

Montana AFG Fall AWSC Meeting Minutes

Sleep Inn, Miles City, MT

March 31, 2017

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

Announcements and Introductions were made.

Old Business

Minutes:

February 2017 - AWSC Conference Call Minutes with approved as corrected.
2016 Fall Assembly AWSC Minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer Report - Pam

Area Treasurer Report

Hello,

My name is Pam and I am your Area Treasurer. I emailed out profit and loss statements for Fiscal Year 2016 and year to date on Fiscal Year 2017 to the AWSC Members. I hope they forwarded onto the group representatives. I did print a few and I can email them to anyone who needs them.

Our total income for Fiscal Year 2016 was \$11,149.24. Our budgeted income was \$9,120.00.

Our total expenses for Fiscal Year 2016 was \$8,224.96, this is actually a little higher, due to our area delegate getting me her expenses late. But we budgeted a total of \$10,700.00.

Our profit for the Fiscal Year 2016 is \$2,924.28

I did some fixing on the budget for Fiscal Year 2017 so our income matches our expenses. So far this year we have \$2,518.60 in income. Our expenses so far this year \$553.02.

The Scholarship fund has \$154.00 in it.

Our PMB in Helena is moving to a new address so I need everyone to get this out to the groups for the donations to be sent to the correct address. Effective April 15, 2017, the new address is:

MT AFG Inc.
PMB 188
2030 Cromwell Dixon Lane F
Helena, MT 59601

Please make sure you get the "F" on the address or it will be sent back.

Our checking account balance as of March 30, 2017, is \$7,185.30. The balance of the savings account as of March 30, 2017, is \$3,016.50.

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.

Yours in Service,
Pam C., Area Treasurer

*****See attached Profit and Loss Statements provided by Pam at the end of this document.***

Montana AFG, Inc.-Connie

Montana AFG, INC annual reports have been updated for the State of Montana and the IRS. Reports to those members who donated as individuals to Montana AFG, INC have been sent the information needed if they are able to use their contributions when filing income taxes. Thank you for allowing me to serve. Connie

Discussion regarding the responsibilities of the District hosting Spring or Fall Meetings

Connie gave history on this and some of the struggles for the Chairperson when there was not a contact person working with the hotel and caterer in the host city. Will be discussed further at assembly.

Discussion regarding the change to the Spring 2018 Assembly to Kalispell or Bozeman

Both Kalispell and Bozeman wish to put in bids for Spring 2018 Assembly. Further discussion and a vote will be done at assembly.

Discussion changes to the “Just for Today” Bookmark “Prayer for Today” - Elaine

No Report received.

Committee Updates:

Guideline Committee - Carol & Pennie

Montana Area Guidelines
Spring 2017 Report
Miles City
5/1/17

The following topics were added to update the 2017 Area Guidelines:

1. Montana AFG 501c(3) history summary
2. Guidelines for opening an AFG checking account
3. New Montana Al-Anon website address

Two motions were made: #C219 and #219

Carol had problems emailing the Guidelines because the file is so big. It either wouldn't send or it sent with out the maps. We will try to solve this problem by next Assembly.

In Service,

Carol S and Pennie K

Guidelines Committee

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

Dorine gave an update on the Speaker Meeting to be held on Saturday Evening (April 1, 2017) at the Range Rider Museum. At this point there are 40 attending with 2 wonderful speakers and great food. The committee meet briefly over lunch on April 1, 2017 and planned to have a formal meeting at the Fall Assembly to help plan the 2018 Spring Speaker Meeting. Some of the members from the Miles City Area will be rotating off the committee to make room for new committee members from the new Spring 2018 host city.

A Big **“Thanks”** to all the Gals in the Miles City Area for all your hard work in organizing the dinner and facility at the Range Rider Museum for the last 3 Area Speaker Meetings.

Respectfully submitted, Lori K.

TEAM Event Task Force - Carol S presented this report.

2017 Spring Assembly
TEAM Committee Report

TEAM Committee members--Frances M. & Nancy Jo W. (Co-Chairs), Carol S. (Secretary),
Lori K. (Treasurer), Norma A. (Advisor), Area 32 & 13 Officers, Committee Chairs & volunteers

Update since Sept.--

- TEAM bank account was opened with \$200 start-up funds from Area 32.
- 5 Committee Chair positions have been filled, thanks to Katy O. (Registration), Warren M. (Host), Nancy Jo W. (Workshop), Diann P. (Hospitality), Denise M. (Food & Beverage).
- Area 13 members are also serving on some committees, thanks to Nancy Jo. W.
- The Decor Chair position is still open--research is done and there are volunteers to help. Please consider this service opportunity! We'll also need several volunteers for a short skit, to read a few lines each. Contact Frances M. for more info.

Our first conference call with WSO was productive--we discussed the event topics, presentations, and worked out a preliminary schedule for the weekend. The TEAM Task Force members are: Pat Q. Assoc. Director of Communication; Debbie G. Chairperson of the Board of Trustees; Joyce B. SW Regional Trustee. They are great people and it promises to be a memorable weekend!

The TEAM Registration flyer is completed, thanks to Deb L. Color copies are on the back table, and it was sent by email to the membership in both Areas for distribution to DRs, GRs and groups. Our topics are listed on the flyer, and there will be a bonus topic on Sunday. Plus we'll have fun with a skit, music, and games on Saturday night. Send in your registrations!

We also encourage scholarships to help members who can't afford to attend. How to sponsor someone and how to apply for a scholarship is described on the flyer. Groups and Districts can sponsor scholarships by taking a collection for that specific purpose (no 7th Tradition funds).

An optional Meet & Greet dinner gathering is planned for Friday evening June 16th. Location + map will be provided. This is the last Assembly before our event, so keep spreading the word. We're looking forward to seeing you at TEAM Mon-Ida June 17-18, 2017 in Missoula, MT.

Together Empowering All Anon Members!!



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

Thought force on the potential of relocating fall meetings beginning in 2018. (Cindy C, Pam C, Lori K, Mike B & Nicole B)

Cindy C presented these three documents for consideration:

- Dec. 31, 2016

Happy New Year!

Nothing like getting started on a project that was assigned 3 months ago at the end of the year. As you see below we are a thought force assigned to looking at changing locations for the fall assembly. Some of us have been going to Area assemblies for a long time some have not. I suggest if you haven't got a copy of the Montana Area Guidelines you get one, as it will be helpful in gathering historical information as to our history in Lewistown. Our task is listed below according to our Fall Assembly minutes. I think our first step is to each of us answer the 5 questions listed below and then we can meet in person to discuss our findings and decide what to do next.

- **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-members of Committee

*5 Questions for information gathering:

1. What do we know about our membership's needs, wants and preferences that are relevant to this topic?

An understanding of what assembly does as well as AWSC.

Location convenient for the most attendee vs location that may reach out to areas of the state that may attend if area is closer.

Thought a road trip is nice - it also is nice to have assembly close to where we live.

It is more fun to travel to Assembly with others we know.

Safe, comfortable room with restaurants choices close by or on sight so meals are easy and varied. Inviting meeting room.

2. What do we know about our resources (finances, membership participation, etc.) that is relevant to this topic?

Historical Data: Number attending past conferences as well as what city they traveled from.

Where Assembly has been held in the past.

Probably the majority of the rooms are shared by 2 people. Some prefer room to themselves.

District and Groups have limited funds to use to send people to area.

The amount of the time away from home may affect whether some people are able to participate so possibly if we move assembly to different sections of the state more will have the opportunity to attend.

It is important to get members that attend involved when they are at assembly.

Area has limited resources to spend on the meeting room space unless registration is raised.

We should not limit our choices to hotel meeting rooms only. By looking at possibly meeting at churches or other public facilities with hotels and restaurants nearby we might be able to increase the communities we consider as well as our meeting room choices in our larger communities.

The rooms need to be as reasonable as possible yet comfortable and inviting.

3. What do we know about the current realities (membership, culture, etc.) and our fellowship's environment (technology, spiritual principles, our Steps, Traditions, and Concepts) that is relevant to this topic?

There is an energy that promotes the principles of our program when we all gather together.

Technology is here to stay and we need to use it in any way we can to reach out to members to include them.

4. What are the ethical implications of our choices (pros and cons)? In other words, will our decision be consistent with our spiritual principles?

We need to set up parameters for considering our options

5. What do we wish we knew but don't

How many will attend assembly at any given location.

What location might work well.

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- **Several members expressed they would like to see the Fall Assembly rotate locations. A Thought Force was formed to look at changing locations**

1. What do we know about our membership's needs, wants and preferences that are relevant to this topic?

This topic has been raised many times in the past. Several years ago 2011, it was decided to move our Spring Assembly to different districts on a 3 year rotating basis. We did have 2011 Spring Assembly in Helena as a trial. Our 3 years, was in Helena starting in 2012. 1974 (BN27) Judy R. of Billings made a motion and it was seconded to continue to have our assembly meetings in Lewistown once a year each summer in June to coincide with the AA meeting, but to be kept at a separate meeting place. (BN28) JoAnn E. of Red Lodge made a motion and it was seconded to have the Delegates Report at the Roundup and to keep the business at the Area. Prior to that assemblies rotated with the Rounds ups. Then in 1980, (BN36) It was moved and seconded to hold two Business meetings per year to coincide with the AA business meetings. Fall meetings to be in Lewistown and the Spring meeting to float the State. Motion carried. DATE: 9/21/85

TIME: 9:11 a.m. PLACE: MOTIONS: (BN68) Andy A. presented a proposal from the AWSC. The proposal was to leave the business meetings as they are now held twice a year in Lewistown and the AWSC Committee Meeting near the Chairman. A vote was taken. 41 for 2 against. Motion Carried.

In 1992, motion was made to have 1 day Assembly. It was passed. 2003, there was a motion to have a 2 day fall assembly, this was passed.

2. What do we know about our resources (finances, membership participation, etc.) that is relevant to this topic?

Our Spring venue has been rotating since 2012 every 3 years and this has not presented a financial burden. As officers and elected representatives, we are careful to use our resources wisely. We search out the best choices for

our monies, groups help each other financially if necessary. Members attending the spring assembly is about the same as the fall. Members who had not been the Spring assembly are able to do so if the distance isn't as great because the assembly had moved to them. Members curious about how the Assembly runs, can attend as a visitor with little cost. \$15.00 is the registration fee at both Spring and Fall Assemblies. Members pay for the cost of travel/rooms. No burden to the area except for its officers. Groups bear the burden. The Area does pay for the cost of meeting rooms, generally we are able to lessen this cost with the contract of so many sleeping rooms rented. The registration pays for the cost of lunch at the Spring. At the fall Assembly, we do pay for the meeting rooms, for both days. In the beginning if we ordered Lunch, we could get the room free, we no longer order lunch, we pay for the room for Saturday and Sunday.; about \$160.? ?

3. What do we know about the current realities (membership, culture, etc,) and our fellowship's environment (technology, spiritual principles, our Steps, Traditions, and Concepts) that is relevant to this topic?

We looked at using Technology for members to skype in to an assembly. The discussion centered on the ability for a person to sit through this sort of meeting without interruptions, ability to stay focused on the meeting all day long. Membership is spread through a big area, with lots of small groups with small budgets travel is costly with gas prices, food and room costs. Easier if the assembly is brought to them. We abide by tradition 1, Our common welfare should come first; personal progress for the greatest number depends upon unity. 2) 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. Concepts 1-5

Twelve Concepts of Service Carrying the message, as suggested in the Twelfth Step, is Service, Al-Anon's third legacy. Service, a vital purpose of Al-Anon, is action. Members strive to do as well as to be. Anything done to help a relative or friend of an alcoholic is service: a telephone call to a despairing member or sponsoring a newcomer, telling one's story at meetings, forming groups, arranging for public outreach, distributing literature, and financially supporting groups, local services, and the World Service Office. Read "Al-Anon's Twelve Concepts of Service" section for further information. 1. The ultimate responsibility and authority for Al-Anon world services belongs to the Al-Anon groups. 2. The Al-Anon Family Groups have delegated complete administrative and operational authority to their Conference and its service arms. 3. The right of decision makes effective leadership possible. 4. Participation is the key to harmony. 5. The rights of appeal and petition protect minorities and insure that they be heard.

As Al-Anon Members it is all our responsibility to carry the message. Service work is one of those ways. The more members who have the chance to experience the business aspect of Al-Anon, the more we are able to spread the message. It benefits the whole of Al-Anon. This questions has been brought up several times, and it is time to address the minority questions. The groups represented by their G. Rs are the voting members of this assembly, they are in charge not the officers.

4. What are the ethical implications of our choices (pros and cons)? In other words, will our decision be consistent with our spiritual principles?

Currently we are a though force, we are not making decisions, we are thinking out loud. Ethically, would we denying members G.R's, the chance to participate in Assembly if they do not have the financial support of their group to attend? If we had the ability to move an Assembly to their district, or at least close enough so they could attend. Or if the Group wishes to have a voice, but no the resources to make this happen? We do make an attempt to make sure our districts our well informed, the have the ability to make sure those groups involved in the district have a chance to voice their opinion to their D.R. Who in turn votes at the AWSC, and can voice opinions of their district at the Assembly, however they do not have a vote unless they vote for a group.

General Warranties of the Conference In all proceedings the World Service Conference of Al-Anon shall observe the spirit of the Traditions: 1. that only sufficient operating funds, including an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; 2. that no Conference member shall be placed in unqualified authority over other members; 3. that all decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, by unanimity; 4. that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; 5. that though the Conference serves Al-Anon it

shall never perform any act of government; and that like the fellowship of Al-Anon Family Groups which it serves, it shall always remain democratic in thought and action.

5. What do we wish we knew but don't.

What districts are interested in hosting the Assembly?

Would that district have the ability to host the assembly if they are interested?

Would we follow the same guidelines we have set up for the Spring Assembly?

Would our attendance improve, with more groups being represented?

MOTION: We move that the fall assembly be rotating, and start Fall of 2018. The first 3 years would be on a trial basis, with a final vote in the Spring of 2020. All districts interested in hosting the Assembly would submit bids at the fall 2017 Assembly using the recommendations outlined by this thought force. Cindy C. Pam C., and Mike B..

A lively and informative discussion was held.

New Business:

Elect a Trustee candidate from Montana for the remainder of the current term which has two years remaining. The candidate(s) need to present their resume to this assembly. Resume must be submitted to WSO by August 15.

Connie and Donna briefly explained the basic requirements to be considered as a Trustee candidate. Donna E., the current Trustee shared her experience as being our Trustee. Anyone wishing to be considered needs to submit a resume. Contact Elaine if anyone is interested. The assembly votes to bring a name forward for consideration as a trustee. Talk about it your groups to see if anyone is interested that meets the qualifications.

Discuss having districts perform skits for the concepts - draw names? Volunteers?

Connie asked all to think about and will be discussed at Assembly.

Discuss reimbursing expenses for the registrar position.

This was discussed and will decide at end of meeting if wish to make a motion or not.

Meet the Board Event for 2018

Connie explained what Meet the Board is and the process and deadlines if a district in the state is interested in possibly hosting this. WSO draws from a hat on the location. Carol gave more information on logistics.

Other New Business:

Evaluation of AWSC and Assembly:

Connie brought forward an example of an evaluation for the AWSC meeting. It was decided to do this by raise of hands starting with this meeting.

Shannon brought forward for Patti K, Alateen/AAPP, the possibility of having training requirements on Alateen Training at the Area Level.

A Thought Force on Alateen Training at AWSC was created. Members willing to serve on this Thought Force: Deb L., Patti K, Mike B, Peggy W.

Motions: 19 Voting Members in attendance.

Motion C220 3/31/2017

Changing location of Fall Assembly

We move that the fall assembly be rotation, and start fall of 2018. The first 3 years would be on a trial basis, with a final vote in the Spring of 2020. All districts interested in hosting the Assembly would submit bids at the Fall Assembly using the recommendations outlined by this Thought Force.

Motion Submitted by : Cindy C., Pam C., Mike B. Seconded by Deb L.

Vote: Yes: 18 No: 1 Abstain: 0

Motion passed and will be brought forward to Assembly

Motion C219 3/31/2017

Reimbursing Expenses for the Registrar Position

Area will reimburse the hotel and gas expenses as well as meals for the Registrar person.

Motion Submitted by: Peggy W.

Seconded by: Katy O.

Vote: Yes: 19 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion passed and will be brought forward to Assembly

The meeting was adjourned with Al-Anon Declaration

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori K., Area Secretary

