

Fall Area Assembly 2014
Yogo Inn, Lewistown, MT
Saturday, September 20, 2014

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

Announcements were made:

- There are 3 new GR's
- Sending a basket around for a donation to WSO
- Ask it Basket
- Orange Bag left at the last Assembly
- Jeanne's Archives Display

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

Introductions were made around the room. New Group Representatives were welcomed. 42 were in attendance, and 29 voting GR's.

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

Treasurer's report – Sharon M. read a letter from WSO about Equalized Expense. It is attached and made part of the minutes.

I am a grateful member of the fellowship Al-Aon and I am here to serve this position in the best way I can.

Income for the months of April to September 2014 was \$2,429.29. This is Group and District combined, a donation from area in the amount of \$158.00 was collected for love notes for WSO, registration for Spring Assembly was \$845.00 thus bringing to total to \$3,432.32.

Expenses for the months of April to September were as follows: Coordinators and delegates, alternate delegate, chairperson, and secretary were for Spring Assembly \$2,127.93, order for checks were \$29.10, delegate expenses for WSO were \$158.03, copies for area were from staples were \$48.00, Travel for Trustee to come to Area, Joan S., were \$614.50. Expenses for Jorgensen's in Helena were \$657.15. Website charges were \$60.00, receipt book for Spring Assembly \$9.75, Connie W. to go to NWRDM, \$175.88 for a total of \$3,880.34.

The checking account balance as of 9/12/2014 is \$5,657.11. The savings account balance as of 9/12/2014 is \$3,013.96

Yours in Service,
Sharon M. Treasurer Area 32

Sharon M. also made up pre-addressed envelopes to the Treasurer address for groups and districts. Please take as many as needed.

Delegate Report – Connie W. gave the report as follows:

First of all, I would thank you all for the honor of representing all of you at the World Service Conference. It is an amazing time. The theme this year is “World Service Conference: Our Spiritual Principles in Action”. The presence of a Higher Power was very evident to me.

Karen R, the Chairperson of the Board, shared *“When the Delegates come to Conference, they bring the voice of their Areas, but are given the freedom to vote their conscience after listening to the many opinions and ideas from all Conference members. This regard for what is best for Al-Anon as a whole responds to the principle of unity within our fellowship along with the knowledge that together with our Higher Power our combined voice is superior to one single voice or a single vision. This reminds me of a quote from one of my favorite characters of all time, Spock, from Star Trek. He states as he saves the ship and the crew that ‘The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few or the one.’ This not only speaks to our common purpose and the unity of the fellowship, but to anonymity because it acknowledges that while all have a voice, when the Conference speaks we need to support the voice of the Conference even when we may not have agreed with the decision. It is not about us, it is about the group conscience.”*

Thought and Task Force committee reports:

- Thought Force: Create Strategies on the Importance of a Home Group
- Task Force: Develop a Script or Workshop to Encourage Discussion about the Difference between Principles and Procedures in Al-Anon
- Task Force: Compilation of Area Guidelines for Trusted Servants Not Fulfilling Responsibilities
- Thought Force: Technology as more Inclusive rather than Exclusive
- Task Force: Create Games Using the Information in the *Service Manual*

There were two chosen agenda items that were discussed for sixty minutes.

Chosen agenda Item #2.

How can we encourage more participation in service in our groups including stepping up to serve as a Group Representative and having members sign-up to lead group meetings? And how can we inspire service in Al-Anon?

Chosen Agenda Item #9.

What strategies have been used to address obstacles to success when they arise at the Area level? The three obstacles to success lead to dissension when the principles of our program are not foremost on everyone’s mind, not only at the group level, but also at district and Area levels. And dealing with a member (who holds elected positions) that is out of control, dominant, disrespectful, micro-managing everything and everyone; someone with no regard or respect for the feelings and/or anonymity of other members. What is the best action to take to preserve personal integrity and that of the program?

Alateen Service e-Manual

There is a new Alateen Service e-manual within www.al-anon.alateen.org/members. It includes sample sharings from *Alateen Talk*; the ability to submit a sharing electronically; a link to register for Alateen chat meetings; information about Alateen literature, how to start an Alateen group, information on Alateen participation at events and much more.

***The Forum* (60 year anniversary in 2014!!)**

There is some good news about *The Forum*, and some bad news.

The good news is that *The Forum* is currently Al-Anon's most effective means of communicating with Al-Anon groups and individual Al-Anon members. There are 20,000 personal copies, 14,600 copies sent to groups and 200 electronic subscriptions which reaches a cross section of the fellowship. The cost of *The Forum* covers the printing and mailing only.

The bad news is that—even though *The Forum* is Al-Anon's largest monthly publication—it reaches only about 10 to 20 percent of the fellowship. That means that more than 80 to 90 percent of Al-Anon members don't know how the magazine could help their programs, and they're unaware of the service opportunities that the magazine shares with the fellowship. *Forum* subscriptions are declining.

2014 Proposed Budget

The 2014 budget shows that expenses will be \$27,000 more than revenue for the year. The estimated expenses to be \$5,077,000 and revenues to be \$5,050,000. Overall expense is budgeted to increase by \$165,000 from last year's actual. Labor costs are expected to decrease \$52,000 due to unfilled staff positions and fewer employees enrolled in our group medical insurance.

Income from literature sales will be about \$44,000 less than last year and *Forum* subscription income to be about the same. Contributions are budgeted to \$1,500,000 with is about \$94,000 more than last year's actual. Beginning in 2008, it was agreed to transfer up to 4% of the fair value of the Reserve Fund to the General Fund. It is expected to need the full 4% from the Reserve Fund. If every group gave \$1.00 more a year, the budget would be met without going into the Reserve Fund.

Contributions

Montana Contributions

- 2013, 49.1% of groups contributed with an average contribution of \$112.81. The total contributions were \$5,979. In 2012 the total contributions were \$5,846.
- In 2013, contributions from individuals and contributions from LCD's and Area meetings were \$2,765. In 2012, those contributions were \$1,748.

USA/Canada Summary

- The total number of groups is 15,232. Total groups contributing is 9,415 equaling 61.81%. The average amount for groups contributing is \$112.78.

Estimated total cost of services provided \$3,960,093.

Average cost of services per group is \$259.99.

Does your group or district have a budget?

Does it include rent, literature, refreshments as needed, donations to District, Area and WSO?

Number of Groups

The total number of registered Al-Anon & Alateen groups worldwide in 2013 is 25,647

US/PR/BDA Al-Anon 13,237

US/PR/BDA Alateen 968

Canada Al-Anon 1,304

Canada Alateen 88

International Al-Anon 9,361

International Alateen 689

Additionally there are also 123 Electronic meetings.

Board of Trustees Big Question—Big Group and small groups info

Big Question: How can we as service leaders anticipate the future and Al-Anon's place in it, ensuring that the necessary resources are available, with our spiritual principles as our guide?

1. Thinking 15 – 25 years in the future, how will we as service leaders emphasize spiritual principles as guides or safeguards, rather than barriers, to forward movement and future thinking?

Spiritual principles/Core values:

Courage; Accountability; Three Legacies; Anonymity; Good personal leadership;

Honesty – openness; Tradition One – Unity; Available in all opportunities; Commitment;

Responsibility; Abundance; Twelve Steps; Love and support; Courage prevents me from being confined by fear; Participation is the key to harmony; Humility; Common purpose; Flexibility; and Spirituality, hope, joy.

2. What actions can we as service leaders take today (in the near term) to ensure Al-Anon's place in the world 15 – 25 years in the future?

Resources; Meet members where they are; Keep paying it forward; Need to attract younger members; and Workshop on finance.

3. Thinking 15 – 25 years in the future, how do we as service leaders ensure the necessary resources are available?

Embrace technology with enthusiasm; Engage the membership; Public outreach; Sponsorship; Talking about money; Inviting people; and Infusion of ideas.

4. What practices or procedures (within the Al-Anon fellowship) may be limiting forward movement and future thinking? What changes need to take place?

Electronics viewed as negative; Dual members' policy; Computer exclusion; Preconceived notions; Black and white thinking; Length of time to make decisions; and Use technology to expand the decision-making.

Treatment Facilities Outreach Project

Building relationships with professionals at treatment facilities is a vital public outreach activity. Our cooperation with these professionals helps bring our message of hope to the families or friends of alcoholics. We can make Al-Anon information available at a facility whether or not services for family members are available.

There are four PowerPoint modules intended for use at a workshop to explain how Al-Anon members go about building a relationship with treatment facilities. These modules include a full script for the presenter. The PowerPoint modules can also be used as handouts.

The workshop is also an educational tool. In addition to motivating members, it can also be used to recruit members for implementation of treatment facilities outreach projects. Project planning is the foundation of effective communications with treatment facility staff. Members are also more likely to volunteer and remain actively involved in an outreach project when it is well coordinated.

The *Resources Guide* is a tool that helps members plan and host a Treatment Facilities Outreach Project workshop. It includes suggestions for enhancing a presentation with audience participation. It also includes background information about the types of treatment facilities staff and services that members may encounter when developing outreach projects and communicating with professionals.

The *Presenter's Guide* supplements the presenter's script to the PowerPoint presentation modules. It cites the duties of the presenter, and helps the presenter to prepare for a workshop presentation. Go to the "Public Outreach section of the WSO Members' Web site.

This presentation launches a new beginning for Public Outreach and Institutions activities within an Area. Your support and follow through in making announcements about the project and the Treatment Facilities Outreach Project workshop materials is critical.

Meet the Board Event

This year, the Meet the Board Event was in Newfoundland. A request to host in July of 2015 was sent in by District 11, with District 1 being the alternate.

International Conventions

2013 Al-Anon International Convention

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

July 5-7, 2013

A special "Day of Connecting" was held on Thursday, July 4. The event included new, innovative workshops on topics typically available at TEAM events. The registration was 1,523. The final registration for the Convention was 3,763, which included 51 Alateen members and 411 A.A. members.

Al-Anon's Sixth International Convention will be in Baltimore, Maryland in July 2018.

The International Coordination Committee (ICC) started preliminary planning for the 2014 International Al-Anon General Services Meeting (IAGSM) which takes place October 15-19, 2014 in Virginia Beach.

2015 A.A. International Convention with Al-Anon Participation Update

The AA International Convention with Al-Anon Participation will be held in Atlanta Georgia, July 2-5, 2015. Information will be available regarding the Convention in August 2014. There will be information sent out via Group E news and the International Convention can be found on the website under the WSO tab, Events and Conventions.

Conflict Resolution Kit Rollout

Using Al-Anon Principles to Resolve Conflicts (K-70) at \$9.00 each. Included in each kit are:

- Loving Interchange to Resolve Conflict (S-71) at \$1.00 each
- Conflict Resolution Using Our Twelve Traditions (S-72) at \$4.00 each
- And Talk to Each Other—Resolving Conflicts Within Al-Anon (S-73) at \$4.50 each (New)

Group e-News

Group e-News is sent to each group on a monthly basis to the email address listed on the Group Records information. Some Areas encourage their members to have a registered group e-mail, rather than submitting the Current Mailing Addresses' (CMAs) personal e-mail address to protect the members' personal e-mail information.

World Service Office (WSO) Visit

We all had an opportunity to visit the WSO office. It was designed and built for Al-Anon. The architect enjoyed incorporating the triangle and circle in the design. There is much to see. Some of the highlights follow:

- Archives was fascinating. Included there are copies of the one millionth copy and the five millionth copy of the ODAT and a twenty millionth commemorative copy of the AA Big Book presented to Al-Anon at the 2000 AA International Convention.
- In the very large warehouse was a box of literature ready to be sent to Russia. Do you remember when we supported groups in Russia?
- One volunteer packages 1000 newcomer packets each day—5000 per week. She is pleased to be able to contribute to the newcomer.
- There are four ladies who manage and track all the mail that comes in. That includes donations, requests for literature, and everything else. I was grateful that the books and literature ordered is processed within the three week timeframe.
- Many of the staff speak other languages. All of the Spanish and French translations are done in the office by staff. All Spanish and French literature is mailed from WSO. Other English speaking countries can work with WSO to receive permission to print literature in their country, otherwise all English, French and Spanish literature is shipped from WSO.

I am grateful when I see everything the staff of the WSO does to make sure that this worldwide fellowship continues to care for all the people today and those who will need us in the future.

Motions:

MOTION #2 – (71 YES, 22 no, 3 abstentions, 0 void) – CARRIED. That the 2014 WSC give conceptual approval to develop a new daily reader that reflects the diversity of the Al-Anon fellowship. During a March 2012 conference call, the Literature Committee began discussing a suggestion for a new daily reader. The Committee considered the fact that it takes an average of three to five years to develop a daily reader, primarily because of the time it takes to receive enough suitable, thought-provoking sharings. The discussion continued for five more conference calls. In an attempt to consider what the needs of the fellowship might be five years from now, the Committee took into account that a new reader could give members and opportunity to share on topics that they feel are under-represented in our current readers. A reader addressing the many voices of Al-Anon could bring forward all the conversations about diversity that have taken place at recent World Service Conferences and throughout our fellowship. Although Al-Anon welcomes everyone affected by another's alcoholism, not all segments of the population are fully represented in Al-Anon's membership. This includes men, people under 50 years old, and other minorities based on ethnicity, race, or sexual orientation.

The Literature Committee felt that a new daily reader could provide an opportunity for all members to express what Al-Anon is today, with topics that are pertinent to them now, much as *One Day at a Time in Al-Anon* (B-6) did in 1968, *Courage to Change* (B-16) did in 1992; and *Hope for Today* (B-27) did in 2002. This proposed book could provide a voice for various minorities within the program and illustrate the diversity of relationships that lead people to Al-Anon, while still focusing on what we have in common—both in problems and solutions.

MOTION #6 – (88 yes, 8 no, 1 abstentions, 0 void) – CARRIED. To amend the text of the “Dual Membership in Al-Anon/Alateen and A.A.” subsection starting on page 82 and ending on page 83 in the “Membership and Group Meetings/Conventions” section of the “Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies” section of the 2014-2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual. Please refer to the Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual 2014-2017. Information is also found in the 2014 Conference Summary.

MOTION #7 – (91 yes, 6 no, 0 abstentions, 0 void) - CARRIED To authorize the use of electronic devices for note taking starting at the 2015 World Service Conference on a three-year trial basis.

Question and Answer

The last question and answer item we covered regarded the process necessary to change the steps and traditions to be gender neutral. The Al-Anon Alateen Service Manual 2014-2017 on page 172 3d states “No changes are to be made in the Al-Anon or Alateen Traditions, the Steps, the Concepts of Service (except the descriptive text), or the General Warranties of the Conference Charter (Item 12) without written consent of three-quarters of the Al-Anon Family Groups.

Ric went over the process beginning at the group level. There needs to be substantial unanimity among the members. The process then proceeds to District, to Area and then on to the WSC. If at any time, the language is changed, the process begins again. Once the proposed changes are accepted at Conference, a letter would be sent out to the worldwide fellowship (in 2013, 25,647 groups). The groups would review the information and three-quarters of the groups would have to send in written agreement. This is not three-quarters of the responding groups but three quarters of all the worldwide groups. The change in language would apply to all languages, many of which have every word either female or male with nothing that indicates gender neutral.

Of note: The Steps, Traditions and Concepts hold together the worldwide fellowship of Al-Anon and Alateen. If the Legacies are changed in the reading of them at the meeting, that change pulls the group conscience of that group, out of the consciousness of the worldwide fellowship.

Definition of a “Universal Understanding of Recovery”

At the 2014 World Service Conference, members discussed the need of defining family recovery that could be universally understood outside the fellowship by professionals and during public outreach activities. The proposed definition was:

“Family recovery is a process of healing and growth from the effects of living in a family affected by someone’s problem drinking. This process helps individuals to make healthier life choices, and to develop relationships that are more positive and supportive.”

During the Conference discussion, a revised definition was proposed that had substantial support: “Family recovery is a process of healing and growth for family members affected by someone’s drinking. This process helps these individuals make healthier life choices and develop relationships that are more positive and supportive.”

In the discussion at this Area Assembly, 3 members approved the proposed definition with 36 members preferring the revised definition. I will be bringing your choices to the 2015 WSC.

Finally, I would strongly encourage everyone to read the Conference Summary. The summary is available on the website. What I have shared with you is comparable to taking a drink of water out of a fire hydrant.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Connie W
MT Delegate
Panel 53

Took a Break

Old Business

- Spring Assembly Update - We have a block of 30 rooms that need to be filled up so we get the meeting room for free. The rooms need to reserve by March 20, 2015 for the April 10th and 11th. Rooms cost \$99.00 plus tax for each additional person is \$10.00. We need to rsvp for lunch the meal as we need to purchase the meals by the plate. Please let Cindy C. know as soon as possible if you are attending Spring Area Assembly.
- Meet the Board update – Connie W. gave an update on the Meet the Board Event. Helena and Kalispell put in submissions for the event. The middle of December is when they draw the name out of a hat to decide where it will be.

- 501(c)(3) update – Given by Connie W. Steve D has reviewed our process and guidelines. We will need to add IRS requirements to our By-Laws. We need to attach our By-Laws with the IRS requirements to the MT Secretary of State to become an incorporated entity. There is a \$20 fee for this. As secretary per our guidelines, I am able to send in the form. Once the Secretary of State office responds, we will need to request a new EIN from the IRS because of the name change and having become incorporated. Once we receive the EIN, Steve will work with a local attorney in Missoula whose specialty is assisting with Non-Profits applying for the 501 (c) (3) status. There will be a charge for this service, the amount is unknown. There will be “boilerplate” language added to our By-Laws which is required by law. There will be guidelines to be written, however, they will be driven by the IRS rules, and Secretary of State requirements. Some examples will be that we need to track identifiable contributions, send acknowledgement letters, send in the yearly fee due to our Incorporation, file state and federal taxes yearly, and possibly other examples. As the paperwork is submitted, those requirements will become clearer.
- Please see the IRS reregulation below added to our By-Laws.

Article XI IRS Regulations

1. Said organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

2. No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by any organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

3. Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for the public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principle office of the organization is then located, exclusively for the purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

- Cindy C. told the Assembly that we are still thinking about how to get better participation at Assembly and help Coordinators, DR’s and Area officers be more successful in their endeavors. Discussion was had by the Assembly and agreed to have further discussion on the subject.
- Task Force for TEAM Event - Carole D., Frances M., Brett H., Patty, Norma, Cindy C., Lori K. have all agreed to be on the task force to have another TEAM Event in Montana.

- Audrey W. spoke about her concern with the lack of Alateen in Montana. She shared she is concerned that as an Area we are doing nothing about it. She feels this is something we should address. Discussion was had about Alateen and several ideas were thrown out from the different district.

Took a Break

- Joan S., the Northeast Regional Trustee gave a presentation on Archives.

Thought for the evening from Joan S.: “An Al-Anon group without long-term members has no experience, without middle-term members, has no stability and without newcomers, no future.”

Dinner

- Joan S. told her story for the Assembly.

Adjourned for the day

Area Assembly Continued
Sunday, September 21, 2014

- Guidelines Committee – Elaine D.

Coordinator’s Reports

- Alateen Coordinator—Given by Pennie K.

Hi My Name is Pennie Grateful member of the world wide fellowship of Al-Anon and Alateen I am the Alateen coordinator for Montana AFG. I have been trekking around the state getting Al-Anon Members who would like to be of service in Alateen certified to be Al-Anon Members involved in Alateen Service. There are six out of the 14 districts ready to have Alateen meetings.

There are 5 Alateen meetings in Montana at this time Bozeman, Billings, Great Falls Helena and Butte had its first meeting I got a call from a teacher/councilor in Kalispell that would like to get a meeting started there.

There are. To my knowledge there are 3 district that have an Alateen coordinator for the district one district will be having elections next district meeting to elect an Alateen Coordinator this is progress last year there was only 2 district that had an Alateen Coordinator.

Montana Alateen has an Alateen Chat that meets on Wednesday at 7:30 there are 4 AMIAS that are registered for this meeting and I will be training more in the next couple of months.

I was doing some brainstorming one night while I was not able to sleep and thought about a bookmark we could spread around the state of Montana that will let children know about the Alateen Meeting on line. I made a proto type and sent it to the world service office they like looked at it and made some changes and sent it back. They said it was a great idea. I sent it in to a printer and got 1000 of them when I got them it sent them out to the 10 districts that I had contact addresses to. Some of the districts have asked for more I ordered 5000 more 2000 of them have been spoken for. I will be selling these and using the money to order more they cost 60.00 dollars for 1000 or 16.00 for 100. I have 2000 of them left here if you would like to buy them and pass them out in your district come back and see me. I will pass some around so you can take them back to your groups and districts

Yours in Service,
Pennie K.

➤ Archives Coordinator—Given by Frances M.

Group start dates updated –found 38 active and Janelle assisted. Bev O. has dates and will send to WSO and to DR's. There are 13 left statewide. Request form sent by email to DR's.

3 audio recordings of Al-Anon speakers. Archives received 1 long time member history from Butte. Forms are available for anyone who needs one.

There is new material in collection. 1955 AA 20th convention typed speakers including Anne B. on display. 1980's tapes were available for loan through P.I. Is there an interest in a CD library? Possibly make available on Area 32 website?

The remainder of term of 2015, will be digitizing cassette tapes, collecting oral interviews, materials and equipment. I will do some research on the cost of MP3 recorders.

Archives Financial report is attached and made part of the minutes. The balance remaining is \$63.99.

Thank you,
Frances M.

➤ Forum Coordinator—Given by Kathy J.

The Forum used to be called "A meeting in my pocket" and now it is "A Monthly Magazine of Al-Anon Family Groups sharing recovery, unity and service." The new tag seemed cumbersome to me and still does, but in the new Conference Summary, it is explained that the idea is to get the Forum out of our pockets and into our meetings, into the public and into the tool box of public outreach. And it is a Forum for sharing from the members of Al-Anon.

This last year has seen several sharings from members in Montana. Donna E. and Constance H and Connie W have all been published in the Forum. They have sent in writings from a workshop (Forum writing extravaganza!), from the on-line members site and from letter form. Any

member can send in writings sharing experience, strength and hope from two page stories to one line quips.

The Group Representatives are the Forum reps in the districts and the area. Each group should be receiving a free copy sent to the current mailing address of the group. If your group does not get a copy, let me know or let WSO know who the CMA is. The Forum can be used in meetings and each month there are sharings on that month's step, tradition and concept plus a page of ideas for that month's step meeting.

Subscriptions are \$11.00 per year and forms are either on the last page of the magazine or are on-line at the member's site. The Forum is also available on the NOOK reader for \$11.00 per year. There are also other electronic ways of getting the Forum and I can update this as I find out what they are. Those of you who know other sites, ways, devices, or whatever, add a note to Pam or post a note to News and Views.

Thank you for letting me serve as your coordinator for the "Forum".

In service
Kathy J.

➤ Group Records Coordinator—Given by Bev O.

Hi, Everyone,

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

First, here are the most recent statistics for Montana. We have 143 Al-Anon groups, 111 of which are active and 32 inactive. For the first time since I took this position, we have no groups in "No Mail" status. Hooray for us! Now, however, the WSO informs the Group Records Coordinators about an additional category: "Bounced Emails". We have 4 groups in this category: Bigfork, Scobey, Colstrip, and Harlowton.

We have three new groups since the Spring Assembly in April. Valley County (in Glasgow) registered in May, Bozeman Downtowners registered in June, and the newest group, in Broadus, registered on September 11.

Every registered group in Montana should have received, in July, an update form from WSO. If your group reported any changes, I hope you also notified your District and me. That way, I can keep the other Area trusted servants up-to-date and we can keep the lines of communication open between groups, districts, area, and WSO.

As before, I have placed the current list of groups with their meeting and contact information in each district's mailbox. Please let me know if there are any corrections to be made.

Any questions? Thanks for your attention.

In Service,
Bev O., Area Group Records Coordinator

➤ Web Coordinator— Given by Irene S.

I am Irene, Area 32 Web Coordinator.

This summer has not been as busy. There have been fewer meeting changes, and other postings.

I try to work on our site once or twice a month, and when people call and notify me that they have sent up some changes.

Brett has loaded the Dreamweaver software and I have prepared a USB drive with a copy of the website for her. We will be scheduling time to get together somewhere soon to do training and some cleanup of the web information.

I did find that the original web site setup allows us to post 100mg worth of data. At present we have about 78mg of data. This includes the website and a copy. This will be cleaned up to ensure that the website and pertinent data are all that is stored on the site.

Some changes are coming directly to my personal email address, into the spam---I am able to catch this sometimes, but if you send only to my personal email address and not the web address I could miss it.

When you set up a new meeting, the form you provide your "Group Records" person if filled in completely should provide me the information that is needed to update the website. This data can be posted to the website after your new group receives their Group Number from WSO. (Please ensure you have included your District number on this data).

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

Basic requirements for posting: Consistent with AI-Anon's principle of anonymity, flyers that contain last names will not be posted. If an email address reveals an individual's last name, it will be sent back to the submitter for revision.

Thank You for allowing me to be your Web Coordinator.
Irene

➤ Literature Coordinator—Given by Carol S.

The Area Literature is well stocked.

NEW Literature includes:

Using Al-Anon Principles to Resolve Conflict KIT – K-70 - Information to aid members in preventing and dealing with conflict in Al-Anon groups and service arms. The Kit contains S-71, S-72, and S-73. Buy together and save.
NEW – Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism 2015.

Sold CAL books to Hot Springs and have had 4 inquiries about books, and meetings.

Alateen representation is at a low in Montana. Because of this, as your trusted servant, I have included The Facts about Alateen (25c) and Alateen Bookmark (16c) in the Newcomer Packet – new cost of newcomer packets is now – 1.81.

I suggest you do the same in your district to shed light on Alateen in Montana. Both are sold separately if you choose to go that route.

CAL Literature MATERIAL FOR DOWNLOAD ONLY- Available on the Web Site. Downloads include all the Guidelines, Supplementary Materials, Service Aids, Archives, and Forum Magazine and Group records information. To get free downloads off the website go to <http://ecomm.al-anon.org>, click on members' website, then enter the day of any meeting in your area followed by afg i.e. thurs afg. Then.....you'll see at the top left of this page > order literature online.

Creating a LDC is possible and quite easy. Give me a call if you want to start an LDC in your District.

Bank Balance – 9/19/14 - \$247.50
Change purse - \$50
Total - \$297.50

Carol S.
Area Literature Coordinator

➤ *News & Views*—Given by Sue T.

Hello Area Assembly!

The News & Views is a resource for state event information and Area news. We work closely with the website coordinator to post links to event flyers as well as making archived copies of the newsletter available. We have published seven issues of the newsletter in 2014, two since the last assembly.

Montana AFG started sending the News & Views (N&Vs) electronically January 27, 2010. This replaced the paper copies mailed to groups and members. Our email vendor, iContact, gives us a yearly, prepaid, non-profit rate of \$73.09 per year, or a cost of \$6.09 per month. There won't be an increase in the annual subscription amount until we hit 500 subscribers; we are currently at 266. One of the great benefits of using the iContact software is it manages the email distribution group for us.

Couple of reminders/tips:

You can forward your N&Vs to other Al-Anon members by using the Forward button at the bottom of the email. Encourage them to sign up for their own copy!

Recipients can manage their account profile by using the link at the bottom of each newsletter. The most common update would be an email address change. If you are a group representative, our Area Group Records Coordinator, Bev, will be asking if you are receiving the News & Views. She is willing to assist to get you on the mailing list.

Last assembly I mentioned my challenge with the new DMARC standards when we had a 60% bounce rate. Three major email providers rejected the mailing because the IP Address associated with the email message was the iContact server, not our yahoo account. My permanent solution for this was working with the World Service Office to establish an email address tied to our 'mt.al-anon.alateen.org' website. The 'News & Views' will now be 'sent from' newsnviewsmt@mt.al-anon.alateen.org . Accessing this account to check mail is cumbersome (similar to accessing e-communities) so I will retain the yahoo account for general correspondence.

At Spring Assembly I offered to use iContact to generate a couple of surveys. When I went to set one up, I discovered that they were phasing out this functionality. Instead, iContact has partnered with Survey Monkey to offer a special deal to their customers. I didn't pursue the costs any further.

Please share your ideas on how we can make this newsletter better.

What would be helpful to you?

What is the general membership interested in?

Would you like member sharings?

Do you want the 'reprintable' Forum article of the month published?

We can always use short articles from the Area coordinators and District Representatives.

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

Sue T.

Newsletter Coordinator, newsnviewsmt@yahoo.com

➤ Public Outreach PICPC—Given by Audrey W.

At this time we have copies of Al-Anon and Alateen's Role in Family Recovery (AV-31) for distribution and the 2013-14 TV PSA Portraits III. The latter is not broadcast quality/not to be sent to TV stations. I can show these later.

We held a District Outreach in Billings July 12. As Literature District Chair, I brought little used material like book marks, reminders and sayings but also Alateen material for purchase. Miles City was well represented so we returned the favor and visited them in August.

A representative of PLUK (Parents Lets Unite for Kids) from the Billings Clinic has asked for Al-Anon, Alateen, and AA literature.

Lots of interest about Alateen, I am purchasing those beautiful bookmarks from Pennie K. this weekend.

Thank you,
Audrey W.

\$142.25 was collected for a love gift to send to the WSO.

Roundup Reports

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Helena | Spring 2015 May 15-17, 2015 Red Lion Inn Helena, MT |
| Great Falls | 2014 Fall Roundup October 10-12, 2014 12 Steps to a New Freedom Great Falls Heritage Inn Great Falls, MT |
| Kalispell | 2015 Fall Roundup Kalispell, MT |

Took a Break

Audrey W., with Pennie K.'s help showed a new Public Outreach DVD to the Assembly.

District Reports

- District 9 – Butte – given by Chris K.

Hi, my name is Chris Ketchum, the District Representative from District 9, Butte, Anaconda, Deer Lodge and everything in between. This past six months was very busy with extra activities for the last Roundup in Fairmont Hotsprings, MT. We made out work fun with laughter and pizza. We felt it was a great success and reaped the profits both spiritually, emotionally and financially for our hard work.

We are so pleased that we have a Group Representative from Anaconda, MT, Sue P. who came all the way from Texas. She is so willing to learn, share and be a part of the Al-Anon journey in District 9. We continue to send the minutes of our District meetings and invitations to activities to the other cities in our district.

We followed our Italian dinner in March with many committee meetings for Roundup. We then planned a picnic in August at the Forman Park at the historical Montana Con Mine for our summer get together. As usual we invited AA and Al-Anon and had a good turnout. We had fun visiting and one of our members plays a very good piano so we took in his lively music also.

We set forth on a mission to start back up our Alateen program. We bought new literature, posters and distributed them to the Butte schools, mental health agencies and Community Health medical clinics. We brushed up on our AMIAS skills and on Thursday September 19, 2014, District 9 had its first Alateen meeting since 2013.

We sent letters to the AA and Al-Anon groups to encourage them to support one another in the disease of alcoholism by having their children attend Alateen. We had one Alateen come to the meeting. She shared her sad story but she was so vibrant, open and enthusiastic that we AMIAS felt that she gave us a shot in the arm. She shared how she had been to Alateen and Al-Anon before in another district and how it helped her so much. What an ambassador for our programs!

We plan to share our mission with the other District 9 cities very soon so I will be visiting them. This past year has been so involved for all of us. I am blessed indeed to have members that are so focused, serious, energized and so generous with their fruits of the spirit, time and talents. Our groups in District 9 have been steadily growing.

All the attendances have improved since last year. We have double winners in all of our groups. The next project on our agenda is our Halloween party and we can celebrate Alateen again this year. We will have games, costumes, goodies and a hauntingly fun time. Tentatively set for October 28, 2014 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the St. John's Catholic Church If you are in the area stop in for a spell!

Thank you for allowing me to serve as a District Representative. I have received far more than I have given I am grateful for all of you in Area 32.

In Service,
Christine K., District Representative

➤ District 2 – Shelby – given by Eileen F.

We have our district number 2 area meetings on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 3 pm. It is held at the Marias Medical Center at 640 Park Avenue in Shelby, Mt. 59474. Phone number is Eileen 406-424-2774, Beth 406-434-2640 or Cindy 406-434-5073. We usually have 7 in attendance.

Shelby has 2 meetings a week. Sunday night AFG and Big Sky AFG on Wednesday night. Lake Francis AFG Meets in Valier. Contact Donna at 406-279-3345 for meeting information.

Browning group AFG has a meeting Call Glenda for meeting info 406-338-5561.

Chester has meetings. Please call Lela D. for meeting time and place at 406-759-5287.

Choteau has a meeting at Trinity Lutheran Church. Contact Gloria 406-466-2921 or Bo 406-466-5458.

Cutbank meets at Cutbank Civic Center. Call 406-229-0392 Jennifer or Tina 406-391-7424.
In Service,
Eileen F.

➤ District 8 – Bozeman – given by Lori K.

District 8 has 14 active meetings which includes 1 Alateen meeting as well as 2 monthly newcomer meeting. We now have noon meetings in Bozeman every weekday. Our newest meeting being the Bozeman Downtowner's AFG in the heart of downtown Bozeman. Outlying meetings include Belgrade, Ennis, Gallatin Gateway and 2 in Livingston. Our meetings range in size from 5 to 40 people attending each with their own personality.

Our District meets the second Wed of each month except December in the Fellowship Hall in Bozeman and meeting attendance has dipped a little this summer but is now back up.

We had the pleasure of having Connie W, our state delegate; visit us in September with a potluck followed by Connie giving a great presentation. It was a very cold, rainy night and were thrilled to have 20 people attend.

Our biggest fundraiser, Gratitude Festival, will be held November 22, 2014 at the Fellowship Hall in Bozeman. Past chairpersons and several district officers/coordinators developed specific guidelines for the event. A map so to speak that can be passed on from year to year. We had a working session to discuss and finalize recommendations for district. We have changed to an afternoon event this year to encourage families to bring their kids so it's an event for the entire family. We will have a potluck, Al-Anon and AA speakers, a silent auction featuring gently used items and fabulous baked goods auction. Rick and Connie W from Clancy, MT will be our speakers this year. This is really fun event and a great gathering for our recovery community. We invite you to put together a road trip and join in the fun.

In an effort to increase involvement in service at all levels our district will be hosting a Chile Feed at our October meeting. We will be personally inviting people to attend as well as a general invitation for the entire Al-Anon community. We really want everyone's input on how to put our hard earned fundraising dollars to the best use for our members. We also will be talking about District Service Positions and what is involved with each position.

A few other upcoming events:

October 18, 2014 - Alateen Sponsor Training. Do you have two or more years in Al-Anon? Would you like to help with Alateen? Alateen training for Al-Anon members will be provided by Pennie K, Alateen Coordinator for Montana at Fellowship Hall, Bozeman from 1-4 pm. Questions: contact Chris O at 581-8217.

October 25, 2014 - Sponsorship Workshop Panel hosted by New Leaf Women's Al-Anon.

12-3pm, Fellowship Hall, Bozeman. Soup lunch 12-1 followed by Speaker Panel/ask it basket from 1-3pm. Babysitting provided. Everyone is welcome! For more info contact Helene 586-1025.

In Love and Service,

Lori K

- District 12 – Great Falls – given by Dorothy A.

In May, Pennie K. from Helena visited Great Falls to give a workshop on Alateen.

In June, Founders Day picnic along with AA at Ryan Dam.

In July, AA & Al-Anon had a campout in the Little Belt Mountains.

In August, our district distributed *Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism* to area counselors and doctor offices.

In September, we are gearing up for the Roundup being held in Great Falls October 10th through the 12th. We are raffling a quilt and we have 6 baskets for a silent auction. Al-Anon is in charge of the cookies for hospitality for the roundup.

Gratefully submitted,
Dorothy A., District Representative

- District 7 – Billings – given by Brett H.

We meet the 2nd Monday of every month (except July); 6:30PM at the El Corral restaurant. We have a local Literature Distribution Center (LDC) and our LDC Chair is Audrey W; she can be reached at 406-248-8433 or andreannaw22@gmail.com

We use a Trac Phone for our information line: 406-694-5332. This phone provides basic information on how to find a meeting as well as the opportunity to leave a message for needed 12-step calls or if additional information is desired. Ava G. is the Information Line Chair & she has a small committee of people that take turns holding the phone. Other than a few glitches with renewing the service, this is working well for our district.

We have 16 active groups in our district...13 in Billings, in addition to single groups in Hardin, Pryor and Wyola. The Tuesday group in Hardin has moved again and meets at the hospital Education Center; the Saturday Hardin group is currently inactive, due to having no place to meet. We have no registered Alateen groups and currently no Alateen chair person.

We started a new meeting at Passages, the women's pre-release center in May and this is a great success. There is a group of 3 core members and 3 alternates who have made a commitment to ensure this meeting is supported weekly for these women; in addition, there are several alternate members who support the meeting on an intermittent basis. The district also

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

Kathy M. is our Public Outreach person and she keeps all the district meetings updated on the Billings Gazette website. She is also distributing literature around the community on a regular basis & participates in health fairs, etc. when possible.

We have revised our District Guidelines and Elaine D. finishing the last few details of this project, though it will be ongoing to keep them updated.

In June, the Lockwood Al-Anon and AA groups hosted a workshop on the Principles of the Steps. This was a well-attended and very fun event!

Connie W. came to Billings in July to give her Delegate's report from WSC. This was held in conjunction with a public outreach workshop and potluck. Several people from District 6 attended this event.

On May 18, we attended the District 14 meeting in Joliet. We had a nice potluck and road trip, with a short discussion about the "Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism" booklet. We always enjoy supporting and cooperating with our neighboring smaller districts!

In April, we had discussion about an electronic marquis at a local church, which advertises the day & time of two Al-Anon groups that meet there.

Our proceeds from the Fall Roundup were \$1037. We sent seed money to Butte and elected to pass some of this on to Area and WSO.

Road trips: Serenity Cruise in Coeur d'Alene next week; International Convention, Baltimore, Maryland 2018

Love in service...

Brett H.

District Representative

➤ District 1 – Kalispell – given by Carol S.

District 1 meets at 10:30 am the third Saturday of each month at the Alano Club. They are well attended by officers and GRs. We have 13 meetings in our District: Kalispell (7), Bigfork (1), Columbia Falls (1), Whitefish (1), Eureka (2), Libby (1). Newcomers meeting meets Mondays at 7:00 and has a new venue at the Lutheran Church.

Sometimes we have a CHATZY online meetings if weather is bad.

Our Hot line officer is Val P and she reported that we get 10 calls a month who mainly want meeting lists.

Peggy our outreach officer is getting the word out in District 1 to doctor offices, law enforcement, etc. She suggested our District get brochure holders, so we did and they have helped with visibility and spreading the word.

We have approximate projected balance of \$443.80 in our checking account

Bev O, our LDC literature coordinator – has full a full CAL stock. We also sell speaker meeting cds.

Our District is giving some financial help to GRs attend Assemblies.

We put in a bid for the WSO meet the board meeting to be hosted in Kalispell.

Our District hosted a luncheon for our Delegate, Connie Wine to speak. The luncheon was at Val Ps house in West Glacier. We had about 25 GRs, officers and guests attend. Yummy food and fellowship.

Debbie M. was voted as District 1 Alateen Coordinator.

District 1 AFG will be participating in the A.A. Fall Roundup – 2015, and look forward to our 7th Annual Day in Alanon in the spring.

In Service,
Carol S, DR. District 1

➤ District 11 – Helena – given by Kelly P.

District 11 is doing well. We have 11 meetings and each has a GR. Our First Friday Speaker Meeting is doing very well we have even had speakers from out of town. We have standing room only as the noon meetings and we have over 85% of our GRs attending our monthly district meeting. We have seven committees each with chair people, and we have excellent committees working on Attitude of Gratitude: November 15, 2014 Speakers Connie W. from Helena Flyers in the back Meeting titles Gratitude, Conflict Resolution, and using Spiritual Principles Pockets of Enthusiasm: March 13-14, 2015 Speaker: Magdalena from Seattle;

Round Up Spring May 15-17, 2015 Speaker: Kathleen B. from Alaska). Flyers in the back

Our Public Outreach Coordinator is phenomenal. She participated with AA's Treatment and Corrections luncheon. Not only did we have Al-Anon represented on the speaker panel, but we had Al-Anon represented at each table. Literature was handed out and connections were made for next year's event. Several contacts were made during this luncheon and Al-Anon has gained some more meetings to support with literature.

Public Outreach is also establishing a closed institutional meeting at our local women's crisis shelter. An Al-Anon member has stepped forward to be the chair of this committee and names have been gathers for volunteers to lead the meetings. We will be committing to 12 weeks, Tuesday evenings from 6-7pm. The first meeting was September 16th. We are also looking to start a meeting at the Boyd Andrew Treatment Center

Alateen has been struggling with good leaders but only one young person. They are working with public Outreach to spread the word at area high schools about Alateen.

District 11 also sent in a bid for the Meet the Board event to be held next July during board week for the WSO hoping for Helena Montana but no expectations.

In Service,
Kelly P.

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

Since April we have been growing into a real District. We now have meetings in Colstrip, Friday 6-7 pm, Human Resource Building with up to 5 in attendance. Forsyth meeting is Tuesday from 7-8 pm at the Concordia Lutheran Church with an average of 4. The Miles City meeting is meeting on Thursday from 7-8 pm at First United Methodist Church with 6 members. The Miles City meeting on Saturday at 10-11 am meets at the First United Methodist Church with up to 10 members. Broadus meets on Tuesday from 6:30 to 7:30 in the Election Room Courthouse with 2-4 members.

We are planning our second Fall Gratitude Celebration with AA invited with speakers from AA and Al-Anon. Flyers are on the table.

Last fall we put together a calendar and pretty good success and so are at the beginning stages again and have a newcomer volunteering to help us. Our plans are to have it ready for sale at our Gratitude Celebration.

We've been having group meetings every 4th Saturday of the month. We sometimes have potluck or sometimes go out to eat, but the main thing is the fellowship that goes all with it.

In August we had a workshop with a 4th Step inventory of finances. It was very well attended and thanks to all of Billings that came. We had a lot of fun with this and it gave us some great things to considering our money, spiritual and emotional aspects of money and being self-supporting. Of course, that was also followed by a yummy potluck and fellowship.

We have been doing a book study on the 4th Saturday and 4 Thursday. Thursday we are still working on In All Of Our Affairs. We have finished The Dilemma of The Alcoholic Marriage and now will start with Opening Our Hearts and Transforming Our Losses.

For outreach, we have our meetings listed in our Miles city Star and on Mid Rivers Community Calendar. We have also ordered 100 copies of *2015 Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism*.

Because we are hosting the Spring Assembly in April we are trying to reach out to Eastern Montana more about Al-Anon. Scobey, Malta, Plentywood, Sidney, Glendive and more??

We hope to see many of you in Miles City in April.

In Service,
Carole D., District Representative

- District 14 – Red Lodge – given by Pam C. for Katy K.

Our 5 meetings are humming along. There are two in Laurel and one each in Absarokee, Joliet, and Red Lodge.

There is no 'breaking news' to report, but our annual fundraiser, the Christmas Party, will be on December 7th at the Laurel Golf Club from 11am - 2pm. We encourage people to bring little fun Christmas baubles and gifts for the raffle. Big gifts are also encouraged for the main raffle. Last year we had two gorgeous homemade quilts and a rustic juniper lamp w/ copper shade.

My best to everybody and hope to see you this spring!

Sincerely,
Katy K., District 14 Rep.

Family Recovery – Connie W. read page 71 out of the WSC Book. A vote was taken on which definition of Family recovery Connie W. is to vote for at the next WSC. The second one was chosen which read, **“Family recover is a process of healing and growth for family members affected by someone’s drinking. This process helps these individuals make healthier life choices and develop relationships that are more positive and supportive.”**

Ask it Basket

In January 2015, send out a flyer for Miles City Assembly in April. Thanks.
Sue T. will try and get one done and put in the *News & Views*.

By a show of hands, who in Billings would be willing to tent or house people for Spring Assembly in Miles City?

Yes, people would be willing, get a hold of Cindy C.

Copy front and back for minutes? (Instead of Single Pages)

Yes, I can do that, used a printer that couldn't do it.

Could we get a scholarship fund set up to assist with travel to Miles City in the Spring?

We can discuss it during the Conference call before Spring Assembly

Would it be possible to have Fall Assembly 2015 in Helena?

Pennie K. answered, no; bring it to in the Spring Area Assembly to discuss.

Motion C-107 shows that we support a Russian Group; do we still do that as an Area?

No, we do not do that anymore; will have to have a motion in the spring to rescind the motion

Could we have an Al-Anon meeting at Area Assembly, Friday nights?

If someone wanted to organize, it could be done, but some don't get in until later.

Wall Question:

Do you have a dream for our Area?

Statewide speaker Meeting?

More People in Service, all levels?

More Alateen groups?

Success in spreading Al-Anon to the reservations?

Voting

Voting for the new Archivist, Sue P. was sent out of the room to vote.

22 – Yes

0 – No

0 – Abstain

Sue P. was voted in as the new Archivist.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam C.

Montana AFG Secretary