

Montana AFG Fall AWSC Meeting Minutes

Yogo Inn, Lewistown, MT

Sept. 17, 2016

Connie W opened the Fall AWSC meeting with the Serenity Prayer. The Steps, Traditions, Concepts and Warranties, and Montana Area Vision and Mission Statements were read.

Announcements and Introductions were made.

Minutes:

- The July Conference Call Minutes were approved as read.
- The Spring AWSC Minutes were approved as corrected.

Secretary's Report - Lori

Many thanks to everyone for getting me their reports.

If you're able, please email either in the body of the email or as an attached doc (word) if possible. I am not able to cut and paste PDF, JPEG and a few file types are. Please let me know if you need any help.

Currently am making 20 copies of:

Conference Call Minutes, AWSC Minutes, Assembly Minutes & Attachments

That was 760 copies! It costs about \$50 to do this for each assembly.

With input of the 2016 Fall AWSC and Assembly members almost everyone has the ability to receive via email. For those who are not able to get via email I will bring 5 copies of each to assembly. Will see how that works out and will adjust if needed.

I am happy to email copies to anyone who did not receive them the day of AWSC & Assembly.

Thanks all!

In Love & Service,

Lori K., Area Secretary

Treasurer Report - Pam

Area Treasurer Report

Hello,

My name is Pam and I am your Area Treasurer. I have some new reports for the Budget vs. Actual from the QuickBooks program. These are a work in progress. I am working with the reports so they have what we need to look at only. Please be patient I will have it worked out soon.

Donations have been good, but have fallen off the last month or two. Please keep them coming in! I have had multiple districts and groups that have asked me about checks that haven't been cashed. I did a deposit on my way here yesterday. If your check from before June hasn't cleared, chances are I did not receive it. Make sure you are mailing to the PMB box in Helena. If you don't have the address, please ask and I will give it to you.

Our checking account balance as of September 16, 2016, is \$6,296.86. The balance of the Savings account as of September 16, 2016, is \$3,015.97.

The Scholarship fund has \$154.00 in it after a donation at the Spring Assembly from District 6.

I have a problem with one donation. I was going to do a deposit one day since I was running to Billings. I made photocopies of all the checks so I could enter them into QuickBooks at a later date. I managed to cut off the top of one check and did not notice. I am not sure which group or district it is supposed to go towards. I have a copy with a signature if someone could help me figure out where it came from it would be greatly appreciated.

If you are using a personal check for a group donation, please put which group you are sending in for. It would also help if you put your group number on the check somewhere if it is not included with the address.

I received a letter from WSO in regards to the 2017 World Service Conference Equalized Expense. (Read Letter).

Yours in Service,

Pam C., Area Treasurer

Delegates' Expense for the World Service Conference.

It was passed unanimously by voice vote to round up the amount paid to WSO to \$2,000 from our full amount of \$1909.

Old Business

Montana AFG, Inc.-Connie

501 (c) (3) Board Meeting

Lewistown, September 16, 2016

Attendees: Pam C., Carol S., Lori K., Cindy C., Connie W., Elaine D.

Discussed the current request from the Secretary of State of Montana office to have all previously paper documents entered into the new system for business transactions. The Secretary of State Information Management System (SIMS) for Business Entity (BE) system will allow us to file and maintain all of the business documents online 24/7 from the convenience of home or office. This filing is in process. Update October 6, 2016, in conversation with the Secretary of State of Montana office, all the documents previously submitted in 2014 have been transferred to the SIMS system. We will follow the current process upon renewal the beginning of 2017.

In reviewing the documents, we talked about having all directors having access to all the pertinent documents regarding our non-profit status. We also discussed updating the policy document with the information requested as a result of using the SIMS system.

All were in agreement. The next meeting will be in the spring of 2017 in Miles City. Documents will be reviewed and available for the assembly information.

Sincerely, Connie W.

Update to the MT website - Brett

Website Coordinator Report

Fall 2016

I have been “officially” working on the website since January of this year. At Spring Assembly, I was grateful to get 3 people to assist me. My Work Force includes Shannon S, Silke L. and Deb L. They have helped with things I didn’t understand, and have been good support overall. With help from Shannon, I have been able delete the old pages that were popping up, and I think this issue is resolved on the current website.

Shortly after the Spring Assembly, I began building a new website, and started the process of transferring all of our information over to a new program that is much more “user-friendly” than the current program of DreamWeaver. In June, I attended a community education class to learn about the new program, WordPress. It has been a long and tedious process but the new website is almost complete and I will present it on the projector after my report.

WSO has given an extension on the August 5th deadline to obtain a domain host separate from them. In order to prepare for the switch to our new website, I have paid for a domain name (\$18.17) and one year of hosting (\$71.88) from GoDaddy. There are other options available that have a smaller annual fee but as I understand, GoDaddy is worth the extra cost because of the built-in firewalls that protect all GoDaddy sites from hackers.

I hope to finalize the new site before the end of the month, and am asking for input from the membership here today. The new site is al-anon-montana.org For now, links at the WSO site will still take you to the current site. I hope to finalize the new one by the end of the month, and WSO will help me redirect things.

When everything is switched over, I would like to continue adding pictures of meeting places to the maps for each district. Please let the members in your District know that they should search for or take pictures of the building, preferably looking at the entrance used for the meeting. Don't forget to designate which meeting each picture will be connected to. You can send them to me at the email address listed on the Montana website: mtalanon@hotmail.com Texting is also an option - my phone number is on the Area Directory or I can give it to you personally if you ask. If you want to see examples, go to the map for District 7...all the Billings meeting sites have pictures.

I am also excited to continue listing events specific to a district or neighboring area on the Events page. If you have a flyer for a local event, please forward it to me and I will post it. The committee is working on some guidelines for posting flyers on the website. When this is completed, we will bring it before the Assembly for approval before posting it. For now, there is a brief paragraph about flyer requirements at the top of the Events page.

I have gotten many requests to change information for groups, and I try to respond back after changes have been made so the information can be checked for accuracy. Sometimes changes happen and the information doesn't get to me so I am always grateful to hear that somebody periodically checks their District or group information. Let me know if anything has changed or if links don't work. (I have already received 4 requests for changes since coming to Lewistown).

QUESTIONS I HAVE

Agendas on site? (the attending membership agreed that this is a good idea...I will post agendas for upcoming Assemblies and conference calls when they are sent out)

Archives of minutes...how far back? (going back to 2013 is good enough)

Spring 15 minutes corrupted (if you have copy that works, please share it with me)

Women's meeting - all women welcome? (this statement, as well as any other exclusionary statements, will be removed from the website listing for meetings)

Sharing buttons? (discussion but no consensus)

Meetings in homes? (discussion but no consensus)

Love in service,

Brett

Compilation of past officers. (Pennie and Carol S)

Pennie has compiled a list of past officers & coordinators starting in mid 1960's to present.

Thought force on local/Area hot line numbers. (Sylke, Chris, Warren, Patty, Katy, Deb)

Phone Line Report given by Deb L.

2016 Fall Assembly

Deb L. (District 7 DR) sent out an email on May 2, 2016 shortly after the 2016 Spring Assembly. The email asked all DRs to respond with information about their district's phone line, if their district had one. Five DR responded.

District 1: DR Perry W. reported that they use a Tracfone that a member donated to the district. The phone is in the member's name and DR Peggy W. mentioned she would be looking in to changing hq5t. The cost is \$100 per year; they have plenty of minutes and are able to roll over unused minutes each year. A district or group member takes the phone for three months at a time. They usually get calls asking for a meeting list or to confirm a meeting will still be in session during the holiday season. They do not return missed calls due to anonymity reasons. She stated that if a person requested a call back she was sure they would return the call.

District 6: DR Carole responded that District 6 does not have a phone line.

District 7: DR Deb L. reported that they have a cell phone and purchase minutes yearly. The district has a Chair person coordinates with groups and members to take the phone. Yearly expense was about \$300 for a year of unlimited minutes. The information line is published on the meeting lists and the MT Al-Anon website.

District 8: DR Katy O. reported that their plan is a Tracfone for nonprofits from Verizon Wireless. For \$100 worth of input, you get 99 cents unlimited each day that a call is made or received on the phone. So, it doesn't cost anymore to call someone back or make other calls on the same day a call was received. The district get about 30-45 call per year; a recording in on the phone that has meeting information and then can be answered or called back if need be.

District 9: DR Chris K. reported that they do have a phone line. They have a Tracfone from Wal-Mart and pay the DEX \$188.00 per year to list the number in bold print in the yellow pages of the DEX phone book for Butte and the surrounding area. The phone was \$18.00 and the district buys a year's worth of minutes for \$99.00 at Wal-Mart. The meetings in the district are recorded on the phone. The groups pass the phone around with a member or group keeping the phone for 2 or 3 months. Most callers just want to know the location of an Al-Anon or AA meeting; meeting lists for both are kept with the phone.

District 14: DR Katy K. reported that does not have a phone line; they do this at the group level (4 groups); contact phone numbers on the website and in the local paper with meeting listings.

No responses to the email came in from the other districts.

The method of members sharing and the phone for a period of time appeared to be a common practice. Some of the phones and plans used differed, however the cost of an information line (or hotline) seems to range from \$100 to \$200 annually. The Verizon Wireless nonprofit plan used by District 8 appears to be the most cost effective. The DEX yellow pages placement used by District 9 appears to be a great way to get the phone's number out to the public.

Some discussion regarding phone lines took place after Deb L. gave the report. It was determined that the districts had the operation of phone lines well in hand. It was decided that the Information Line Thought Force had completed its task. It was decided that there was no need to pursue this topic with the formation of a Work Force.

AI-Anon cooperating with AA regarding roundups and seed money. (Sylke)

Sylke reported she didn't receive any responses on how other District's were handling their roundups and asked that this be withdrawn from Area Assembly agenda.

Meet the Board Event

There were some communication glitches and we didn't get a Montana city submitted for the event.

Determine the topic we would like a Trustee to share about in the Fall 2017.

Topics suggested to bring to Assembly:

- Alateen,
- Thought Forces/Task Forces,
- History of AI-Anon, and
- Knowledge Based Decision Making.

Task/Thought Force Updates:

Area Speaker Meeting Thought Force (Pennie K, Carole D, Judy T, Lori K, Dorine M and Peggy W)

This Thought Force was changed to a committee. Report will be given at Assembly.

Montana/Idaho Team Event Task Force June 2017 (Frances M, Carol S, Norma, Cindy C, Lori K, Shannon S, Connie and team members from Idaho)

**2016 Fall Assembly
TEAM Committee Report**

Current TEAM Committee members--

Frances M. & Nancy Jo W. (Co-Chairs), Carol S. (Secretary), Lori K. (Treasurer), Deb L. (Information/Communication), Shannon S. (Entertainment), Kerry A, Cindy C, Norma A. (Advisor)

Since May--conference calls and decisions made via email--

- Dates for the TEAM Event are June 17-18, 2017
- We selected 5 topics of interest for the WSO presentations
- Venue research and event location chosen--Wingate Hotel in Missoula
- Area Officers' signatures; WSO request form was submitted and approved in July
- The TEAM Event name/theme will be "REACHING FOR RECOVERY"

3 more committee positions have been filled--Co-Chair, Treasurer & Member Communication, with gratitude to Nancy Jo W, Lori K, and Deb L.

The AWSC pre-Assembly conference call voted to provide \$200 start-up funds for TEAM. Area Officers are checking re: opening a TEAM bank account under the Area's 501(c)(3) status.

The following TEAM committee positions are still open--
Registration/Event Host/Decorations/Food Beverage/Hospitality/Workshop
Those position descriptions and a sign-up sheet will be passed around during Assembly.
Remember, you can participate on any committee without taking the Chairperson position.

Thanks to Sylke L. for designing our Save-The-Date flyer. It was accepted by WSO and is also be distributed during Assembly--take them back to your Districts and Groups!

The agenda will be finalized during conference calls with the WSO Task Force later this year. Registration forms with the event details will be available after those decisions are made.

Let's get the word out regionally--please share your enthusiasm with everyone! Rah-rah!!

We need each of you to participate by attending this special Al-Anon event with Area 13 and World Service Representatives. Here's a wonderful quote found on the Members' website:

Any commitment to give back to Al-Anon is rewarded immediately with a greater sense of belonging, and in the end, we receive far more than we can ever give.

In Service,

Frances M. & Nancy Jo W.
Co-Chairs TEAM Mon-Ida 2017

Thought force for getting DR's and GR's involved at the Area level. (Katie, Carol S, Cindy C, Pennie, Robin) Given by Cindy.

We met prior to this assembly, we quickly decided that we really needed to remain a thought force as the items we were charged with didn't really apply to GR and DR that weren't already here. Committee members: Carol S, Pennie K, Katy K and chair Cindy C.

We are now a thought force and this is what we came up with after reviewing history of this question. See

1) this starts at the group and district level

A) New g.r. training as new g r come to district they have new g.r. training (outside of assembly emphasizing the traditions, links of service, service sponsorship. Emphasis needs to be stressed on how important they are to Al-Anon as a whole.

B) NEW D.R. training outside of assembly

New Business:

AMIAS and Alateen - Patty

The State of Alateen, September 17, 2016

In the spring of 2015, Billings had a group certification with four people attending. One person was certified at fall conference in Lewistown. The current number of certified Amias is 38, down from when I took over the position. I sent out two letters asking people to recertify.

World service has offered three or four conference training sessions to teach us how to do the record keeping for AMIAS, about the training material available for AMIAS, and a meeting for chat meeting sponsors.

There are four registered Alateen groups in Montana: Billings, Bozeman, Missoula and Hamilton. None of the groups have consistent attendance.

Butte wants to start a meeting. Kris K has been asked by the school district to come to a school district function to give information to the school system on Alateen. The need is great.

Bozeman and Missoula are struggling to have AMIAS step up for service.

Currently, Missoula's Alateen coordinator has asked the district groups to have a group discussion on these three questions:

1. Is it AI-Anon's responsibility to offer Alateen?
2. Do you think it's important to have an Alateen meeting whether or not teens attend on a regular basis?
3. Are you willing to provide service to Alateen?

Missoula Alateen coordinator has told the district that the program needs ten AMIAS that are willing to serve twice a month (two at each meeting). If ten people don't step up, the meeting will fold.

The alternative high school in Missoula has indicated that they would consider a meeting in their building during the school day. The Alateen coordinator has put that possibility on hold until the district's broad based support is clear.

The Montana Chat Room on Wednesday nights from 7:30 to 8:30 almost always has teens attending. The group has been as large as five. All the chat rooms in the nation have reported the same activity.

I need someone who can take a leadership position for the chat. Someone who would keep track of who is serving on what night. The chat needs six more AMIAS.

Submitted humbly,

Patty K. (Area Alateen Coordinator and Process Person)

Language change to the Bookmark - Elaine

To address the "Just for Today" Bookmark "Prayer for Today":

“One of the roles of the Literature Committee is to review suggestions that come from the fellowship regarding literature and possible changes. If a major decision is needed, it must come to the World Service Conference (WSC). During its June 2015 meeting, the Literature Committee began discussing requests from two members in different Areas for changes to the “Prayer for Today.” This prayer is included in the Just for Today Wallet Card (M-10) and Bookmark (M-12). It also appears on page 101 of How Al-Anon Works for Families & Friends of Alcoholics (B-22, B-32), as well as on page 103 in editions printed prior to 2008. The first member felt that although it is beautiful, it is clearly a religious prayer, and should be revised or discontinued. The second member requested that the words “O, Divine Master” in the second paragraph of the prayer be changed to “God.” Because the prayer is included in the Newcomer Packet (K-10), she felt it could give many newcomers the idea that Al-Anon is a religious program.”

The Group Representatives will be voting at the Spring 2017 Area Assembly (before I attend the next WSC) from 3 choices with regard to possible change to the bookmark.

The “Prayer for Today:”

“Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light, and where there is sadness, joy.

“O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.”

The options are as follows:

- 1) No Changes
- 2) Remove the text on the Bookmark and Wallet Card. The text could be enlarged without adding any other material, and that page 101 in How Al-Anon Works could end with a quotation from the last paragraph in When I Got Busy, I Got Better (P-78), so that it would read as follows:

“When I Got Busy, I Got Better offers invaluable information about this crucial area of recovery. Perhaps nowhere is the spirit of Al-Anon service more clearly articulated than in the last paragraph of this booklet: “We have the opportunity to contribute not only what we can do but, more important, who we can be. By sharing our recovery, we strengthen its workings in our own lives. By seeking to allow a Higher Power to work in and through us, we come to feel, more fully, the presence of that Power. “In giving, we receive.”
- 3) Change as follows:

“Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light, and where there is sadness, joy.

“O, God, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive and it is in pardoning that we are pardoned.

This vote is to give me a guide of the Area's wants. Please keep in mind that members will ne very passionate about this and always 'presume goodwill' in your discussions.

Beginning discussion of Spring Assembly location 2018, decision spring 2017.

Connie asked who was submitting bids for Spring Assembly. Information from Kalispell & Bozeman to be presented at Assembly.

Discussion of potentially moving fall Assembly from Lewistown - Connie

Connie reported our costs to hold assembly at Lewistown at the Yogo Inn for 2017 will be very similar to 2016. Further discussion at Assembly.

The meeting was adjourned with Al-Anon Declaration

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori K., Area Secretary