

## **MONTANA SPRING AREA ASSEMBLY**

APRIL 28, 2018

Holiday Inn Express & Suites,  
309 W Madison Avenue  
Belgrade, MT

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 & Introductions were made.

There were 8 - 10 new members that had never been to an assembly before for a total of 53 attending!  
With 37 voting GRS!

### **Skit on Service Positions - Elaine and volunteers**

### **Secretary's Report - Lori**

2017 Fall Assembly Minutes were approved as amended.

### **Treasurer's Report - Pam**

Spring 2018 Area Treasurer's Report

Hello, my name is Pam and I am your Area Treasurer.

I received a computer from Carol S. to be used for the Treasurer, however, it was an HP Chromebook, which is not compatible with our software that we use.

I have purchased a computer and I am in the process of setting it up at this time.

I also have several groups still sending to the old address. Please make sure everyone in your district knows the new address. Postnet also somehow morphed my post office box number from 424 to 429 and the mail was getting sent back by my post office. So the latest deposit was an accumulation before they finally got a hold of me to find out what the problem was.

I emailed out the Profit and Losses a couple weeks ago to be dispersed. I did bring about 10 copies for those that may not have it. I can also email it to you if you give me your email address.

As you can see, we ended okay for the 2017 fiscal year. We were short on donations, but we also came up shorter on expenses. Our net income for the year was \$2,454.78. We also did not have to pay out for a Trustee that was expected to come last year.

For the 2018 fiscal year so far, our income is at 27.7 percent of the budgeted income. We should be at around 25 percent so we are on target so far.

Our current balance in the checking account is \$8,964.95.

Our current balance in the savings account is \$3,017.48.

The Scholarship Fund has \$154.00 in it.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Yours in Service,

Pam C.

\*Note P&L for 2017 and 2018 are attached at the end.

## **Old Business**

### **501 (c) (3) Update - Connie**

Connie gave an update.

### **Break out sessions from Fall Assembly**

Members shared what they brought back and changes that happened as a result of information from these sessions.

### **Road Trip! You and Your board connect! Fall 2019 - need to have request in by 9/2018 (Carol S)**

Carol gave background and pertinent information and encouraged districts to apply.

### **Review of Evaluations from Fall Assembly - Connie**

Past evaluations have been very helpful in better meeting member's needs. Connie asked that everyone fill one out. Compulation of evaluations from last fall are on the back table.

**AMIAS Training** given by Patty K.

**Knowledge Based Decision Making Presentation (KBDM)** given by Elaine D.

### **Prep for Elections in September, questions re job descriptions? Interest? (Pennie & Carol S)**

Pennie and I put together our first Job Fair to pique interest in job service rotation for Fall 2018. We put descriptions on 8x10 sheets and had the service resumes available for people to fill out. It seemed to be successful and got people talking about service.

## **New Business**

### **Possible thought force regarding providing a computer to future area officers:**

Computer/Tablet Work Force was created - which is the best choice for the delegate. Serving on this are Shannon, Kay S, Carol S. & Elaine D.

### **Discussion regarding the costs for background checks for AMIAS - Patty.**

Patty explained what was needed. A Work Group was created. Serving on this Work Group are Libby, Chris and Patty.

### **What do we do with donated Conference Approved Literature (CAL) to Area - Jill**

Discussion was had. Later in the day it was decided to give those in need.

**Hotel for the spring meeting is asking for a three year commitment with identified dates. - Lori.**  
**(Current motion has Delegate determine date)**

Discussed. It was decided upon April 5 & 6, 2019 by vote by consensus. Mark your calendars!

**AWSC/Assembly Thought Force (Elaine D, Connie W, Carol D, Lori K, Sylke L)**

Discussion was held and going forward Thought Force with Carole D, Sylke L, Pam C, Doreen and Cindy C will bring information to Fall Assembly.

**Area Literature Distribution Center - Donna E**

Is it still working? Is it serving the purpose we want? What benefit is it to the members?  
A Thought Force was created with Donna E, Jill, Judy T, & Cindy C.

**Bookmark - Just for Tonight - Carol S.**

Carol shared on Just for Tonight bookmark that World Service Conference gave conceptual approval for.

**Montana Chemical Dependency Center (MCDC) - Chris**

Chris shared about this. Would area consider providing some of the literature?  
Others shared their experience on how they handle this.

### **Committee Reports**

**Alateen Task Force - (Patty, Chris K, Shannon S and Carol S.)**

Given as part of her presentation.

**Area Speaker Meeting Work Group - Katy O, Kay S, Carole D, Cindy C and Lori K.**

No report

**Guidelines Committee - Carol S, Pennie K (Carol reported)**

**Guidelines** were updated and I made 7 copies. I continue to struggle with how to reduce the size of the document in order for it to get open and download. I plan on talking with Shannon to see how we can work it out.

### **District Representative Reports**

**District 1 - Bev O - given by Carol S**

#### DISTRICT 1 REPORT FOR SPRING ASSEMBLY 2018

Greetings from District 1 in Northwest Montana. Our district has eight Al-Anon groups, meeting in Bigfork, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Kalispell, Libby, and Whitefish. We have one Alateen group in Kalispell.

March 10 was an exciting day for us as we held our annual "Day in Al-Anon". Our theme was "Journey of Recovery"; it was an inspirational and fun day. There were 49 attendees – largest

number ever – of all ages, both men and women. This is a moneymaking event for the District, and we cleared \$469.00. We had a speaker, a circle meeting, fun games (with prizes!), yummy lunch, raffle, door prizes and many new volunteers that helped with all the details.

At our March District meeting, our DR (Peggy W.) reported that she was soon to move to Spokane. This was a fine opportunity for Peggy, but a sad situation for us. We miss her able and enthusiastic leadership. Last week, the district appointed Bev O. to the DR position for the remainder of Peggy's term.

Kalispell will be hosting the Spring Roundup in 2019 "Our Path to a Common Solution". Al-Anon representatives are meeting with the AA Committee, and early planning is underway. There are "Save the Date" flyers for you (on the table? In your mailboxes? ). Please take a supply of these back to your districts.

We are also looking forward to seeing all of you in Kalispell for the next three Fall Assemblies! And if your vacation travels bring you to the Flathead this summer, we'd love to see you at our meetings.

See you in September!!

(Report compiled by Bev O. and Carol S. and read by Carol S.)

#### **District 6 - Jill**

District 6 Report

Submitted by Jill M.

4/26/2018

District 6 has had monthly meetings the 2nd Saturday of each month unless weather has not permitted travel.

Our active groups include Miles City, Thursday evening and Saturday morning, (a Monday night step study has started in Miles City, but not registered yet), Forsyth one night per week, Broadus one night per week, Colstrip/Lame Deer one night per week.

Member attendance in Miles City Saturday is about 9-14 weekly. Other groups average about 3-5.

District 6 mailed invitations to about 70-80 professionals and held a Public Outreach event the 2nd weekend in March on Saturday from 1-2 pm. Turn out was one. The program planned consisted of outreach video, 3 person panel, literature free and for sale. Refreshments were provided in the form of fruit, vegetable, and meat/cheese deli trays. God Bless us all! The District Representative, as well as others, could not make it because of road conditions and low visibility. Miles City members consulted with each other and the one attendee. Deli trays were split up between members and taken home. Another outreach event was initiated from this event at a church.

About 4 members are planning on attending International Alanon Conference. Planning is ongoing. Love gifts were made for Delegate.

Saturday group has had a monthly potluck themed, mexican, baked potato bar, salads, after their business meeting.

Our May 12 meeting will explore Concept 5, as our other monthly meetings we have read and discussed concepts. There will be no District meetings for June and July. August 11 District meeting will convene at 11:15 am with Judy T. Alternate DR leading.

Our Public Outreach, Literature representative, Secretary and Treasurer, plus other Alanon members have done a great job practicing Tradition 4, Participation is the key to harmony. Thank you all.

District 6 will be holding elections Fall, 2018 to support rotation of leadership.

#### **District 7 - Deb**

No report received.

### **District 8 - Katy O**

District 8 Report for Spring Area Assembly 2018

Prepared by Katy O

Hello there and happy spring from District 8! We are so grateful for the opportunity to have you all here in our neck of the woods! I especially want to thank Lori K for all the work she has done to make this happen.

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 regular newcomers meetings. We have a new meeting that has started in Big Sky, a mountain town approximately 45 minutes south of here. Their meeting is going fairly well, but they need support. One of our local groups has brought them literature and we are hoping to get experienced members up there as often as possible.

We have had some fun events this year. Two of our groups continue to have speakers meetings for their anniversary every year. Our Sunday Morning group, named Boundary Up, hosted a Spring Fling. At this event they had easter eggs with questions in them for a panel to answer. It resulted in some awesome spontaneous sharing. One of our groups had a joint event with the young people's AA titled "Surviving the Holidays." And a group also held a workshop based on the book "Discovering Choices."

After hearing from other DRs here last year, we have changed our District format for this year. Our old format included group reports every month. Our new plan is having this old format every third month, and the two meetings in between we are offering a teaching topic. So far we have had a talk on the Al-Anon service structure, the principle of abundant thinking and next month our own Jenny T will be presenting on Knowledge Based Decision Making. Our hope is this will increase interest in attending District.

We continue to have some difficulties filling service positions at our District level. I continue to operate without an Alternate DR. We have an excited new event coordinator who is coming up with some great ideas for events and fundraisers. We have not had anyone step forward to re-invent our Alateen program and at this time we remain without an Alateen meeting. We continue to refer younger people to the online chat rooms or to attend regular Al-Anon meetings.

Our PICPC coordinator distributes pamphlets and meeting schedules around town. We are hoping to continue our relationship with the MSU College of Nursing, where we have been invited most years to put on a panel for the nursing students about AA and Al-Anon. It is always a moving experience and I love being able to give these future healthcare workers a truthful and solid eye into alcoholism, the effects on the family and the solution we have to offer. We have new opportunities as well, to help get a meeting off the ground at a local senior's home, to get a panel to one of the Alternative High Schools and panels at Alcohol and Drug Services. We distribute Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism around town. Our District paid to have ads run in our local newspaper and in the Montana Parent magazine, which were awesome!

Love in service, Katy O

### **District 9 - Chris**

Hello, from District 9. We had the 2017 Fall Roundup at Fairmont Hot Springs in October and did well in turnout, participation and funding. I have learned what a creative and willing Al-Anon family that I have in District 9.

Last fall, after the Roundup, AA and Al-Anon agreed to create a Unity Committee to do fun things together. This is not the District doing the planning, but members who want to plan the fun events. Our children are welcome, so it is a family event. So far, we have had a Christmas Party, New Years Party, Sleigh ride, Valentines Dance, and are planning a big Barbeque at one of the Butte Gallus frame sites in June. I have heard of camp outs and swim parties and plan to add them to the agenda. Our children have had so much fun at these get-togethers.

Our Italian Dinner went well this year and it was said that this was our best yet and we had the largest turn out also.

We started an Institution Meeting at the MCDC in Butte which is the States Chemical Dependency Treatment Center. This is a much needed Service and I feel so grateful to be a part. We are working to provide them with our Literature and meetings for their duration of four weeks of treatment.

We plan to start Alateen in May and have three AMIAS.

District 9 continues to have 3 meetings in Butte, 2 in Anaconda, 1 in Deer Lodge and 1 in Dillon.

We are discussing our Election. We will vote in June.

We have a summer picnic planned for August. I have learned so much and have grown in my Program doing all this Twelfth Step work. I thank all of you for your support.

In Service, Chris K D.R. 9.

**District 10 - Sylke**

No report received.

**District 11 - Libby gave for Ann**

Report from District 11

April 28, 2018

District 11 in Helena has 12 regular meetings and plans to complete registration for another soon. We have a monthly speaker meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month.

Our Alateen meeting now has 11 regular members. A local organization, Youth Connections, sends out a quarterly magazine to 7000 households with students in the public schools. We are placing an ad to publicize the Alateen meeting in each of the next four issues. In addition, plans are in the works to start a weekly Alateen meeting at one of the high schools.

The Literature Distribution Center is doing well. New Service manuals are available.

The District participates with AA on two events each year, Pockets of Enthusiasm in March and Attitude of Gratitude the weekend before Thanksgiving. In addition to an Al-Anon speaker, there

are Al-Anon meetings. At the Attitude of Gratitude there is a silent auction. The District keeps half of the proceeds and the other half is divided between Area and WSO.

May 19 there is a Corrections Workshop with representatives from the legal system, criminal justice system and others. Anne K, the District Outreach Coordinator, has been helping organize this event. It will be held from 11-3 at the 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church. \$10. Lunch included. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

The District maintains a phone for calls. The number of calls per month ranges from 2-6.

Fall Round-Up will be held in Helena.

After learning about the Events Coordinator in other districts, we have been working on a job description and plan to have it as one of the positions up for election in August.

AA operates a facility called the "Wilson House." It is a building that houses meetings and events. There are frequent family activities on Sunday afternoons. The District has a member who serves as the Al-Anon Liaison and she and 3 other members of Al-Anon are on the board. This is paid for by individual contributions and the District has no financial obligation.

Yours in service,

Ann L  
District 11 Representative

#### **District 12 - Kay**

- \* Alanon was invited to the September "National Recovery Walk" t the fairgrounds.
  - \* Lois; story dvd shown October 7
  - \* CAL displayed at Great Falls College Red Ribbon Week event with Alan speaker on evening recovery panel.
  - \* About 100 people attended the New Year's Eve celebration that included an Alanon speaker.
  - \* Small group study continues with Path to Recovery & Reaching for Personal Freedom.
  - \* Alan Faces Alcoholism distributed into the community.
  - \* Group conscience used to address newcomers & service dogs only at meetings.
- Submitted by Kay S.

#### **District 14 - Mike**

No report received.

### **Area Coordinator Reports**

#### **Forum - Kay**

The Forum coordinator report for Belgrade Mt Assembly April 27-29

- \*Mark, The Forum editor, requests sharing for these topics:
  - Alateen & group sponsors
  - Legacy especially traditions & concepts
  - Newcomers

MT Subscriptions:	Total subscriptions US Canada Bermuda
January for December 198	21,057
February for January 201	21,250
April for March 182	21,184

**News & Views - Shannon**  
 News & Views Coordinator Report

7 Newsletters went out in 2017 and 3 newsletters have gone out already in 2018. Members have been sending in content for the newsletters which is awesome. We currently have 356 contacts. The limit is 500, so we may need to upgrade the contract software or switch software. To upgrade to up to 2500 contacts it is \$21.76 a month when paid annually. There were 18 new subscribers added in 2017.

The latest News & Views was opened by 95 people!! 222 did not open it.

11 new subscribers TODAY!!!

**Group Records - Libby**  
 AREA GROUP RECORDS REPORT  
 APRIL 28, 2018

Area 32 currently has 105 active groups. WSO has marked 7 groups that are not receiving mail and 8 that have given an e-mail address that is not currently receiving e-mails.

The oldest group, Living Our Lives AFG, registered on August 1, 1977. The newest group to register, Good Morning Higher Power AFG, registered on 5/27/2015. Both groups are located in Helena.

Yours in service,

Libby G  
 Area Group Records

**Website - Brett**  
Spring 2018 Website Coordinator Report

The Montana website is [al-anon-montana.org](http://al-anon-montana.org) The site will come up with a search for Al-Anon in Montana, even if the name is misspelled (e.g. alanon, ala-non, etc.)

If you have been on the site lately, you may have noticed some changes. I have added a couple of pages (“Delegate’s Corner” and “Announcements”). I also added “Archives” links at the bottom of the Business and News & Views pages. Information more than three years old will go on the Archives page.

I have added a section for the Area Guidelines to the right column, under the Mission & Vision Statements. There is also a link specifically for the Job Descriptions on the Announcements page, in the highlight about Fall elections. I have just discovered that the current document is too big to link to the website so I will be working on a solution to that.

The most noticeable change is the addition of a “News Reel” on the Events and Business pages. Look for this to highlight changes for the Area that might not fit elsewhere. The next project I hope to complete is to add a page with acronyms, including Knowledge Based Decision Making (KBDM).

I have added several more pictures of meeting places since the last Assembly. Please continue sharing photos of meeting sites; these photos are added to the Google Map for that district to make it easier for newcomers to find your meeting. The ideal photo should show the meeting entrance, but from a short distance so that it is easily recognizable if a newcomer is driving up. Make sure to designate which meeting each photo 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).

Please keep checking the website for accuracy. I am always grateful to hear when someone requests an update in their District or group information. As always, let me know if anything is outdated, or if links don't work.

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The World Service Office (WSO) website is <https://al-anon.org/>

Group changes or new group registration is now available on the WSO website. From the Home page, go to Members, Group Resources, Group Records...then select the appropriate option. If you are changing your current group information, you will need to enter your group number.

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My questions for the Assembly:

Do we want the Donations report on the web?

In grateful service...Brett

### **Public Outreach - Carole D**

I do not have much to report for action as far as the Assembly is concerned except that the DR'S have been forwarded emails or messages from WSO.

Hope Al-Anon has been very busy at passing out the 2017 and 2018 Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism as we had ordered 200 copies.

These were dropped off at: Department of Child Services, Pregnancy Outreach, Laundry Matts, Probation Office and Parole, District High School, Pharmacy (Big Sky), waiting rooms of Ophthalmology, Chiropractor's, Holy Rosary Hospital, Hair Salons, Chamber Office, and Public Library and The Little Libraries around town.

We have advertisement on our local radio stations and on the Community TV net work with dates and times of our meetings.

I personally have ordered as Christmas gifts a subscription on 12 Forums and I pass these out at my Bible study groups. They are able to get a copy each month and are asked to pay it forward.

We are looking into having a booth at our local Farmers Market.

Our Thanksgiving Gratitude soup luncheon was a success for spreading out literature to our guests of 30 people.

Weather was a big factor to attendance.

Thanks for letting me be of service as your Public Outreach Coordinator

Carole

### **Archives - Sue**

2018 Spring Archives Coordinator Report Sue Tucker 2018 04 28

Archives Report:

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

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of an area archives is to preserve the experience, history and memorabilia of the Al-Anon fellowship from the beginning of the family movement in that locale.

This history should be preserved so as to be available to the membership and the serious researcher, within the framework of our Traditions, for the good of Al-Anon as a whole.

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. Most recently, we received one from Norma A. longtime member in Billings.

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.

Our Archivist, Pennie K., has moved the 20 boxes of archives from storage in Great Falls to a storage unit in Helena. This has been paid for through April 2019. In the fall, she is interested in reviewing what paper we have stored and evaluating

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Sue T.,  
Archives Coordinator 2016 – 2018

## **Literature Distribution Coordinator - Jill**

Literature Distribution Coordinator Report

By Jill M.

Submitted to Area Assembly

April 27, 2018

This coordinator has ordered Alanon Faces Alcoholism pamphlets for Area, as well as supplemental inventory of pamphlets and books. New service manuals will be ordered soon. I have found my isolation, little enthusiasm for online activity, and deadlines lead to frustration. Glendive has donated literature from a closed group. Area will decide based on principles what to do with this literature.

The inventory has been stored in Jill M. garage and she teaches in Baker, while renting a 2 bedroom duplex. Thus, logistics for literature requests from around the state impossible to fulfill. There needs to be discussion regarding the next coordinator and specific expectations of Montana needs in this coordinator position. It is this person's understanding taking literature to area and selling it was the top priority. Participation in conference calls and ordering inventory for assembly.

Some Districts will call and expect LDC to have mailings of literature to them. This does not seem financially responsible because of postage. Districts might want to set up their own Literature inventories based on their membership and fiscal responsibility.

Communication with WSO has been limited.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. I look forward to passing the literature on, assisting the next LDC, and exploring another Coordinator position if applicable. Service has been a good opportunity to work my program, less than perfectly. Progress, not perfection!

## **Alateen - Patty**

For Alateen,

Kalispell, Helena, Billings each have one meeting. Chris K in Butte is starting a meeting in the high school. Denise in Missoula trained 11 people who will be starting a meeting in conjunction with AA and Al-Anon meetings on Thursday night.

## **Upcoming Roundups:**

### **Great Falls - Spring 2018**

Spring 2018

“Recovery Through Unity”

May 4, 5 & 6, 2018 at the Best Western Heritage Inn

### **Helena - Fall 2018**

Save the date October 12, 13 & 14, 2018

Radisson Hotel

### **Kalispell - Spring 2019**

## **Ask it Basket:**

*Who is going to International Convention in July in Baltimore?* 3 or 4 people are going.

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

In Love & Service  
Respectfully,

Lori K, Area Secretary

**VISION:** To ensure that all Al-Anon/Alateen groups in Montana have an opportunity to affect the direction of Al-Anon as a whole through shared information between the groups and the World Service Conference (WSC).

**MISSION:** To collect and distribute information and reports, initiate projects, and make recommendations that support Al-Anon/Alateen at all levels (groups, districts, and WSC).

**2018 Fall Assembly**

September 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
Red Lion Inn, 20 N Main in Kalispell MT.  
866-347-0877, Room Block Alanon

**2019 Spring Assembly**

April 4 & 5, 2019.  
Holiday Inn Express & Suites,  
309 W Madison Avenue, Belgrade MT,  
406-388-7100, Room Block AFG

**Upcoming topics**

Elections September 2018 for Panel 59, 2019-2021.

Trustee Visit Fall 2020

Spring Assembly Location for 2021-2024 to be determined Spring 2020.

Fall Assembly Location for 2021-2024 to be determined Fall 2020.