

Spring Area Assembly 2015  
Sleep Inn, Miles City, MT  
Saturday, April 11, 2015

Elaine D. 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**

Cell phones turned off  
No side conversations  
How vote counting works  
Receipts to Pennie K. for reimbursement for expenses  
Speaker Meeting tonight, Dinner at 5:30, Speakers at 6:30  
Carol S. stated that Business is open for literature purchases

Introductions were made around the room. New Group Representatives were welcomed, 4 new GR's. 45 were in attendance, and 32 voting GR's.

**Secretary's Report** – Pam C. presented the Area Assembly Secretary's Report from September 2014. The minutes were approved as corrected.

**Treasurer's report** – Elaine D. gave Sharon M.'s Treasurer's report.

Checking Account Balance	\$2,781.06
Savings Account Balance	\$3,014.76

Also have attached the report handed out from Sharon M.

**Scholarships** – Pennie K. has money. Get with Pennie K. if you need assistance with your travel expenses.

**Old Business**

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

A number of things have happened over the last year,

- We received the Employee Identification number
- 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.
- We have an attorney in Helena, Brand Boyer, whose specialty is working with non-profit organizations.
- Brand is giving us counsel and guidance on a pro-bono status. When we file with the IRS, hopefully using the short form, there will be a fee for his time.
- I have handed out the By-Laws as they have been framed using the IRS guidelines. These have not been signed, however, they are ready to be signed. At that time, we will be able to file with the IRS.
- Once we have been given approval by the IRS, we will file information with the Montana Department of Revenue.

I have sent out by email, the history of this process. Please note that we have voted and agreed to go forward with this process, there has not been a motion to do so. For my comfort and the procedures of the Montana Area, I am requesting that we have a motion to go forward with this process.

Our Assembly did review and approval By-Laws regarding this process. Due to the requirements and complexity of the IRS, these By-Laws are not what we will be giving to the IRS. However, there is a huge amount of information in this document that can be used as our policy statement.

I would like a committee to continue to work on the details of the process we need to follow in our Area and be able to have a report for you at the Fall Assembly.

At this time, I understand that we will be doing the following:

- We will be filing Federal and State income tax for the tax year of 2015.
- We may need to continue to give information to the Department of Revenue (probably not)
- We will be filing a yearly Annual Report with the Department of State, stating our Directors, mailing address, etc.
- We need to develop procedures to acknowledge any contributions by an individual.
- The treasurer will be tracking income, budget as we do now, however, more detail may be required since we have the non-profit status.
- And I am sure more will be revealed.

Motion C214 has been brought forward to the Assembly reading as follows: Continue the process of applying for non-profit status to completion.

Bev O. and Pennie K. and Connie W. volunteered to write the policies for the 501(c)3.

- Select a Task Force for AWSC Meetings between Assemblies – A Task Force was selected for AWSC Meetings between Assemblies, which are AWSC members. Carole D., Lori K., and Sue P. volunteered for the Task Force.

## **Committee Updates**

- Guideline Committee – Elaine D and Pennie K. worked on and updated the Montana AFG Guidelines yearly with new motions and descriptions of positions. Alateen and AAPP are being updated currently and Elaine will accept any corrections or additions. It is an official document and needs to be correct.
- Area Speaker Meeting Committee – (Pennie K., Elaine D., Carole D., Irene S., Judy, and Lori K.) Carole D. found a room then had to find speakers for the meeting. Carole D. said they would like to keep the speakers local. They would like to pass the basket for tips for the caterer for the event. Discussion was had about some problems with getting the Speaker Meeting set up.
- TEAM Event Task Force – (Carole D., Frances M., Brett H., Patty, Norma, Cindy C., Lori K.) There was discussion that not much was done. After further discussion, it was decided that the Task Force be given a charge to “establish a place and date for the next TEAM Event.” This committee is going to meet for 15 minutes after the Assembly.

Took a Break

### **Delegate Report**

Connie W. read the daily reading out of Al-Anon’s daily reader *Hope for Today*.

This is a preview of information to share with you regarding the upcoming World Service Conference, held in Virginia Beach, Virginia, April 19 through April 24, 2015.

I am really very excited to be going this year. I finally think I know what I am doing!

There are going to be three International visitors attending from Germany, Mexico and UK & Eire.

There are two Conference Agenda Items:

#### **First Topic for 60-minute discussion: Chosen Agenda Item #5**

CAI:

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

Explain the importance of this CAI and how it could shape Al-Anon as a whole:

In Bill’s “Essay on Leadership,” he speaks of revisiting past decisions to see how they’re working out. Much has changed in Society since the advent of Alateen safety and behavioral Requirements. Cellphones and texting are now the norm for teen communication, background checks (and the administrative costs associated with them) are common and schools, once welcoming, are now reluctant to deal with us for fear of litigation over the inclusion of the three legacies. In short, is Al-Anon wasting resources maintaining the current model of Alateen? If so what changes should be made?

CAI:

The importance of Alateen to our Al-Anon programs.

Explain the importance of this CAI and how it could shape Al-Anon as a whole:  
I would like to see work done for Alateen to:  
Get Al-Anon members interested in being Sponsors, Coordinators, and AAPP.  
Get teens interested in Alateen and Service they can do.

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

Explain the importance of this CAI and how it could shape Al-Anon as a whole:  
The Alateen Groups are up and running and we are not getting the teens to some of the groups.  
What could be stopping the kids from coming to Alateen?

### **Second Topic for 60-minute discussion: Chosen Agenda Item #3**

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

Explain the importance of this CAI and how it could shape Al-Anon as a whole:  
Many people are coming into Al-Anon affected by others having problems with both alcohol and other substances, or sometimes only other substances. Our primary purpose is to help families of alcoholics and our only requirement for membership is a problem with alcoholism in a relative or friend.

Some groups respond by stating Al-Anon is for families of alcoholics and addicts, although that is inconsistent with Tradition Five. If groups do not have strategies to welcome newcomers in a manner that protects Al-Anon's focus while encouraging them to determine for themselves if they belong, we risk Al-Anon's ability to offer recovery.

CAI:  
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?

Explain the importance of this CAI and how it could shape Al-Anon as a whole:  
I continue to hear more talk of addiction instead of alcoholism at all service levels and within the groups that I attend. Our responsibility is to ensure Al-Anon's survival as a resource for families and friends of alcoholics. How do we ensure Al-Anon's survival as a fellowship for families and friends of alcoholics? There are many different types of addiction and we risk our program being diluted more and more as different types of addiction are entering our meetings.

The discussion for the "Big Question" continues.

The 2014 Big Question was, "**How can we as service leaders anticipate the future and Al-Anon's place in it, ensuring that the necessary resources are available with our spiritual principles as our guide?**" During discussions, members tried to anticipate Al-Anon's place in the

world 15 to 25 years from now. Contemplating the year 2051, Al-Anon's one-hundredth anniversary, was challenging. Among the topics discussed were societal changes affecting members and groups; technology influencing communication among members and groups; meeting formats; links within the service structure; self-support; and the role of our clearinghouse—the World Service Office (WSO).

This year the question being asked is **“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?”** This year's Big Question focuses on our vision of service leadership in the next three to five years, a time span that perhaps we all can better “see.” Concept Nine reminds us a “good idea can come from anywhere,” and “anywhere” is well represented at the 2015 World Service Conference with attendees from Bermuda, Canada, Puerto Rico, the United States, Germany, Mexico, and the UK & Eire. We Conference members represent the largest group conscience for Al-Anon and are a valuable resource for Al-Anon Family Groups. As today's leaders, we have the opportunity to share our vision of Al-Anon's future service leadership.

There will be a discussion on Memorial Contributions. This has been a topic of conversation which has come up due to a variety of questions that have arisen throughout the years beginning in 1962.

At the 2013 World Service Conference (WSC), a Policy conversation began on accepting memorial contributions from a non-member on behalf of his or her deceased family member who belonged to Al-Anon. This conversation came at the request of the 2011 WSC in response to a discussion on identifying information for a guideline on memorial contributions.

The Policy Committee began the discussion in July 2011 in light of Tradition Five and “giving comfort to families of alcoholics.” Once this Tradition was fully explored, the Policy discussion expanded to include a review of all Legacies and extensive archival research.

At the 2013 World Service Conference (WSC), members shared their opinions on the Memorial Contributions presentation, which included the archival timeline. Delegates were provided on e-Communities in preparation for this discussion. During the discussion, members requested clarification on the definition of “family,” “member,” and whether there would be a limit on the memorial contribution. WSC members also requested safeguards to ensure no undue influence or “ear-marking” and questioned whether a change to Al-Anon's policy would affect AA as a whole. At the end of the 2013 discussion, the Conference members requested the conversation continue.

At the 2014 World Service Conference, in response to the work of the Thought Force, Conference members discussed the definition of “family” and “member”. Due to time restrictions, the discussion was unable to reach conclusion. Conference members requested to continue the discussion at the 2015 World Service Conference.

Before we begin our discussion, members of the Policy Committee will present the information requested from the 2013 WSC. We look forward to this on-going conversation and your thoughts on this topic.

There will also be presentations of task forces, thought forces and committees. So as we say, “more will be revealed”.

Thank you for allowing me to serve. I have been honored with your trust and support.  
Connie W., Panel 53, Delegate

### **District Reports**

- District 10 – Missoula – given by Kerry A.

Our district has had a big push for Alateen this year. Hamilton had Pennie K come up and train a large group of AMIAS. They started a meeting on Monday from 4-5 pm in the basement of the Bitterroot Library. Currently they have had no attendees. But Jennifer is committed for a year.

Then after not having an Alateen Coordinator for over 2 years, Patty K. jumped in the fray and is the District 10 Alateen Coordinator. Now the district can train their own AMIAS. There is a plan to open an Alateen meeting on Thursday at 2:15 after early out at Garden City Church near Hellgate High School.

Public Outreach has been active in running ads in the local newspapers during the holiday season. Eve M. is also continuing to work with Missoula's Recover Center. This is a big deal for our community as we didn't have an inpatient facility for Alcohol for a long time. Currently we have a group of volunteers that go in on family day and explain Al-Anon, share a bit, and answer any questions.

We have a small committee working to get Al-Anon information into the packets that are given to domestic violence victims.

Patty K., the alternate DR and I are starting to plan for elections this fall for the new term in 2016. We learned so much, made a lot of mistakes, and am so grateful for the experience! We've been having the most amazing concept studies every other month. I've noticed that I really look forward to these meetings and am so honored to serve with our district. I am so grateful to be a trusted servant.

An update, Local Brownbaggers group in Hamilton has been invited to speak to teens at the high school by a school counselor this month.

Yours in Service,  
Kerry A.

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

We currently have four meetings in our district, all of which are going well.

The largest meetings are on Wednesday evenings – one in Absarokee and one in Laurel. Attendance runs between 10 and 15 people at those. The Laurel Monday afternoon meeting has three very loyal members and they've been going strong for years. Red Lodge regularly has 5 to 8 people in attendance. It began in 2011, so is the newest meeting, but has very loyal attendees.

Our next district meeting is coming up shortly, but date is not set.

➤ District 9 – Butte – given by Chris K.

Thank you for the opportunity to be here. This has been a fast moving year. Our Alateen group started successfully 4 days after Fall Assembly. We had 1 member, then two more joined. Two of the members moved out of Butte and the third girl lost interest and stopped coming. In January our two Alateen sponsor requested we return to inactive status. We remain inactive at this time, however, both the AMIAS are willing to sponsor and restart our Alateen meetings at any time if someone comes forth for Alateen. We have distributed posters to the schools and have distributed the bookmarkers with the Al-Anon hotline number, Montana Al-Anon/Alateen website and Alateen online meetings.

In October we had a Halloween party for Al-Anon, Alateen and AA and their children. We had a very good turnout. Everyone donates treats, the district buys pizza and we play games for the youth. We look forward to wearing our costumes and watching the children have fun.

We had our business meeting in January and have made considerable improvements in our treasury from fundraising. We are asking groups how they would like us to spend it. So far suggestions have been made to do Speaker meetings, workshops and panels. We had our annual Italian dinner on March 21, 2015 with an Al-Anon and AA speaker. This year we expanded our pasta selections and as usual it was well attended. AA in District 9 is very supportive of Al-Anon. Many help to set up and clean up and also bring food items.

We have discussed the Elections for the Area, District and Group service positions. Resumes have been distributed. We plan to vote in our District before June 1, 2015 for new Group Representatives and District Representative by the fall before Assembly.

District 9 has 7 meetings, Butte on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, Anaconda on Tuesday and Thursday. Deer Lodge Tuesday night and Dillon Monday night. All but Deer Lodge have Double winners. Our estimated total members count from all Active groups is 50 to 56. Our meeting format ranges from regular meetings per the suggested meeting plan to reading of Al-Anon books, studying the Traditions. We hope to have an Alateen group in the future.

Our newest order of business is to gather interest in an Al-Anon meeting at the Alcohol Treatment program in Warm Springs, Montana. We are discussing this with the members of all the groups as most of our cities are close to Warm Springs in our district. Our goal is to stir up interest in outreach in the treatment programs and perhaps will affect the attendance in our groups to spread the Al-Anon message.

This time I have spent in Al-Anon has given me so much insight and growth. I appreciate the opportunity to serve with all of you and look forward to seeing you this coming fall. God willing you have a safe trip home.

In Service,

Chris K., DR 9

➤ District 11 – Helena – given by Kelly P.

District 11 has been very busy since the last Area Assembly. We have 11 meetings and a new Step 11 meeting is starting this month based on readings and meditation. It meets at 6:45 AM on Thursdays. We have seven committees each with chair people who have been working on many events:

- Attitude of Gratitude: went very well
- Pockets of Enthusiasm: also went very well
- Round Up Spring May 15-17, 2015 Speaker: Kathleen B. from Alaska and the committee is working hard to make it perfect.

Our Public Outreach Coordinator is phenomenal. She is working closely with law enforcement and she continues to make inroads with Helena's high school system to host Alateen meetings. She worked to establish a closed institutional meeting at our local women's crisis shelter; unfortunately, it didn't get much support. She is currently working on ways to reach out to Veteran's families and our outpatient alcohol treatment program, Boyd Andrews. She also participated in AA's treatment and corrections community presentation.

Alateen has been struggling. We have good leaders but few participants. They hosted an AMIAS training this spring and are working with Public Outreach to spread the word that Alateen exists.

This spring we also hosted a GR training that was well attended and plans are in the works to host another one soon.

Our attendance and interest at District meetings has continued to be steady.

Yours in Service,

Kelly P.

➤ District 8 – Bozeman – Lori K.

We have 14 active meetings which includes 1 Alateen meeting as well as 2 monthly newcomer meetings as well as 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 their own personality.

We meet the second Wed evening of each month except December in the Fellowship Hall in Bozeman.

Our primary fundraiser, Gratitude Festival, was held November 22, 2014 at the Fellowship Hall in Bozeman. We changed it to an afternoon event in hopes it might be more family friendly.



Our attendance was down from our evening events. We had a potluck, Rick and Connie W were our speakers, a silent auction featuring gently used items and fabulous baked goods auction. It was great to have folks from Helena drive down to join us. Lots of fun was had and is a great gathering for our recovery community. We invite you to put together a road trip and join in the fun.

We have been working on the first ever budget for our district and just passed it at our last meeting. We discovered that we were spending as much money as we were bringing in and not necessarily meeting all the commitments we would like to. So is a start and will adjust as we go along. So have put some things we were planning on doing on the back burner for the moment. Next we will be determining a prudent reserve.

We have 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.

Our district website has become much more active posting our current district officers and contact info, current meeting schedules, events happening in our district, as well as job descriptions for our district positions. Our district website is also linked to the area website. We have combined our Archives position with that of a web coordinator.

The Detention center had made a request we provide them with the paperback copy of How Al-Anon Works and our public outreach coordinator is also investigating information available for our Spanish speaking community.

We do have several service opportunities available in our district and continue to take this positions back to our groups and talk to members about these opportunities.

We had an interesting request from a group last month to be added to our meeting list. The group was a combined AA and Al-Anon meeting. We told them that we would need to do a little more research before adding their meeting to our schedule. I contacted WSO and explained the situation and asked for guidance. They were very quick to respond and very helpful. They confirmed our concern about being in violation of Al-Anon's traditions and also passed on info on a pamphlet that very specifically addresses how AA and Al-Anon cooperate together and that neither will knowingly register a combined meeting. The meeting had not yet been registered with WSO so were able to avoid any potential controversy and simply explain the reasons why we could not add this meeting.

In October, Pennie K, our Area Alateen Coordinator came to Bozeman and did an Alateen Sponsorship workshop. We are now able to provide training for new sponsors in Bozeman.

In January our Saturday Morning meeting celebrated their 11th anniversary with a AA speaker, Al-Anon speaker and a wonderful Alateen speaker followed by a potluck.

The New Leaf Women's Group hosted a panel workshop on Relationships in February and have another Workshop planned for May.

With Gratitude,

In Love and Service,

Lori K.  
District Representative

➤ District 1 – Kalispell – given by Carol S.

District 1 – Kalispell, Eureka, Columbia Falls, Whitefish, Libby, Bigfork  
District 1 meets the third Sat of each month at the Alano Club in Kalispell. We have 13 meetings in our District that are well attended. Newcomer's meeting is Monday at 7pm and our newly formed Alateen meets Wed evening at 7:pm.

Alateen is going through growing pains but we are confident that our higher power will guide us. We have 8 AMIAS sponsors. Most Alateen meetings have no attendance. Since Jan we've had a few come only once. There are 2 therapeutic boarding schools in our area who want to unite to have Alateen.

Our hotline phone gets about 10 calls a month and they mainly want meeting lists.  
Bev is our Literature person and our Literature cupboard is well stocked.

Just this last spring our District invited our Delegate, Connie Wine to speak at Val Ps house in West Glacier. There were about 30 people who attended, our officers and guests attended. Val made some delicious food and one of our guests played the piano.

March 28th we had our 7th annual Day In Al-Anon and luncheon at the Christ Episcopal Church. Debbie M from Eureka and Pennie K from E Helena were our speakers. We had a cakewalk and raffle as well as an Al-Anon meeting. We made about \$300 and are looking forward to next year. The AA Round up will be in Kalispell Oct 9, 10, 11 at the Red Lion Inn. Kathy Heekin will be speaking and Cathy J will be doing a writing extravaganza. More to be revealed. Flyers are in the folders in the back.

In Service,  
Carol S, District 1

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

Last November we had a Gratitude meeting with AA participation. We had an Al-Anon speaker (Mary) and AA speaker (Bob). There were about 50 people in attendance. There were several great soups and breads that were prepared by our members and other guests brought dessert. Fantastic meal!

In December we did not have a group conscience meeting but went out to eat and exchanged gifts. Merry Christmas to all!

January was our budget meeting where we were able to feel not so much pressure about how are we going to send our GR and DR to Assembly. We were even happy about the fact that we

could send money to WSO, Assembly and for our District and still keep a prudent reserve. How were we able to get this far ahead was by selling calendars, and some of us increased our 7<sup>th</sup> tradition because some of us did not want to do a yard sale, or car was that had been discussed.

We have formed a Public Outreach committee but so far the only thing we have accomplished was sending out flyers for the Assembly to surrounding areas in hope that we could get more attendance.

We are still doing our meetings with the Steps, Traditions and Concepts in the order of the month of the year. When we have 5 weeks in the month we have an open topic or we had one speaker meeting. We are also reading *In All Our Affairs Making a Crises Work For You* on Thursday evenings and on the last Saturday of the month we do 10 minutes of the Concept and then read *Opening our Hearts Transforming Our Losses*.

Colstrip has changed their meeting night from Monday to Friday and they have picked up some extra members.

Broadus meets on Wednesday at noon and also on Tuesday night. It just takes two to have a meeting, but there is more than that. There has been some interest in Baker but nothing has happened at this time.

We are grateful to see all of you in Miles City at this time. This has been so exciting for us and we hope that you enjoy your stay and let us know if there is anything we can help you with.

P.S. The fruit tray has been donated by District 6. Thanks for letting me serve!

In Service,  
DR Carole D.

➤ District 2 – Shelby – Eileen F.

District 2 had a Christmas Party with AA, Meeting 3 times, not much going on in the District.

In Service,  
Eileen F.

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

October 2014 – Al-Anon literature given to Ukrainian physicians visiting Great Falls.  
October 2014 Great Falls Round up was successful. Total in Attendance was just under 300.  
There was a smaller group at January Al-Anon brunch possibly related to extreme cold.

Al-Anon faces Alcoholism are being placed in our little libraries in 9 parks throughout Great Falls.

Three groups use *Reaching for Personal Freedom* regularly. An Al-Anon literature table was part of March 2015 Cascade County Health Fair; used bulletin board and Al-Anon PSA DVD.

Alateen attendance continues to vary. 12 Alateen books are available if someone does show and meeting place now is part of program that works with homeless individuals.

Alateen word search generated at Puzzlemaker.com. Al-Anon/Alateen vocabulary generated and placed on Montana shaped cards used as memory game. These activities are excellent ice breakers.

Small poster using Alateen bookmark information generated and distributed to counseling offices in Great Falls High, CMR, Central Catholic, North Middle and East Middle schools. This information was mailed to other District 12 schools: Centerville, Fort Benton, Highwood, Augusta, Belt, Big Sandy, Choteau, Dutton, Fairfield, Power, Geraldine, Geyser, Simms, Ulm and Hobson. Info letter was enclosed.

In Service,  
Alternate DR Kay S.

➤ District 7 – Billings – Brett H.

District 7 – Big Horn County, most of Yellowstone County, Northern Cheyenne Reservation in Rosebud County

We meet the 2nd Monday of every month (except July); 6:30PM at the El Corral restaurant. We have been without a District Secretary for several months & this has been a challenge at our monthly meetings, but we have been getting by with lots of “stepping up” from active members. We have a local Literature Distribution Center (LDC) and our LDC Chair is Audrey W; she can be reached at 406-248-8433 or [andreannaw22@gmail.com](mailto:andreannaw22@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 new Information Line Chair & she has a small committee of people that take turns holding the phone. Other than a few glitches with renewing the service, this is working well for our district.

We have 13 active groups in our district...12 in Billings and one group in Pryor. The Friday Serenity group changed their meeting time from 8:00 to 7:00 (PM). The groups in Hardin & Wyola are inactive. Our most exciting group news is that we have a NEW registered Alateen group! We also have an Alateen chair person, Kelsey M., who is very excited about her position and is hoping to get Alateen into at least one other site in Billings.

Constance H. is our Institutions Chair person and she is the liaison for our three institutions meetings (Passages, Newcomers, Rimrock). 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 we are preparing for the second year of training/orientation, 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.

In December, we enjoyed participating with District 14 for their holiday party at the golf club in Laurel. In January District 7 had a Chili Potluck with speakers from both Al-Anon and AA. Both parties included games and lots of fun and fellowship.

We had members of our district that traveled to Coeur d'Alene for the Serenity Cruise last September, and to Rapid City for the Northwest Regional Delegate's meeting in March. We intend to continue doing these events and are always on the search for a roadtrip. Some are already planning for the 2018 convention in Baltimore, Maryland.

Love in service...  
Brett H.  
District Representative

#### Ask-it-Basket Announcement

Donne E. suggested for TEAM Event to get a 3 person committee to find a motel and date for the event. Lori K., Frances M., and Patty volunteered to do this.

Lunch Break

#### Coordinator's Reports

- Literature Coordinator—Given by Carol S

Area Literature is stocked and continues to be a success due to you. I encourage you to use the Alcohol Faces Alcoholism booklets for your out reach plans. They come out once a year and have stories from counselors, and other professionals, parents, and teens.

I haven't mailed any books out but am able to guide people to other district LDCs. How many LDCs are in the state right now? If you are interested in starting an LDC in your district contact me and I have guidelines.

There are many downloadable CAL materials on the members website...then enter the day of any meeting followed by AFG. You will then see "order literature online" in the top left corner of this page.

If you see any CAL that I don't have please email me and I will order.

Bank Balance \$134.29  
Cash = \$93  
Total - \$227.29

In Service,  
Carol S.

➤ Group Records Coordinator—Given by Bev O.

Hello Everyone,

I am Bev O. Montana Area Group Records Coordinator. For anyone who is new, my job is to make sure WSO has accurate information about Montana's Al-Anon meetings. I also notify Area trusted servants about new groups, changes in contact information and new Group Representatives. I notify the webmaster about new or inactive groups and changes in meeting days, times, or locations.

Montana now has 146 Al-Anon groups. One hundred fourteen of these are active and 32 are inactive, including 10 that are marked for deletion. That means those 10 groups have been inactive for many years and they will be dropped completely from the current records.

We have 3 new groups that have registered since the Fall Assembly. They are: West End AFG in St. Regis, Noon AFG in Polson, and Finding Peace With AFG in Culbertson.

There are 5 active groups in Montana with group email addresses that bounce back to WSO. They are Courage to Change in Bigfork, Scobey AFG, Colstrip AFG, Tuesday Night in Great Falls and Harlowtown AFG. If we are notified of new email addresses for GRs we don't change the Group's email address. If group emails are to go to the new GR, you need to tell us that.

I've placed group detail reports for each district in your mailboxes. They look like this. I've highlighted "inactive" when that applies and have noted which groups have "bouncing" email addresses.

Are there any questions?

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Group Records Coordinator.

In Service,  
Bev O.

➤ Web Coordinator— Given by Irene S.

I am Irene, Area 32 Web Coordinator.

This winter found many changes. I have been swept up with Life events.

I recently found some time to make changes, I believe I was able to apply all that I received.

I have been thinking about the question of who can make changes to the site. I believe there may be a way to do this: if each district page is converted to WordPress, (Open Source) then the DR's or Group Records coordinator from the Districts could then update the changes. I will need to research this idea and talk to people that have more experience in web design and maintenance.

Brett and I did not find the time to get together and teamwork for the site. This is still a plan/hope for the summer.

I did not cleanup the web site data. Currently there is about 80mg of 100mg allowed.

In reviewing the Area Guidelines, prior year's meeting minutes, and similar documents that should be posted; there are Full Names throughout these documents, which will need to be edited to maintain anonymity prior to posting to the Web. Once this has been corrected, each document will be saved as PDF so not to allow editing after the document is posted to the Web.

Again, when the district sets up a new meeting, the form that is submitted to "Group Records", if filled in completely should provide the information needed to update the website. This data can only be posted to the website after the new group receives their Group Number from WSO. (Please ensure the District number is included with this data). I have received changes and new meeting information with no District included, I do not know where many of the Towns are in the state, or which District they may be attached.

Events you have coming up. If they are AA with Al-anon participation and the AA has a flier on the internet we can add a link to that.

Basic requirements for posting: Consistent with the Al-Anon principle of anonymity, any data containing last names will not be posted.

I will not be at the 2015 Fall Assembly in Lewistown.

Thank You for allowing me to be your Web Coordinator.

Irene



➤ Archives Coordinator—Given by Frances M.

Personal thank-you card received from Joe T. the WSO Archives Coordinator re: collecting start dates for Montana groups. Thanks again to Janelle C. and Bev. O. for their contribution to that job last fall. Only about 15 groups are missing--forms will be hand delivered to DRs at this Assembly, requesting start dates from the GRs of those specific groups.

I am handling the Area 32 audio archives now, and the speaker CD library is officially open! So far, it's mostly my personal copies from Roundups and the 60th Anniversary celebration in Missoula. There will be more from Montana speakers next time. Also from the archives collection, I copied a recording of Lois W., Margaret B., and Henrietta S. describing the early days of Al-Anon. If anyone has a recording to contribute to the archives, please let me know.

There's a box of CDs on the table and a notebook for recording titles and the borrower's name. Some of these recordings are copyrighted, so please do NOT copy them. Thank you.

My personal project for the rest of my term as Archives Coordinator is taking oral interviews from longtime members about their history with Montana Al-Anon. I've made contact with Joe T. at WSO and he has been extremely helpful. The interview questions, a release form, and a checklist are completed. I've purchased a digital recorder that will create an MP3 file, rather than making cassette tapes. The list of potential interviewees has 15 names, please let me know if you have any candidates in mind and I'll add them to the list. I'm almost ready to begin.

This project will require travel and will be time consuming, but will also be very rewarding. I'll start in Hamilton and work my way further around the state. I can possibly do interviews at Assemblies and Roundups. I'll report on progress in the fall.

Thank you for allowing me to serve in this interesting position, Frances M.

➤ Alateen Coordinator—Given by Pennie K.

Pennie Kittilson Alateen Coordinator / Al-Anon Area Process Person  
Hamilton, Eureka, Kalispell, Helena, Bozeman, Great Falls, Billings, Missoula, are the towns that have Active Alateen in them.

Eureka Bozeman Hamilton are the Alateen meetings that kids are showing up in.

There is a new meeting in Kalispell no kids yet but the Al-Anon Members involved in Alateen Service are showing up every week waiting.

The meeting in Helena no kids are showing up but The AL-Anon Members involved in Alateen Service are showing up every week waiting.

The Butte meeting that reopened last fall has become inactive again.



Last fall we set up a thought force to get some ideas on how to help Alateen. This year one of the Chosen Agenda items that will be talked about at the WSC is Alateen.

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?

Al-Anon Area Process Person

The AAPP registers Alateen Groups if there is a change in address or amias they need  
To come to the AAPP

In Service,  
Pennie K.

➤ *News & Views*—Given by Sue T.

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 seven 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 298, including 32 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.

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.

One thing I would like to propose is considering a new name for this newsletter. I do not know the history of the title "News & Views"; I feel like it is only 'news' at this point and suggest we could come up with something different.

Looking ahead, I'm looking for an 'understudy'. The elections for the next three-year coordinator terms are coming in the fall. Deb L., has been available to assist me with editing and graphics. We are asking if there is someone in the assembly who is interested in assisting with the newsletter production. We are willing to start orienting someone new to the mechanics of the newsletter process if someone plans to stand for this position.

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

➤ Public Outreach PICPC—Given by Audrey W.

Last Assembly we heard Alateen is hurting we could say Outreach is hurting too, but I don't think so. We are experiencing growing pains.

I want to highlight the issues that Alateen is dealing with and how we operate with each other. (More will be revealed) this is our opportunity for growth as painful as this is.

I want to celebrate the interest in Alateen. This is our future. Even though we too, in Billings are having our challenges with communication and involvement.

Finally I want to specifically note that I got a call from a native Spanish speaker, who I spoke to and finally how well my job as LDC coalesces with Outreach for District 7 and District 14.

In Service,  
Audrey W.

➤ Forum Coordinator—Given by Kathy J.

Kathy J. had everyone write one-liner which she was submitting to WSO.

## Roundup Reports

Helena                      Spring 2015  
                                    May 15-17, 2015  
                                    Red Lion Inn  
                                    Helena, MT

Kalispell            2015 Fall Roundup  
October 9-11, 2015  
Kalispell, MT

Missoula            Roundup

### **New Business**

- Motion C214 - Continue the process of applying for non-profit status to completion.

GR Count was 32 voting GR's. Discussion was had regarding Motion C214. A vote was taken results as follows:

Yea     32  
Nay     0  
Abstain 0

Motion passed unanimously.

- Facebook – Discussion was washed, a task Force regarding technology and social media was formed with Kerry A., Katy K., and Carol S.
- GR Training – Needs to begin before they have to go to Area Assembly. A training meeting at Assembly is the first time they get training for their position. Assistance needs to be handed down by previous GR.

### **Final Announcements**

- Fall Assembly is a voting assembly, Area positions are found on website and in the Montana AFG Guidelines.

### **Ask it Basket**

*Would it be possible to have the Assembly Minutes out in a timely manner so we can report to our groups and districts right away?*

Pam C., Yes, I will try. I do work full time, but will do my best.

*Please explain how chosen agenda items originate & the process that takes place as they go on to WSC?*  
Connie W. Chosen Agenda items originate at the group level, district, area and then WSC.

Connie W. gave her 3 minute speech that she is giving at the WSO for her 3<sup>rd</sup> term.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam C.  
Montana AFG Secretary