

Fall Area Assembly 2015
Yogo Inn, Lewistown, MT
Saturday, September 19, 2015

Cindy C. opened the assembly by welcoming everyone to the Fall Assembly and leading the Serenity Prayer.

The Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, Twelve Concepts, Warranties and the Montana Area Vision and Mission Statements were read.

Announcements

Secretary's Report – Pam C. presented the Area Assembly Secretary's Report from April 2015. The minutes stand as corrected.

Treasurer's report – Pennie K.

The Budget for the last 2 years has been close to 10,000 in expenses income has been average 7,000 the amount of groups that donate is about 50 percent

$7000.00 / 50.00 = 140.00$ that means about 50 groups have paid an average of 140.00 to cover expenses of 10,000 those 50 groups would need to contribute 200.00 if all of the groups in Montana could contribute to the Area they would need to contribute 100.00 to be self- supporting.

Actual contributions were around 2000.00 less than the expenses. This year we are at this time we are at about 6000.00 contributions 2000.00 needed to go to last year's expenses so we are at 4000.00 we will need 6000.00 in contributions to meet the budget expenses for this year.

Expenses are going up for the Assembly the good news is that we are now a 501 (c) (3) personal contributions are tax deductible.

The last couple of assemblies I have heard does your group have a budget?
I have these questions to put to you today

Does your group need a budget?

What Items do you need to put on your budget?

Rent, CAL, New comer info, (Groups at Work books, How Al-Anon works soft cover), Sending your Group Rep to Assembly. District, Area, WSO, Coffee snacks.

How do I contribute to the group so it can meet its budget?

We see that the Area spends about 100.00 per group to carry out the duties of the Area

The WSO spends about 250.00 per group to cover the WSO budget.

Some groups do not get enough 7th tradition to pay the rent

Old Business

- 501(c)(3) – Connie W. gave an update on the 501(c)3.

The process to become a non-profit entity with 501 (c) (3) is complete.

Here a listing of the number of things have happened over the last year:

- We received the Employee Identification number (EIN) in 2014. We needed to change the EIN due to our name change to Montana AFG, Inc.
- We registered with the Secretary of State of Montana and are now registered as a business entity.
- We received notice from the Montana State Department of Revenue requesting information that they need before we are granted tax exempt status, which was done in 2015. With this info, we received documentation that we had filed the Articles of Incorporation and had fulfilled the requirements set forth in law, with the effective date of, September 24, 2014.
- Brand Boyer, an attorney who specializes in non –profit companies, gave us counsel and guidance on a pro-bono status. Our costs to him were \$69.00 and the \$450.00 that it cost to submit the short form for the 501 (c) (3) to the IRS.
- The By-Laws which were framed using the IRS guidelines were signed and filed with the IRS.
- On May 15, 2015, we received the letter from the IRS stating that we are exempt from federal income tax and the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501 (c) (3). We are classified as a public charity.
- We were required to file Form 990-N, which was done and accepted 6/25/2015.
- The Business Entity Annual Report was filed with the Secretary of State office 4/8/215.

Going forward:

- We will NOT be filing Federal and State income tax unless we have savings account interest in excess of \$1000 for the tax year according to the Montana Secretary of State office.
- We will be filing a yearly Annual Report with the Department of State, stating our Directors, mailing address, etc. between January 1 and April 15 each year.
- We will be filing a Form 990-N for the IRS. The annual information return is due by the 15th day of the fifth month after December 31.
- We need to develop procedures to acknowledge any contributions by an individual.
- The treasurer will be tracking income and budget as we do currently.

Thank you for allowing me to serve. Connie W

- Social Media Task Force – Carol S. has had correspondence with the WSO and they are finishing guidelines for Social Media. Beth R. will be getting the information out soon.
- How can we help Area Coordinators/Officers be successful? – Take off the agenda, disbanded.

Committee Updates

- Guideline Committee – (Elaine D., Pennie K.) Elaine D. gave an update to the on the Guideline Committee. She had received several updates on the area coordinator positions. The committee would be a good thing for the Alternate Delegate to take care of since there isn't much for them to do.

- TEAM Event Task Force – (Frances M., Patty K., Norma A., Lori K., Shannon S., Michael B., Connie W.) Patty did a venue search. She called 2 hotels, got some pricing and the WSO pays for hotel costs. They got some information on the website for TEAM events.

Ask-it Basket Announcement

- Area Speaker Meeting Committee – (Pennie K., Elaine D., Carole D., Irene S., Judy, and Lori K.) – Elaine D. gave the report. They asked districts to put together something for a silent auction. The meeting will be at the Miles City Range Riders Museum again.

Coordinator Reports

- Group Records Coordinator—Given by Bev O.

Good Afternoon Everyone,

I'm Bev O., your outgoing Area Group Records Coordinator. It is the Group Records Coordinator's job to make sure the WSO has accurate information about each group in Montana and to keep the Area informed about contact information for each group.

So, here are this fall's statistics: Montana has 113 active Al-Anon groups, plus 26 inactive and an additional 10 inactive that are marked for deletion. There are 3 new groups since Spring Assembly: A Path to Serenity AFG in Libby, registered in May, Good Morning Higher Power AFG in Helena also registered in May, and Flathead Parent AFG in Whitefish registered in August.

We have 4 groups in the "Bounced Emails" category. These groups are: Scobey AFG, Tuesday Night AFG in Great Falls, Searching for Serenity AFG in Roundup, and Harlowton AFG.

I recently received a memo from Valerie Stump, who is Group Records Coordinator at the WSO. She describes what has been done to clean up meeting location instructions in the database. There is a copy of this memo for each district in your mailbox.

The other item I placed in your mailbox is the current list of groups in each district with their meeting and contact information, etc. This is what the WSO has; so if anything is incorrect, please let me know about that.

Every group in Montana should have received an update form from WSO in July. It is helpful if those are returned even if there are no changes that need to be made. That way, WSO knows that what they have is current. Also, you need to know that WSO does not send those forms on to the Areas. If there are any changes in meeting information, or if you have a new GR (for example), the only way we find out about that is if you contact us.

Does anyone have any questions?

I have thoroughly enjoyed being your Group Records Coordinator. This is a position I highly recommend for anyone who likes to keep track of details and who likes to work and

communicate online. I have some information to pass on to whoever is elected tomorrow, so please see me before you leave.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Respectfully submitted,
Bev O., Group Records Coordinator

- Forum Coordinator—Given by Kathy J.

No report emailed.

- Literature Coordinator—Given by Carol S.

I made an order in August and the LDC, for the most part, is fully stocked – including all the pamphlets, miscellaneous, supplementary materials. DVDs and PSA's are available upon request. E-communities has many e-books and free downloads available too. We made \$420.81 at the Spring 2015 Area Assembly. I also sold a \$15 book since then.

Total checking acct balance (9/18/15) \$63.50
Petty Cash - \$58 + (\$5 coin)
Total - \$126.50

Area LDC will be contributing a percentage of profits to the Area.

Thank you for letting me serve as your AREA LDC these last 3 years. I loved every minute of it.

Love In Service,

Carol Sullivan
Area LDC

- *News & Views*—Given by Sue T.

2015 Fall Assembly Newsletter Coordinator report 09 19 2015
News & Views— Report given by Sue T, Newsletter Coordinator 2013 - 2015

Hello Area Assembly!

The News & Views is a resource for state event information and Area news. We work closely with the website coordinator to post links to event flyers as well as making archived copies of the newsletter available. We have published four issues of the newsletter since the last assembly.

Montana AFG started sending the *News & Views* (N&Vs) electronically January 27, 2010. This replaced the paper copies mailed to groups and members. Our email vendor, iContact, gives us a yearly, prepaid, non-profit rate of \$73.09 per year, or a cost of \$6.09 per month. There won't be an increase in the annual subscription amount until we hit 500 subscribers; we are currently at 312, including 14 since last assembly. It's great to get notice of new subscribers every week. One of the great benefits of using the iContact software is it manages the email distribution group for us.

Couple of reminders/tips:

- You no longer see the "Forward button at the bottom of the email". iContact removed that option due to Canadian regulations following the DMARC changes. You may forward the issue from your email client or sign up via the button on the website.
- The easiest way to subscribe via [Montana Al-Anon website](#). There should be a [button](#) that says "sign up for our newsletter".
- Recipients can manage their account profile by using the link at the bottom of each newsletter. The most common update would be an email address change. If you are a group representative, our Area Group Records Coordinator, Bev, will be asking if you are receiving the News & Views. She is willing to assist to get you on the mailing list.

Please share your ideas on how we can make this newsletter better. We can always use short articles from the Area coordinators and District Representatives.

The elections for the next three-year coordinator terms occur tomorrow. Deb L., has been available to assist me with editing and graphics. She is the District 7-elect for Billings. Is there someone in the assembly who is interested in assisting with the newsletter production? I am ready to begin orienting someone to the mechanics of the newsletter process if someone plans.

There is a link to view and print the newsletter outside of your email client. Under the heading banner, there is a link that says "if there are problems with how this message is displayed, click here to view it in a Web browser. "

Thank you for the opportunity to share the Area news and activities with our Montana Al-Anon members.

Sue T.

Newsletter Coordinator, newsnviewsmt@yahoo.com

- Alateen Coordinator—Given by Pennie K.

October is Alateen Month

There are 5 Alateen Groups in Montana

1 Chat rooms

56 Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS)

I have a new form I would like to present to you for the AAPP so that when doing background checks it is easier. The new form Has the Date of Birth on it we will still use the. Form that the WSO uses but this form will be for the Area AAPP

At the World Service Conference one of the Chosen Agenda Items (CAI) Was

Is the current model of Alateen the best model for the future of both Al-Anon and Alateen?
In the Conference Summary you see what they talked about.
In some Areas why are the kids not coming?

As you can see in Montana we have five meetings with little or no participation from the teens we are ready with the AMIAS.

We want the teens to come.

So here are some questions I want to ask you and have you can ask your Group Members
How many of you have kids or Grandkids between the age of 9 and 18?
Do your Kids, Grandkids go to Alateen?
If the answer to the last question is no.
Why?

One District is going to have a Bring your Kids Grandkids to Alateen. They are going to pick a day in October and have everyone bring their teen to a meeting.

The thought of this is that if there are more than one or two teens at a meeting the kids might feel more willing to come back..

They talked about the CAI at the Board Meeting in July. The Chairman of the Board (COB) Letter says they want to focus on finding a way to encourage more attendance and participation by teens to ensure the future of Alateen. They are looking for at technology, literature they will continue to discuss this at each board meeting. I am sure there will be more questions to come The board of Trustees are putting together a survey for Alateen. Keep your eyes open for emails about this.

I have been AAPP and Alateen Coordinator for the Area it is a fun job and can easily be done by one person. If you have a twinge in your heart for Alateen I hope you will be willing to stand for the position.

I have had a wonderful time getting to be the Alateen Coordinator yes that is right I get to be I do not have to be. Alateen Coordinator is a wonderful service and I have learned a lot. I will continue to have a spot in my heart or Alateen. I wish the New Alateen Coordinator a wonderful 3 years and will help in the transition as much as I can.

Yours in Service,
Pennie K.

➤ Web Coordinator— Given by Brett H. for Irene S.

No Report emailed

➤ Public Outreach PICPC—Given by Audrey W.

Communications and involvement with local Outreach, Alateen and Literature

Participation with District 14, AA and distributed literature at candidates forums, community events and churches

Provided support to Alateen and bolstered our listing of registered groups.

Thank you for letting me serve in this capacity for the last three years.

Audrey W.

➤ Archives Coordinator—Given by Frances M.

Questions--any new info found on missing start dates for groups in your Districts?

Did you know that anything you ever wanted to know (or find) is probably available in the Archives? Here's a sample of what you can find there--Directories, Programs, Flyers, Workshops, Delegate Reports, Guidelines, Minutes, Newsletters, Maps, Motions, Financial, Agendas, Correspondence, Schedules, Histories, Skits, and more. The repository could be used as a great research tool for the Area. Just ask!

There is a box with folders in the back of the room for Coordinators, but nothing is coming into Archives. Maybe because almost everything is electronic now?

The Speaker CD Lending Library is on the back table, with a few new additions.

To borrow one (or more) sign the notepad in the box.

If you borrowed a CD, please return it there and cross your name off.

If you have any Al-Anon recordings to share with Archives, let me know.

Oral interviews--I have met with 3 longtime members--over 100 years of MT history. So far it's been great fun for both me and the interviewee to remember "how it was." There are another 12 potential names on the list, and some of them are in the room! These are digital recordings and will be converted to CD, and then added to Archives.

The only info I have about the archives in the storage unit comes from Jeanne H.-- 6 months' rent was paid out of a special fund she created and that ends in November.

If anyone is even slightly interested in serving as Archives Coordinator for the next term, this is a great position and I will be happy to work with you for as long as you need.

Looks like my next adventure will be with the TEAM Event.

Thank you for your support!

In service,
Frances M.

Took a Break

District Reports

- District 9 – Butte – given by Chris K.

Hi, I am Chris from District 9. Since we saw everyone in Miles City, our district has been making plans for the fall. We discussed voting at our May District meeting for Group Representatives, District Representatives and the District Secretary/Treasurer. We skipped the June and July meetings due to the District members having conflicting summer events.

In August we resumed our plans and had a picnic at Clarks Park with Al-Anon and AA. It was the best turnout we have ever had and everyone pitched in food and clean up. We made plans to have a booth at Junior High for family night and will put up a table for Alateen on September 24, 2015.

We are going to start having meetings to see if we can attract youth in the Alateen program. We have joined together with AA to do a workshop in October 24, 2015 based on the pamphlet Alcoholism A Merry Go Round Called Denial. We are having a potluck lunch and will have three Al-Anon and three AA members play the roles outlined in the pamphlet. This is open to the public. We have discussed an Al-Anon workshop on sponsorship.

Our annual Halloween party will be October 27, 2015 for Al-Anon, AA and Alateen. Many AA children come to this and we will promote Alateen more at all our functions. We obtained Al-Anon faces Alcoholism and plan to distribute it in the Butte, Anaconda Deer Lodge, Dillon and Phillipsburg communities.

There is a meeting now in Phillipsburg which will be registered. Our membership has maintained the same as last year. The Butte area has 3 groups. Monday has 15 to 20 members, Wednesday has 4 to 8, and Thursday has 5 to 10. Anaconda has two meetings, one on Tuesday noon 4 to 6 and Thursday 7 pm with 2 to 4 members. Deer Lodge has a small membership that fluctuates with visitors in the summer. Dillon has double winners and members from other groups that attend their meeting.

Phillipsburg is getting started and is cooperating with Anaconda to get started sharing membership.

In District 9 we have chosen our trusted servants to serve as Group Representatives in all three groups. Anaconda, Deer Lodge, Dillon and Phillipsburg have no Group Representatives but have given us contact numbers. Two of our goals this past three years were to improve our relationship with AA. We all feel that has moved us in a positive direction.

Our second was to have an active Alateen group for our District. We continue to struggle with getting a steady attendance. Our three AMIAS are prepared to start again on a trial basis in October.

My past three years has been rewarding and I have learned and experienced many valuable lessons. I have been honored with being the chosen District Representative for the next three years. So now instead of saying goodbye to all of you, I can say, see you in Miles City, with a happy anticipation. All of you have been so kind and supportive. Thank you for letting me be a part of this beautiful program of recovery. I am truly blessed to be part of this Area 32 Assembly.

In Service,

Christine K.

➤ District 8 – Bozeman – Lori K.

We currently have 14 active meetings which includes 1 Alateen meeting as well as 2 monthly newcomer meetings. There is a noon meetings in Bozeman every weekday. Outlying meetings include Belgrade, Ennis, Gallatin Gateway and Livingston. Our meetings range in size from 5 to 50 people attending each with there own personality.

Our district meetings are the second Wed evening of each month except December at the Fellowship Hall in Bozeman.

Our primary fundraiser, Gratitude Festival will be held this November at the Fellowship Hall in Bozeman. A tentative date of either November 14th or 15th.

We have been invited to participate in the planning of the 2016 AA Fall Roundup. The theme is Rocketed into a 4th Dimension. The exact dates and location are still in the planning stages. Jill J and Scott H are co-chairing the Al-Anon side of the event and their speaker committee has selected an Al-Anon speaker and have a committee organized to plan the Al-Anon activities that are a part of the Roundup.

We had several new GRs which is very exciting to see more groups become more active in district as well as to see new faces for groups that continue to be active. We continue to have very good attendance at our district meetings.

We have 2 new Alateen Coordinators, co-coordinators that have stepped up. Our Alateen (alakid) attendance has been variable and we are in need of AMIAS.

Our current web coordinator/archivist has redesigned our district website and we have a new web address: <http://www.alanon-bozemanarea.org>. The site contains information on what our district does, current meeting list, a spot for upcoming events and flyers, meeting minutes for the last few years and contact information for our current officers/coordinators. We are in the process of posting new job descriptions to replace those last done in 2007. Our hopes is that this website is just more resource for the public as well a way to keep our members informed. It is also linked to the area website.

We had elections in September for all district positions and filled one position of eight. We do have interest in a couple of other positions and have been brainstorming on how to attract

people to fill these positions. We have been without an Alternate DR for over a year. Some thoughts were to ask each group if they would have a meeting on service, and share on how it benefits your program. Another idea that has just been presented to me is consider a different meeting time for our district - a different evening or possibly a Saturday. Our evening meetings have been struggling so am wondering if that might also be affecting our district meeting. I guess I would very much appreciate thoughts and suggestions from others on what they have found successful in their districts. We have been announcing the open service positions at district for several months with very limited response.

I will soon be leaving my position as DR and am so grateful to have had this opportunity to serve. I still remember the first few meetings which were extremely challenging for me and how I have grown into really enjoying being the DR. It has been a wonderful experience with many opportunities to grow along the way. I am so grateful to the members who have served with me. We have all had a lot of fun and learned and grown much from our experience.

With Gratitude,

In Love and Service,

Lori K
District Representative

➤ District 12 – Great Falls – Alternate DR Kay S.

Continue to collect change to receive 12 month subscription to *Forum*; Also groups bring *Forum's* to meetings to share with others.

Alateen attendance has limited attendance

Discussed group liability insurance and suggested waiver: Early Birds is not responsible for accident or injury.

Groups are having interesting conversations related to personal anonymity survey in September Forum; look forward to the next two informative forums

Little Libraries in city parks continue to receive Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism (AFA). AFA was given to Great Falls police sergeant at coffee with cops September 11, and we plan to attend October 20 session.

➤ District 6 – Miles City – given by Carole D.

We were so very excited to have had such a great turnout for Spring Assembly! Being able to host the speakers meeting was awesome and attendance was fantastic! Learned a lot from every aspect of it! Thank you to those that gave your service!

On June 20th we held our very first official district meeting with Colstrip, Broadus and Miles City attending. There we did a workshop on Communication with Colstrip chairing it. We decided to

have the meetings in the summer or when weather was good. So now we have had two district meetings and continued with the workshop of communication with Broadus chairing it. Our next meeting is scheduled for October 17.

Our public outreach was putting Merry Go Round of Denial in the Catholic Church literature display.

Also one of our members while walking her granddaughter was able to put some literature in a mailbox that is called My Little Library and she said that it was disappearing. This is a walking path that is around Holy Rosary Hospital.

Some from Colstrip has put literature in Ashland and Lame Deer with the Indian Affairs offices. Hope Al-Anon on Saturdays did buy the 2 fruit tray for the Assembly and gave \$50.00 for the scholarship and two love gifts for the speakers meeting. We remember when we were in distress and there was donations given to us and now we could pay it forward.

Hope Al-Anon ordered 200 copies of Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism to distribute out to Colstrip, Broadus, Forsyth and Miles City.

Hope Al-Anon has decided to once again have a Gratitude dinner with AA participation. This will be November 14 at 12:00 pm and we will have speakers with AA and Al-Anon. We have had several newcomers come, but just don't seem to stay.

From District 6 - Area 32
DR Carole D.

➤ District 2 – Shelby – Eileen F.

District meeting every 3rd Sunday in the afternoon. We usually have 6 in attendance.

We have 6 active groups in our district. Attendance goes up and down.

We plan to have a Christmas party in December.

Yours in Service,
Eileen F.

➤ District 1 – Kalispell – given by Carol S.

District 1 meets the third Saturday of each month and continues to grow. We added two new Al-Anon meetings to our District: one in Libby and one in Whitefish geared towards parents with alcoholic children. This brings District 1 to a total of AFG groups.

We had our 7th Annual – Day in Al-Anon luncheon. Our speakers were Pennie K from East Helena and Debbie from Eureka. We had a raffle and cakewalk. Fun and fellowship was had by all. We had two open circle Al-Anon meetings after each speaker. Our volunteers made and

handed out sweet little CAL discussion prompts and we all shared our experience strength and hope. We had about 35-40 attend and made a profit of \$304.

Alateen meetings were suspended until Fall and at our District meeting next week we will revisit how to get Alateen active in our district. We are considering talking to the Kalispell Middle School to see if we can create a meeting during study hall. Many other options will be discussed like having Alateen meetings at the same time and place as Al-Anon meetings.

We had our Area Delegate, Connie, come to talk in August at Val Ps house in West Glacier. It was a beautiful day and the yummy lunch included salad, quesadillas and huckleberry scones and lemonade. There were about 20 AFG members who attended. Connie's presentation was very informative and fun.

Oct 9-11 will be the Fall Roundup in Kalispell. The deadline for \$20 registration is Monday (\$25 after that). I have forms and an Al-Anon schedule. If you want to give me registration I can take it back now. Note that the meals are a separate cost. You can still hear the speakers even if you decide not to buy the meals. Kathy H. from Cinn., Ohio will be the keynote speaker and Cathy J, The Forum Coordinator will be presenting writing workshop about our experience, strength, and hope – Topic Intimacy in Relationships. There will be door prizes, too. We will be raffling off a ceramic bowl and Al-Anon painted broom should be a fun event. Hope to see you there.

Love In Service,

Carol S
DR District 1

- District 10 – Missoula – given by Kerry A.

I'm super excited to finish this 3 yr. DR term. There were times I desperately wanted to quit, and times it felt like the last 2 ½ years were more like 30! Today it feels like I blinked & now it's over. I've learned so much about myself.

Spring Roundup is in Missoula, May 6-8th 2016. It is named "The Age of Miracles" at the Holiday Inn Parkside. Our very own Kelly P. is one of the Al-Anon speakers along with Mike S. from Phoenix. Gaaby the Roundup chair is still looking for workshop topics & Alateen speaker.

Patty K. our Alateen coordinator has been working hard on Alateen in Missoula this year. She lost 2 AMIAS but she trained 2 more to replace them. It feels good to be self-supporting in Alateen in District 10. There is an Alateen meeting in Missoula on Thursday at 2:15 pm at Garden City Church, and currently has 1 member! Patty has also ran ads about Alateen in the local school newspaper.

District 10 currently has 25 meetings and Missoula has 2 meetings on Monday, 4 meetings on Thursday and 2 meetings on Saturday. It is such a blessing to have a meeting every day of the week and now we have multiple choices 3 days a week!

P.O. is all geared up for the holiday season and we will have ads running in local newspapers from Halloween through the first part of January. Even is still working closely with Missoula Treatment Center, our fairly new in-patient facility coordinate volunteers to share about Al-Anon on Family Day.

Denali our Lit depot coordinator has personally been working on getting Al-Anon information and meeting schedule into the packet of resources that is given to families on domestic violence calls by our local police. I just got a text from an Al-Anon member last night that a friend in a violent relationship was given a domestic violence packet and it had Al-Anon information & a meeting schedule. This is super exciting for our district.

Elections are scheduled for Oct. 4th. Current coordinators are working on updating descriptions for the new term. Coordinators are going to share about their Al-Anon journey & how service has impacted their recovery. We've invited our entire district, have babysitting & a potluck and all hoping for an awesome turnout.

Yours in Service,
Kerry A.

- District 11 – Helena – given by Kelly P.

District 11 has been very busy since the last Area Assembly.

We hosted the Round Up in May and had amazing attendance (69 Al-Anon members registered) AND probably the most successful raffle ever (over \$1,900!)

Our attendance and interest at District meetings has continued to be steady. We have had as many as 22 people join us at those meetings.

As a District, have 11 meetings and a new Step 11 meeting based on readings and meditation (meets at 6:45 AM!) that is beginning to thrive.

We have been holding elections at the group level for GRs, and we have held elections for District positions and have most positions filled. Our perfect outreach person has moved and we are now looking for a replacement for her.

Attitude of Gratitude: November 21 at the Best Western Colonial
Pockets of Enthusiasm: March 18-19 2016. First Presbyterian Church
Alateen has been struggling. We have good leaders but few participants. During Attitude of Gratitude and Round Up, committee members circulated a survey (see copy below).
Has recovery helped you?

Then why wouldn't you want to give that gift to your child or grandchild?
Do you have children or grandchildren between 9 and 18 years old? Yes No
Do you believe Alateen would be beneficial for the kids? Yes No
What could Alateen do to improve the likelihood that kids would participate: _____
Change the meeting to a time and place more convenient? Yes No

If so, when and where? _____
Other? _____

Thank you for taking the time to provide this information.

➤ District 14 – Red Lodge – given by Katy K.

We have four well-established meetings that are going along well. There are two in Laurel and one each in Absarokee and Red Lodge. Our last district meeting was Saturday, August 29th at the Laurel Golf Club. Our next is coming up this fall.

Our district's annual fundraiser, the Christmas Party, will be December 7th at the Laurel Golf Club. It's always an enjoyable family event. Our next district meeting is coming up in the next few weeks. We discussed joining District 7 again because there are so few meetings in our district, and are still considering this option, although it's controversial. We asked Connie Wine to visit in July, for example, but only two people rsvp'd. Sometimes we get discouraged. This issue will be on the agenda for our next district meeting.

Submitted by,
Katy Kern, District 14 Representative

➤ District 7 – Billings – Brett H.

We meet the 2nd Monday of every month (except July); 6:30PM at the El Corral restaurant. We are still without a District Secretary & this continues to be a challenge at our monthly meetings, but we manage.

We have a local Literature Distribution Center (LDC). Our Literature Chair is Audrey W; she can be reached at 406-248-8433 and she has a new email address, which is litdisctr@gmail.com

We use a TracPhone for our information line: 406-694-5332. This phone provides basic information on how to find a meeting as well as the opportunity to leave a message for needed 12-step calls or if additional information is desired. Elaine D. is the Information Line Chair & she has a small committee of people that take turns holding the phone. This is working well for our district.

We have 14 standard Al-Anon groups in our district...12 are in the Billings/Lockwood area. The Tuesday Hardin group is again active, and the Pryor Hope group will be celebrating it's 3rd year anniversary with an Open House & potluck supper this coming Monday (September 21st). We have one registered Alateen group that meets on Sundays at 1:30. This summer, Billings Alateen also opened a separate bank account.

Constance H. is our Institutions Chair person and she is the liaison for our three institutions meetings (Newcomers, Rimrock & Passages). The district hosts a Newcomer's Meeting weekly and a "Meeting on Wheels" for Rimrock family week every 4 weeks. These meetings each have 2 co-chairs, and the groups within the district sign up to support the meetings.

The meeting at Passages (the women's pre-release center) is going well and six Al-Anon members went through the second round of training/orientation this year, which is a requirement for all volunteers at this program. The group uses One Day At a Time (B-6) for the weekly meetings but the books must be returned to the Al-Anon tote at the end of the meeting. We are allowed to leave copies of the Forum magazine and the women really appreciate these. The District also purchased several copies of the softcover How Al-Anon Works (B-32) for the Passages library; these are available for the women to check out and read as they wish.

Kathy M. is our Public Outreach person and she keeps all the district meetings updated on the Billings Gazette website. She is also distributing literature around the community on a regular basis & participates in health fairs, etc. when possible. She has been doing lots of work with the local hospitals, clinics & colleges.

On August 29th, the District hosted a Picnic in the Park. This event included speakers from Al-Anon and AA, as well as games and a potluck supper. The affair was well attended by members from both programs and we intend to make this an annual event.

Twice we have attended business meetings with District 14...on Apr. 25th in Columbus, and again for "Christmas in August". For the third year in a row, members of our district traveled to Coeur d'Alene for the Serenity Cruise last week...we grow in numbers every year, and this time we had 7 total in 2 cars! We will continue to look for opportunities for a road trip...

This is my final Assembly as District Representative for District 7. I want to thank the District members for allowing me to serve in this capacity. Of course, we are our own worst enemies and I fall short of my own expectations. But you have allowed me to stumble without judgement. You have picked me up and brushed me off. You have hugged me and encouraged me. You have shoved me when I needed it. I owe so much to the members of this program...I can never repay all that I have been given. But I will keep coming back and continue to serve when God calls.

Love in service...
Brett H.
District Representative

Roundup Reports

Kalispell 2015 Fall Roundup
 "And for that...I am Responsible"
 October 9-11, 2015
 Red Lion Inn, Kalispell, MT

Connie W. Delegate – Panel 53 - Report

OUR SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES, EXPANDING OUR VISION

Spiritual principles in all our affairs.

- To understand we are all here for the love of the Al-Anon Family Groups

- Our Higher Power is present and evident in all discussions
- Presume good will

Our roles at conference.

Similarities:

- To listen and participate in matters for worldwide Al-Anon
- Vote in the best interest of Al-Anon as a whole

Differences:

- Perspective
- Responsibility

Area Highlights provides service-related news from Areas to all Area Officers, Coordinators, and District Representatives in order to communicate with, motivate, and inform other service-minded members. The articles are compiled from Area newsletters and reports from the links of service and may be shared with other members.

<http://al-anon.org/members/service-structure/district-resources/item/256-area-highlights>

Comments from Ric, Executive Director

- There will be 100 copies of Spanish *Courage to Change* printed. When those run out, more will be printed.
- *Conflict Resolution* kit is available in Spanish and French.
- Meeting info from the WSO website will be live. As soon as the Group Records are entered will be available on the website. Also included will be meetings that have been delisted, phone meetings, on line meetings. They will also be available in French and Spanish.
- There is going to be a new community platform “AFG Connects”. The platform will be open to all. Anything that is an announcement will be here. Example, Group e-news, Area Highlights. There will be able to have documents attached. There will be a search feature. Members will be able to determine their own logon and password information. There will be videos to teach us how to use it. All members will be able to access this site. It will be going live this October. It will also be able to be used by iPhone and tablets.
- WSO is purchasing a new program that will allow the Alateen chat site to be available on mobile phones. It will be available this summer.

Area Dreams.

What are our area dreams, district dreams? What is the dream Alateens have for Alateen? This was a great workshop. We were encouraged to think outside of the box, to have no limits in our desires. We discussed what kind of resources we would need, how much time would it take to reach the goal.

Finance information.

- In 2006. The Finance committee was thinking abundantly and they budgeted for \$1,500,000 in contributions. In 2014, Contributions totaled \$1,512,388, an increase of 8.2% Over 2013.
- In 2014 the average cost of services per group was \$256.87.
- The estimated cost of services that were provide was \$3,970,232.

Montana information.

- 49.1% of groups donated for an average amount per group of \$126.57.
 - Total group donations in 2014 were \$6,708. In 2013, donations were \$5,979.
- Other contributions include individuals and contributions from LDC's and area and district meetings.
- Other donations in 2014 were \$1,886. Other donations in 2013 were \$2,765.

USA/Canada Summary

- Total number of groups 15,456
- Total number of contributing groups 9,461
- % of groups who contribute 61.21%
- The average amount for groups who contribute is \$119.01

Numbers of groups

- | | | | | |
|--|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|
| ➤ Worldwide registered Al-Anon and Alateen groups in | 2014 | 25,457 | 2013 | 25,647 |
| ➤ US/PR/BDA Al-Anon | | 13,146 | | 13,237 |
| ➤ Alateen | | 923 | | 968 |
| ➤ Canada Al-Anon | | 1303 | | 1304 |
| ➤ Alateen | | 84 | | 88 |
| ➤ International Al-Anon | | 9314 | | 9361 |
| ➤ Alateen | | 687 | | 689 |
| ➤ Electronic meetings | | 144 | | 123 |
- (Electronic meetings include phone and on-line meetings including Spanish speaking and meetings using 'voice over internet protocol'.)

Our World Service Office:

The majority of income continues to be derived from literature. If the groups who contributed last year added \$5.00 to their contribution, the budget would be met without the need to go into the reserve fund. If groups who contributed last year added \$25.00, the contributions would total \$1.7 million. THERE IS ABUNDANCE IN GRATITUDE.

The Board of Trustees Big Question:

How do we envision responsible service leadership in Al-Anon, a vision that inspires today's members to be tomorrow's leaders who are motivated by spiritual principles?

- Relying on the ideas in Concept Nine, what can Areas do to inspire members to grow and develop as future leaders?
- What is our vision of a World Service Conference embodying spiritual principles that meet the needs of all Conference members?
- What skills, talents, and abilities will the World Service Office need of its administrative staff leaders in the future?
- How can service leaders use technology to link members together at all levels of service, strengthening communication and inspiring spiritual connections within the service structure?
- What is our vision of an attractive and dynamic Alateen program that would meet the needs of today's young people affected by someone's drinking?
- How can we as leaders encourage individual Al-Anon members to personally expand public outreach efforts?

A handout was given to all attendees with the information from the 2015 World Service Conference Summary, pages 38-42

July Board of Trustees question: What strategies did your Area identify as a way to close the deficit budget? Comments from the members include the following:

- Encourage groups to study the Steps, Traditions and Concepts, especially the seventh Tradition and the first Concept.
- Ask Districts and groups for more contributions.
- For the Area, we could sell items such as cookbooks, necklaces, and Al-Anon calendars.
- Have groups adopt the suggested language on the Seventh Tradition in the Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual.

TEAM Event:

Look at the web site under WSO-Events and Conventions. The "TEAM EVENT" is found with the information to assist members in planning an event. Topics include:

- [How can my Area participate?](#)
- [Things to consider before submitting a TEAM Event Request Form](#)
- [TEAM Event Request Form](#)
- [What happens after the event is confirmed?](#)

Memorial contributions

There has been much discussion using spiritual principles regarding memorial contributions for the last several years. This is not about the money. It is about the fifth Tradition, caring for families and friends. It was voted to send the language to the Policy Committee. The language will be reviewed at the next conference with more discussion to follow.

Chosen Agenda Item #3.

How can we clarify our primary purpose while welcoming members who need our program who may have a drug addicted friend or family member?

Is Al-Anon becoming friends and families of addicts? Is the focus more on addiction than alcoholism? Are we diverted from Tradition Three and Tradition Five? How can we support groups and maintain Al-Anon's primary aim? Is the Al-Anon program being diluted?

This was discussed at the Conference as well as our meeting last spring.

Chosen Agenda Item #5.

Is the current model of Alateen the best model for the future of both Al-Anon and Alateen?

The importance of Alateen to our Al-Anon programs.

In some Areas, what is stopping our kids from coming to Alateen?

This was discussed at Conference as well as our meeting last spring. There is not a move to discontinue Alateen. What do the Alateens want in their program?

Lois's Story

Lois's Story (AV1) and *Lois and the Pioneers* (AV-24) has been available in VHS Format. The demand for the stories have been very low. However, Arizona wanted to use it at a conference. Since it is Conference Approved Literature, they were not able to copy it to a DVD. A motion was made to convert the two stories to DVD copy protected. All members will be able to access these stories through the WSO.

Thought and Task Forces Presented

- Thought Force: Create strategies to help the membership welcome new trends into the fellowship.
- Thought Force: Create strategies to show the spiritual connection of being a registered group.
- Thought Force: Create Strategies to show the importance of abundance and spirituality in money discussions.
- Task Force: Create ways to raise awareness of the tools available for Alateen.
- Task Force: Identify, gather and present practices that demonstrate a healthy, thriving group.

Upcoming Task Forces

- Acceptance of communities, cultures and beliefs
- Communication and strengthening the link of service
- Meeting types
- Technology and anonymity

Public service announcements (PSA)

- The new PSA's will be distributed in the fall.
- A reminder that the people in the PSA's are actors, not members.
- The target audience is young people, parents and hearing impaired.
- Al-Anon placed 22 in the number of times they are played out of over 1400 other organizations.
- When you see or hear a PSA played, please send a thank note to the station.
- If you want a station to play the PSA, send them and email or make a personal visit and give the "AFA". They figure that 25% of their audience is impacted by alcoholism.

Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism (AFA)

This magazine is focused on issues people have. It is all about hope, understanding and compassion. It is sharings from members to those who are still suffering.

- 2001, 13,000 issues were distributed
- 2014, 347,000 issues were distributed

Motions

- #6. That the 2015 WSC give conceptual approval to develop a piece of CAL based on member sharings published in past issues of *THE FORUM*.
- #7. To amend the descriptive text on pages 195-198 in the 2014-2017 *AL-ANON/ALATEEN SERVICE MANUAL, AL-ANON'S TWELVE CONCEPTS OF SERVICE*, Concept Eight.
- #8. The World Service Conference requests that the WSO send out the AFG CONNECTS announcements, as soon as technically possible, to any Al-Anon member who subscribes.
- #9. To adopt the following definition of Universal Understanding of Family Recovery:

FAMILY RECOVERY IS A PROCESS OF HEALING AND GROWTH FOR FAMILY MEMBERS AFFECTED BY SOMEONE'S DRINKING. THIS PROCESS HELPS THESE INDIVIDUALS MAKE HEALTHIER LIFE CHOICES AND DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS THAT ARE MORE POSITIVE AND SUPPORTIVE. This definition may be used at the District and Area levels in Public Outreach.

Annual Conference Summary

I have given you a brief synopsis of the five days attending the Conference this last spring. The Summary of the Conference is available on line. All the detail and much more are found there.

The link is: <http://al-anon.org/members/>. Click on individuals, then click member resources, and you will find the summary.

I want to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve Montana. Being your Delegate has been an immense gift and I am grateful for your confidence in me. I do not know what the future holds but I do know who holds the future.

In love and service,
Connie W.
Montana Delegate
Panel 53

New Business

- Motion C215 – Area will take responsibility for MT AFG Archives storage and cost of storage if necessary. Submitted by Kelly P. Seconded by Lori K.

Discussion was had about the Motion and different options.

- Liability Insurance – Kay S. wanted to have a discussion on Liability Insurance being requested by some meeting places and Health Fairs. Page 59 of the World Service Manual addresses this issue and it is up to the individual group.

Dinner Break

Evening Presentation – Connie W. Delegate Panel 53

Connie W. had a workshop on “What are your dreams for our Area?”

What is our dream for our Area? A Vibrant Alateen Program

All Districts are taking this to their groups and choosing what they want to do and do it.

- ✓ Alateen in 140 characters or less (Twitter)
- ✓ Brainstorm session between Al-Anon and AA
- ✓ Alateen in the schools – meetings closer to the schools
- ✓ Consult with successful Alateen groups
- ✓ Sticker with Alateen chat info, phone number in Alateen book or How Al-Anon Works
- ✓ Supply school counselors with Alateen information (daily reader, newcomer packet, etc.)
- ✓ 10 minute informational for parents through AMIAS (open house) or a meeting

- ✓ Feed Them!!!!
- ✓ Al-Anon liasons to AA give “Youth and the Alcoholic Parent”
- ✓ Alateen “something” in the Newcomer Packets
- ✓ Alateen meeting at the same place and time as your Al-Anon meeting, with AA, & Babysitting
- ✓ WSO give away a free Alateen daily reader daily, via text
- ✓ Work to have Alateen as part of the health curriculum in middle school and high school
- ✓ Poll current Alateen members
- ✓ Group homes – bring in meetings
- ✓ More Alateen literature available in Al-Anon meetings
- ✓ Invite Boise AMIAS for Workshop
- ✓ Alateen mailers
- ✓ More electronics
- ✓ Outreach to youth pastors
- ✓ An App for That

Sunday, September 20, 2015

Cindy C. opened with the Serenity Prayer.

Announcements

New Business Continued

- Motion C215 – Area will take responsibility for MT AFG Archives storage and cost of storage if necessary. Submitted by Kelly P. Seconded by Lori K.

A GR Count was taken, 31 voting GR’s

For 31, Against 0, Abstain 0, Motion passed unanimously.

Ask-it-Basket

If a group doesn’t have a GR, only a contact person do they have a vote at District? No, they don’t

The Forum is also online for Nook? Yes, the cost is .92 per month

Does a District Alternate have to have 3 full years as a group rep? Yes, just like a DR

Can individual districts produce and disseminate Al-Anon and/or Alateen promotional materials such as movies, podcasts, etc.? Yes, you can with permission from WSO so the message can be consistent.

What is the "Little Library"? People take one book out and put another one back in.

Explain what is a Trustee-at-Large? A trustee at large is chosen from anyone at the AWSC level in the United States and Canada. Do not have to have approval from the Area as the Regional Trustee does.

Area Elections

Voting procedures were reviewed. There are 31 voting Group Representatives present. The elections are taken by a paper ballot. The following offices were filled. Many offices had more than one applicant standing for the position.

Delegate	Elaine D.	Billings
Alternate Delegate	Carol S.	Kalispell
Chairperson	Connie W.	Clancy
Secretary	Lori K.	Bozeman
Treasurer	Pam C.	Absarokee
Alateen	Patty K.	Missoula
Public Outreach	Carole D.	Miles City
Forum	Kay S.	Great Falls
Archivist	Pennie K.	East Helena
Archives	Sue T.	Billings
Literature	Jill M.	Baker
Web Coordinator	Brett H.	Billings
News & Views	Shannon S.	Helena
Group Records	Libby G.	Helena

Volunteers for other positions

Registration	Kathy J.	Billings
Registration	Kerry A.	Missoula

The meeting was adjourned and closed with the Al-Anon Declaration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam C.
Montana AFG Secretary