

## Montana AFG Fall Assembly Meeting

Yogo Inn, Lewistown

September 17 and 18, 2016

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

Announcements and Introductions were made. 40 at Assembly, 23 GRs!

### Minutes:

The Spring Assembly Minutes were approved as read.

### Secretary's Report - Lori

I am Lori and I am your area secretary.

Many thanks to everyone for getting me their reports.

When submitting your reports, if you're able, please email either in the body of the email or as an attached docx (word) if possible. I am not able to cut and paste PDF, JPEG and a few other file types.

Please let me know if you need any help in doing this.

Currently 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 minutes & attachments via email. For those who are not able to, I will bring 5 copies of all minutes next Fall. I am happy to email copies of minutes to anyone who didn't receive them at AWSC & Assembly. Will check back with you at Spring AWSC & Assembly to see how this working and will adjust if needed.

In Love & Service,

Lori K., MT AFG 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

## **Delegate's Report - Elaine**

**2016 Fall Area Assembly  
Delegate's Report**  
Saturday September 17, 2016  
Yogo Inn, Lewistown, MT

The theme of the 2016 World Service Conference (WSC) was "Realizing Our Spiritual Potential"

Who is it that makes up the WSC?

99 voting members at the 2016 WSC as all Trustee and Staff positions were not filled

67 Delegates bring the group, District and Area viewpoint on matters affecting the entire fellowship. They return to their Area to share a broader perspective of Al-Anon worldwide.

17 Board of Trustees have the legal and financial responsibilities and set policy. They meet on a quarterly basis. They ensure the goals and directions of our WSC are carried out.

9 Executive Committee members, four of which are also Trustees, are a committee of the board and meets on a monthly basis. They ensure the goals and directions of our WSC are carried out.

10 Staff members, 1 who is on the Board of Trustees and one who is on the Executive Committee, bring the current problems of the day from a worldwide perspective. They are responsible for carrying out the goals and directions of our WSC.

What is the purpose of the WSC?

- To protect Al-Anon and Alateen against a service breakdown. *2014-2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27)*, p. 139
- It makes for unity and enables our fellowship to act as a whole on important matters. *2014-2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27)*, p. 139
- The final decision-making body is the World Service Conference. *2014-2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27)*, p. 139

The World Service Conference makes the group conscience available and effective for all of Al-Anon. It is the practical means by which the group conscience can speak; it is the voice of world Al-Anon and the guarantee that our world services will continue to carry on under all conditions. It makes for unity by hearing all voices followed by knowledge based discussion before vote.

The Group Representative (GR) is the first link in the chain that leads to the World Service Conference. *2014-2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27)*, p. 141

As the Delegates of panel 56, we were reminded of these 3 very important points:

- Tradition Two: For our group purpose there is but one authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.
- Concept Four: Participation is the key to harmony

*“Participation responds to our spiritual needs. All of us deeply desire to belong. The Al-Anon ideal of a working partnership could never regard any member as second class. This is perhaps the main reason we have struggled to achieve participation at every level. The Right of Participation encourages us who serve Al-Anon to accept the necessary disciplines that our various tasks require. It assures us that we are truly the “trusted servants” described in Al-Anon’s Tradition Two.”*

*Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual 2014 - 2017, page 190*

- Warrantee Three: that all decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and whenever possible by unanimity

Marilyn M. Trustee, International Coordination Committee (ICC) Co-Chairperson presented the Central American Zonal Meeting Report:

“The World Service Office (WSO) was invited to attend the Central American Zonal Meeting in Managua, Nicaragua in November 2015. Six structures attended: Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Panama, and Costa Rica. Seventeen Delegates, were present, all of whom had voice, but with only one vote per structure. Messages were sent by Cuba and Dominican Republic that funds were not sufficient to allow attendance. The theme for the 2015 meeting was 'Un Sol País,' one single country.

Some sharings from this meeting:

- Public outreach (radio) is a focus in some countries, with the result that many inquiries for meetings are received. They have difficulty starting meetings because of the danger in the countryside.

- A Delegate said that it is wrong to label group members as having ‘limited means.’ She said; ‘We must give them the dignity and the right to be self-supporting. Many of us have learned that there is a Higher Power’s will, there is hope.
- El Salvador—We can get on the right path with the help of the other structures. I understand that the WSO is our ‘Mother’ and we are all sisters. Thanks for AFG Connects to help us communicate.
- Nicaragua—Love is felt from all the Delegates and workshop members. I ask for wisdom to learn from mistakes. Thanks and good wishes to keep Al-Anon alive for all our children.

### **Memorial Contributions**

Current Text on Page 95 of our Service Manual:

*Memorial Contributions. Any Al-Anon or Alateen member may make contributions to the WSO in memory of anyone who is deceased. (Contact WSO for details).*

Newly adopted Text:

#### **Memorial Contributions**

*Any Al-Anon or Alateen member may make contributions to the WSO in memory of any relationship in accordance with the direct contribution limit. (Contact the WSO for details.)*

*The World Service Office accepts contributions in memory of deceased Al-Anon members from “family” who are not Al-Anon members. The fellowship recognizes that accepting such contributions can give comfort to families as described in Tradition Five.*

*The World Service Conference defines family as anyone who has a close relationship of loving care and concern for another. The individual donor defines his or her relationship to the deceased Al-anon member.*

*This one-time gift of gratitude is limited to an amount no greater than \$500.00. Memorial contributions by non-members are not solicited.*

### **Descriptive Text for Concept Eleven**

Current text on Pages 207-214 of our Service Manual

This text can be printed off the Al-Anon Website to go into your Service Manual

Go to [www.al-anon.org](http://www.al-anon.org). Click on the ‘Members’ Site’ tab which takes you to the Members Home Page. Click on the [2014-2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual](#) link. Enter the password (your group name and afg). Clicking on the highlighted links on this page will bring you to printable pages that will fit over the current pages of your Service Manual. Make sure when you set up the printing that you do not set it to “fit the page”. This will print the page on a full-size 8 1/2X11 sheet of paper and it will not fit in your Service Manual.

### **Meet the Board becomes, “Road Trip! You and your Board Connect”**

- An opportunity to interact with our Board of Trustees for a day and gain a better understanding of what the board does for our AFG fellowship.
- The Three year trial period has been extended for another three years.

- The Day’s Agenda includes snapshot presentations, personal talks, round-table discussions, and a walk through of WSO committees.
- Feedback included a better understanding of the work WSO does, recognizing our common bonds and challenges and learning the role the Trustees play in our service structure. Trustees are available to visit Areas. A member says, “We learned how Al-Anon works.”

Next “Road Trip! You and your Board Connect”:

2016 Location Fayetteville, Arkansas The Chancellor Hotel Saturday, October 22

**Warranty One: Sufficient operating funds, including an ample reserve, should be its prudent financial principle.**

**Financial Report**

**2015 Financial Report**

- Revenues \$4,754,267
- Operating Expenses \$5,115,291
- Net <\$361,024>

**2016 Budget**

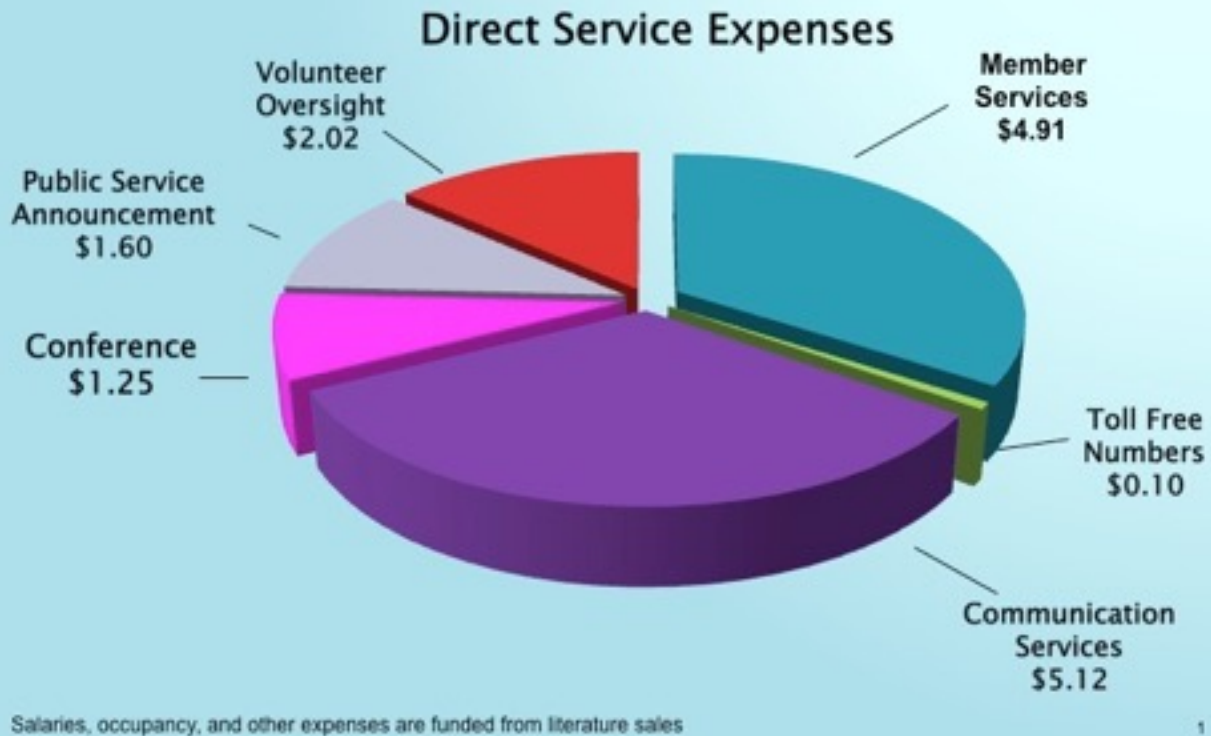
- Estimated Revenue \$4,873,000
- Operating Expenses \$5,057,000
- Net <\$184,000>

**Sources of Revenue**

**\$3,829,572**

- Literature sales less cost of printing \$2,600,000
- Contributions \$1,800,000
- Forum Subscriptions \$250,000
- Investment Income/Transfer from Reserve Fund \$223,000
- Total \$4,873,000
- Reserve fund currently holds

# How your \$15.00 is used



## CONTRIBUTIONS PER 15,237 GROUPS in the U.S. & Canada

Avg. Contribution of Contributing Groups: \$119.52

Avg. Cost of Services per Group: \$268.12

### Questions to consider:

Is your group fully self-supporting?

Does your group have a budget?

Does the group budget have a line item for WSO contributions? The Area? The District?

Does your group talk about these matters as a group?

Do you have a group conscience on how your money is spent?

### Ideas for Increasing Income - Literature

Literature Sales - if only 1 member at half the meetings bought a hardcover book this year who wasn't intending on buying a book and 'paid it forward' - gave it away to a newcomer, Al-Anon friend or library - We could increase literature sales by \$ 90,000. What if three people in each meeting bought a book? What if every member bought an 'extra' book this year?

### PERSONAL CONTRIBUTIONS MADE EASY!

Give out of a sense of Generosity and Gratitude for the recovery you have experienced and the new found hope Al-Anon has given you.

- Contribute on-line ...
- One time contributions ...
- Recurring contributions ...
- Quick and Easy - To contribute on-line: Go to [www.al-anon.org/members/](http://www.al-anon.org/members/) Click on the “Contribute Now” tab on the upper right of the page - That’s it!

**Encouraging Words from WSO Treasurer Jennie M.**

- Please, don’t be discouraged.
- If we relay the message that we each can and do make a difference, we can not only close the deficit and fund the Reserve, but also fund some exciting new initiatives at the World Service Office to further support our members and ensure Al-Anon’s presence far into the future.

*The spirit in which we give may be as important as the amount we give. Give out of a sense of abundance and gratitude for what Al-Anon has done for you.*

2018 International Al-Anon Convention July 5-8, 2018 in Baltimore, MD - See: [www.al-anon.org](http://www.al-anon.org) for updates

Thank you for allowing me to serve you!

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine D. Panel 56  
Montana Area AFG

**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.

**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 AI-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 AI-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.

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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.

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

Topics suggested are: Alateen, Thought Force/Task Force, History of Al-Anon, and Knowledge Based Decision Making, Abundant Thinking regarding Finances & Public Outreach. We will make a decision on this on Sunday.

## **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 to 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](http://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](mailto: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

### **Meet the Board Event**

Due to a mixup in communication, MT did not submit any locations for the Meet the Board Event.

### **New Business**

#### **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.**

Kalispell & Bozeman submitted requests to host the next Spring Assembly.

### **Break for Dinner.**

### **Presentation on the Links of Service. Elaine**

Saturday session of Assembly was closed with the Al-Anon Declaration.

### **Area Assembly con’t - Sunday, September 18, 2016**

Connie open the Sunday Session of Assembly with the Serenity Prayer, followed by Announcements.

### **New Business (Con’t)**

## **Discussion & Decision on Topic for Trustee to share at Fall 2017 Assembly.**

**Topics being considered:** Concepts/Traditions, Alateen, Thought Force/Task Force, Knowledge Based Decision Making, Conflict Resolution, Challenges to Unity, Abundant Thinking re: Finances and Public Outreach.

It was decided to ask the Trustee to Share on Challenges to Unity as addressed within the Concepts/Traditions.

## **Discussion of potentially moving Fall Assembly from Lewistown.**

Connie reported that AA has decided to move their Fall Assembly to Great Falls next Fall on a 1 year trial. The costs in Lewistown will be very similar to last year for our Assembly.

Several members expressed they would like to see the Fall Assembly rotate locations. A Thought Force was formed to look at changing locations. Cindy C., Pam C, Lori K., Mike B., & Nicole B. volunteered to serve on this.

## **Task/Thought Force Updates:**

**Area Speaker Meeting Committee** (Pennie K, Carole D, Judy, Lori K, Dorine and Peggy)

On September 17, 2016 Doreen, Pennie, Carole D, Judy, Lori K and Peggy met in regards to the Speaker meeting at the Spring Assembly 2017 in Miles City.

The date is set for April 1, 2017 (no fooling!) at the Range Rider Museum in Miles City. Dinner Cost will be \$25 and this will include dinner, gratuities and cleanup cost.

Our menu will be Cordon Bleu or Pork Loin Roast, Slow thyme potatoes, green salad, bread and for desert Apple cobbler. Gluten and vegan diets will be accommodated.

We will be raffling off dinner tickets at the Area Assembly. We will also be hosting a silent auction. Please feel free to donate as a District, group or an individual. The item that brings in the most money will receive a prize.

We will have two speakers! Who you might ask.....you better come so that you can find out!

**Team Event Task Force June 2017** (Frances M, Carol S, Norma, Cindy C, Lori K, Shannon S, Connie and team members from Idaho) Carol gave report for Frances.

### **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 being 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) Cindy reported.

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 g r 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

## **District Representative Reports**

### **District 1/Kalispell - Peggy W.**

District 1 is comprised of Kalispell, Whitefish, Columbia Falls, Big Fork, Eureka, and Libby.

We have 11 groups with a total of 14 meeting per week. Most of the meeting average 4-18 people. We have a meeting every day of the week, except Tuesday, and some days have multiple meetings.

As the new DR I have been making the rounds and visiting the groups in my area. This allows me to make a face to face contact with the group as well as pass on any new information from WSO and the Area. So far I have visited 3 of the 11 groups. I am also taking photos of the group entrance and preparing them for Brett, as she had asked us to do at the Spring Assembly.

This past August we had our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Area Delegate Luncheon, and we were incredibly blessed with a wonderful visit from Elaine and her side kick Kathy. Elaine brought a wealth of information from WSO as well as her own amazing experience strength and hope. It was a day filled with information as well as love and laughter.

Upcoming this March will be our 9<sup>th</sup> annual "Day in Al-Anon." This is a fundraiser for District 1. Be on the lookout for the save the date poster that will be coming out very soon. This is an amazing time to spend with others in the fellowship and strengthen your recovery. We usually have at least one amazing guest speaker to share his/her experience strength and hope. A wonderful luncheon, door prizes and raffle.

Alateen is inactive at this time due to a lack of youth attendance. We are in need of a district Alateen Coordinator at this time. We are re-evaluating our Alateen program and hope to restart it up again soon, this time possible within a school rather than at a church for easier access for the students.

Public outreach has been taken on by two wonderful women. Carol W is handing the North side of life, meaning the Whitefish and Columbia Falls areas. Marilyn E is handing the South side of life, meaning Kalispell. They are putting meeting list and Al-anon Faces Alcoholism at local doctor offices, rehab centers and with a few of the Summit health coaches. We are always searching for new places to put out our information.

We have two new GR's that are attending the Assembly for the first time. Libby is the new GR for the "Finding Balance Step by Step" group and Jessie is the new GR for "Hope for a New Beginning." May this adventure fuel their desire for further service work.

Our Information line receives about 1-3 calls a month, usually looking for meeting list or to confirm if a meeting has closed to due to a holiday on or around that day.

Have you read the latest Forum? One of our District 1 members, Bev O has been printed in the September 2016 issue, page 10. I believe her writing was done at our "Writing Extravaganza" that was held at the Fall Round up in Kalispell last year.

I am thankful for the opportunity to serve at the District level, as this is developing my "roots" in service work. I can only hope it will take me to the next level, all in my Higher Powers timing.

In Service,

Peggy W.

District 1 DR

### **District 2/Shelby - No Report**

### **District 3/Havre - No Report**

**District 4/Wolf Point - Vacant**

**District 5/Glendive - No Report**

**District 6/Miles City - Jill M.**

District meeting report #6 for Area Assembly #32

September 17, 2016

Introduction: This report is submitted by Jill M., newly elected District Representative for District #6. Judy T. is the Alternate District Representative.

We held our first meeting on August 20, 2016, opening with the Serenity Prayer, with 5 members present. Judy T., Dorine M., Rita H., Carole D., and Jill M. We canceled our September meeting because of time and work involved in traveling to Area Assembly on September 16-18, 2016. We took turns reading Concept 8 and comments.

Treasurer Report: Dorine M. reported 213.17.

Secretary Report: Rita H. read minutes of last meeting with three grammatical corrections made and they were approved.

No Old Business

New Business:

GR reports:

- 1) Judy T. Colstrip: Friday meeting canceled, Tuesday meeting 2-4 regular attendees.
  - 2) Rita H. Broadus: Tuesday 4 attendees, Wednesday 2 attendees.
  - 3) Dorine M. Miles City: Thursday 5 attendees, Saturday 7-9 attendees.
- 
- A) Discussion was held on BID for Spring Assembly to be continued. No decision was made.
  - B) Reading of the Manual description of District meetings by all.

OTHER:

Public Outreach:

Carole ordered Alanon faces Alcoholism through District.

Leave pamphlets: Are you troubled by someone's drinking and Parents of Alcoholics

Dorine would like to or put a public service announcement on public channel.

Hope Miles City group is planning the Gratitude dinner for \_\_\_\_\_.

Next District meeting is October 8, 2016

**District 7/Billings - Deb L.**

District 7  
**Deb L., District Representative**

Al-Anon is alive and well in Billings, MT.

Since my report last spring, a new meeting has been established. It is in the MT Women's prison and meets on Wednesday evenings. There is a great deal of participation by the women attending and a lot of volunteerism from our Al-Anon members to help support this meeting. The district has purchased literature for this meeting.

Hardin, MT is hard at work getting the word out about the three Al-Anon meetings in that community. One group is considering a change in time and/or location to facilitate better attendance. The Hardin Al-Anon members are very committed to having Al-Anon in their community.

The district has had two speaker events and a third is coming up soon.

- On Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, Al-Anon members gathered to celebrate 65 years of Al-Anon and commemorate Lois W.'s birthday on March 4<sup>th</sup>. A potluck lunch was held; the district provided the cupcakes and coffee. Our speaker was Elaine D. The celebration was attended by approximately 25 members.
- On Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, the district held its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Picnic in the Park. A shelter was rented for the day. Outdoor games were available. A potluck supper began at 5 PM and speakers followed. A couple, both A.A. members were our speakers for A.A. and we also had an Al-Anon speaker who followed. The event was well attended, with about 45 in attendance.
- Coming up on Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, we are having an afternoon tea during which Area 32 delegate, Elaine D. will give her delegates report. The tea and report will take place directly after the Sunday Downtowners AFG meeting at the same venue. Although not officially a "potluck," members who choose to do so will bring sweets; the district will be providing the tea and coffee.

The district is busy planning for the spring 2017 Roundup that takes place in Billings, MT. It will be May 19-21, 2017 at the Big Horn Resort. We have already confirmed with two speakers, one for Friday evening and another for the Saturday luncheon. In addition, there will be Al-Anon workshops and meetings. District 7 sincerely hopes that you will visit us next spring when you attend the Roundup.

## **District 8/Bozeman - Katy O.**

District 8 Report for Fall Area Assembly 2016  
Prepared by Katy O

Hello there and happy autumn from District 8! Our District encompasses the Bozeman area all the way west to Ennis and east to Livingston. We have a meeting everyday of the week, and have two meetings on many days of the week. Some of our meetings are small, averaging 3-10 attendees, and some are quite large, averaging 40-60 attendees. We have two groups that host newcomers meetings. An exciting development this year has been that the town of Livingston has grown to include four meetings at this time. I was able to go over to one of their meetings this month and am pleased to see more options for people who might be seeking recovery.

Our dear Lori K will be presenting a bid for our Assembly to be held in the Bozeman/Belgrade area and we would be thrilled to have this opportunity to serve our Area. All of Montana is beautiful, but we of course find our little corner an especially wonderful place to spend time, and Lori has found a great deal at a facility that would serve our needs well.

For Elaine: Many of our groups did a group conscience on the topic of the Saint Francis Prayer. Of the groups that voted, all voted in favor of keeping the literature as it is and not removing the Prayer.



Many people have shared how much parts of the prayer meant for them in early recovery, even if it wasn't part of their faith tradition. So, that is the vote from District 8!

We are having some difficulties filling service positions at our District level. I continue to operate without an Alternate DR. In addition, our dear Archivist had to move out of state and our Alateen Coordinators are rotating out after a couple of years of service. We are also hoping to recruit someone to the position of Event Coordinator. This person would have the opportunity to plan events for our District including our annual fundraiser. We are advertising that these positions can either be done just like they have been (with less work involved) or an enthusiastic person can take over and reinvent these positions. We have a lot of freedom and opportunity for improvement right now.

Our Alateen meeting has been held at 10:30 on Saturday mornings for a few years now, and mostly attracts younger kids who are going to the Fellowship Hall with a parent who is attending AA or Alanon, as these meetings are held at the same time. Despite having a reasonably large group of registered AMIAS in our District we have trouble having two AMIAS present for those meetings and thus can't guarantee that the meeting will always be on. This, in turn, results in fewer kids coming. So, at this point our Alateen meeting might not be functional much longer. We will have to trust in God and hope that someone feels moved to devote their energy to bringing this program of recovery to young people in our community.

Our PICPC coordinator continues to distribute pamphlets and meeting schedules around town. We are also invited each semester to put on a recovery panel for the local Nursing School during their psych rotation. We do this in conjunction with AA. Two or three members from each program share their story for ten minutes and then it is opened up for questions. We have found this an amazing opportunity to inform future healthcare providers about the disease of alcoholism and the recovery available.

We are excited about our upcoming Round-Up! Hope to see you all there!

Love in service, Katy O

### **District 9/Butte - Chris K.**

To the Fall Area Assembly, it is good to see everyone again. District 9 has had a quiet summer. We had a picnic on August 9, 2016 at Stodden Park and invited A.A. It was well attended and everyone pitched in salads and desserts. After Spring Assembly, our District had meetings in May and June. We decided to take the remainder of the summer off and return in the fall. We were asked to start up an Alateen meeting in the Alternative School in Butte. We will look at evening, as the daytime hours seem to prevent members from being Alateen Sponsors or AMIAS. I am challenged to rekindle the interest in Alateen in Butte, where it is so seriously needed. We have started our Round Up planning for Oct. 13, 14, and 15, 2017 at Fairmont. I was selected as the chair and our co chair from the last Round Up stepped up to do it again. The Groups decided that they would like to keep the Prayer in the Just for Today as it is written. The Butte Junior High Counselors called to ask if we would put up an Alateen display at their Family Nite on September 21, 2016. We agreed to do the display. We continue to distribute the Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism to various places. We have a new meeting on Saturday at 12 noon at the Atherton Apartments in Butte. One of our newcomers spearheaded the new Group out of necessity for recovery for her self and the insight that she knew some others who may benefit from a weekend meeting. It has four members and is appreciated by all of us who have to miss a weekday meeting. We are planning a Halloween party in October which we originally started for Alateen but everyone enjoys them so much we continue to have them without active Alateen. A number of A.A. children attend and could be the start of a future Alateen Group. We still have our Hotline phone that is passed to a new group every four months. It is listed in the Dex phone book. The members of District are planning a workshop in November to address Beginners meetings, participation in Area Assembly, and Alateen in our District. Our goal is to get more involvement in Service work, sign on more AMIAS, and share our experience in hot topics among the Groups. Currently we have 4 Groups in Butte. One all womens, one that has mostly double winners, one which is mostly old timers and one new Group. Dillon has one meeting with 4 members and a new address 215 Helena St. at 615 on Mondays. Deer Lodge has one meeting with double winners. Anaconda has two Groups with regular attendees and they share a lot of activities with A.A. in Anaconda. Time goes by so quickly and it is always so refreshing to

come here and renew my energy for Al-Anon. Thank you for the opportunity to be here. I am grateful for your friendship and support. Bless you until we gather again and have a safe trip home.

In Service,

Chris K. D.R. # 9.

## **District 10/Missoula - Sylke L.**

DR Report District 10 // Fall Assembly 2016

### **Public Outreach**

Our Public outreach person contacted the stations on the Area's list to find out who was actually airing Al-anon PSA's. All local stations she spoke to had the PSA's in their files, but only one could tell me when the next airing was, and they were true to their word.

We do get free daily community events advertising through the Missoulian; we do get free Missoula health bulletin advertising three times per year; we haven't set up any paid advertising yet, but might do so during the holiday season.

We did purchase some pamphlets that will be distributed around town in the near future. I will be following the trail of an AA member who regularly distributes literature to local offices (e.g. Probation and Parole), adding our literature to the literature slots already being used by AA.

We are continuing our bi-weekly service at the Recovery Center, introducing Al-Anon during Family Day.

### **Alateen**

Our one meeting in Missoula is struggling. Attendance is sporadic and we currently only have a pool of three local AMIAS. We have asked all groups to answer the following questions in their meetings:

- Is it important to have an Alateen meeting in Missoula?
- Do you feel it is the responsibility of Al-Anon members to provide an Alateen meeting whether or not teens show up on a regular basis?
- Are you willing to volunteer as a group sponsor to keep the Alateen meeting running?

The current pool of AMIAS has committed to keep the Alateen meeting running through October. If more AMIAS have not been found by that time, it is no longer self-supporting.

### **Phone Line**

We had conducted a similar "survey" about the phone line, as we could never find enough volunteers to take the phone. It became clear that we would not find enough members who would be willing and able to commit to this service.

We have decided to give up our local number and have changed all our communications to use the WSO 1-800 number.

### **Treasury**

Our treasurer is afraid about our tax-status, as we have had income above \$5,000 for a few years (largely due to the literature depot). We will get more information and keep discussing our options.

### **Main Topic**

Our main topic in the last few meetings has been that of unity. A few members in Missoula brought different ways of working Al-Anon with them when they moved here. Some members feel affected by the changes this has brought to groups and the district as a whole. We are discussing if and how this is a matter of autonomy, and what we, as a district, can do to foster conversation and to maintain unity.

Submitted by Sylke L., Representative for District 10

## **District 11/Helena - Ann L.**

**District 11**  
**Report for 2016**  
September 16, 2016

In Helena we have meetings every day of the week except Saturday. A total of 12 meetings every week. District 11 also has a speaker meeting every fourth Friday of the month. This has changed to the first Friday to see if more people will attend. This meeting is an opportunity to have Al-Anon speakers share their stories.

We have a Literature store open:  
Saturday 11:30am - 1:30pm  
Tuesday 12pm - 2pm  
Wednesday 5pm - 7pm.

We welcome people who may be traveling through Helena to stop and shop as we are pretty well stocked. Located at 1437 Helena Ave., Suite C, Helena, MT 59601.

District 11 has Attitude of Gratitude. This is a one day event with AA and Al-Anon speakers. November 20th.

There will be Pockets of Enthusiasm in March. We have a local couple speaking Kelly P and Jeff M. We have a local speaker because not enough attendance to bring in an out of state speaker. Please come to Helena and attend. The date is March 17-18th.

We are looking for an Alateen chairperson and haven't had much attendance. We do refer them to the Alateen online meeting.

Thank you for letting me Serve.

Ann L.

## **District 12/Great Falls - Kay S.**

District 12 includes Cascade, Judith Basin and Chouteau counties.

Shared MT AFG information with AFG in Vancouver, WA and Lethbridge Canada. June Founder's day celebration of AFG 65th birthday with 100 cupcakes at Ryan's dam with Mardi M - Al-Anon singer/speaker & 6 Alateen books given for raffle.

Later that month, Unity camp-out near Monarch hosted Steve B as Al-Anon speaker.

*Opening Our Hearts, Transforming Our Losses* given to each of the 8 AFG groups for fall discussion; several groups continue to use *Reaching for Personal Freedom*.

Sun River Valley AFG in Simms began in August with donated literature.

Several groups sent thank-you notes to local newspaper related to Dear Abby column August 23 that made reference to Al-Anon.

Dual member discussion is currently being held with reference to tabletop AFG reminder and pamphlet The Al-Anon Focus P-45.

Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism pamphlets continue to be placed in Great Falls Little Libraries and local walk-in clinics.

Appreciate AFG connect-DR and skimmed the BC-Yukon Area Assembly table of contents to assist with orientation/review for participants.

Submitted by Kay S.

**District 13/Lewistown - vacant**

**District 14/Red Lodge - Katy K.**

**District 14 Report**

Area 32 Assembly

September 2016

Our four meetings, two in Laurel and once each in Absarokee and Red Lodge, are going well. The Monday afternoon Laurel meeting has grown significantly from three to five people to more than five most weeks. The other three meetings range from four to ten or more attendees.

Our annual Christmas Party/fundraiser will be Saturday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Laurel Golf Club. It's a wonderful family gathering and a chance for everybody to catch up and share experience, strength, and hope.

I plan to get out to more meetings over the next few months, as I haven't visited as many as I would like. Other obligations have been getting in the way. Al-Anon, in truth, is a priority for me, so I always regret not getting out more. Am working on that!

Thank-you GRs Pam C., Michael B, and Dorothy R for keeping things going. The need is great, and countless souls benefit from meetings and camaraderie in our rural area.

With Gratitude and in Service, Katy K., District 14 Rep

## **Coordinator Reports**

**Alateen/AAPP - Patty K.**

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 Al-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)

## **Archives - Sue T.**

*2016 Fall Assembly Archives Coordinator report 09 18 2016*— Sue T, Archives Coordinator 2016 - 2018

Hi everyone!

I am Sue T., your Area Archives Coordinator and share this responsibility with the Area Archivist, who is Pennie K.

Did you know?? In 1952, Virginia from Helena called the clearing house to ask about Al-Anon in Montana!

Our Area Newsletter has been called the News & Views for more than 50 years. The date on the first scanned newsletter in the archives is 1964!

Fun facts like this are available in our Montana Al-Anon Area archives.

What are **archives**? According to a web dictionary, they *are a collection of historical documents or records providing information about a place, institution, or group of people*. In this case, we are specifically focused on the history of Montana - Area 32. We have boxes of physical storage and flash drives of electronic storage thanks to many hours of work by previous Archives Coordinators and Archivists.

Over time, Area Directories, Programs, Flyers, Workshops, Delegate Reports, Guidelines, Minutes, Newsletters, Maps, Motions, Financial reports, Agendas, Correspondence, Schedules, Histories, Skits, and more, have been collected and preserved in our archives.

There is a box in the back of the room with folders for Coordinators and District Representative. If you have any of these items that we want in the Area Archives, you can put them in the folder labeled Archives. If you have electronic copies, you may email those to [me](#).

We have an ongoing interest in collecting Group histories and Longtime Member (20 years or more) questionnaires: I didn't create hard copies of these forms for Assembly. I will see if we can make the forms available on the website and can email those to anyone who asks.

We have a Speaker CD Lending Library in a box that I have at the front table. There is a notepad in the box if you would like to check out a CD. Please mark your entry off the list when the CD is returned. If you have any Al-Anon recordings to share with Archives, let me know.

The Area pays for the Area Archivist to attend Assembly once every three years to share a sample of the archives. **Area Archivist**, Pennie K., brought and set up Archives display in the back of the room. I hope you've had a chance to look it over.

∴

The Area Treasurer, Pam C., has paid rent for the storage unit in Great Falls through September. Pennie planned to pick up the boxes in storage on her way through Great Falls Friday, however, she didn't know about a separate key to our section of storage.

She plans to give the Forum box to the Forum Coordinator, Kay S. They will go through them and find any that have Montana members published and we will keep those.

Also, Pennie will go through the old Conference Summaries and keep the ones that have sharings by Montana delegates. All World Service Conference Summaries are available on-line at [Al-Anon.org](http://Al-Anon.org)

Pennie says "Anyone that wants to know information about the Area's Past, they can ask me and I will look it up".

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Sue T.

Archives Coordinator 2016 - 2018

dtmmba@gmail.com

## **Group Records - Libby G.**

### **AREA GROUP RECORDS COORDINATOR REPORT**

Currently there are 151 Groups registered with WSO. Of these, 22 are designated "inactive" and 15 are described "marked for deletion."

There are 6 that have no mailing address. I am attaching a list of them. Please pass it around and if anyone has any information on the status of any of these, please let me know.

Yours in service,

Libby G.

Area 7 Group Records Coordinator

## **Forum - Kay S.**

## Forum Update September 2016

Have forum will travel:

May - airplane pocket to Seattle, Portland, Great Falls

June - contained in folders for 7 Russians returning to St. Petersburg and Moscow, Russia; Ohio as well.

July - contained in folders for 18 Cuban choir.

Continue place in Great Falls Little Libraries in community parks.

WSO data:

June mailed 21,836 (Mar 19,690)

AFG groups 13,949 (Mar 14,140)

MT total 143 (Mar 120)

Costs \$100,000 in mail free copy to English speaking groups.

April 2016 MT AFG loose change subscription to 2 individuals

Appreciate AFG connects for Forum coordinators.

For concerns call: 757-563-1600. Fax: 757-563-1655

Submitted by Kay S.

**Internet/Web** - Brett H. - See report in Old Business

**Updates to Website** - Brett H. - See report in Old Business.

**Literature** - Jill M.

LDC-CAL report

Fall Assembly area 32

Submitted by Jill M.

September 17, 2016

June, 2016

- 1) Paid 20.00 License fee with Secretary of State registered and Doing Business As with Valley Bank account.
- 2) I received a call from Hamilton, MT group requesting literature but referred them to Missoula Literature Distribution Center for order because it is not cost effective for assembly area to mail.

July-September, 2016

- 1) Miles City Hope group bought about 160.00 of literature.
- 2) I placed an order for LDC-CAL to WSO for 250.00 which includes Alanon Faces Alcoholism 2017 for 50.00. We have a credit of 11.11 with WSO. Other items included in the order are Links of Service, Joy of Service, Merry go round, and replenished some low inventory books and other Pamphlets.
- 3) RSVP myself for Literature Chair conference call with Annette Shorter for October 6.

Let me know other items of interest and thanks for the opportunity to serve.

## **Newsletter - Shannon S.**

News & Views Coordinator Report - Fall Assembly 2016

News & Views currently has 325 contacts active in our mailing list.

There have been 5 newsletters sent in 2016

Frances M. donated a large collection of beautiful pictures for us to use in our Newsletter. Please thank her and tell her how wonderful they are when you see her.

I try to send a pre-email to all DRs and Area Coordinators prior to creating the latest newsletter. If you have not been receiving these from me, please send me an email or give me your email address.

If you have events or special items going on in your District, send me the details and I'll add them to the News & Views.

I am always looking for more content for the newsletter, so please send anything and everything that you find interesting or having going on in your district.

You can view the past newsletters at any time by going to our mt al-anon website and clicking the Newsletter menu. New website: [www.al-anon-montana.org](http://www.al-anon-montana.org)

If you do not get the newsletter currently, please add your email address to the list going around.

If you need to send forms, the only way to add them to the newsletter is to convert them to an image and then embed that image into the newsletter. If you have a link to your form that would be the best.

## **PI/CPC - Carole D.**

### **Public Outreach Report September 17 2016**

I'm so grateful to be of service! I really feel that I haven't done as much as I would like to, but I see this is learning in process.

I have not been able to do any presentations or hold any workshops as of yet. But what I have done is: Education to the fellowship by bringing out the information of some of the literature that some did not know that we had and make reference about it at meetings. We have some pamphlets that are no longer printed and have asked members to pass them out.

The Miles City Chamber of Commerce has the AA meeting schedules and so I asked if we could get our information there also and they were very happy to get many copies of Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism that had meeting schedules inside of them.

The Chamber has a monthly newsletter and they have a calendar of events in the area that may be of interest for information to be given out.

I've made some business cards that can be left anywhere that a regular business card can be left. Or along with your tip. I've brought some examples for you to see.

If you travel by air, don't forget to slip information in the pockets in front of you. I understand the planes do not get cleaned very often and someone is bound to pick it up.

Our district ordered 200 copies of Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2016 and they are all passed out to various places like doctors, dentist, chiropractic, and beauty shops and many of our pastors were very appreciated to get some information.

We ordered another 200 copies of Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2017 issue and they will be passed out to our groups in the next district meeting.



We have our meeting schedule with Midrivers Community TV channel and last week a member that works at the High School said that the message was on the air in the classroom “Are you troubled by someone’s drinking?”

I have forwarded a lot of information from WSO to our Area DR’s that has been very good and a list of the TV stations that received a copy of the PSAs from WSO. If you do see any of these played, PLEASE call the station and let them know that they are so much appreciated. I think it may be like putting literature or books at your local library, if they are not checked out very often then they take them off the shelf.

We still have places like :doctors office, dentist office and chiropractic clinics and beauty Salons. I would like to know as your Public Outreach Coordinator what would the DR’s like to know about outreach, what does anyone need help with and what are you doing in your district regarding Public Outreach?

Our Service manual on page 45 talks about holding a meeting to celebrate a special occasion and we in Hope Al-Anon are planning on doing that with our Gratitude meeting with an AA speaker and an Al-Anon speaker and where we invite AA and special friends that we think may get the message of hope as well as members that no longer come as I’ve heard a few say “Are you guys still meeting” even though it is in our local newspaper. Sometimes it just takes that invitation!

I have made some copies from a Regional Service Seminar that I had the privilege to attend in 2004. Please feel free to take a copy as there is a lot of ideas for service.

PS:

Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2017 magazine , first printing- copies ordered by members English: 173,275 French: 12,125, Spanish: 18,725, Total copies: 204,125 The dead line to order AFA 2017 second printing magazines is February 8, 2017.

Thank you for letting me be your Public Outreach Coordinator

From Carole D.

## Ask It Basket

***Who decides what goes in the Newcomer’s packet?*** The Newcomer’s packets come from the World Service. They put together 5,000 each week! What is in the Newcomer’s packets has come from suggestions from the groups. Many districts have added information they feel is helpful.

***Retreat: On page 123 in the Service Manual it states that we may never announce any kind of retreats. What if the event is non-religious? Should we still not announce them?*** In order to be announcing and giving out flyers for events it needs to be a part of a service arm. So it needs to be something sponsored by a group, district, area, WSO, International, etc. The reason we don’t use the word “retreat” is explained on page 123 in the Service Manual. This then takes us back to Tradition 6 - see your service manual. So if we’re announcing something that is outside of the structure of our program We are really promoting something that is not a part of our program and that’s where the problem comes in. So when we hear lingo like pop corning, double dipping, crosstalk and other words coming from treatment centers & other outside entities it dilutes the Al-Anon message. It is important to keep the focus on Al-Anon which makes our groups stronger. When we bring outside interests in our focus weakens and so do our groups, our programs and Al-Anon.

***Is it time to redo District Boundaries?*** In our guidelines there is a map of district boundaries. The two districts that want to have their boundaries changed need to talk about it, figure it out and then bring it to Area Assembly for a motion to make these changes.

**Best way to explain importance of WSO to members?** References: service manual on pages 67, 134, and 135.

**Page 134:** “Services rendered to groups all over the world by our World Service office (WSO) also known as Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc., and by General Service Offices (GSOs) outside the World Service Conference Structure. These services are channeled through the Area World Service Committees and General Service Committees in other countries.”

**Page 135** “Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc., better known to most members as the World Service office or WSO, is the headquarters of the entire fellowship.” They provide a lot of services for our groups, they are known as a clearinghouse. Everything we do filters through them and they disseminate it out.

**Page 67:** As the principal service center of the fellowship, the WSO acts in conformity with the wishes of the Conference. It publishes all *Conference Approved Literature*.(CAL) Many functions and activities of the fellowship circulate through this office. It is the center, not the head; it serves but does not control or direct.

**Booths? Can we set up a booth at the fair and other such events to get the word out about Al-Anon/Alateen? What about anonymity?**

References: Service manual page 91, 109 and *Best of Public Outreach* page 14 (free download from AFG’s website or purchased through a Literature Distribution Center.)

Page 91: “When dealing with the general public. It is important to use discretion in revealing one’s Al-Anon/Alateen membership. In settings where there is no media involved (health fairs, speaking to community groups or schools, etc.) members are free to use their full names, if they are comfortable doing so.”

Page 109: Please read. At these events we provide information and get the name of Al-Anon out there.

**Roundup. Do the districts have written guidelines about their Roundup participation? Should there be Area Guidelines as they are Area events?**

We could write up area guidelines if we wished too, but these are AA Roundups, and each AA district does it so differently.

**Spring & Fall Assembly: Hat draw for skits/on the concepts. 1st hat - Districts 1-14 - draw one; 2nd hat concepts - draw one: 30 minutes skits.**

We will be talking about this at the next assembly.

Connie thanked everyone for their wonderful participation. The Assembly was adjourned with the Al-Anon Declaration.

In Love & Service,

Lori K., Area Secretary

**Spring Assembly - March 31 and April 1, 2017  
Sleep Inn & Suites,**

1006 S Haynes Ave, Miles City  
406-232-3000, ask for Room Block "AFG Al-Anon Group"

**Area World Service Committee (AWSC):** March 31, 2017, Friday, 7 - 9 pm

**Area Assembly:** April 1, 2017 Saturday, 9 am - 5 pm

**Dinner and Speaker meeting** Saturday evening

**REACHING FOR RECOVERY**

**TEAM Event - Save the Date**

(Together Empowering Al-Anon Members)

June 17-18, 2017

Missoula, Montana

Montana and Idaho Al-Anon Areas 32 & 13 invite you to join us  
for a memorable TEAM Event weekend.

WSO Presentations, Workshops, Personal Growth, Fellowship, Fun!

Let's come together to learn more about how Al-Anon works. And gain an ever  
deeper understanding of our worldwide fellowship.

Details & registration forms coming soon

Service positions are still open for planning and during the event.

Please contact:

**Frances M.**

Montana Area 32 TEAM Co-Chair

[bestshot@csinet.net](mailto:bestshot@csinet.net)

**Nancy Jo W.**

Idaho Area 13 TEAM Co-Chair

[abraham2010@cableone.net](mailto:abraham2010@cableone.net)

More info as available at: [www.al-anon-montana.org](http://www.al-anon-montana.org) - Events

### **2017 Spring Roundup - Save the Date**

May 19-21, 2017, Big Horn Resort

Billings, MT

#### **Upcoming topics:**

Spring AWSC and Assembly for 2018-2020 location to be determined spring 2017.

Trustee visit September 2017.

Elections September 2018.