

# Area 76 Tributary

Representing Alcoholics Anonymous in Wyoming

<https://wyomingaa.org>

Information available on website (to name a few)

- Get Connected: Meeting Guide/Online Meetings/Beyond Area 76
- Hotline Numbers and Contacts
- Calendar of Events
- Tributary Newsletter Archive
- Area Guidelines (Anonymity, Assembly, Convention, Finance, Service and Procedures Manual, and Website Guidelines)
- Area 76 Member Forms and Reports (AA Group History, Budget Request, Committee Report, DCM Report, District Report, Expense Reimbursement, Floor Actions, Group-Information Change, New Group, and Officer Report)

## Who we are:

Area 76 is comprised of the entire state of Wyoming and has 12 Districts within its boundaries. We are part of the West Central Region that includes Wyoming, Montana, South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, and Southern and Northern Minnesota Areas. Welcome - Kimball Nebraska is now part of District 12, Cheyenne.

A request for articles/stories went through the area email distribution list, talked about at the monthly area gathering and more than 20 personal requests to Area 76 Officers, Committee Chairs, and members of Area 76 sent. Any member of Alcoholics Anonymous is welcome to write a story sharing their experience, strength and hope as it relates to recovery, unity, and service. G.S.R.'s, D.C.M.'s, Area Officers and Committee Chairs are encouraged to write about the joys, challenges, and lessons experienced through service work or sharing about upcoming events in your groups/districts. Send articles, artwork, comments, events, jokes, and/or suggestions to [m4wyoming@gmail.com](mailto:m4wyoming@gmail.com). My hope is that you enjoy reading the articles/stories submitted and will be inspired to share your own experience, strength, and hope in future editions. The deadline for the next Tributary is August 15, 2025.

This issue has an article about a group that did not adhere to the traditions, a G.S.R.'s perspective, members experience serving Area 76 as an officer or committee chair, Concept VII, and chair the planning committee for an area assembly.

## 2025 Upcoming Events

June 13-15

Devils Tower Campout  
Devils Tower KOA

June 20-22

June Jamboree  
Casper

July 3-6

International Convention 2025  
Vancouver, BC (Canada)

August 22-24

Summer Business Assembly  
Riverton

August 29-September 1

Recovery Campout  
Sinks Canyon

September 19-21

West Central Regional Forum  
Omaha

See page 11 of this issue....

## Welcome to Panel 74!

### Area Officers

Delegate: Steve M. (Gillette)  
Alt. Delegate: Kat S. (Mills)  
Chair: Pete F. (Cody)  
Secretary: Diane P. (Etna)  
Treasurer: Fran O. (Cody)  
Registrar: Brook R. (Jackson)  
Archivist: Jeff M. (Cheyenne)

### Area Committee Chairs

Archives: Michelle O. (Casper)  
Corrections: Rich K. (Cody)  
Finance: Tim D. (Sheridan)  
GAP: John S. (Cody)  
Grapevine: Sandi H. (Rock Springs)  
Guidelines/Reports & Charter: Maria C. (Wilson)  
Literature: Sam F. (Rock Springs)  
PI/CPC: Sally W. (Riverton)  
Treatment & Accessibilities: Bill H. (Cheyenne)  
Tributary: Mary M. (Cheyenne)  
Web: Mike B. (Grover, CO)

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## Happily, Ever After or Not!

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When I was newly sober, I attended a group which had just formed in my town. The group met in a wedding chapel, which I found delightful; we sat in the midst of lilies, candles, and confetti, and talked about recovery. The group was started by an AA couple; he had 10 years sobriety, she had been sober only a few months, like me.

Initially, all went well. The lovebirds attracted many newcomers and the group grew. But then the troubles started. The couple wanted to hold onto all the authority of the group and not have elections or officers. We weren't raising enough money in the seventh tradition to pay the rent. They kept saying newcomers didn't have to contribute any money; instead, they suggested we ask one of the big established groups in town to help us out financially.

Then the lovers began arguing, at first behind the scenes, but soon even during meetings. They disagreed on meeting format, on how to work the steps, even on what words meant in the Big Book. I was a newcomer and found all of this puzzling and upsetting, but didn't feel I could do anything about it. I did talk with a sober woman in another group. She asked a few questions and then made the remark, "I don't suppose that group will last very long". At the time I found this remark shocking and heartless; why didn't she do something to help them out? She turned out to be right. The group soon collapsed; looking back on it now, I find this not at all surprising. Many traditions were violated. For example:

**Tradition Two:** the leaders were not trusted servants; they wanted to govern. They made all the decisions with no consultation and no opportunity for others to serve at Group level. A couple which includes a newcomer do not make good founders!

**Tradition Four:** decisions made in the management of this group caused distress to myself and other newcomers. We didn't realize that this wasn't the AA way. I was fortunately attending many other groups, but there were people who went only to this meeting, and this damaged AA's reputation and effectiveness.

**Tradition Five:** this group's primary purpose was not to carry the message. It was really to enhance the romance of the lovebirds who founded it. When they weren't getting along, the group foundered.

**Tradition Seven:** this one is pretty obvious. The group couldn't support itself financially and went begging from other AA groups.

The group never had a GSR. It never contributed to Intergroup or GSO. The Traditions were never referred to or discussed. I carried all this with me as I trudged the road of happy destiny. The experience provided many lessons. Years later, I was privileged to help in establishing a new group. We stuck to the Traditions, and the group thrives to this day.

Anne T – Wednesday Women's Group - Cheyenne

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### Area 76 Winter Business Assembly 2025 Summary

*From the perspective of a GSR of the Cheyenne Women's Group*

The event took place in Rock Springs, Wyoming, and several notable moments stood out on Saturday.

#### **Archives Motion:**

A motion from the Archives table proposed reducing the archives chair position term from 8 years to 4 years. Initially, I agreed that 8 years seemed lengthy, but after hearing from experienced members, I understood the importance of stability in this role. The archives are crucial for preserving AA's history, and frequent changes could jeopardize their security. Thus, the commitment to this position is significant.

#### **Floor Action:**

Towards the end of the day, a floor action related to the general service conference sparked heated debate. The specifics were unclear to me, but the group decided against tabling the topic and voted to proceed with the floor action.

#### **Tributary Rebirth:**

A highlight was the revival of the tributary, an important AA publication. Mary M., from Cheyenne, volunteered to take on this role, and her commitment was met with gratitude from everyone.

Overall, the assembly proceeded smoothly with respectful discussions. As an observer, I found the process intriguing, even though I didn't fully grasp the agenda or details of the conversations. Linzi S– Wednesday Women's Group - Cheyenne

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## A.A. Service in Area 76

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### Serving as Delegate

Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) is in the business of saving lives! As Delegates we get two (2) years to be a small part of shaping how that's done in A.A. as a whole.

Bill W. Said, "With opportunity to serve comes responsibility," which to me means serving to the best of my ability!

I won't waste a bunch of time stating what you can read in Chapter 5 of the A.A. Service Manual. I will ask a few questions and make a few statements you may want to reflect on if you're considering serving as Delegate.

- Are you grounded in the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts? Familiar with the A.A. Service Manual, the books; 12 Steps & 12 Traditions, AA comes of Age and Language of the Heart?
- Do you have a home group? Do you have a sponsor who's involved in general service or a service sponsor? Are you working with newcomers (i.e. one on one, or in a jail or prison settings)?
- I ask because these are the things that bring me back to our primary purpose when I get strung out on the "business" of A.A. and some of the negative aspects therein. Bill W. in a Grapevine article July 1946 talks about spiritual landmarks. Points in life where you turn back or recommit to a life of recovery. I've experienced a few of these in my journey to happy destiny so far. And a few more since becoming Delegate.
- Are you willing to have your faith in a God as in Tradition 2, your love for and faith in our program of recovery and the fellowship tested?
- Are you willing to believe that things will work out? If so, you will see opportunities! If not, you see obstacles! We must try to be part of the solution, which is much harder than just pointing out the problems.
- We must make an effort to show how fun and enjoyable General Service work is to attract the best possible candidates for the positions we hold now.
- To listen with an open mind to an alternate view point or minority opinion. And be willing to have your opinion changed by this discussion and new facts.
- Are you willing to work with people whom you may not like or have a different life style for the greater good of A.A. (Principles before personalities and live it?)
- Are you willing to read all the background material and fully get ready for the agenda at the Conference? (i.e. West Central Service Conference and Area assembly)
- Are you willing to stand up for what you feel is best for AA, even if alone in your opinion?
- Do you have the time to commit to this position? 10 hours a month on average, excluding February-May which is about 30-40 hours per month.
- Have you talked to your family and employer about this time and travel commitment? Not only to the Conference, but also around our great state reporting back about Conference.
- Are you willing to attend the seemingly endless phone calls, messages and zoom meetings, most of which run on east coast time?
- The biggest part of this job is communication up and down the inverted triangle. (It's also the biggest challenge in AA as a whole). This communication needs to be done in my opinion with complete transparency, integrity, and humility.

The bottom line is, are you willing to go to any lengths to ensure A.A. is here and as strong as ever for alcoholics to come? That our primary purpose is always at the forefront of our thoughts and actions. And our message of hope and recovery remains the same as our co-founders left for us!

We were left a program of action, so let's pick up our spiritual kit of tools and make sure we are exposing the newcomer to all 36 principles of our 3 legacies. And showing them by example how to live these principles to the best of our ability. Let me end by saying, I love and thoroughly enjoy being your Delegate. I'm truly humbled for the opportunity to serve A.A. and Area 76 in this capacity. And I am forever grateful for the spiritual and personal growth this experience has given me!

Please remember God doesn't call the equipped he equips the ones he calls!

God bless, Steve M.

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## A.A. Service in Area 76 Continued

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### Alternate Delegate

Hi everyone! My name is Kat, and I am an alcoholic. I am currently serving as the Panel 74 Alternate Delegate for Area 76. In April of 2024, when I decided to stand for this service commitment, I considered the qualifications of Delegate to ensure that I would be able to serve in that capacity, if needed. In the AA Service Manual it describes the Alternate Delegate, "Areas also elect alternate delegates. The alternate serves as a valuable assistant, often traveling with the delegate or giving reports for them. In some areas, the alternate delegate may serve some special function on the area committee. Many area committee treasuries recognize the need to support the alternate's expenses separately from the delegate's." (p.34)

I am grateful that our current Delegate has been able to fulfill the commitment of attending the General Service Conferences, the Area Assemblies, and provide reports to the Fellowship. I don't typically travel with our Delegate, but we do end up in a lot of places at the same time! This has provided me with the opportunity to watch and learn from his experience. Our Delegate has been very good about communicating with me regularly and that has helped me feel more comfortable in serving as his alternate. Our conversations are usually in depth about how we practice AA principles in all our affairs, and he shares his experience freely about being involved in the General Service Conference process. It has truly been a bright spot to listen to his Delegate's reports, to serve on the West Central Regional AA Service Conference planning committee with him, and to be an observer during his contributions to the West Central Regional Delegates meetings. His dedication to Alcoholics Anonymous sets a high standard and I am grateful to be able to be a part of this journey.

As Alternate Delegate, I have been asked to facilitate workshops regarding General Service. This has been a fun learning experience for me to prepare and present information about AA service. Traveling in Area 76 to events and participating has been another highlight of being Alternate Delegate. Additionally, it is customary in our Area for the Alternate Delegate to be a part of the GAP committee. The GAP Committee discusses the information from the General Service Conference committees that don't have a corresponding Area committee. The committees covered by the GAP committee are Policy & Admissions, Agenda, Trustees, and International Conventions/Regional Forums.

My understanding of spiritual principles deepens each time I am able to participate in an AA service commitment. If you are considering standing for Alternate Delegate in the upcoming rotation, I would highly recommend this experience. It has truly been a privilege and honor to serve Area 76.

Kat S. – Last Chance Group

### Chairman Experience

Howdy!

I hope this finds everyone blessed and well! When I stood for a service position at our election assembly, I felt I was doing God's will and giving back because after all alcoholics anonymous saved my life. As I near the end of my rotation I still feel that way and so much more!

I've come to find out that people who are actively in service seem to be very passionate and protective of A.A. Some are well informed on current matters while others don't have a clue. Some are outspoken or very quiet. Some are stubborn or open-minded. Some are very spiritual or hardly at all. Basically, all points of the realm! It is not my job to decipher all that just to expect it. I was once told that sometimes in service I'm a dartboard and if I can't handle that maybe I shouldn't do it. As area chair I seem to have experienced too many things to try and explain them all to you.

At our last assembly as chairman, I had to field and conduct a widespread variety of stuff! Thankfully I'm guided by God (A Higher Power), The Twelve Steps and traditions, the A.A. Service Manual and "all" that's in it, my service sponsor's and my huge A.A. family, and the area guidelines for all things so I don't have to run on self-knowledge (Pete Power). I often think while I'm chairing an assembly am I conducting myself in a way that is attractive enough that someone else would like to do this (attraction rather than promotion). At least I certainly hope so. Being area chairman has made me rely on my higher power more than I could have imagined and my A.A. family and world has become huge! I hope at our next assembly you will stand for a service position and that you will not be pulled down by it. Instead, I hope you can grow in a way you never dreamed possible and find peace you didn't know existed. Until then I will be with you in the fellowship of the Spirit, and we will surely meet as we trudge the road of happy destiny. May God bless you and keep you until then.

Pete F. – Cody Group A.A.

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## A.A. Service in Area 76 Continued

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### Literature Chair

My sobriety date is 2/16/2013. Rock Springs Group is my home group and the reason why I am alive and sober today. I'm grateful to be a part of Alcoholics Anonymous. One of my early meetings an old timer sitting across the table leaned over and looked me in the eye and said, "Just keep coming to meetings and don't drink in between and everything will fall into place". I took that to heart. Since then, I have tried to follow AA suggestions to the best of my ability. I got a sponsor. I got in the car a lot with her and attended AA functions around the state. I Started showing up to every group conscience. Helped with conventions and assembly planning. My first position of service was the cake buyer for the group. I haven't been without a service position since. It was an honor to chair the 2021 Convention in Rock Springs. It gave our group something to look forward to during Covid. Everyone was willing to help and stepped into service. I thought it would help me overcome the fear of the microphone, but it didn't. It helped me to grow as a member of the group. It solidified the foundation to sobriety a little more. Last year I stepped into District 8 as secretary and my sponsor is the Treasurer. At the end of December 2024, I had influenza and missed a District meeting. My sponsor took notes for me. I received a text from my sponsor of the district 8 meeting minutes "Sam Voluntold Literature Chair for Area." What the heck! I complained about it for a while. "I'm too busy for that" My sponsor said she would help me, and it wouldn't be a problem. She always says if I can do it, you can do it. My husband and I picked up the totes of books. I was still a little resistant to taking on something new. Taking away from my valuable time. I work full time and have a family. My daughter is in traveling sports with every excuse crossing my mind.

Next, I was off with my sponsor to the West Central Regional conference in Casper. I had an amazing experience there. I saw others being passionate about Alcoholics Anonymous trying to preserve our fellowship. We alcoholics all have one thing in common to stay sober and carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Everyone there had a desire to be sober. They may have had different opinions and personalities, but they were sober. Pamphlets, policies, books, and technology may change. The flavors of Alcohol have changed. The effects produced by alcohol and the disease of alcoholism have not changed. The solution in the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous still works today. Then came the 2025 winter Business Assembly. I was nervous and felt like I didn't know anything. I'm still terrified of microphones. Another member prayed with me. Again, my higher power just took over and it's a "we- thing, not an I -thing" Other members were carrying the message of their experience, strength, and hope to help me through it. I am far from perfect. I want to be a little better than the person I was yesterday. I gained a whole new respect for fellow members in service at the area level.

After the Winter 2025 business assembly I realized that I had been idle in the program and just getting by like a robot. I've always heard AA comes first. If I put anything else in front of my recovery I will surely fail and end up with a drink in my hand wondering how I got there. I am responsible when someone asks for help. God is always doing for me what I cannot do for myself, if I am honest, open and willing. I may complain from time to time, but the truth is service at the group to the area level is the way to get out of complacency for me. I still hear those Oldtimers from time to time saying "show us how grateful you are. There are coffee cups in the sink that needs to be washed and toilet and mop therapy every Sunday morning that needs to be done." It has been a privilege to be of service as the Area 76 Literature Chair and to help for this year. It has helped me more than anything. It is because of Alcoholics Anonymous I am a wife, mom, friend, employee, and daughter.

Sam F. Alcoholic - Rock Springs Group

### Tributary Chair

What I have found most important and beneficial is communication. I request the area secretary email an invitation to the email distribution list. I follow up with different members in Area 76 and extend a personal invitation. In keeping with the Area Guidelines, I encourage all area officers and committee chairs to submit something (however brief), reminding myself of Rule 62. Each invitation is given with the same respect, knowing I am responsible to the members of Area 76; however, I am not responsible for the members of Area 76. Being informed about happenings in the area and region and not being afraid to reach out to the twelve districts and other groups throughout Wyoming. Thank you to each member, area officer, or area committee who have taken time to submit.

Mary M. – Wednesday Women's Group



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## A.A. Service in Area 76 Continued

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### Webservant: My Journey in AA Service

I was introduced early into the AA service structure. When I first sobered up less than five years ago, I had no idea that I would end up where I am today as I write this. I was a chaotic mess looking at a foreclosure on the house that I inherited from my mother when she passed away less than a year previous. Fortunately, I am grateful that my Higher Power was able to intervene and guide me to a better way of living. One person who has had the most influence on me in this program and my recovery thus far would be my first sponsor. With many years in the AA service structure, and even more years of continuous sobriety, he was a big believer in AA and doing service work in the program. On my very first meeting at the Keep It Simple Group in Pine Bluffs, which would become, and still is, my home group, he had me making coffee for the group. After about a year in the program, he asked the group if there were any objections to me becoming their GSR, and they all said no, so I became a GSR. Completely clueless of what was in store for me. I am aware that guidelines recommend two years of sobriety, with good reason, and I even asked my sponsor about this, but he insisted I was ready. So, I trusted him. It turned out to be exactly what I needed.

At my first Area 76 Assembly, mostly through chance, I ended up on the Website committee at a time when it was proposed to have a complete redesign of Area 76's website. I do not believe it a coincidence that my sponsor happened to be one of the individuals who fought to have a website for Area 76 in the first place and was able to share his experience. Though it was a challenge, the website redesign was approved at that Assembly and the wonderful website we have today was the result of that. Honestly it was a lot for me to take in and I left that Assembly with my head spinning but also a sense of fulfillment that I had never felt before. This program had literally saved my life and here I was, in some small way, helping the program to do the same for other people. Before my sobriety, and even afterwards, until I got into service work, I was a major shut-in who never got out of the house for anything except for my job, groceries, and family gatherings. Service work pulled me out of that. It pulled me out of...me.

Being the shut-in nerdy type of guy that I am, the Website committee was, admittedly, a good fit for me. I became the committee chairperson when the previous chair stood to fill another position, leaving the seat vacant. So there I was, not quite three years of sobriety, and chairperson of a committee that also put me as the webservant for our wonderful website. After more than a year in this position, this has been the single greatest honor of my life up to this point. It has not come without its share of challenges and difficulties. Parts were almost immediately overwhelming to which I can thank the support of our previous webservant for all the help she gave. I have learned, just like in my sobriety, that I need to ask for help at times. I am grateful to this day to have support as I could not do this alone. My favorite part of being the webservant is hearing about everything that is happening all across our Area. It could be a new meeting being added, changed, or even removed. Events like campouts or pig roasts happening. Also, neat seasonal meetings like the one that takes place at Old Faithful in Yellowstone. I am absolutely fascinated to learn what the AA program has to offer within Area 76 and my position as webservant and Website Committee Chair has allowed me to do that. No doubt, there are ways I could be better, and I strive for that progress. But I always try to do my best and every day I thank God for this opportunity to serve.

Mike B. – Keep It Simple Group

### Website Emails

It is a joy and a privilege to check the area emails daily. Connecting visitors, new members, or newly relocated members to meetings, groups, and other members is a bright spot. Having served in Area 76 in different capacities has allowed me to meet members and build friendships throughout our state, so connecting with others is not difficult. Communicating with the webservant and providing him with all the changes that are needed for the website and Meeting Guide App is a regular occurrence. There are instances where I reach out to D.C.M.'s for verification before having changes made. So, visit <https://wyomingaa.org>, drop us a line to let us know what changes have happened in group and don't forget to send flyers for all your fellowship events. You never know who may drive across the state to see you!

Mary M. – Wednesday Women's Group

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## Concept VII (“Power of the A.A. Purse”)

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The Last Chance Group has exercised Concept VII (“Power of the purse”). Concept VII reads: “The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the A.A. purse for its final effectiveness.” Concept I gives the Groups ultimate authority and final responsibility for the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, understanding that the Groups themselves rely on Tradition Two and the ultimate authority, a loving God as he may express himself in our group conscience. The Concept II essay states, in part, “The group conscience is out there among them, and so are the needed funds. The power of the groups and members to alter their world service structure and to criticize its operation is virtually supreme. They have all of the final responsibility and authority that there is. The operation is really theirs; they really own it.” These Concepts carry with them a great responsibility. As a result, we have been tasked with being informed and involved in all levels of our service structure.

Our Group recently spent over a year considering, discussing, and revising our letters to District, Area, and the General Service Board regarding our financial contributions. When we started the conversations, we were all of one opinion, and after inviting a loving God in and having a discussion about the Traditions, our minds were opened. It seemed as though resentment had left us, and we had become unanimous about the contributions to each level of the service structure. We ended up in a place we didn’t expect.

Our Group came to two conclusions. Where our District and Area are concerned, they are solvent in the accounts, their expenses are being met, and bills are current. We have seen that the Groups in our District, and the Districts in our Area are heard, and services are provided with thought given to costs. It occurred to us that, whether or not we agree with everything money is being spent on, we see financial prudence. There is transparency in reporting, and questions are answered completely. That is what is important. Our Group is willing to contribute to these entities as the need arises, and we pay close attention to the reports.

Our group views the financial support of the General Service Board differently. Despite our previous revelation about District and Area, we are currently withholding contributions to the Board. We discussed the viability of the service structure, and the Group services currently offered. The importance of the General Service Conference is undeniable from our perspective. The Conference is where the voice of the fellowship is heard. We understand this costs money. We gave consideration to the needs of other Groups within the A.A. Fellowship. We tried to set aside our personal wants and desires as a Group and we know that we are but a small part of a great whole. We continue to have discussions around when our group will resume contributions.

It is imperative to consider facts, issues, and principles. We reviewed final Conference reports and current agenda items. We also consulted past and current Trusted Servants. Our Group is concerned about the costly projects on the agenda to include the Grapevine App, podcasts, pamphlets, construction, etc., when our prudent reserve is dwindling. We talked about the inherent financial impact of withholding contributions, and the potential consequences. While we understand that one Group not sending money will have a minimal impact; several Groups withholding contributions could be painful, if not detrimental.

Bill was very clear in the Concept VII essay: “This means that the practical power of the Conference will nearly always be superior to the legal power of the Trustees. This superior power in the Conference flows from the powerful traditional influence of the Charter itself. It derives from the large majority of group-chosen Delegates in the Conference. And finally, in any great extremity, it would rest upon the undoubted ability of the Delegates to deny the General Service Board the monies with which to operate - viz., the voluntary contributions of the A.A. groups themselves.” Since the Groups are at the top of the service structure, it is important to pay attention to where the money is going. Our Group is seeing the power of the Board superseding the Conference and our Delegates. As a result, the Groups are losing the influence of their voice.

Ultimately, when we looked at all levels our Group would contribute to, invited God into our conversations, and considered other perspectives; we found that our District has more money than it currently requires for expenses. Our Area is budgeting and spending prudently. The General Service Board is spending more than it is bringing in, and asking the fellowship for more money, despite record setting contributions within the last five years.

We believe A.A. issues should be solved within A.A. The fellowship was left with tools to set right what has gone wrong. We have Steps to check our motives, Traditions which offer the ability to share unparalleled understanding and compassion for each other, and Concepts which offer real and practical tools to get us back on track as a fellowship.

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## Simply My Experience, Strength, and Hope

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Before the Tributary invitation was emailed out asking for experience, strength, and hope from individuals, groups, and districts who had experience exercising Concept VII, "Power of the A.A. Purse," I had started reading through our literature, making notes, and posing questions to prepare for my article. Since the invitation went out, I have written, typed, or texted a dozen versions of an article. Each draft included what I wanted our members to know. Guess what? Though I can cite a lot of our literature, I am only one voice in Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.); I am not **the voice** of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Two years ago, I was disheartened when 20 past delegates and trustees emailed the 93 area delegates to the 73<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference to instruct us what we needed to do. My response was, I would love to receive 20 different emails sharing your experience, strength, and hope about the challenges each of you faced. What tools and spiritual solutions helped in your service? I shared that I had a Higher Power, a three-legacy sponsor, and an Area that trusted and supported me.

As I shared what I thought was my final article for this Tributary with my sponsor, I realized I was trying to instruct the area what they should do or look out for in a passive aggressive manner. Thinking back to my response to the 20 past delegates and trustees, it was clear to me that all I have to offer is my experience, strength, and hope.

My **experience** is before I came to A.A. I was a taker. I would rob others of their time, peace of mind, and on occasion their money. Early on, I learned the importance of contributing my time, talent, and treasure. I believe the more I have (am blessed with), the more I am called to contribute.

My **strength** comes from my experience with General Service and the importance of having our groups' voices heard throughout the service structure. On a personal note, I have not always agreed with financial decisions my employers or my spouse have made. I know my spouse hasn't always agreed with my decisions either. However, I don't get to withhold my time and talent from my employer, and I don't get to withhold money, love, or support to my spouse when we don't agree. There are still bills to pay and home to take care of. I cannot be dependent on other family members or co-workers to "pay my way." In the same way, I have a responsibility to be self-supporting through my voluntary contributions within the fellowship, even when I don't agree with something.

My **hope** is that though we may not all agree with the group conscience or decisions made throughout the service structure we can recognize there is a need for groups to be self-supporting. When groups clamor for the Power of the A.A. Purse, do they recognize the adverse effects on our common welfare, our unity, our ability to carry the message, and sustain our services? The beauty of Alcoholics Anonymous is that each group is autonomous and even though they don't contribute financially they still have a voice, vote, and the right to participate.

Mary M. – Wednesday Women's Group

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## Resources at aa.org

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A.A. Guidelines on Finance  
But we do have expenses  
Contributions and Self-Support  
Contribute to the A.A. Birthday Plan  
F-3 Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix  
F-42 Self Support Card  
Flyers on Self-Support  
SMF-176 Services Provided by G.S.O./A.A.W.S.  
Supporting A.A.'s Services  
The Value of Self-Support  
The A.A. Group Treasurer

### GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

REVENUE AND EXPENSE	2025 BUDGET	2024 ACTUAL	2023 ACTUAL
7th Tradition Contributions	\$11,000,000	\$11,248,573	\$10,841,419
Literature Gross Profit	\$8,750,000	\$7,639,508	\$6,763,226
Other Revenue	\$773,275	\$831,236	\$452,137
Total Revenue	\$20,523,275	\$19,719,317	\$18,056,782
Operating Expense	\$19,326,943	\$18,684,246	\$17,474,874
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	\$1,196,332	\$1,035,071	\$581,908



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## Planning for Area 76 Assembly

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Hello, Area, 76, my name is Pete, and I'm an alcoholic. My sobriety date is February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015. I was asked to write a little bit about my experience in planning the recent business assembly in Rock Springs.

I have been the GSR for the Rock Springs group (during the COVID-19 epidemic), and also the treasurer for district 8. I have been fairly active in service (especially group service) since I made the decision to go through with the program and try my best with it. Service to me is cleaning the toilet every Sunday morning at the Rock Springs meeting hall, or chairing meetings as often as I can. Personally, I think service is what really helped me to stick with it. I was told to never say no to a reasonable AA request.

I was really active and excited a few years back when District 8 held the Area 76 convention in Rock Springs back in 2021. I helped the committee chair with many duties, and I think the convention then was a total success.

I attended a group conscience about 2 years back and found out that district 8 had the winter assembly in 2025. How could I say no to being the planning committee chair? It was reasonable, and my wife was the chair for the convention in 2021. So, I decided to put my name in the hat! For some reason, I was voted as the chair.

We held the first planning committee meeting soon after that. There wasn't much participation so early in the planning process, but there were a few members of the group and district that regularly attended those early meetings. We nailed down the dates, voted for other committee positions (treasurer, venue, flyer, registration/greeting) and continued to meet about once a month.

My first task was to secure the venue. The Holiday inn in Rock Springs was my first choice because they had been so great to work with during the convention. I talked with Heather there, and she told me that the meeting rooms were available for those dates. She also gave us a great group rate for the block of rooms. I suggested about 50 rooms, about half single, half double. She told me the hotel would not be able to accept the payment for the event until one year prior to the event. I guess we alcoholics plan ahead!

I attended district business meetings during the planning process, gave updates to the DCM and we received seed money for the assembly. The treasurer set up a separate non-profit bank account just for the event. As soon as we were able to pay the hotel for the event, we did. I had another trusted member of the committee secure the venue while I was working because I just couldn't get a day off.

It was then less than a year until the assembly. We continued to have regular committee meetings, although there wasn't much participation with the other groups in the district. I had another trusted member of the group who was better skilled to come up with a new flier. We added a QR code for the link to the group rate at the hotel. I didn't think to check the link that Heather had sent me. It wasn't until later that we discovered the link didn't work. I discussed this with the personnel at the Holiday Inn, they sent a new link, and we re-worked the flyer for the third time. We had other problems with the flyer, like the phone numbers for the hotel were for the wrong one. Bottom line, Double check the flyer for correct information! I'll remember that lesson learned.

The committee made sure that the information got to the webmaster for the area, and to "Box 459". We gave information to our DCM to take to the summer assembly to give updates on the planning process. There really wasn't a lot to discuss, as it was still 6 months out. We also had a committee chair find us a speaker for Sunday morning. Thank you, Al!

Closer to the event, I made sure that we had volunteers for hospitality, and coffee. Those were the functions I really had some anxiety about. I communicated with other members of the committee, and they told me not to worry, because we alcoholics always stepped up when the time came. And they were right! The other groups came together and had an incredible hospitality room. Everybody chipped in and made coffee.

Well with 3 months to go, I emailed the area chair with updates on progress. Everything seemed to be on track. I reviewed the area guidelines for assembly planning, and we were heading in the right direction. I made sure that the other groups in the district get involved with hospitality. That was a load off my shoulders. Getting closer, one day at a time!

With about 2 weeks remaining, I attended a zoom meeting with the area to hammer out the schedule for the assembly. The committee was working with Sandi H. quite a bit, as she had a lot of experience with business assemblies. We decided to review the "traditions checklist" for discussion before the ice cream social on Friday night.

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## Planning for Area 76 Assembly Continued

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How much ice cream should we get? How much coffee will we go through? How many cups? Bowls? Spoons? What about registration? Welcome packets? These were the questions to be answered with just a couple of weeks to go. We discussed these and went through our inventory of items brought in from the last assembly. We decided to get what we thought we would need, and some extra could be sent to the district with the next assembly.

The day before the assembly, I went to the hotel and discussed how we would need to be set up for the event. Heather made sure we would have what we needed. She also told me that there were quite a few rooms taken from the block. We gathered the items for the assembly, ready to go, after the noon meeting on Friday.

The day of the assembly, I was relieved that everyone was stepping up and helping out. It seemed that I was getting a bit nervous about the whole thing, just like I was when I was heading to my sponsor years ago with a bunch of papers ready to do a fourth step. It was just a bogeyman, I really had nothing to worry about. I knew we would all come together to make it successful!

During the assembly, I just kind of watched from the sidelines. It really made me grateful to be a member of AA. I watched our tradition 2 come out in full force that Saturday night. It was an amazing testament to me personally, and I will always remember our ultimate authority is a loving God as he may express himself in the group conscience!

Thank you everyone,

Pete F. – Rock Springs Group

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If your group or district is interested in hosting an Area 76 assembly or convention, please review the Area Assembly Guidelines and/or the Area Convention Guidelines. Guidelines are located at <https://wyomingaa.org/resources>

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We pause and we reflect on the members who have passed. We thank the God of your understanding for their membership and participation in our fellowship.

Member	City	Sobriety Date (if provided)
Bill F	Cody	41 years
Ernie O	Cody	
George G	Laramie	
Roger H	Laramie	
Scott W	Evanston	4 months

# Fellowship

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# Adventure

International Convention 2025: Register Today!  
Housing options still available!



Language of the Heart  
Lenguaje del corazón  
Le langage du cœur

Make plans to attend the 2025 A.A. International Convention in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, July 3-6.  
Taking place once every five years, the A.A. International Convention marks the anniversary of Bill W.'s first meeting with Dr. Bob and the birth of Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935. A.A. members and their families and friends from around the globe attend the event. At the International Convention people attend meetings, workshops, dances and events. A highlight is the traditional flag ceremony to celebrate sobriety worldwide.

# Speakers

June Jamboree

June 20-22, 2025

Izaak Walton Clubhouse

Casper, WY

# Workshops

## Raffle

Recovery Campout

Labor Day Weekend

Sink Canyon (near Lander)

Raffle donations accepted

Call Kristy 307-349-4493

## Games

# New & Old Friends



2025 Summer Business Assembly  
August 22nd 23rd 24th

WHERE: Holiday Inn & QT's Restaurant  
900 East Sunset Dr. Riverton, WY 82501  
(307) 856-8100  
Room Rate \$139/night 1-4 persons per room  
Booking Code: AAW Cutoff Date 8/11/2025  
(check in 3pm checkout 12pm)

Additional Hotel Options:  
Sundowner 1616 N Federal Blvd (307) 856-6503  
Queen \$51/ King \$79/ 2 Doubles \$84  
Booking Code: Alcoholics Anonymous  
Comfort Inn 2020 N Federal Blvd (307) 463-4115  
\$129/Night up to 20 rooms  
Booking Code: AA

Food: AVG \$8-\$20  
QT's located inside Holiday Inn 6:30-11:00am 5:00-8:00pm  
Trailhead 831 N Federal Blvd. (307) 856-7990 6am-8pm  
Rusty Truck 400 N Federal Blvd (307) 463-2626 11am-9pm  
El Vaquero 116 N 6th St. East (307) 856-1634 11am-9pm  
The Depot 110 S 1st Street (307) 856-2221

Committee Contacts  
Chair Helen W. (307) 709-0459 [helenucille85@gmail.com](mailto:helenucille85@gmail.com)  
Alt. Chair Seth P. (307) 388-0616/ Treasurer Brenda G. (307) 851-6014

# Laughter

## Recovery

## Unity

## Service