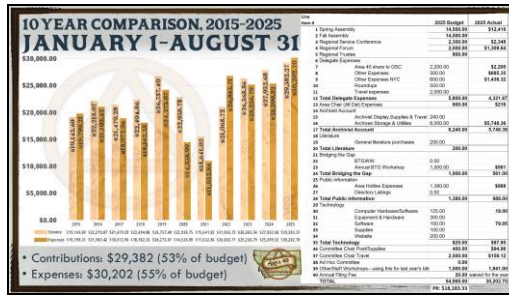
The post office will no longer forward from the previous address

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

Please make sure ALL the groups you go to have the current addresses!

Quarter sized address sheets on the back table, please take one for every meeting you attend (not just your homegroup)

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



PROPOSED 2026 BUDGET

Projected contributions are \$10,000 below 2025 budget

Projected spending is also below budget, by \$9,200

Want to have a sufficient fund for the servants of Area 40 for travel, printing, & mail

Also pay for our website, hotline, Briding the Gap & technology needs

Travel & printing costs are rising

Total Proposed Budget: \$59,441, roughly 9% increase

INSTITUTIONAL KNOWLEDGE EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

- We reimburse expenses the Chairs encounter to conduct Area 40 business
- Traditionally, Chairs had a \$200 annual travel budget, outside of Assembly costs
- We will reimburse some proxy expenses for Area business if the Standing Committee Chair needs to send a proxy

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-1.5-Finances, p. 4

RESEARCH

- The bank & filing laws are changing...
- 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 changes from a postcard to a 4 page document
- Many other Areas in our Region hire professionals to oversee the books & file the proper paperwork

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 U.S. to get this number. If not U.S. from 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 a group exemption number that applies to all and there is not. Be sure to ask your financial institution for their requirements.

IRS website information taken from: <https://www.irs.gov/charities-nonprofits/charities-nonprofits>. Filing requirements for each exempt organization form 990 is provided.

REPORT TO YOUR GROUPS

- Budget is over \$54,000 this year
- Proposed \$59,441 budget for 2026
- We have received 53% of total budget even though we are through 2/3 of the year
- We will dip into Prudent Reserve for Fall Assembly (Budget: \$14,500)
- If your group, district, or intergroup has extra \$\$\$ for their split, please consider prioritizing Area 40
- We are an active Area, your money is put to good use carrying the message across Montana
- Area 40 Budget: \$54,565, works out to \$195 per group (280 active groups in Area 40)
- Bank Accounts: \$27,525.12 (as of 8/31/2025)
- Prudent Reserve: \$18,188.33
- Operating Expenses: \$9,341.79

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

FALL 2025 FINANCE COMMITTEE

Voting

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

Non-Voting

- Colleen N
- Debbie D
- Julie R

Special Workers

- Dakota Wealth Management
- Quickbooks Help Professionals

Thank you!!

HOW MUCH WOULD IT COST TO BUY A SINGING ENSEMBLE?

YOU MEAN "A CHOIR"?

FINE, HOW MUCH TO ACQUIRE A SINGING ENSEMBLE?

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Area Chair Report – Jessica E.W.

Good morning, Area 40. My name is Jessica E.W., and I am an alcoholic. It is a great privilege to serve as your Area 40 Chair and Alternate Delegate for this rotation.

After our last assembly, I was so excited for our Delegate to attend the General Service Conference and bring her experience and insights back to us. To get a head start, we planned two virtual events. Our Area 40 Advisor, Kacie N., kicked us off on June 18th with a workshop on writing an agenda item. We worked on a proposal that Susan H., the Literature Chair for District 91, brought forward. It reminded me so much of what we do in our committees here. When a great idea is brought to us, the committee gets to bring their experience, and together, we strengthen the original thought. The results are always better than what any of us could have done on our own. We just show up, do the work, and let go of the personal attachment and outcome. It's an incredible process, one I just don't see out there in my job or community.

Following this, we hosted a virtual Delegate's Report on Saturday, July 19th. This has been a wonderful tradition in previous rotations, as it makes sure that everyone has access to this information, no matter their location. We had 30 or 40 of us gather online. I also had the opportunity to attend District 91's Delegate Day, where we heard Lisa's report and enjoyed some great fellowship.

I continue to stay connected by attending the North American Alternate Delegate meeting and a second monthly Area Chair meeting. It's been incredibly useful to connect with other people in my position across our 93 areas. I also get to sit in with our Delegate for our monthly West Central Regional Delegates' meeting.

This summer, one of my favorite tasks was putting together our agenda. We received three agenda item proposals from Area 40, which you will see listed. I also updated our Assembly flyer and made sure all the key documents—the 2026 Area budget from our treasurer, Lynne, and background information about hosting the 2028 West Central Regional AA Service Conference—were available on our dashboard. I am so grateful to our Webmaster, Alex, who has been so gracious in adding and updating these materials. I also want to give a special welcome to our new Alternate Webmaster, Jake L., who is here in person this weekend. He has been serving since our spring assembly, and I hope you will join me in congratulating him.

One of the greatest joys of this position is the contemplative conversations I get to have with members across Area 40. I love digging into our past minutes and reaching out to past servants for their experience when I'm searching for a deeper understanding. It really speaks to the research-loving part of my heart. The other night, I was telling my husband how much fun it was to read our past actions to make sure we're still aligned with the Area's voice. I think I said, "I love this," and he laughed and teased that it was "nerd shit." He was just kidding, of course—he loves Alcoholics Anonymous too and is always supportive of my "rabbit holes" that I go down.

My travel plans are set for next weekend to attend the West Central Regional Forum in Omaha, Nebraska, where I look forward to representing our Area. But first, we have a fantastic weekend ahead. I can't wait to hear about all the activities happening across our areas, and the ways you are carrying the message to the still-suffering alcoholic. To be able to hear your voices and serve in this way is such a great joy in my sobriety.

Thank you for being here. For all first-time attendees, please let us know how we can support you. If you are new to AA and someone may have told you to "just get in the car," we are so glad you are here. We hope you keep coming back, but you can also just choose to stay. We are all bound by the same deadly disease, rooted in the same solution, and we find such joy and camaraderie in service. Thank you for trusting me to serve. Please reach out if there is any way I can serve your districts.

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In love and service, Jessica E. W

DCM Reports

District 11 Report

Greetings from District 11!

District 11 serves Roundup, Hardin, Huntley, Ballantine, and Billings, with 26 active groups hosting 126 meetings each week.

Our district meetings are well attended by GSRs, committee chairs, and visitors. While we've seen some turnover in committee chair positions, members have stepped up quickly to fill those roles, keeping our committees strong and active.

In May, our CPC Committee hosted the second annual AA A Resource Workshop with 32 professionals and 26 AA members in attendance. The event featured professional and AA speakers, an introduction to Bridging the Gap and our 12 Step call service and concluded with lunch and fellowship. It was a valuable opportunity to connect with professionals who serve alcoholics.

In August, we joined District 12 at their Fireman's Point campout. District 11 hosted the Saturday breakfast, arriving with a caravan of district members, food, and equipment to prepare and serve breakfast. Together with District 12 members, we enjoyed a hearty breakfast, fellowship, unity, our Delegate's Report, and other campout events.

Looking ahead to the Fall 2027 Roundup in Billings, an ad-hoc committee reviewed and updated the Roundup Committee positions and duties. Their recommendations were approved at our August District Meeting, and we plan to announce the formation of the Committee for the 2027 Fall Roundup at our September meeting.

Our Treasurer, Debbie D., successfully obtained non-profit status for the district and is documenting the process for groups interested in doing the same.

One of our groups raised concerns about the District 11 meeting list on the Area 40 website and the Meeting Guide app. This prompted a full audit of the District's meetings in coordination with the South Central Montana Intergroup, which maintains the printed list. As a result, inactive meetings were removed, and notes and addresses were reviewed, corrected, and updated. Together with Intergroup, we also adopted a policy to conduct a full audit of the District 11 meeting list at the start of each rotation. Now, anyone searching for an AA meeting in District 11—whether through the Area 40 site, the Meeting Guide app, or the printed list—can be confident they are directed to an active AA meeting.

I am grateful to serve District 11 and to work with such dedicated trusted servants. Together, we carry the message and keep the hand of AA extended to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

In love and service,
Pat P.

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District 12 Report

Greetings Area 40 from Absarokee, Big Timber, Columbus, Harlowton, Joliet, Laurel, and Red Lodge, the big 7 of District 12. Our Groups have reported strong attendance these last few months with newcomers attending almost every week. Groups are solid financially and are contributing both financially and in service, we have great participation at District meetings with spirited conversation and attendance.

Lance F as Hotline Chair has a good response for volunteers from within the district to staff and rotate quarterly. Lance F has worked hard for the district doing his best to understand the ins and outs of the Hot Line and trying to stay up to date with the area 40 committee.

Joe G. and Greg F. from Treatment and BTG respectively continue working with the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch. They have a team of people that run two meetings every other Wednesday. They worked with the staff and began a speaker meeting on the second Saturday of the month on a quarterly basis, featuring a younger generational speaker. The meeting was an incredible home run. They are now in the process of working to get speakers monthly as the meeting has positively impacted the participants and staff in a huge way. A big thank you to Angela W. AKA, the Professor from Missoula, Angela made the trip down river to speak. Angela was very well received, and certainly excited our group by sharing her experience, strength and hope. Greg F continues his work on trying to put together a statewide Zoom meeting for all youth.

Jason S, the GSR from Red Lodge stepped up to Chair our CPC chair which has long been dormant. He has taken it on with great energy and has really shown the district the importance of reaching out. Still learning the boundaries of other committees but doing a great job of communicating his findings and sharing with the district.

Our big event of the summer was Fireman's point. We had two great AA speakers, Nick D, from Roberts and Spencer M from Red Lodge. Both brought great perspective and inspiration with their experience strength and hope. We had two Al-Anon speakers from Bozeman. Helena and Kevin both gave great shares and had very positive feedback from attendees. One 20-year AA person said they had learned more about Al-Anon that night than ever before. A big thank you to all from District 11. Districts 11 and 12 joined together to have our Delegate Lisa join us for breakfast and give her Delegates report at the campout. District 11 provided an extraordinary breakfast, and Lisa gave an in-depth and easily understood report. We had approximately 65 attendees for breakfast and report. Of course, I can't leave you without talking about the incredible and mighty Spam cookoff Friday Night.

We had 9 unbelievable chefs that created everything from noodles and spam to quesadillas and spam and pretty much everything in between. 1st place went to a cornbread spam and jalapeño biscuit, second place was a spam and broccoli salad, third place was green chili and spam enchiladas, and honor mention was of course the spam and jalapeno quesadillas. Dave R from Columbus treated us to smoked brisket and pulled pork Saturday night with everyone bringing all the fixins for a great meal, The weekend was one of the best, we had about 195 attend Friday night, Saturday breakfast, and Saturday night dinner and evening meetings. Saturday night brought together 1055 years and 5 days of sobriety.

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Next up for district 12 will be Mid-winter social in February, save the date flyers on the back table. This is my last report as District 12 DCM as I am rotating out in November. Thanks to everyone who welcomed me here and know that my sobriety has grown many, many times greater because of you. Thanks Bob F. DCM District 12.

The Spam Chefs of Fireman's point 2025

Photograph Removed to Protect Annonymity

District 21 No Report

District 23 No Report

District 31 Report

Good morning!

Kathie B alcoholic DCM for district 31. We haven't had many changes, our listed meetings continue to be active, traveling when we can for 45 min. To 2 hours to support each other's meetings. Mostly connecting through text and call.

One change we had is as we are looking for a location to start a new meeting, it was discovered that a few years ago a door was broken by an angry alcoholic leaving the meeting held at a church. Our district voted to make amends. The door is fixed, and we are broke broke.

Still, we hope to be back on our feet so that we may be able to travel more and even attend this coming spring assembly.

Thankful to be here! Looking forward to personal attendance and thank you for this Zoom access.

District 41 Report

Good morning Area 40!! My name is Grant, and I am an alcoholic. I'm blessed to be serving as DCM for District 41. I got this service position a bit late in this rotation and am still a little behind.

I had been attending the planning meetings for the Spring Roundup being held in the Great Falls area to be of help in any way that I could. It was a great event and I saw quite a few of you there.

It just so happened that the District meeting was being held right after so I thought I would stay and see what was going on, which led me to want to attend the Spring assembly where I had many old friends ask me why I hadn't stood for the DCM position. My initial response was that I had already served as DCM or the spirit of rotation cop outs.

But my Higher Power other plans for me and turned a need for someone to step into an open service position and a void in my program of recovery into an opportunity for spiritual growth to which I could not say no!

District 41 has 23 groups holding 58 meetings per week from Lewistown to Fort Benton, Belt and Fort Shaw with enthusiastic GSR's that came to Great Falls on Sunday Evening for District meeting. Just last week we found a new location for our meetings and have 10 – 12 GSR's that regularly attend. The future of District 41 will be in good hands.

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It is my goal for this rotation to attend all of the groups business meetings to see if the groups are having issues that the District can help them with or if they have any questions we can answer and thank them for their participation in carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholics in and outside of the rooms.

We currently have the positions of alternate DCM, CPC and archives vacant however the rest of the chairs are working hard. We had a wonderful event to celebrate founders' day at Ryans Dam and are planning a Bridging the Community workshop on October 18th. There are flyers on the back table. Thank you to all that helped and attended.

So, if you find yourself in Great Falls on the First Sunday evening of the month at 4 pm common by and join us for some business and snacks.

Thank you for allowing me to serve, Grant Maclay

District 42 Report

Hello, my name is Theresa and I am an alcoholic. In May we met in Augusta. Connie and Gerry came and gave a traditions/concept workshop.

Our BTG chair contacted people in Bozeman and Wolf Point to assist with people being released from Crystal Creek. Over the summer we held our district meeting in Shelby and Choteau as well as East Glacier in August combined with our Delegate Lisa coming to give her report on the conference. Valier is still meeting, as is the Browning 530 meeting.

Coming soon, Valier!

District 51 Report

Havre's Mini Conference is September 26th -28th. I have brought a few fliers so if you are wanting to know what's going on, please pick up a copy. Also, there are color copies on our Montana website.

We, as usual, have a few groups that are hard to keep track of. Most of our groups in District 51 are doing well. We have a couple that have really improved in their contributions to having a full organized group with a functioning group conscience.

As a district we were trying to get an agenda item for what to do with a suicide call to our Hotline. Jay S took on the task of formatting a complete response to use. We did not get it done in time for an Agenda item but do have the item completed. I will give our Secretary a copy so that the Hotline or Policies and procedures may take a look at the item.

That's about it from District 51.

Thanks to everyone for their service.

Gene DCM

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 and includes meetings in Townsend, Lincoln, Elliston, Boulder & White Sulphur Springs. We have

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about 10 active meetings per day in our district, including our newest meeting - Spiritual Seekers Women's meeting at 5pm on Sundays!

In addition to our regular meetings, District 61 also brings meetings to MCDC, Elkhorn Treatment Center in Boulder and the BHU at St. Pete's Hospital. We also bring meetings to the county jails in L&C, Jefferson and Broadwater Counties, as well as the state prison.

This summer our PI Chair Theresa worked out a new format for the District 61 meeting list and has been vigilant about updating the meeting list on our mini site at aa-montana.org.

We have two exciting events coming up in District 61! First, our district is hosting the Fall 2025 Area 40 Roundup on October 3-5 at the Great Northern Hotel in Helena. Registration information is on the back table; I hope to see you all there! Also, District 61's annual Grapefest will be held October 25th at the Wilson House in Helena. Lynne W our Area treasurer will be speaking, and our Area 40 Delegate Lisa C-D will deliver her report. Both events are great opportunities to fill a car with some friends and sponsees and have yourself a good old fashioned AA road trip!

District 61's brick & mortar bookstore is going strong, operating 4 days a week and selling conference approved AA & Grapevine literature. 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 books!

Thanks for letting me serve, see you at the Roundup!

Nate S, District 61 DCM

District 71 Report

Greetings from District 71, which encompasses Butte, Anaconda, Deer Lodge, Dillion, Sheridan and Ennis. We are very grateful to all the groups and GSR's that participate on the district level. We are still working hard on getting more participation from more groups. We have a new GSR for the Live and let live meeting who is attending her first assembly this weekend. Brandi R. We also have a new group "Free at 3" with a new GSR, Scott G. Who is on zoom with us so we are very excited about that new meeting we will get updated on our schedule.

This Summer has been very busy with activities, thanks to our Activities chair, Bradley. Bradley recently moved to Butte from Atlanta Georgia and jumped right into service work. This year he and a committee had an awesome campout at Sheepshead campground. The campout was Father's Day weekend. We had two awesome speakers at the campout, our treatment chair Amanda R. And our Literature chair Kyle. Recently we hosted our wonderful Delegate Lisa, for our Delegate's Day picnic. Lisa was amazing and we had a great turnout of 40 people. Bradley is now planning the District 71 Christmas party which will be here soon followed by an ice-skating party later this winter. Geno, the Bridge the Gap chair for District 71, organized a Bridge the Gap Workshop in Dillion with great food and speakers. We are grateful for those of Area 40 who attended and supported this event. We are looking forward to doing a district inventory soon with our Delegate Lisa, to make sure that we are doing the very best we can in creating space for the 12-step work to take place.

We also have a new Corrections Chair, Ryan K. We are very grateful and excited thank you Ryan.

A big shout out to area 40, I cannot describe how extremely grateful we are that our area 40 is such a loving and peaceful area. Thank you to everyone who puts in the time at the area level.

Thank you and I'm grateful to be of service.

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District 72 Report

Hi 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.

Over the summer, I got to attend my first International AA Convention in Vancouver B.C. it was an incredible experience! I got to hear a lot of Area 40 folks share on panels at it was awesome!

- I was declared “Officially Rehabilitated” by the country of Canada, so miracles do happen!!
- Now I just need to work on Austria!
- District 72 (which has meetings spread throughout Bozeman, Belgrade, Livingston, Three Forks, Emigrant, Gardiner, Ennis, Wilsall, West Yellowstone, Big Sky, Gallatin Gateway, Manhattan, Virginia City, Cook City/Silvergate) has been staying busy at the District and Group levels with lots of events, service work, and meetings!
- District 72 worked together to navigate some challenging circumstances to ensure safety at our meetings. My feeling is that I am very lucky to get to serve in my District and this Area.
- We recently elected a new District Answering Service Chair and Bridging the Gap chair.
- We also elected a Roundup chair (and co-chair) for the Spring Roundup in 2027. Planning is already well underway, and we have dates!
 - The Spring 2027 Roundup will be held April 30-May 2nd at the Best Western Grantree Inn in Bozeman.
 - We can’t wait to see you all there!
- Several of our District Chairs and their committees are working on giving information and holding meetings at a few newer treatment/recovery centers.
- We are needing more male volunteers for the Gallatin County Detention Center, so if anyone here from District 72, isn’t signed up for this, it’s an awesome experience!
- Our PI chair and committee are currently delivering meeting schedules to 43 locations and mailing them to an additional 15 locations.
- We decided at our last District meeting that our treasurer will stop using QuickBooks for finances.
- The online version we are using is apparently difficult to use and difficult to create the reports that the treasurer typically shares with the District and groups.

EVENTS:

-Recently, District had an event where our delegate, Lisa, got to share her Delegates report and her experience at the General Service Conference. She did an amazing job!

-The HOW Group will have their annual speaker event on Saturday 10/11.

-I am sure our Special Events chair will be planning lot’s more fun events

- I am so grateful to be serving with AWESOME Committee Chairs, GSR’s and District Officers!
- 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, thank all of you here, and all of the Area 40 trusted servants who show up and lead by such good examples!

In Love & Service,
Lenore

District 81 Report

Greetings from District 81! What a wild ride this rotation has been so far! We have a lot going on in District 81 that I’m excited to share.

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District 81 is located in Western Montana and has around 100 meetings a week and approximately 45 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.

We have two new groups in Missoula- Positivity & Pastries which meets every Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 3:30 at the Rooster Café and the Serenity Sisters women's meeting that meets on Thursdays at 5:30 for a Big Book & Plain Language study and on Saturdays at 10 am both at the Fourth D Club. There is a new group just starting in Arlee that's still informal but they are hoping to elect a GSR soon. The Ronan and Polson area is in the infancy stage of forming an intergroup.

Planning for the Fall 2026 Round Up in Missoula is in full swing. The committee meets monthly and has booked a hotel and so I can officially say save the date for October 2-4 of 2026 at the Hilton Garden Inn. Annie, our roundup chair will give you all the details during her round up report on Sunday.

Our Grapevine chair, Connor, had planned a Grapevine writing workshop on October 18 in Missoula. As the flyer I brought says- "Everyone has a story to tell". Come share yours with us and join us in October!

Our Bridging the Gap chair Angela has been working tirelessly with her committee to meet and coordinate with the professionals at Providence Hospital in Missoula to start doing 12 step bedside calls. What's even more exciting about this is that she and her committee have laid the groundwork and through trial and error created a blueprint for all the steps to take so if any district is interested in also doing this, they can have a how to, to get it started. Angela has printed and brought informational sheets for anyone who would like one. If you are interested, please come talk to me or her at one of our breaks. (point to her)

Speaking of Bridging the Gap, one thing our district has struggled with is bridging to the more rural communities because our district is so large.

I mentioned last assembly that our district had a lot of money. In the last 6 months I've watched and learned a lot about just how spiritual money is and that having it in AA is often just as hard as not having it. As our money has ebbed and flowed, I've witnessed the Concepts and Traditions in action as civil and not so civil discourse unfolded regarding how best to serve the still suffering alcoholic. I've been so grateful for Sage, my alternate, because of our commitment to working as a team to support and encourage each district member to have a voice and allow that voice to be heard. I think there is no greater gift than to watch people fight over money in the name of their love for Alcoholics Anonymous, even if I don't agree with the outcome. I'm also so grateful to be able to have such a wide network of people I can reach out to when I know they know more about something than me. In the last few months, the relationships I've formed and deepened and the thoughtful conversations I've been able to have regarding service and recovery are something I thank my higher power for every day.

Our district continues to work on our Policy & Procedures. Sage and I meet monthly and have an open invitation to all district members, especially as we move into the committee chair specific job descriptions. I want to thank Jessica our Area Chair for sharing her experience and offering her time to help us with this process. I find that my higher power has quite the sense of humor as we have had so many opportunities for growth within our district in the recent months giving us plenty of things to work with as we adopt guidelines for how to navigate those experiences.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve.

District 91 Report

Hey all, I'm Eli Sultz, 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. We also have our district meeting available online as

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part of a hybrid meeting. You can find that information under the Kalispell virtual meeting listings at aa-montana.org.

District 91 has been quiet but not complacent this past spring and summer.

This summer of course brought us our usual complement of campouts and fun activities. Flathead Valley Serenity Group hosted its annual Founders Day Campout at Tally Lake, Canyon Group hosted its campout at Big Creek and of course, our local intergroup hosted its big end of the s See the virtual meeting listings at aa-montana.org summer bash at Emery Bay. In between all that, we had barbeques and picnics from Whitefish to Columbia Falls. I am always amazed by the level of community and fellowship that exists in our humble little valley and district.

Our Delegate's Day was held on August 17. It was a quiet affair featuring an ice cream social and, of course, a great report from Lisa. We had several newcomers show up who were eager to learn about our Area and it was really gratifying to see.

This summer also kept me on my toes with tons of emails from our groups, but I've also learned the joys of meeting in person. One of the great things about being DCM is that it gives me reason, as if I needed one, to travel beyond my own comfortable home group. We have meetings that stretch from Elmo's Chief Cliff meeting on Flathead Lake to the Tobacco Valley Group in Eureka just a stone's throw from the border and I've had the opportunity to do some reflective driving and end my trip with some great meetings and discussion with these folks. I encourage anyone in our area to find these little out of the way places and make the drive yourselves. You'll be glad you did. I'd also be remiss not to mention one of Districts new meetings. The Connection, in Kalispell started up this year and jumped right into district business as well. It's been fun to read and listen to reports from this group as it navigates its course to finding out the best way to help the newcomer.

The future looks just as busy. As you'll hear later in our assembly, our 2026 Spring Roundup is shaping up. May 1 to May 3 of next year, mark your calendars! District 91 will also be hosting its Christmas Alcolthon. That's 24 hours of meetings with a meeting on the hour, every hour at the Alano Club in Kalispell. There will also be lots of food. If you're spending Christmas in the Valley, come hang out!

As always, I am grateful to my district. They have been patient with me as I continue to learn and fumble my way through DCM'ing, and stepped up when they needed to, even on short notice. Watching groups grow and learn themselves in District 91 continues to be a moving experience as we all carry the message of AA together.

District 93 Report

Hi everyone, thanks for being here, my name is Libba, I'm an Alcoholic, and the DCM for District 93.

District 93 is the smallest District in our Area but we are full of wonderful recovery. We currently have 13 Registered Groups in the Bitterroot Valley stretching from small town Connor, traveling 61 miles North to Lolo Montana. We Recently elected a new Treatment Chair for our District; a position newly created this summer. We have filled our Secretary and Archives open positions. So now only our Grapevine remains open.

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We have a drug and alcohol treatment facility, with now, 2 sites in our valley, one in Stevensville and the second that opened mid-April in Corvallis. Where AA has been invited into both Centers to share the message of Experience, Strength and Hope. While this has brought a great opportunity for 12th step work in our community, it has also stirred some strong feelings and fears among some of our members of what this looks like for AA. I'm hopeful as some of those have been heard and addressed at the District meetings, and the communication continues to stay open. In light of our growth through these discussions, I can almost certainly say our members in the Bitterroot Valley love and cherish our Program and want to make sure we are not stepping outside our Traditions and harming AA.

We also have a small jail in Hamilton where meetings are held once a week, for men and women to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to those who want it.

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 next year!!! I'm sure it will be most helpful to those who attend, we look forward to having you come and join us. Look for those fliers on the website!

I'm excited to announce that we had two campouts at Lake Como this summer, the first was our District Founder's Day camp out June 6th-8th, where our Delegate Lisa came down for her Report on the GSC, we had AA Speakers, an auction, potluck and much more. Our second campout was again held at Lake Como over Labor Day weekend. Our Special Events Chair and committee did a wonderful job putting on this event as it was her first camp out in her new District position. We had wonderful AA Speakers join us from Great Falls, a potluck, morning meetings, a raffle and small auction, as well as fun in the water even though the levels were very low. The weather was quite pleasant, and we were even able to have small campfires, which usually wasn't an option this late in the year, previously.

Next year District 93 will have another Lake Como Camp Out if our District approves the dates this coming Business meeting. And perhaps another camp out in a new location as well! We really do insist on enjoying life!

As DCM for District 93 I'm truly humbled to be able to serve such a beautiful, passionate District. I would like to thank my Alternate DCM, the District Committee, 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 devastating times. I remember there was a time in my life when I would have given anything to have a fraction of the serenity I have now. Service work for me has been essential in my recovery, my relationships, and my growth in and out of the rooms. I owe a tremendous debt to the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, so I'm so grateful to be here and thank you for allowing me to participate in my recovery one day at a time.

Love you all.
Libba. C

Standing Committee Reports

Archives/Area 40 Structure & Policy – Jody T.

Archives – Area 40

1. Area 40 Archives Chair Report – Jody T.

I am so grateful to be able to have this experience in my sobriety. I learn something new everywhere I turn. Thank you, Kathy B., District 31 for reaching out about the interview that Earl had given me. I absolutely

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loved my time in District 51 when I was able to do interviews of some old timers. If anyone wants a copy emailed to them, I have it available. I have had a couple emails from members outside of our Area, mainly looking for the Archivists, but very good conversations with them. In October, Jerry and I will be going to Bozeman to attend the H.O.W. Group Speaker Event, and while there I'm hoping to be able to spend some time with Rick, our Area Archivist in Ennis. From the beginning of my sobriety, I have loved hearing about the history of AA. I have had many teachers through the years, and many books to read, so when this chair became available and I was elected, kind of like a dream come true. Now, let me tell you how this has been going. After the last Assembly I have spent time going through the evaluations. I was able to put the results on Google Sheets, with many conversations with Jessica. Here I would like to say that a very important part of any commitment in AA requires help from others and the ability to ask for it. Alex has put the results on the website for anyone to look through. I also like to overthink things, so I put the evaluation together by Districts and questions. So, there are two ways to look at the evaluation results. We've had a couple of unexpected (close friends passing away) and an expected (sister's wedding) take up a lot of my time this past spring and summer. I cannot thank you all enough for giving me the opportunity to serve. I would like to take this time to thank Jessica E. our Area Chair. I can't begin to tell you just how much she has helped me.

Yours in Service

Jody T. A40 Archives/Structure and Policy

2. Area 40 Archivist Report – Rick H.

Greetings area 40,

My name is Rick and I'm an alcoholic I'm currently serving as your area 40 archivist. Thanks to this spiritual program of action, it has been a pretty busy summer. I was able to attend the spring round up in Great Falls in early May while I was there I was given the past Flyers from the haver mini conference for the archives it was a great event and the main speaker was awesome I also found out from the past Flyers for the event that the 1980 main speaker what's Chuck C from California. Next was a trip back to the Midwest for my 50 year high school class reunion what does this have to do with archives you ask, well first thing was I got to make a 50 year old amend to the girl I ghosted after the prom and I learned that my perception of the past is suspect, those people remember things way different than I did. June brought the inaugural founders' day event in Livingston, it was well attended, and they had a recording of Bill Wilson reading how it works. That was neat. At the event I also acquired a case full of cassette recordings of Vince grant who was instrumental in getting AA established in Livingston. In July I was able to attend my first International Convention, Holy Cow! What an experience I got to meet Michelle the GSO archivist and walk through all kinds of history of AA. I also found out that I was responsible for acquiring the photograph, commemorative book and the recordings of the event for the archives who knew? I also got to meet the most diverse crowd of Alcoholics I have ever been around, it was another one of those highly impactful experiences that happened if I stay willing and open minded. Area 40 was well represented in the breakout workshops with our very own delegate sharing in the huge room on the virtual platform, wow! One thing I have started to figure out with this position is that where whatever event I go to I seem to get something for the repository spent some time in the storage unit last weekend with Jeff the district 61 archives chair and I'm starting to get an idea where things are and what is in there, it is a lot. If anyone is interested in going to the archives they are still in the unit in Ennis. Get ahold of me and we can set up a time. thank you for allowing me to serve this program that saved my life and gave to me a new one.

In love and service Rick H.

Rick is available for site visits. Call him at (406) 570-9448 to schedule.

3. Review activities of Archives Committees in Groups and Districts throughout Area 40
 - a. District 72 – Joanne

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- i. Organizing archives in a more user-friendly format.
 - ii. Working on a motion to formalize an archive organization plan.
 - iii. Collecting interviews from long-time members.
 - b. District 61 – Jeff
 - i. Archives located in a bookstore.
 - ii. Reached out to past archivists (Gerry, Earl, Tom) to understand the previous setup.
 - iii. Reviewed the Archives Workbook to understand the responsibilities of the position.
 - iv. Drafted a mission statement and guiding principles.
 - v. Clarified the distinction between archives and general storage ("waste basket").
 - vi. Collecting members' stories and digitizing old cassette tapes.
 - vii. Visited Area Archives with Rick.
 - c. District 41 – Grant (DCM)
 - i. No current archives chair.
 - ii. Actively working on digitizing archives with help from Joe H. (Belt, MT).
 - d. District 81 – Sage (Alt DCM)
 - i. New archives chair (3 months in).
 - ii. Currently in the process of cleaning out archive storage space.
 - iii. No major updates yet.
 - e. District 91 – Chris
 - i. Unable to access existing archives.
 - ii. Trying to contact the previous archives chair to retrieve materials and possibly relocate them.
 - f. District 12 – Bob (DCM)
 - i. Uncertain if the district currently has an archives or archives chair.
 - g. Committee Chair Communication
 - i. Discussion on improving direct communication between the appropriate parties.
 - ii. Example: Ensuring the right person (Jody vs. Rick) receives archive-related information or requests.
- 4. Review the job description of the committee chair in the Area 40 Policy and Procedure and discuss relevant updates or changes.
 - a. The Committee Reviewed the job description.

Area 40 Structure and Policy

- 1. Review Spring 2025 Assembly Evaluation Report Committee discussed the Spring Assembly Evaluation Report (see Appendix 2)
 - i. Area 40 Assembly Evaluation Report results
 - 1. The purpose of the evaluation is to provide information that all can hear, see, and participate.
- 2. Consider the proposal to update the language for the budgeted preassembly line-item.
 - a. After thorough discussion, the committee unanimously decided to take no action. The committee agreed that the wording of the motion that passed in the spring, sufficiently conveyed the intention of the agenda item.
- 3. Consider the proposal to revise the BTG Chair guideline "G" on page 31 for clarity and alignment of the non-rotating Alternate BTG Chair position.
 - a. Purpose: Clarify the role of the Alternate BTG Chair and align it with the non-rotating nature of the position.
 - i. **Proposed revision:**

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- ii. The Committee recommends the BTG Chair guideline “G” on page 31 of the Fall 2024 revision of the Area 40 Policy and Procedures be revised to read, “If The Alternate Bridging the Gap Chair position is vacant, the Area BTG chair selects an Alternate Area BTG Chair and presents the candidate for the Area 40 Treatment Committee to review.”

Motion passed out of committee.

Archives – GSC

- A. Review 75th General Service Conference Report
 - a. Reviewed highlights from the 75th General Service Conference Report.

Cooperation with the Professional Community/Trustees – Karon S.

Cooperation with the Professional Community – Area 40

1. Review assembly report of the Area 40 CPC Chair

I’m Karon and I’m an alcoholic. I’m honored to serve as chair of the Area CPC Committee. CPC’s purpose is to establish better communication between AA and professionals.

I continue to participate in the National PI/CPC Working Group which is valuable for learning about CPC projects and resources. After one such presentation and with the help of several district CPC chairs, I created a new CPC business card with the Montana hotline number and QR code to the AA meeting App on one side and the YouTube video “Does Alcoholics Anonymous work?” on the back. They have been quite successful for outreach; I’ll say more about that in the committee report. There are cards on the display table; please take some for when you meet professionals.

I attended the International AA Convention in Vancouver and was a speaker at the CPC panel “AA as a community resource”. I spoke about issues we face in Montana, due largely to the rural nature of most of the state, sparsely populated with few medical and other professionals, and in some cases few AA meeting opportunities. My focus was to present strategies that have been effective in reaching professionals using far fewer human and financial resources than other states, areas and districts with larger populations and financial resources.

I also volunteered to staff the CPC booth there to answer questions about what the General Service Office CPC desk offers as well as sharing information on CPC projects in the U.S. and Canada. That provided the opportunity for extended talks with Michael R, who staffed the CPC desk at GSO. He will be rotating from that position, and I look forward to meeting the new CPC desk staff.

In May I attended the very successful CPC event in District 11. I benefited from contacts, specifically a board member of the Montana Crisis Intervention Team Academy. CIT is a specialized training program designed to equip law enforcement officers, first responders, and community partners (like dispatchers, mental health workers, or social workers) with skills to safely and effectively respond to individuals experiencing a mental or behavioral health emergency. One Montana CIT Academy Board member has recognized the value of integrating information about AA as an essential part of the week-long training across the state. We look forward to a positive decision by the full Board which will provide an opportunity for several district CPC committees to participate in academies in 10 counties in Montana.

I also attended several online training courses for professionals on topics such as treatment of alcohol use disorder in rural populations and understanding and addressing youth alcohol use disorder so that I might be better

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informed and prepared to effectively integrate information about AA into the context of their professional development.

Dirk S from District 71 joined me in exhibiting and participating in the 6th annual conference of the Montana Primary Care Association, the non-profit society of community health centers and urban Indian organizations. The association brings together physicians, nurses and nurse practitioners, pharmacists, social workers, counselors, and health care administrators on issues related to substance use disorders and quality of care. Their events provide a venue and audience of over 100 health professionals in one location that we would not otherwise have the resources to reach. AA has become a welcome participant in their training and annual addiction conferences.

That leads me to the amends I owe to Area 40 for not adhering to Tradition 6 which states: “An AA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise. . .” At the conference I just mentioned, I was told that a newly instituted exhibit fee would be waived because they wanted us to be there and knew we might not be able to afford to be there otherwise. I naively thought that was just good fortune. I only recently learned from Michael R at the GSO CPC desk that I should not have accepted that offer unless other similar organizations (nonprofits and the like) were afforded the same. Furthermore, AA was included along with other exhibitors in a list of sponsors of the event. Although we didn’t officially “sponsor” the event, it implied AA’s affiliation with the association. I am so sorry I wasn’t better informed to prevent this from happening. Please see me at the break if you have any questions or want to talk further with me.

Thank you for entrusting me to this service.

Karon K

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

Attendees: Brandy - DCM District 71; Tammy - GSR District 11; Jason - CPC for District 12 / GSR Rock Creek; Mitch – CPC for District 11; Karon – Area Chair; Leah F – Supporting / District 72; Ariel – Intergroup Chair / New Hope GSR chair; Antoinette - District 91; Teresa - DCM District 42; Amy – GSR from District 11; Betty - CPC chair District 72; Vern – GSR for group in district 42

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

In Area 40, currently only 9 of the 14 districts have CPC chairs and fewer of those have committees to support the chair. At least one of the districts has very few meetings; one individual is doing as much of the district’s committee work as he can. I want to recognize all those individuals for the work they are doing enthusiastically and energetically with limited resources.

Mitch A is CPC chair in **District 11**. They held their second annual “AA, a Resource” workshop for the professional community on Friday, May 16th at the Billings Public Library. 32 professionals and 26 AA members attended. 15 professionals completed an evaluation of the workshop. Each of these received a personal email addressing their responses and links to information they had asked about. Bridging the Gap and Sponsorship were common inquiries. Attendees who did not fill out a survey, but listed an email address were sent a group email thanking them and had a couple of informational links included. People who registered but did not attend were sent an email stating we hoped they would be able to attend next year. They will begin planning next year’s event in October. The committee continues to meet monthly in the interim.

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They will be presenting to RiverStone Health and Saint Vincent's in October. The Committee continues to inform healthcare facilities of their 12-step call request phone line. They aim to contact every facility in District 11, including Hardin, Crow Agency, and Roundup. They received a request to present to Job Service in Billings and continue to receive quests from workshop attendees. The Committee continues to cooperate with the other standing committees in the district, especially PI and BTG.

Jason S is the CPC chair in **District 12** and has been working with groups in the district that have CPC subcommittees. The Rock Creek Group in Red Lodge has a subcommittee of approximately twelve volunteers who are gathering contact information for local professionals. The subcommittee will continue to discuss what written materials to provide and whom from the Group will make personal contact with the professionals when the time comes. Jason has been asking "What are professionals' knowledge level of AA? Are there professionals that have never heard of AA?" and the response was interesting as some professionals had not.

The subcommittee raised the idea of a direct phone from "professionals" and potentially also for Twelve Step calls, either directly to the Rock Creek Group or District 12. Jason is investigating the feasibility and desire for such a direct phone line. The phone line would be separate from the existing AA-Montana hotline. They are mindful that AA is not, and its members are not, first responders. The District is actively bringing the AA message to hospitals, medical facilities (including rehab centers) and correctional institutions, among other efforts. Their efforts in hospitals provide AA members with an opportunity to personally introduce the AA program to staff and patients before discharge. For rehabs, similar programs are underway. Specifically, for the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch (YBGR), District 12 presents twice-monthly, on-site AA meetings for the minors at the YBGR facility, and speaker meetings every two months. Beginning in November, such meetings will also include Zoom meetings accessible to AA members/speakers and minors throughout Area 40, and possibly neighboring Areas.

For correctional facilities, the continuing objective is also to bring the AA message into such facilities for the benefit of staff and inmates before discharge. This objective has always been a challenge for AA though NOT a resistance to AA simply because the State of Montana has its own rules and regulations and ultimately decides whether/how to permit such access to AA. Apparently, Montana uses a state-wide form for inmates to complete somewhere in the intake/discharge process. This form asks the inmate to identify their "religion" and provides a check-the-box list of many religions. Alcoholics Anonymous is the first option. We also found on the AA-Montana website a form for Montana State Prison volunteers that does the same. The Montana Department of Corrections requires potential volunteers to fill out a form that asks:

"If you are requesting to be a religious volunteer, please indicate which faith group by circling it from the list that follows:" Alcoholics Anonymous is also the first option. (MSP 1.3.16A, Religious Volunteer Services)

Obviously, this presents a potential problem or confusion, because AA is not a religion. These forms seem to be for the convenience of the correctional facilities and is neither a legal determination nor a permanent/informed choice of an inmate or volunteer about "religious" or AA affiliation(s). However, this issue does involve bringing the AA message to Montana correctional facilities and thus, seems within the scope of CPC. We had a lively discussion about this and its implications and agreed to engage the Corrections and Treatment committees in a more thorough investigation of the issue.

In **District 61** (Helena) Deborah S, former CPC chair for the district, joined Leah F from District 72 to exhibit and participate in the Montana Peer Support and Recovery Services Symposium in Helena on September 5. They made personal contacts for further outreach opportunities such as the Montana Department of Health and Human Services and possible opportunities for us to participate in the Montana Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Behavioral Health Conference in October. Another valuable contact is RAM (Recovery

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Access Montana). RAM's mission is to champion access to quality, community-based recovery support services in Montana that advance health, social, and economic well-being while facilitating meaningful, long-term recovery. Our connection would be with their training and education programs on recovery support services for both providers and the public.

Dirk S is CPC chair in **District 71** and has been personally visiting doctors and other medical professionals, distributing the new CPC cards I mentioned. So far, he has delivered more than 500 throughout the district.

District 72 Betty M chairs the CPC committee. They are now doing a CPC presentation to MSU Nursing students each semester (June 13, September 10th) which they do in a 2-hour session with Al-Anon. Each cohort has about 20 students, there is a lot of interest, and they ask a lot of questions. In May, they were asked by the Montana Institute to bring a couple of AA meetings into their conference for their professionals in recovery. Betty networked their conference contact to the Big Sky group, and they agreed to hold 3 meetings for their attendees. The room in which the sessions were to be held was not available, so the sessions were not held. What was interesting to her was that they said this was becoming more of a trend in the conference business. In June, CPC did an AA/Al-Anon presentation for the staff and volunteers at Love INC. followed by a presentation in August to Cedar Creek Integrated Health in Bozeman. They are very interested in continuing to work with AA in the future. Finally, the committee met with Eagle Mount, and they are interested in having us present to their staff/volunteers who work with the families of their clients. We are in process of setting a date. Plans are to try to get in at Haven, our women's shelter.

The committee did a six-month review of where we are with CPC and are comfortable with our approaches and success so far. Bozeman Health continues to be a challenge, but they believe they will get in over the next 12 months.

District 81 (Missoula) chair Elena C and her committee continue to reach out to social workers and other health professionals. They have a potential opportunity to do an in-service presentation with care managers at community Hospital. One of the committee members attended Resource Access Day (RAD) at the library to hand out meeting lists, talk with anyone with a drinking problem and network with other professionals. RAD provides free aid, including haircuts, legal support, housing benefits assistance, and health care from government, healthcare, nonprofit and private sources for the financially insecure. The district's CPC will have an AA table at RAD in October. If successful, AA will have a table on a rotating basis, quarterly or every other year at RAD. The committee decided to delay their workshop for social workers due to tight schedule and to allow time for more networking.

Elena consulted with me to provide input to a local therapist for a newsletter article about AA that will be sent to 14,000 mental health providers in the US. Elena joined the Bridging the Gap district chair to meet with the addiction counselor and manager of behavioral health at the University of Montana student health center, and they are making plans for an in service there.

District 91 (Kalispel/whitefish) Antoinette M is new in this role. She is pursuing the need for people to acknowledge or find about AA in schools, nursing fields and has made contacts in fire department. She has also reached out to the Probation office in Kalispell and plans to visit them soon with the past CPC chair and other district volunteers.

3. Review the job description of the committee chair in the Area 40 Policy and Procedure and discuss relevant updates or changes.

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My apologies to the CPC Committee and all of you for missing discussion of this agenda item. I had distributed the position description to committee chairs prior to the Assembly and received comments from one member that it seemed complete with the possible addition of “May develop CPC – related materials (e.g. presentation related, business cards, etc.) that can be shared with District CPC of Area 40 and others as requested/approved.” However, because I failed to open discussion of this topic, I propose that we have ongoing discussions online and bring back any proposed changes at the Spring Assembly.

Cooperation with the Professional Community – GSC

A. Review 75th General Service Conference Report

The committee expressed regret that the GSC report was not formally published in advance to allow for thorough review; we weren’t able to have more thoughtful discussions without prior and sufficient time to review these items. That said, we understand the reasons for the delay in publication. It was just unfortunate. Reviewing the pre-publication notes was made more difficult by the fact that notes did not align to the lettered GSC agenda items that we previously reviewed last spring. While we reviewed all the notes, we made specific note that:

- We agreed that the project for the outward facing pamphlet for the mental health professional be redirected for a much shorter quad-fold layout. Professionals are less likely to engage in a lengthy pamphlet.

Trustees – GSC

A. Review 75th General Service Conference Report

The committee reviewed preliminary notes of GSC discussions We made specific note that:

- At the spring assembly, our committee reached consensus confirming the need for a formal and transparent process for censure, should an occasion arise for it to be implemented. However, the GSC determined that motions to censor or reorganize the service board should be sent directly to the Conference committee on trustees.
- Our committee was discouraged that the Conference committee opted to take no action on including the full text of the Lasker Award in the Big Book. Last spring, we supported that item, reflecting on the need for more evidence-based citations demonstrating the effectiveness of our program.

Corrections/International Conventions and Regional Forums – Daniel S.

Corrections – Area 40

1. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Corrections Chair
 - a. Greetings area 40, it has been a privilege to serve in this capacity. Montana State Women’s Prison has moved 50 alcoholics into riverside a facility in boulder. Call for volunteers has been put out to close districts. Watch program has potential meetings on Saturdays and needs volunteers. Potential need for a corrections workshop for etiquette while taking meetings into facilities. If your district would like me to be of service, please let me know!
2. Report on Pink Can income and disbursements
 - a. Pink can is at \$6999.37. I have sent books out to Havre and district 61 to get literature into riverside. At this time i would say to not send money into the pink can. I would encourage everyone to support their district.
 - b. This seems like a high number to me without a lot of literature getting sent out. Po box 232 Missoula mt. 59806

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

- a. butte is going well. Sending literature to their facilities.
 - b. Missoula volunteers needed for their meetings. Sending guys into Montana State Prison (MSP)
 - c. Helena point of contact Karen h. Presence in both MSP and Lewis and Clark County 93 taking meetings into their facilities and Doreen sat in for learning experience
 - d. Fergus county meetings going well on men and women's side cascade county has stopped letting meetings in so supplying literature.
 - e. We have a lengthy discussion about the 12 traditions while carrying the message into different facilities and planning a workshop with the committee. Check your calendars for future dates.
4. Review the job description of the committee chair in the Area 40 Policy and Procedure, and discuss relevant updates or changes.
5. Area 40 pink can fund to be used for literature for alcoholics who are detained as a result of law enforcement action.

Corrections – GSC

- A. Review 75th General Service Conference Report
1. Transgender pamphlet is bringing a progress report to the 2026 conference committee.
 2. The committee suggests the plain language big book be added to Edovo.
 3. The committee reviewed the request for appendix 4 to include a footnote in appendix 4 of the 5th edition directing members to aa.org for more recent awards.

International Conventions and Regional Forums – GSC

- A. Review 75th General Service Conference Report

Finance – Lynne W.

Finance – Area 40

Voting Committee Members Present: Lynne W, Lisa CD, Jessica E.W., Lenore M, & Amanda B. 5 others participated in the discussion.

1. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Treasurer

Serving Area 40 as your Treasurer is both an honor and a privilege, one that I did not think I was qualified for. Since I wasn't recalled at the last Assembly, I set to work on some of the goals I laid out for myself in the beginning of the rotation. I've got my spreadsheets all up and running, and by the time I'm reading this report you'll already have seen the fruit of them. I sure do hope I can convey the information I've been juggling since January.

It has been fun receiving the contributions from all the different groups across our beautiful Area. Thank you everyone. Some of you sent cards & thank you notes. One homegroup treasurer even sent me a picture of their cat, which I must admit I enjoyed very much.

I want to thank the Area Standing Committee for being so quick to submit receipts from last Assembly. I'm happy to report that everyone provided all of their receipts & was reimbursed as quickly as I could make happen. Sometimes it took me as long as a week for me to get a check in the mail, & everyone was very patient with me on that.

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To my chagrin, the main point of contact I had planned on reaching out to resigned as General Service Board Treasurer before I could ask for his help. Luckily, I had a series of articles to rely on, and he was kind enough to send me his final installment. He set a wonderful precedent with his Picnic Table Slides; I hope that practice is continued by the current Treasurer. It was fun to hear Lisa present them over actual picnic tables during the summer. I don't know the drama that led to his resignation, all I know is the help & guidance Kevin Prior gave me in my position by providing an example for me to follow. Next Assembly, I am going to suggest Area 40 begin hiring a professional to look over our books and file the paperwork that will be necessary once we hit the \$50,000 mark.

QuickBooks still remains the bane of my rotation. I am very grateful for committee member Colleen, who is both patient and knowledgeable. It always makes perfect sense when she leads me through what to do, but unfortunately when I try it by myself, I can't seem to replicate what she does. She has been a huge help this rotation.

I've also relied on Debbie D to help me clean up my Excel spreadsheets. Those are the ones I rely on for the pie charts I use for the monthly report that Alex posts online. I also used the Excell version of the budget for my report to ya'll this morning, since that is the one we voted on last year. I continued to use it to make the proposed 2026 budget. I didn't raise everything a flat 15% because the amount that would cost terrified me. So, I took into account this year's spending, & came up with the budget ya'll have seen by now.

Now I will give you the current numbers for Area 40. For the projections, I averaged the amount we have spent so far and used that amount to guess how much we will spend the rest of the year. There are some basic flaws in this model, but it errs on the side of a higher projection than will be likely but is still within reason. Unfortunately, things like printing and travel are getting more expensive than everything else.

Bank Account as of 8/31/2025	2025 Budget	2025 Spending Actual, as of Aug. 31, 2025	2025 Contribution Actual, as of Aug 31, 2025	Projected 2025 Spending	Projected 2025 Contributions	Total Proposed 2026 Budget
\$27,525.12	\$54,565	\$30,202	\$29,382	\$45,303	\$44,074	\$59,441

That is enough out of me. Thank you so much for allowing me to be of service. —Lynne W.

2. Consider the 2026 Area 40 Budget
 - a. All receipts were received.
 - b. General Service board treasure resigned before she could ask for help.
 - c. Hire a professional to look over the books.
 - d. Suggested cap 1000.00 per year to do this.
 - e. Idea of hiring someone who is not an AA or a spouse of an AA member.
 - f. She does have someone that is willing but would open nominations up to the Area.
 - g. We do not want an AA member to do it to avoid a conflict of interest.
 - h. It was brought up that a member could do this as a volunteer.
 - i. If we ask someone to do it for fun and for free this leads to some problems
 - j. However, if we hire someone from the fellowship, we will pay their hourly rate and this could have some benefits.
 - k. It was brought up it could be a rotating person.
 - l. Some things are worth paying for. There is more oversight with a person that we are paying to audit our books.
 - m. Independence is a standard in the accounting world.

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- n. GSO has a spirit of rotation, and we could look at doing that also.
- o. Is working on quick books and Colleen is helping Lynne immensely.
- p. Debbie D is helping with the Excell spreadsheets.
- q. Averaged the last 8 months and divided by 4 to get the amount for the projection.
- r. Consider the 2026 Area 40 Budget
- s. 15% was picked because last year it was what they did the year before.
- t. We are coming in under budget at this time.
- u. Income 44,000.00 expenses 45,000.00 we are under budget that was projected 54,565.00.
- v. Archive storage unit rent is 5500.00 dollars per year plus 500.00 for utilities.
- w. It is very different it is very large 3 rooms desk and bookshelves and is climate controlled. It is in Ennis.
- x. Our Area covers this whereas other places each district has its own.
- y. Spring Assembly 16675.00 it will not increase past this amount.
- z. Regional Forum no money
- aa. Regional Trusty travelling
- bb. Delegate Expenses \$2,200 will not change GSO pays between \$8,000-\$10,000 in addition. Paying for the flight and 6 nights in the hotel. Area 40 pays for the other 8 nights and for food for 7 meals, taxis, and Ubers. The committee would like to see that increased more than 15% so that they can go to Steppingstones and GSO and make sure the other delegates can do these activities and incur a 400.00 hotel night on their own. Total cost is 9265.00 per voting member. Travel within MT most delegate reports have been covered. It is about 70.00 and most are day trips. The 2000.00 could help with the delegate travel to NYC. Even with the additional expenses for NYC 1436.00 total delegate expenses has only been 4300.00.
- cc. It was brought up the districts covering for delegate reports Area should always cover those 100% of the time. If a group wants to be self-supporting then they can send money to area. Unless it is like come do a workshop on the traditions. Then they pay.
- dd. This is not written down anywhere, but it could be an agenda item or in a job description.
- ee. To the point that we do not want to restrict districts from inviting others. This has been decades of practice.
- ff. As an area we provide a contribution for our delegate to attend.
- gg. Travel line item is for all other activities in MT.
- hh. Traditionally chairs have a 200.00 travel budget throughout the year. One Committee Chair is paying out of pocket because she didn't know she could get reimbursed.
- ii. Lisa pulled up the delegate job description did report in 42 had a business meeting first. Should we pay for Lisa's expenses to be here. Other people suggested sending their DCM to area. The area can cover Lisa's travels expenses. Make sure districts do not have to weigh DCM or Delegate report. It is important to have this clear in policies and procedures.
- jj. Treasure's P&P states we pay for area delegate to attend roundups, with no qualifications. In other words, the Delegate DOES NOT have to give a report to be funded by Area 40 to go to the Roundups. It is on page 16 policies and procedures B expenses are funded by area to go give reports.
- kk. Thought we had talked about a project put together a guideline treasure to treasure that could include these traditions for spending.
- ll. When asking district chair to travel or turn in receipts district area or budget. No increases at this time.
- mm. Motion within the area committee Lisa propose adding to area delegate job description that Expenses to include but not be limited to gas, food, lodging and miles for providing reports are funded by area 40.

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- nn. Does this change the budget for next year. Lynne's answer not currently at this time it's a plan. This may need to be a floor action.
 - oo. Currently with the roundup money is currently budgeted at 575.00 When looking at actual it could be far more expensive. So, we will look at the actual next year knowing that this will go over.
 - pp. We need to increase to 1200.00 so that a future delegate can have the money to go. We decided to increase it and it will go to the floor.
 - qq. It was said that the area funds the delegate to go to the area round ups period. Perhaps with no duties.
 - rr. Budget 6340.00. which will increase now to 7540.00. It will reflect current actual costs and area policy.
 - ss. Alternate delegate currently 600.00 to be raised to 690.00 If alternate has to step in and fulfilling the delegate report the money is coming out of the delegates budget not the alternate delegates report. She wants the flexibility to visit the districts. Split the area to full fill their obligation to do outreach according to policy and procedures. We reimburse all area chairs for expenses. Area chair says if that is the money then you have to stay within the budget. Perhaps the budget should be increased. And be added more in-depth and added to policy and procedures. I feel like this is very valuable information. Treasure report has a lot to go, there must be flexible. Prices are going up and this may not be enough money. We have to follow the directions of how things are going down. Double the money for the alt. for travel expenses. Brought up 690.00, 1000.00 and 1400.00 increase item to 1400.00.
 - tt. Archivist account needs to increase so that they can travel and founders' day increase to 1000.00 round ups will pay for the archivist. It is repeated on page 33.
 - uu. We need to explain why the money is needed people raise to the occasion.
 - vv. General literature purchases get categorized as assembly costs. It has not been used. Spring of 82 the correctional institution to buy books for the prison. We now have the pink can so can we get rid of that money. Not comfortable to remove the money for the literature for the money. Wait to remove and if it is not used then we can scratch it next year. To keep the 200.00 was denied it was removed. Even though there was a point made that there are special projects that chairs may want to buy the money.
 - ww. Bridging the Gap is good.
 - xx. Hot Line is the same.
 - yy. Committee Chair post supplies for the position how do we handle other things that are pertinent to the position much of it is online. Actual used this year used 94.64. She had the 200.00 limit in her mind and did not want to spend more money she will submit receipts and if it needs to increase, we will increase.
 - zz. Committee chair expenses does not include Area Chair and Delegate Travel at this time. Reduce to 2000.00 because the area chair and delegate will no longer be there.
 - aaa. Preassembly 750.00
 - bbb. Ad Hoc committee nothing at this time
 - ccc. National Workshops 1500.00 has to be brought forth in front of the assembly. Keep so that it can be used. It is also being used as a miscellaneous if we fall short in other areas. Reimbursing committee chairs in a timely manner.
 - ddd. Annual Filing Fee stays the same.
 - eee. Increased the travel funds archives did not increase committee chair and took out the 250.00 literature which is only a 1500.00 increase.
 - fff. Total Proposed 2026 Budget: \$60,925**
3. Review the job description of the committee chair in the Area 40 Policy and Procedure, and discuss relevant updates or changes.

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- a. We did review job description, & although there are suggested changes, we do not want to take action at this time.

Finance GSC

- A. Review 75th General Service Conference Report
 - 1. Not released.

Grapevine/Policy & Admissions – Hugh M.

Grapevine and La Viña – Area 40

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

Hello there. My name is Hugh, and I am an alcoholic. And proud to be serving as your area 40 grapevine, chair. Since we've last seen each other, life has been very busy. In May, I was able to be part of the spring roundup in Great Falls. It was a lot of fun with 3 great speakers that included our area 40 treasure Lynne. W. Who knocked it out of the park! In June I attended district 41 unity camp out which included a lot of rain but great fellowship in August. I was asked to speak at the lake Como camp out and we had a blast, great food, fellowship, and a little fishing. I'm looking forward to the Haver. Mini conference in late September, always great to go up. North on October 18th I will be in Missoula, helping Connor as we put on a writing workshop to submit to the grapevine magazine, then on October 25th. I'll be in Helena at the grape fest, which I'm sure will be a great time if your district would like to put on a workshop, please feel free. To give me a call, I would love to help out in any way. I can years in service Hugh M

First off, I would like to thank Carly, for taking notes for me and also Gary, Barb, Geno and Allison, for the great discussions in our breakout.

- 2. Review activities of Grapevine and La Viña Committees in Groups and Districts throughout Area 40
 - a. We discussed the upcoming grapevine, writing workshop that will be held in Missoula, being put on by district 81, grapevine chair Connor I'm very excited to be part of this, and we hope to see as many of you as we can. The date is October 18th from 1 to 3 at the Missoula public library. Come and write your story or joke. Or just listen to do something at a later date. We talked about getting other workshops throughout the state and how the grapevine, inc. on their website will supply us with all sorts of banners, printouts, etc., to make these successful. We have added 24 new subscriptions since the spring. I know that doesn't seem like a lot, but it's about a 10% increase. We also talked about using Pink Can funds to send subscriptions into jails prisons and also correctional treatment facilities that also took us into a long discussion about the plain language book and why it's important that this translation exists. At the heart of it all, the work we do is the question. How are we helping the still suffering alcoholic? We also discussed the podcast and how great it is and easy to use while driving or just kicking it on the couch. So, let's have a little competition. Whatever district that has the most new subscriptions, either in print or digital by the next assembly. Will win a prize made by the area grapevine, chair Me! Have your groups or individuals in your district report every time they sell one to that D. C. M and they will keep track of them. We will add them up. And the prize will be given at the next assembly. Yours in service Hugh
- 3. Review the job description of the committee chair in the Area 40 Policy and Procedure and discuss relevant updates or changes.
 - a. Review the Job Description

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Grapevine and La Viña – GSC

- A. Review 75th General Service Conference Report
 - a. Reviewed what was available of the Conference Report.

Policy and Admissions – GSC

- A. Review 75th General Service Conference Report

Hotline/Report & Charter Lance W.

Hotline – Area 40

- 1. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Hotline Chair.

Hello everyone,

My Name is Lance and I'm an alcoholic. I just want to thank you all for allowing me to serve as your Area40 Hotline chair. The position is such an amazing opportunity for service and also how extremely important and valuable to have for Area 40.

Now since the last time we met during the spring assembly, I was having some issues. When I got the notifications from a caller the only information, I received was Name, why they're calling, and which district. I can't really determine if that call has been made or not. I would have to access the ASI portal and check each message after work. It just didn't seem very efficient or effective.

I called the answering service manager and talk with her if there was Something we can do definitely. I just want to say I am pretty thankful for them; they are extremely helpful and understanding. They let me know the text messages I receive can be changed any way. So now it states Name, reasons why they're calling, town they're calling from and if the call has been received or answered by the volunteer. This was super beneficial so that way the calls were forwarded along and the attempt to call them back was made.

This did bring our expense up from \$119 to \$135 a month. Which this brings me along to I just want to say a huge thanks to all the hotline committee chairs I been working with and the people that continue to be willing to volunteer for the calls in your local districts.

Since the last assembly we have received calls 187 calls and out of the 187, 91 of the calls were missed. That is almost half of the calls were Initially missed. I felt like it wasn't necessary to break down how each district is doing. I do send out a monthly report how each district is doing. Feel free to ask your DCM or hotline committee chair. Now since with the help of the answering services, majority if not all, of the missed calls were attempted to call back.

So, I am hoping from this weekend that we may have an alternate Hotline chair to help with the assistance of our 12-step work.

My main goal is to continue to serve the district's and improve the communication and the caller may find their way into our respective home groups and meetings.

Once again, I want to thank you all for letting me be of service, love you all.

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Love and Service,

Lance Whitehorse

2. Review activities of Hotline Committees and Chairpersons in Groups and Districts throughout Area 40.
3. Review the job description of the committee chair in the Area 40 Policy and Procedure and discuss relevant updates or changes.

Report and Charter – GSC

- A. Review 75th General Service Conference Report
 - a. Area 40 Hotline Chair report

Literature – Rebecca S-Q.

Literature – Area 40

Present at the meeting: Susan H, D91 Literature Chair, Mark W, D11 Alt DCM, Holly D, D51 GSR, Matthew D72, GSR, Valerie K, D72 GSR, Rebecca SQ, Area 40 Literature Chair, Katie, D31 DCM online, Daniel, D11 Literature online.

1. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Literature Chair: Rebecca read her report.

Greetings Area 40,

As the Area 40 literature chair, I was able to attend the Great Falls Spring Roundup. It was really fun as roundups always are.

In the General Service Conference, the agenda item proposed to add the 12 Concepts for World Service to the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions book AKA the 12 and 12, did not pass.

However, consideration to update the book Living Sober did pass.

There were two items concerning the Plain Language Big Book:

1. The committee recommended that "proposals to rescind or revise the Plain Language Big Book be collected and deferred until the 77th General Service Conference to allow for a wider fellowship experience."
2. The committee recommended "the development of a process within the trustees' Literature Committee for receiving, assessing and forwarding proposed changes to the Plain Language Big Book to the Conference Committee on Literature."

Other highlights for Literature are:

- Revise the pamphlet "The Twelve Steps Illustrated" was approved.
- A video animation of the 12 Concepts Illustrated was approved. That will be cool (author's note).
- The revised pamphlet renamed Indigenous People in AA was approved. Thank you to our own Gerry R. for all his hard work to get that pamphlet updated.
- Also being revised is the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship".

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- A study to explore if the Spanish speaking community needs a Spanish Plain Language Big Book.

In the category of Progress, not Perfection, I apologize for not having hard copy Service Manuals available this week. Hopefully you were able to use the .pdf version.

And finally, please come to Helena for the 2025 Fall Round up on October 3, 4, and 5. It is going to be a lot of fun with great speakers, craft hour, a fashion show and AA comedy!

Flyers are on the back table and aa-montana.org under Events.

- a. Susan asked what the discussion was around the failure of the 12x12x12. Rebecca did not have that information because it was discussion at the General Service Conference.
2. Review activities of Literature Committees in Groups and Districts throughout Area 40:
 - a. Matthew: His home group is a literature-based meeting.
 - b. Valerie: Her group has a Plain Language BB study.
 - c. Mark (for Daniel who was lurking online): District 11 Literature display at the Firemen's Point Campout.
 - d. Susan created an efficient way for groups to order books through the District so everyone can save the shipping costs. She also was able to get a change on the email confirmation so that when ordering the Indigenous people in AA pamphlet, the email confirmation no longer shows AA and the Native North American.
3. Review the job description of the committee chair in the Area 40 Policy and Procedure and discuss relevant updates or changes.
 - a. Rebecca encouraged those interested in the Fall 2026 elections to think about the job description now.

Literature – GSC

- A. Review 75th General Service Conference Report:
 - a. Most of Rebecca's report came from the Service Conference Report, so she read from the most recent quarterly GSO report. Susan let everyone know to order a Literature workbook. They are \$6 and your District should pay that cost.

Public Information/Website – Mark H.

Public Information – Mark H.

Public Information – Area 40

1. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Public Information Chair
Greetings area40. My name is Mark and I'm an alcoholic. It's a privilege to be serving as your P.I. chair. So, coming into this position I had no idea of what was all involved. I admit I'm still learning a lot of what my duties are. I hope to continue to grow in this position and be helpful to anyone who is wanting ideas or information. Some good things are happening, and I hope it will continue. I'm planning on attending more events and am willing to participate in any way I can help. Please reach out to me anytime. Thanks for allowing me to serve.

In love and service, Mark H.

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2. Review assembly report of the Area 40 Webmaster, Alex M.

Webmaster Report for the 2025 Fall Area Assembly

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

Hello Montana friends! I am Alex, alcoholic, currently serving as your Area 40 Webmaster.

As usual, I encourage DCMs and PI chairs to introduce the elected meeting admins for your Districts at your District meetings.

If you require assistance in obtaining this information, please contact me at webmaster@aamontana.org.

Keeping an accurate online meeting directory current and accurate is essential for helping those suffering from alcoholism find the support they need.

The virtual meetings page continues to be a popular choice for our visitors, ranking second only to the homepage. Our user engagement since my last report has been approximately 80 thousand page views. We saw 5,400 PDF downloads showing the importance of the flyers posted by all your Districts and Groups.

I'm encouraged to see that an increasing number of Districts are posting their monthly Minutes and Financial Reports to their mini sites.

A big thanks to all District Meeting Admins that work hard to keep up the meeting listings database for our Area. Accurate records are so important for the still suffering alcoholic!

Jake and I will continue to update the website and fix issues to better serve the Area.

In love and Service,
Alex M.
Area 40 Webmaster

2. Review activities of Public Information Committees in Groups and Districts throughout Area 40
- a. Rick H, PI District 81 Mssoula working on getting material out to the community and working with BTG and CPC, working on local PSAs.
 - b. Diana, PI Chair district 41 – new to the position and looking to get information/materials into the local hospitals and getting PSAs going in the district. Working on a bridging the community workshop with CPC, treatment, BTG, oct 18th at the civic center in GF at 11am 3:30pm, lunch will be provided.
 - c. Teresa R – District 61 pi chair – bought a printer for the district to print meeting schedules and misc. printing for the district. Is keeping the meeting schedule updated on our mini site and working on getting materials in Carol College and the library.
 - d. Erica – GSR Billings (District 11) – helping with the district PI committee chair.
 - e. Don – District 11 PI chair – very busy, did a press release with local PSAs, noted that PSAs are required to balance political ads. Noted that each station runs their own PSA's to contacting them directly is important. Also putting grapevines in little free libraries. Considered something with the transit system, bus benches, inside busses, etc. Deemed too expensive. Working closely with CPC in the district, especially with 12-step calls coming from the hospitals and rehab hospitals. Coordinating 12 step calls for people who want contact with AA who are in the hospital. Emphasizes the importance of a good committee.

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- f. Ryan –District 51 Havre (PI chair?) – talked to local radio station about PSA’s – they said it was policy to not use nationally distributed “canned” PSA’s. Working on getting a local PSA process approved by GSO to give to the local radio station. Havre is covered by GF TV PSA’s.
 - g. Libba – DCM Dist. 93 – interested in radio PSA’s. District 93 PI chair distributes meeting schedules to local medical professionals. Getting materials into schools has been difficult. The meeting guide app has the wrong address for their district meetings, but the website is correct.
 - h. Danielle – Dist. 91 PI Chair – distributing pamphlets around town – libraries, rehabs, etc. Hit or miss on takers. Also hit or miss on the hospital. They didn’t want meeting schedules in the hospital, but the ER was ok. Doing inventory on pamphlets. Trying to make contact with group PI chairs to strengthen the district committee. Next project is to send letters to schools & police & college to make contact. Interested in learning about different PI chair’s budgets. Finding the current budget for the Dist. 91 PI chair is insufficient.
3. Review the job description of the committee chair in the Area 40 Policy and Procedure and discuss relevant updates or changes.
- a. Alex suggested changing the language from “Dummy” email to something more specific in item M. General consensus was in favor of changing the language.
 - b. For webmaster, Alex recommended dropping bitbucket and adding GitHub (bitbucket is no longer used, GitHub is)
 - c. For alternate webmaster – Items J & K are missing on the website P&P doc, the second instance of “J” is correct. **This is a formatting thing and should be brought to the attention of either Earl or Rick**

Public Information – GSC

- A. Review 75th General Service Conference Report
- a. There was some discussion on suggestions from the GSC committee to those conducting the next membership survey.
 - b. support expressed for the chat function on aa.org.
 - c. It was noted that interaction with the aa YouTube account will increase visibility/SEO.
 - d. Rick suggested having more regular PI committee meetings throughout the year vs just meeting twice a year at the assembly.
 - e. Theresa suggested a contact sheet to organize a more regular meeting outside the assemblies.

Treatment Facilities/Agenda – Ty K.

Treatment and Accessibilities – Area 40
(10 people attended 9 in person and 1 on Zoom)

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

Hello Area, 40

District Treatment and Bridging the Gap have been very busy in Area 40. In district 72 the committee is in the process of starting a meeting in the new Behavioral Health/Addiction treatment, short term 7–10-day facility. District 72 also brings a meeting to Cedar Creek outpatient treatment and regularly attends MCDC on monthly rotation. District 71 brings meetings to MCDC, Watch and various other correctional/treatment centers. District

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91 brings meetings to Big Sky Behavioral Health, Cedar Creek and they are currently working with the new requirements of being CPR certified, Narcan trained, as well as an 8-hour de-escalation training to be able to take meetings to RCM. District 61 is taking meetings into the BHU, elkhorn, and Boyd Andrew's (outpatient facility) weekly. And MCDC once a month. District 11 takes meetings to Rimrock, the Crisis Center, and the Psych Center. District 93 takes meetings to Bear Creek Wellness and they are very active with BTG. District 42 has attendees at their AA meeting from Crystal Creek Lodge.

Jake, our Area 40 Alternate Webmaster fixed the link for the accessibility form on the Area 40 website. Please direct anyone with accommodation requests or comments to use the online form found at aa-montana.org under Area Committee, Forms and Other Documents, Special Needs Online Form.

Thank you for allowing me to serve!

Ty Kraft

Review assembly report of the Area 40 Bridging the Gap Chair

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 Fall Assembly BTG Report



Greetings Area 40,

My name is Sean Ringer, and I have the distinct honor and privilege of serving as your Area 40 Bridging the Gap Chair. During spring assembly, I shared that we had already bridged 28 gaps via the Area 40 online BTG form this year; many of those requests came from Rocky Mountain Treatment Center in Great Falls. Since then, we've bridged an additional 94 gaps via the online form, and we've added Bear Creek Wellness in both Corvallis and Stevensville to the list of facilities that are actively using it! While most of those additional Temporary Contact Requests were for cities in Montana, we also bridged gaps between Area 40 and Idaho, California, Alaska, Washington, North Dakota, Colorado and Wyoming!

On May 17th, your Area 40 BTG Committee hosted a wonderful outreach workshop in Dillon, with a total of 38 people in attendance. We were fortunate enough to have several professionals in attendance, as well as both local AA members, and members from across the state! We finished off the day with our first in person committee meeting of the rotation.

Since officially being elected as BTG Chair last assembly, I've continued to make myself available to our committee members for any questions they have. I've yet to select a candidate to present to the Treatment Committee for Alternate Area 40 Bridging the Gap Chair, but I'm certain that God will show me the right person at exactly the right time. There have been several opportunities to learn and grow these past few months, all of which I am incredibly grateful for. I appreciate being able to benefit from the experience of those around me and recognize wholeheartedly that I'm truly standing on the shoulders of giants.

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

Yours in service,
Sean Ringer

2. Review activities of Treatment Committees in Groups and Districts throughout Area 40.
 - a. *We had great discussion about challenges and things that are working in treatment centers as well as hospital 12 step calls.*
2. Review the job description of the committee chair in the Area 40 Policy and Procedure and discuss relevant updates or changes.
 - a. *We looked at the job description for Treatment and the only thing we noticed is that the Treatment Chair "Oversees" the BTG Chair, and we wondered if "Communicates" would be better language for the P&P. No motion was made to change it.*

Treatment – GSC

- A. Review 75th General Service Conference Report.
 - a. *We looked over all of the items and the results seemed to align with the committees' feelings from the spring assembly.*

Agenda – GSC

- A. Review 75th General Service Conference Report.
 - a. *We reviewed and discussed the results of the proposed agenda changes.*

Workshop The 9th Tradition and Concept

Workshop!	1728 Meeting • A meeting held at some AA GSB meetings • $12 \times 12 \times 12 = 1728$ • Covers one of AA's 12 Traditions and one of AA's 12 Concepts
Tradition 9 (short form) • A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.	Tradition 9 (short form) • A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

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Tradition 9 (long form) Each A.A. group needs the least possible organization. Rotating leadership is the best. The small group may elect its secretary, the large group its rotating committee, and the groups of a large metropolitan area their central or intergroup committee, which often employs a full-time secretary. The trustees of the General Service Board are, in effect, our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which we maintain our A.A. General Service Office at New York. They are authorized by the groups to handle our overall public relations and they guarantee the integrity of our principal newspaper, the A.A. Grapevine. All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in A.A. are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles; they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness.	Concept 9 (short form) Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.
Concept 9 (long form) Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of A.A. must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.	Questions on Tradition 9 - In your current service position, who are you directly responsible to? - Does Area 40 have the right amount of organization, or too much, or too little? - What has rotation to do with anonymity? With humility?
Questions on Concept 9 - How can we best strengthen the composition and leadership of our future trusted servants? - Do we recognize the need for group officers and district officers? - Do I set a positive leadership example?	

Delegate's Report

Delegate's Report – Panel 75 Delegate Lisa C. Area 40 (Montana)

September 13, 2025

I'm Lisa, I'm an alcoholic. I have the privilege and responsibility of serving as your Panel 75 Delegate. I attended the 75th General Service Conference (GSC) in New York at the end of April, and in the months since, I've gotten to travel across Area 40 telling you about what happened at the Conference. I've delivered my Delegate's Report seven times this summer – at three campouts, three district events, and once online. I've seen many of you at those report backs, some of you more than once. You'll be relieved to hear that I'm not going to try to cram the whole report into the next 45 minutes, but I will share some highlights. For those of you who have heard some of this before, thanks for your patience.

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The Hilton Midtown Manhattan is in the foreground of this picture, and that's where the GSC happened this spring. Two skyscrapers down from the Hilton is a building where I used to work. In the last five years of my drinking, I worked for a Chicago-based law firm, and I spent a lot of miserable days in the New York Office. I think I was hungover or drunk (or both) every time I walked into that building. I worked there knowing that I was utterly unworthy of the responsibility I was entrusted with. The contrast between those days and what my life is like now produced many tears during my week at Conference, as I walked the same block of the same street not drunk, not hungover, not sick and ashamed, but instead feeling healthy, happy, worthy of your trust in me, and excited about the work laid before me.

I'm very grateful that our past Delegate Kacie N. and Susan H. traveled with me to New York as my "plus ones" ("plus two?") for Conference week. Kacie is my service sponsor, and having her support throughout that week was incredible. Even when I specifically asked Kacie what she would do or how I should vote, she generally declined to give specific input. Instead, she told me again and again that I have a "truth beam." She helped me understand that my job is to show up, listen, ask questions, and then, with the help of my higher power, let my truth beam help me to discern the right action and to take it. I discovered over the course of Conference Week that I do have a truth beam. I wouldn't have known that if Kacie had just told me what to do or what she would have done. Instead, she helped me develop faith in my own discernment and learn to accept the discomfort of making the best decision I could, often with less time and/or information than I'd have liked. I'm so grateful for Kacie's excellent service sponsorship.

Another story I want to share is about having bagels with the Corrections Committee. I served on the Corrections Committee at conference, and it was my favorite part of the week. Before we got to New York, the GSO staff member on the Corrections Desk promised to bring bagels from his favorite New York bagel shop to our first committee meeting. But then about a week before Conference, the Conference Coordinator sent all of us a memo explaining that the hotel would not allow any outside food or drink and that we could be fined for breaking that rule. The memo basically begged all of us not to bring in outside food. But we still got our bagels! 😊 We just were super sneaky about it. When I got to our first committee meeting on the first day of the Conference, the bagels were there, but they were hidden inside a cabinet. When anyone wanted a bagel, they would take it out and surreptitiously put cream cheese on it and then eat it really fast... it instantly made all of us co-conspirators. Give alcoholics a rule and then watch as they break it but try really hard to figure out how to get away with it. The bagels created a very fun and familiar feeling of co-conspiratorship for all of us, and I instantly felt right at home.

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I want to let you all know the outcome of one of the agenda items we talked about last spring, which is how to handle requests from indigenous tribes to carry flags in the Opening Flag Ceremony. By way of background, there is traditionally a flag ceremony that opens the first Big Meeting at International. During this ceremony, a member from every country in which AA is active carries that country's flag across the stage and then plants it in a flag stand around the perimeter of the arena. By the end, there are 80 or 90 flags from all across the globe. The members who carry the flags are selected by lottery. The sovereignty of indigenous tribes within the US and Canada and in other countries around the world means that some tribes have their own flags. Over the years, some AA members have requested that this be recognized in various ways during the flag ceremony. For various reasons, the answer to these requests has generally been no, although there have been other Flag Ceremony efforts to recognize the participation of indigenous people in AA, including a very moving opening dance and singing and land acknowledgement at the 2025 International in Vancouver.

Recently, the World Service Delegate from Australia asked if during the Flag Ceremony in Vancouver a member could carry a First Nations flag on stage alongside the person selected to carry Australia's national flag. This request and the issue more generally were assigned to the Conference Committee on International Conventions and Regional Forums at this year's GSC. When Area 40 discussed this issue last April, after some very moving shares from some of our members, we took a vote to get a sense of the Area. Area 40 was unanimous in wishing to see requests like these granted going forward. Unanimous! I've been coming to Area for a while now, and we've never been unanimous about anything! So, I couldn't wait to go to Conference and discuss this issue and share our Area's views.

But like many things at Conference, the issue unfolded in ways that were more complicated than anticipated. The committee that worked on the issue did not bring a recommendation to the floor, which means that I and the other conference members had no opportunity to discuss or vote on the issue. Instead, the committee passed a "consideration" requesting that the trustees' International Conventions/Regional Forums committee "begin exploration regarding the inclusion of sovereign states to the Flag Ceremony at the International Convention, including reaching out to gather sharing from indigenous populations. The committee also suggested including a question in any post-Convention surveying of attendees that would help obtain information on how many members in attendance at the 2025 International Convention were from First Nations sovereign states, helping to gain an understanding of total numbers we might be considering adding to a Flag Ceremony." The committee asked that a plan or progress report be brought back to the 2026 General Service Conference.

The GSO staff member who planned the International Convention in Vancouver happened to sit right next to me on the day in New York that we learned that this issue did not come out of committee. I took that opportunity to tell him that I expected some significant disappointment when Area 40 learned the outcome. I said that at our spring assembly a Northern Cheyenne woman from Lame Deer and a Missoula man from the Rosebud Sioux tribe had shared so passionately and movingly that the sense of my area afterwards was unanimously in favor of granting these kinds of requests in the future. Patrick listened intently. He explained why Australia's request had been denied this year, primarily due to concerns about allowing one country to have an opportunity not made generally available and the impossibility of making the opportunity available to all in the weeks remaining before Vancouver. I understood the challenges he was describing. But I also let him know – tactfully, I hope – that it would be difficult for Area 40 to understand why we're "beginning exploration" of this issue in 2025, even though similar requests have been made since 1990, according to the background material.

I will be watching reports from the trustee's committee on IC/RF to see how their exploration of this issue develops. I'll report what I learn to all of you. If it seems there's a danger that this issue will fall off the radar when an International Convention is not imminent – which seems to have happened in the past – perhaps Area 40 will decide to propose an agenda item to a future conference to ensure that a better framework is in place ahead of the 2030 International in St. Louis.

I want to share the outcome of one other agenda item with all of you, which is the work the Public Information committee did on a request to consider developing new PSAs. The committee took a creative approach to the problem and studied PSAs from other service structures around the world to try to find the most effective PSAs currently in use. They found three from Australia that they felt were an excellent model for new PSAs. They

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asked Australia's General Service Office for permission to adapt these PSAs for use in North America, and Australia agreed. The PSAs are available here: <https://vimeo.com/925624411>, <https://vimeo.com/689090953>, <https://vimeo.com/689090888>. The first two in particular are, I think, very moving and might be the kind of message that can reach people who need to find us.

The last thing I want to say about Conference is THANK YOU for the deluge of cards, letters, and gifts that you sent to me in New York! Our treasurer Lynne mentioned this morning that when you send her your group's contributions, you often include a card or a thank you note or even, in one case, a picture of someone's cat. She reminded me of the charm and warmth of the mail you sent me while I was at Conference. Your voices were with me all day, every day while I was there, but the best part of each day was often the few minutes I got to spend with all of you through your cards and letters. The picture below is of probably my favorite card, because in the bottom right corner a guy named Jim G. signed it with a message that says, "Who are you?"



We take the work we do at Conference pretty seriously, but we hopefully don't take ourselves too seriously while we're doing it. I loved this card, because it reminded me that so much of what really matters about AA has nothing to do with delegates or trustees or conference agendas or New York. And I loved that Jim didn't pretend he understood who I was and where the card was going and instead just asked, "Who are you?"

In July, I was able to go to Vancouver to attend the International Convention. I saw many of you there, but I know I missed many more of you in the crowd of 36,000. We're going to hear a report on Vancouver from Theresa L. tomorrow, so I just want to share a few quick thoughts. First, I had the pleasure of hearing our CPC Chair Karon K. give a wonderful talk on her CPC work in Area 40, and I heard our Archivist Rick H.'s beautiful share on building character. If anyone else in Area 40 spoke, please let me know what panel you were on so that I can download it! My favorite moment in Vancouver happened at the Old Timers' Meeting on Saturday night. It's one of the Big Meetings, so it's in an actual arena that can hold a crowd of 36,000. At the Old Timers' meeting, anyone with fifty or more years of sobriety is eligible to put their name in a hat, and then names are chosen at random from the stage for ten or so people to come up and share. All of the shares were lovely, but my favorite moment came from a man who turned in a circle looking around the arena at the thousands of people hanging on his every word and said, "Without all of you... there is no me."

I've spent a good portion of this summer traveling around Area 40 and giving my report at campouts and picnics and potlucks. I gave my first report at the Lubrecht Campout during Founders' Day weekend in June. I

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had some printing difficulties before I got there, but I decided that wasn't too big a deal, because I had a projector and could show my slides that way. Then, when I got there, we couldn't get the projector to work. It was a challenging way to kick off my season of Delegate's Reports, but in the end those challenges were a gift. Because even after everything went "wrong," I gave my report and people listened and learned and asked questions, and it was all fine. There are lots of ways to get the information out, and my little plans about exactly how to do it aren't all that important.

I left Lubrecht and drove to the Lake Como campout, which was happening that same weekend, and I gave my report there. There were wonderful auctions at both campouts, full of creative items contributed and, in many cases, crafted by people who love AA. I got a little too excited and came home with a car so full of items that my husband promptly asked me, "How many more campouts are you going on this summer?" Here's a picture of one of the items from the Lake Como auction... loafers! 😊



I went to another campout last month at Fireman's Point in District 12. When I arrived, I didn't see any signs telling me if the group at this particular campsite were the folks I was looking for. Then I saw two people hug the way we hug each other in AA. It was very decidedly not a "family reunion" hug or an "old friends" hug. It was an AA hug. And that's how I knew I was in the right place. Later that day, I saw someone win a 50/50 raffle and promptly donate the winnings right back to the campout. I've gotten to see so many similar moments of love for this program across the state this summer.

I met a new friend named Paul at Firemen's Point. He took a picture of me while I was giving my report that he texted to me later.

Photograph Removed to Protect Anonymity

I mostly hate pictures of myself, but I like this one, because I look so happy. I used to think happy people were stupid or fake or both, because I was so bitter that I couldn't be one of them. Now, I actually am a pretty happy person. It's a new enough development that it's still somewhat astounding to see a picture where I'm genuinely happy.

I've also given my report this summer at wonderful events in Bozeman, Butte, and East Glacier. There was wonderful food at all of these gatherings, but I'm usually too nervous to eat before I speak. At one of the events, a woman noticed that I'd scarcely taken a bite of my breakfast. After I sheepishly explained why, she wrapped up my plate and put it in the fridge so that I could eat it later. I've been treated with that kind of kindness and consideration everywhere I've gone. So, no wonder I look so happy!

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Next weekend, I'll be in Omaha at the West Central Regional Forum, hearing from trustees and GSO staff members about the work of the fellowship that has happened since conference and that's planned for the coming months. I'll do three more report backs this fall – the Havre Mini conference, Lewistown, and in Helena at Grapefest. And I'll attend the Helena roundup, where I hope to see lots of you again in just a few weeks.

A few weeks after that, we'll get a tentative list of the agenda items for the 76th General Service Conference next spring. Background information will follow in February, the regional service conference and pre-assemblies in March, and then we'll be back here in Great Falls at Spring Assembly. It's been a whirlwind, and it will continue to be a whirlwind, but I'm loving absolutely every minute of it. I'm so honored that I get to have this experience.

On a personal note, I want to share that I lost two uncles to this disease in the past year. They both tried to get this thing. They both tried more than once. They didn't get it. I also want to share that when I went to International, my little sister joined me there. She was with me ten years ago at International in Atlanta. She tried AA and she did get it. She's still getting it. Her daughter, my niece, got sober at 14 and a half, and she's getting it too. She celebrated three years in February and made amends to me at our last family reunion.

I don't know why only some of us get it. But I do know that what I have, I owe to people who came before me in General Service, who made sure there was a meeting schedule for me when I was ready and a copy of Living Sober for meeting members to put in my hands at the end of my first meeting and a Big Book in circulation that I could order and then read with my sponsor. I also know that I owe the fact that I'm still here to people in General Service... the people that were holding a District meeting when I decided that was something I wanted to check out. The people who welcomed me when I joined my district's CPC committee. The people who have allowed me to serve over the years and showed me how to do it – people who continue to teach and inspire me today.

Twelve years ago, I could not imagine getting or staying sober. Six years ago, I could not imagine ever wanting to have a service position like this one. Three years ago, I could not imagine Area 40 entrusting me with this role. Even one year ago, I could not imagine that the work of Delegate would bring me half as much joy as it has. All of which to say – and this is something I often tell my sponsees, but while I know it's true for them, I don't always know it for myself – don't let your imagination put limits on what God can do. If we let it, this program can give us ambitions and abilities we never imagined for ourselves. It can make us into people who actually want to serve and are worthy of being entrusted with the responsibility of doing so. I used to sit where you're sitting and look at the Delegates and think, "I could never be one of them." But most of those same people used to sit where you're sitting looking at other Delegates and thinking the same thing. They were wrong. I was wrong. And some of you who are thinking that today is also wrong. Some of you will be up here before you know it, as long as you keep coming back and let go of the thought that it's impossible.

Thank you so much for allowing me to serve and for being here with us this weekend.

In love and service, Lisa C., Panel 75 Delegate

Past Delegate Sharing: NOT AVAILABLE

GSR Breakout

- Four ask it basket questions.
 - Leaders are trusted servants first leaders second.
 - Serve the group.
 - Can get group excited.
 - Invite people.
 - Plant the seeds.
 - Question 1: Can we work towards taking meetings to people outside? Unhoused Community?

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- PI/CPC in Bozman talked with the warming shelter.
- Be kind, show love and principles.
- Can't throw a book in their face but can give materials.
- Some people take a meeting to people in the shelter – tolerant and kind.
- Can CPC support professionals in community?
 - We focus on alcoholism not housing. We do not chase.
 - Get the grapevine subscription for the shelter.
- Question 2: Why is there no zoom preassembly in the fall?
 - No real info to go over, unlike spring where there are lots more.
 - It's not as easy as you think. I would like a zoom preassembly in the fall.
 - GSRs can go to DCM for clarification on who goes to Area Committee chair.
 - I like being spoon fed like in preassembly.
 - GSRs can be helpful – ask for help.
 - Put feedback on the evaluation if you need a fall preassembly.
- Question 3 How to address not quoting religious text during meetings?
 - Faced with someone vocalizing religious faith and it is affecting newcomers – newcomers may think this represents AA.
 - We quote from AA. We do not talk about religion, which is an outside issue. We don't do that because we don't want to destroy our meeting.
 - Gossip
 - Religion
 - Group conscience – neither endorses nor opposes. We don't quote from religious text, and we don't want to offend.
 - How do we find a middle of the road solution
 - Good orderly direction.
 - If a newcomer affected – talk to them – this is not normal. Inform them about the program. It is our duty.
 - Use gentle reminders – experience strength and hope – AA preamble.
 - Person with time can take them aside.
 - No cross talk
 - Teach newcomers by our share as an example.
 - Use of the lord's prayer is religious.
 - Opening, chairs, workshops
 - Every group is autonomous – group inventory.
 - Structure – 3 min. timer.
 - Beginner meeting
- How does GSO operate via the 7th Tradition?
 - Money goes to board/budget.
 - May supplement with literature sales
 - 5th addition of the Big Book – costs will go down.
 - Corporate poverty – just wants to break even.
 - Floats cost and asks for more.
 - 7th tradition used for group services.
 - No outside contributions
 - Go to AA.org for the Money and Spirituality pamphlet.

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- The service manual.

DCM Breakout

- Committee chairs in name only/narrowed focus
 - walk through the policy & procedures with each chair.
 - Reach out to the Area chair for that respective committee.
 - Talk to previous committee chairs within the district and connecting them with the current chair.
- Communicating to the area from the district
 - Get workbooks for the committee chairs that don't have them, email GSO committee desk directly.
- Policy & procedures- how to navigate adopting new ones or rewriting.
 - Use actual experience to guide the guidelines.
 - Bring someone in to lead the committee that has experience with this.
 - Reach out to archives chair to see if there is a paper copy.
- Visting meetings that don't have GSRs.
 - Visit the meeting and bringing flyers, meeting schedules, introduce myself and ask to talk for a couple minutes.
 - Unofficial GSRs (group contacts) – to get the info to and from district.
 - Just keep showing up.
 - Is there anything we can do to help?
 - Have an event to bring people from the rural areas to us so that we can make contact.
 - Send scouts to the meetings that have the open schedules.

Roundup Reports

Roundup Great Fall Spring 2025 Report

Spring Roundup 2025 Report

So, there is so much I can say about being involved in the Roundup Committee, but knowing that, I would have to tell 3 hours' worth of stories, just to get the point across, going to make it short and to the point.

To start off, it was an honor and privilege to be of service to Alcoholics Anonymous. Grateful for the constant reminder that wanting to serve is not a requirement, but only the action we take that gives us the promises of the program.

So, the run down on the events before the Round-Up.... there was lots of laughs, tears, conflicts, swear words (from me), prayer and in the end, the committee came together, showed up and put on an amazing Round-Up. From the speakers, decorations, breakout rooms, raffle and entertainment. Tasha, coffee chair, Rebecca with marathon meetings and Cathy, Jim and Dan with the hospitality room, they all did amazing. Thank you, Jack for doing the recording.

We held our closing meeting after the Round-Up to tally up the finances, things that we would change and most importantly to thank everyone for a great job well done.

The thing that was pointed out the most was locating the hospitality room and the locations of the signs. Personally, I need to give a shout out to Judy our treasurer and Eric out IT guy (also my personal caretaker) and everyone who was not on the committee but stepped up to help with everything.

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Thank you, Alcoholics Anonymous for giving me a life I didn't think I wanted. The action I have taken, that I didn't think would matter and my Higher Power, that I didn't believe in or trust or wanted. Action has turned into a major miracle in my life.

We ended up giving \$3500.00 for seed money, Helena \$2000.00 and an extra \$300.00 to Alanon.
Yours In Service
Dawn B.

Roundup Helena Fall 2025 Report

The Fall Roundup is coming soon! October 3, 4, and 5 at the Great Northern Best Western in Helena MT.

The committee has been working hard to bring a fun conference to Area 40. On Friday night, we will be having a recovery fashion show, Saturday we start the day with a craft hour for both kids and adults. Saturday night after our speakers, we will have comedy from our own Bryan S. Don't miss it!

The speakers and panels are ready, and we look forward to seeing you there.

We are not a glum lot,
Rebecca

Roundup District 91 Spring 2026 Report

It's Fall Y'all.

It's a great TIME to have a GREAT TIME in Great Falls! Wish we were there!

The 2026 Any Lengths Spring Round Up, is steadily building momentum.

The Knee Jerk reaction that takes a few years, is super ON POINT.

Committees are starting to gather to sort through logistics, and we are doing what we can to bring awareness to as many Areas 40 AA's as we can.

Our hope is that District 91 will create a Fun and Welcoming Round Up worth remembering.

If you remember it for something SUPER AWESOME- Then it happened in District 91. If you remember it for something NOT SO Awesome, you have other Districts to choose from.

(We'll save that number for later in case the person reading has it on one of her trivia sessions.)

Speakers are locked in and ready to participate in any way they can.

A few of our Any Lengths Workshops will be:

The "Heard it Through the Grapevine" Article writing workshop- where attendees can learn the steps to becoming a published drunk.

A podcast style interview with our Area 75 Panel Delegate titled "Our Primary Purpose".

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“Inventories in the Big Book” A guided discussion with the speakers with Q n A - A specialty of two of our main speakers.

The 2026 Any Length Spring Roundup will offer Live Music, Art, Dance (Some interpretive some not), Games, Marathon Meetings, Meditation, Bomb ASS Hospitality, and something to text home about.

If you are musicians, please bring acoustic instruments if you would like to participate in the jam session. The jam is a low-key circle of folks in recovery sharing through their music, everyone is welcome to participate and attend. It is not a stage performance. If you are someone that might be interested in playing on stage as part of the entertainment, please contact us directly. Our info is below. Also, please start thinking about how you will answer this question as you will be quizzed:

You know you are an alcoholic when_____

Example: You know you're an alcoholic when - you're on the jobsite and decide to drive the scissor lift to the liquor store, cuz well... you think you might not get a DUI.

District 91 looks forward to creating wonderful memories of recovery in Northwest Montana for those who can join us in the Spring of 2026.

Grateful to Serve,
Nino and Victoria G.

Missoula Fall 2026 Roundup Report

Hello from the fall 2026 roundup committee! We are pleased to announce the Fall 2026 roundup will be occurring in Missoula on October 2 to 4, 2026 at the Hilton Garden Inn. We have secured the Roundup venue, which proved to be challenging, as there are only two hotels in Missoula that can accommodate the number of people we are expecting at the roundup. The down payment to secure the venue was \$4000. just. We have our 3 main speakers booked and have a large well rounded Roundup committee.

We have been blessed with the need to host special events to increase enthusiasm and awareness around the Roundup. We have already hosted two special events; a river float and BBQ and our second event was a backyard Olympics, world cuisine potluck and 3 speaker panel. Our next event is a post Halloween extravaganza on Nov 1. We are having a movie night on Dec 13, showing Conscious Contact (a film about Bill W's story) and a taco bar. I want to thank the Roundup's Special Event's committee chairs, Bruizer and Amy for all their hard work carrying the message of recovery through fellowship events! I have truly enjoyed being a part of a committee that is able to show District 81 that we are not a glum lot!

Annie B

Intergroup Reports

South Central Montana Intergroup Report

South Central Montana Intergroup has been busy this year, 2025, putting on fellowship events and carrying the message of Alcoholic Anonymous.

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Our first pancake breakfast of the year was in February. Intergroup provides and cooks breakfast for all members of AA who wish to show up and have a hot breakfast and fellowship. There were several newcomers and sober living folks, which is always nice to see.

The Founder's Day event in March had a great turn out. Activities included panels, speakers, a potluck, some fun raffle games, and a silent auction. The room was packed with both old timers and lots of newcomers.

Cooney campout was a lot of fun. Summer weather, potluck, and fellowship with beautiful views of the lake. This is an annual campout every July and has many AA folks that attend every year.

We are currently planning for the Halloween party coming up in October and the annual Holiday party in December.

Intergroup runs a small bookstore that consists of AA literature. It is open on Saturdays from 10am-2pm. Volunteers from the various groups in District 11 take turns working shifts at the bookstore.

Intergroup is also responsible for maintaining the District 11 printed meeting lists, and copies can be obtained at the bookstore.

The monthly Intergroup meeting is well attended. We are looking forward to putting on events and being of service for the rest of the year!

Intergroup Flathead Valley Report

Hello Area, 40, first time attendees, and all of my AA family,

Warmest greetings from the Flathead Valley Intergroup.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as the Flathead Valley Intergroup chair.

We at Intergroup provide a great deal of services to Alcoholics anonymous in the Flathead Valley and surrounding area. These services include but are certainly not limited to; providing any and all information available to groups and members in order to carry the message to anyone with a potential alcohol problem, one of which is publishing a biannual meeting schedule that includes over 100 weekly meetings, which is distributed throughout the valley, managing the local intergroup website, as well as facilitating or supporting any events that meet the need of helping the newcomer find the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. Intergroup serves more than 15 groups within district 91 and offers more than 10 service positions. Some of which differ slightly from our standard district positions.

A few of these are, entertainment chair and co-chair whose responsibility is to facilitate any and as many festivities as possible throughout the year, to ensure that we truly are "not a glum lot". Some of our favorites and most well-known are; The EZ does it golf tournament the Emery Bay campout, as well as Valentines day, St Patrick's Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and new years Alcolthon, just to name a few. These positions have been unfilled in the new rotation, so we have moved to create small committees for each individual event so that we are able to continue the festivities.

YPAA Report

Hello Area 40,

I had the privilege of attending the 65th annual ICYPAA conference in Minneapolis August 28th-31st. It was fire. I saw some of the best speakers I've ever heard. One of the nights of fellowship involved getting bussed to the

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Mall of America where the ICYPAA committee rented out Nickelodeon Universe Amusement Park, and we had it all to ourselves. I strongly recommend the SpongeBob SquarePants Rock Bottom Plunge roller coaster that features a 97-degree vertical drop.

For those who do not know, ICYPAA is the acronym for International Convention of Young People in AA. It was founded in 1958 to provide an annual celebration among young people in Alcoholics Anonymous. It is a truly remarkable gathering and if you've never been to one, I highly suggest it. There were 4 people during the roll call who stood up from Area 40. I experienced an in-depth intense spiritual high and the dopamine dip was hard to weather when I returned to the normal AA flow after being in the presence of so many young people with such a passion and fire for the program. The post conference blues for me are like the Sunday scaries x 100.

2 panels were exceptionally memorable. The first was comparing the bleeding deacon to the elder statesman, which I believe is a very important concept to consider at this level of service. The elder statesman sees the value of the group's decision and leads by letting go and trusting the group conscious. They can be quiet.

The bleeding deacon cling to power and are consumed with self-pity. They believe the group cannot go out with them. The bleeding deacon serves by trying to control others and the group.

The main takeaway for me was: Be an elder statesman in the streets and a bleeding deacon in the sheets. I also enjoyed the safety panel because there are so many unresolved safety issues within my District and I know my DCM Carly is working to put together a safety committee to address this. Something new I want to try implementing is bringing up a safety as a topic for discussion in meetings where there are individuals present causing safety issues, specifically 13th stepping. I believe in the power of the group and think it may be more impactful to come from a position of experience rather than authority by bringing up safety as a topic for discussion, rather than just reading the safety statement.

Serendipitously, I met this guy named Paul from SPOKYPAA on the elevator. He told me about ANYPAA, which is an acronym that stands for All Northwest Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous. It refers to an annual conference for young people in AA from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming and Montana. ANYPAA is intended to be a conference for young people, but it is open to any member of AA who is "young at heart" or became sober at a young age.

The current ANYPAA members desire more participation from Montana.

The 3rd annual ANYPAA conference will be held Saturday June 13th, 2026-Monday June 15th 2026. The location is yet to be determined. See the flyer for the QR code and more details. You can also follow them on a Facebook page titled ANYPAA.

Michigan won the bid to host the 66th annual ICYPAA conference.
That's all for my report.

Love you bunches

Angela W. District 81 BTG Chair

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International Conference Report

2028 West Central Regional AA Service Conference Host Site Proposal (Bid) Information with Q and A:

Jessica Presented the opportunity for districts to prepare a bid for the 2028 West Central Regional AA Service Conference Host Site.

Open sharing

First time attendees and others were invited to share about their experience attending Assembly.

Appendix 1

Proposed and Approved Budget



Line Item #	2026 Budget	
1 Spring Assembly		\$16,675

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2 Fall Assembly	\$16,675
3 Regional Service Conference	\$2,645
4 Regional Forum	N/A
5 Regional Trustee	\$920
6 Delegate Expenses	\$2,200
7 Area 40 share to GSC	
8 Other Expenses	\$575
9 Other Expenses NYC	
10 Roundups	\$690
11 Travel expenses	
12 Total Delegate Expenses	\$1,200
	\$2,300
	\$6,965
13 Area Chair (Alt Del) Expenses	\$1,400
14 Archivist Account	\$1,000
15 Archivist Display, Supplies & Travel 16 Archives Storage & Utilities	
17 Total Archivist Account	\$6,170
	\$7,170
18	
19	
20	
21 Bridging the Gap	
22 BTGWW	
23 Annual BTG Workshop	\$1,000
24 Total Bridging the Gap	\$1,000
25 Public Information	\$1,380
26 Area Hotline Expenses	
27 Total Public Information	\$1,380

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28 Technology	\$125
29 Computer Hardware/Software 30 Equipment & Hardware	
31 Software	
32 Supplies	\$300
33 Website	\$100
34 Total Technology	\$100
	\$200
	\$825
35 Committee Chair Post/Supplies	\$500
36 Committee Chair Travel	\$2,500
37 Pre-Assembly Travel	\$750
38 Ad Hoc Committee	N/A
39 Other/Nat'l Workshops	\$1,500
40 Annual Filing Fee	\$20
40 TOTAL	\$60,925

Appendix 2

Spring Assembly Evaluation Report

- a. **How did you attend Area Assembly?** 84 in person 3 zoom
 - iii. **Did you have access to the background information prior to Assembly?** 69
yes 12 no
 - iv. **Did you attend a Committee meeting?** 53 yes 25 no
 1. **Which one?** Literature 8, CPC 5, Grapevine 8, PI 7, Treatment 5, Finance 5, Hotline 5, Archives 3, Corrections 4, and yes 3.
 2. **Comments:** Literature-room was too loud, couldn't hear zoom, loved it, good discussion, great pros and cons. CPC-informative, great job, excellent, great experience. PI- eager to continue service work, great committee, Mark did a great job, informative and meeting other PI's. Treatment- not much background information, interesting, very helpful, good ideas and knowledge shared, BTG very good. Finance-Lynne explained very well, well run, great experience, lots of useful info. Hotline-great discussion, Kacie added valuable info, very good information, could have ran smoother with more information but grateful for the experience. Archive- great communication and discussing, Jody did very well facilitating and good knowledge of issues with the help of Kacie who helped A LOT, good information. Corrections- very informative, well led and well done.

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- v. **Did you attend a past Delegate breakout session instead of a committee meeting? Which one?** GSR 8, Concept 1, Both 11, No 30.
 - 1. **Comments:** very informative, excellent crash course as a new GSR, very helpful, enjoyed Gerry's approach, Libbie was excellent and informative.
- vi. **Could you hear in the Main meeting room and the committee breakout rooms?** 65
Yes 5 No
- vii. **Were there any barriers for seeing the content in the main room or breakout rooms?** 18 Yes 60 No
 - 1. **Comments:** too much light over screens, breakout rooms too small, small print on screens, sitting in back couldn't see over heads. Great job Technology crew!
- viii. **Did you feel you could participate throughout the Assembly?** 68 Yes 0 No. Any difficulties? 5 Yes 28 No.
 - 1. **Comments:** some talk too soft, rude participants, uncomfortable chairs, hotel check in and out.
- ix. **The District you are representing?** District 11 with 15 in attendance, District 12 with 3, District 41 with 10, District 42 with 2, District 61 with 14, District 71 with 4, District 81 with 10, District 93 with 8, District 51 with 6, District 72 with 5 and 3 who put Area 40, and 4 on zoom. This gives us a total of 84.
- x. **Is there anything else we could do to improve on?**
 - 1. **Comments:** hotel shorthanded, not attentive, no coffee for the 7am meeting, time management, great experience for first time, coffee and water needed some attention, start on time, great job and thank you for the hard work, check in and check out, be more open to friendly amendments, remind members to be quiet, secure cords on rugs, review and consider statements seem to be read-if not substantial review why spend time on it, consider asking questions prior to reporting, consider other cities, hotel has been terrible if not change cities maybe other hotel, assembly went well, pre-assemblies helped people to be more informed, getting background to GSR's, make Area tables more visible, appreciate the committee members and reps, great job, limit time on reports, conference went smooth and welcoming process, agenda items on screen like pre-assembly, too lengthy with voting, excellent work, awesome, grateful to be of service, 1.5 hours for lunch, Jessica did an awesome job keeping us on track, more time for questions and comments, no everything was great, tables were too close and set up poorly, my experience has been so enriched so my recovery grows, great job on Assembly, again more coffee (this was brought up repeatedly), fantastic, love AA thanks to all that worked so hard to make this Assembly possible, don't push items through to a vote so quickly, homegroup has taught me to take time and get informed, I felt the elder members pushed an item through that could have used more clarity and time, I think new people pick up on that and think it's ok to just get through the agenda.

Appendix 3

WCRAASC Quick Reference Sheet for Spring Bid Presentation

Put Together A Bid Presentation For The 2028 West Central Regional AA Service Conference Host Site to Present at the Area 40 Spring 2026 Assembly. This should be no longer than 10 minutes without question and answers.

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Great Falls & Hybrid Assembly via Zoom
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Note: The host Delegate is the only one authorized to sign hotel contracts on behalf of the West Central Region. Do not sign a contract on behalf of Area 40. Meet with the venue and fill out the document attached as best as you can.

Email the Area Chair by February 1st to inform them that your district intends to present its bid so that your presentation can be added to the spring agenda.

Submit your presentation (slides or PDF) and filled out hotel information document below to tech@aa-montana.org **AND** chair@aa-montana.org by April 4th, 2026 to be added to the spring 2026 assembly.

Your presentation should cover information about the key logistics - cost of hotel rooms, number of hotel rooms available, cost of meeting space, and capacity for hybrid event (or intention not to have a hybrid event), etc. Remember that the proposals will be voted on by Area Assembly and that the ultimate goal is to attract attendees from across the West Central Region. You should therefore, consider including in your slides any “selling points” that you believe make your site a more attractive option than other sites.

Where

Why

Relevant Costs

Reference to the West Central Regional AA Service Conference (WCRAASC) 2025 Report: “We had 365 registrations and 209 people in person. We planned for 400 registrations based loosely on the comparative analysis numbers provided in May 2024. This was prior to the committee’s decision to have a technology option and we noted the attendance in 2018 in Area 24 at 397. registrations.

Fill out and submit with your presentation slides as described above The dates for the WCRAASC are firmly established as the weekend that includes the first day of March which falls on the weekend.
<https://westcentralregion.org/>

Hotel: _____

Address: _____ Price per night

base rate: _____ Price per night including

taxes: _____

Will price be honored for _____ days before the event and _____ days after the event

Maximum number of people allowed per room at this rate two, four?

Is there a charge for parking _____/day yes no

Is there a charge for Wi-Fi _____/day yes no

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Is a breakfast included? Continental hot no

Is there a free shuttle service to the airport yes no

How often does it run _____ If no – price for
shuttle _____ per trip

How many complimentary room nights _____ per _____ room nights Please include
surrounding places to eat within walking distance or by shuttle

Cost for the meeting facilities: If a hotel offers the meeting space at no cost or at a discount based on the number of room nights, the basis for the cost should also be explained (e.g., "...the hotel meeting room will be free if we sell 75 room nights..."). If the need for additional funds is foreseen, please explain during the bid presentation.

Are(Is) there room(s) available

- a. Main room to seat 400-500 people.
- b. Separate meeting room for Thursday night Delegate's only meeting.
- c. Meeting room for Friday Current and Past Delegates and Trustees meeting.
- d. Rooms for breakout sessions to seat 40-50.
- e. Space required for host area's archives, literature, and Grapevine/La Vina materials/display and for those recording the event (could be a virtual tech as part of the committee, if host committee decides to offer a hybrid option)
- f. Determine location for registration.
- g. Determine location for coffee.

Meeting room costs

With _____ Room Nights _____

Cost without Room Nights _____

Setup fee _____

Display tables – cost each _____ total _____ 2 microphones

– _____ per day x 3 days _____

Podium – _____ per day x 3 days _____

Sound system – _____ per day x 3 days _____

Audio/video hookup fee _____

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Are there TV monitors in the meeting room – yes, no

If yes type of input jacks – _____

8x8 screens? per day _____

Projector per day _____

Usage fee if we provide our own projector _____

Hospitality Room converted sleeping room meeting room per day _____ Is a

professional taper available to record yes no

Is there a professional translator or signer available yes no

Coffee costs and terms. If we are buying coffee as part of a hotel deal, what is the price per gallon?

If we are allowed to make our own coffee, what are the limitations (e.g. we can only have coffee in a hospitality room, etc.)