

District 61 AA Business Meeting Minutes

September 3rd, 2015

The July 2nd District 61 A.A. Business Meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer, followed by a reading of the Twelve Traditions by __Shawn____. There were **17** G.S.R.'s present representing district groups, and **10** committee members / chairs present.

The calendar and meeting minutes were approved with minor amendments.

Concept **9** was read by **Claudia**.

Concept **10** will be presented by in October by **Peg. From Change of Pace Group-**

Archives: Claudia B.

The We Care Group at the Helena Alano Club held an oldtimer's meeting in August. Laurie C. recorded it and sent the recording along to District Archives - thank you Laurie!

Claudia participated in the AdHoc Committee to explore location options for Lit Store and location of District Archives and District Grapevine materials. The committee did great work and Karla will be presenting the committee's conclusions this evening at the District meeting. Claudia is excited about options available that will open up space for Archives filing.

Claudia will also be participating in the Archives Workshop that Gerry is organizing for October 17th in Helena.

Happy to serve.

Claudia

Attitude of Gratitude: Mike D.

Speakers have been chosen: AA Speaker Angie B. Alanon Speaker Deb W.

Theme of the AOG is " We have discovered a common solution"

Flyer can be accessed at <https://www.aa-montana.org/pdf/2015-11AttitudeOfGratitude.pdf>

Bridging The Gap: Patricia H.

Bridging the Gap have a very eventful month in August, our committee has doubled in size. It has gone from one member to two members. Dale K. is on board. Thank you Dale for your willingness to be of service.

All is well and going smoothly. I made my monthly trip to the Watch Program in Warm Springs for the Bridging the Gap presentation. Nothing else new to report.

Thank you for letting me be of service.

Patricia

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Corrections: Shawn N.

- Dave C. L&C Jail- Can always use new volunteers. Scheduling for next quarter at September meeting.
- Tina O. L&C Jail Women's- All is well.
- Dale K. Boulder Jail- All's well. Looking for some substitutes.
- Larry B. Helena Pre-Release- New volunteers are always needed.
- Helena P&P- Ben K. has stepped up to fill the position of coordinator. Has not had a chance to meet with Monty.
- Gary E. MSP- Need volunteers. Adding 2 sections for meetings (high side and low side). Waiting on finalization.
- Reminder regarding pink can fund. This is for monies toward Area corrections/treatment literature only. If your groups have a desire to create your own "pink can fund" go for it. However, I will not supply can for that purpose.
- The committee voted to move the meeting from the second Monday to the third Monday of every month.

Anyone is welcome to attend the CC meeting. Check it out!!

CC still has openings for the following service positions: Co-chair & secretary.

The next CC meeting is September 21 at 5:30 @ the Wilson House.

Thank you for letting me serve. Shawn Nelson

Cooperation with the Professional Community: Vacant.**Grapevine: Bill P.**

Today's Grapevine Quote: ***"Willingness to Grow" - Work on Step 9 has freed me from fears about the past and given me more energy to devote to present-day living-this 24 hours.*** From Grapevine article JULY 1985 (Joliet, Illinois)

1. September, 2015 Grapevine is out. This month the theme is "anonymity" particularly as it relates to the internet.
2. Have attended adhoc committee meetings for possible relocation of the District 61 bookstore. We have looked at some more convenient locations with more square footage, where we could keep the store open longer and have better parking. If a new location is selected, I will set up an improved Grapevine display.
3. Will be attending Area 40 Assembly in Lewistown from Sep 18 through Sep 20.
4. Encourage people to serve as Grapevine representatives. I have kits and information available. We have 2 new Grapevine representatives this year in District 61 (to my knowledge).
5. I will be setting up a book and literature table at the Attitude of Gratitude in November.
6. Encourage groups to start Grapevine meetings. To my knowledge there is only one Grapevine group in District 61.
7. Have complete inventory of books for sale. People can contact me at 406-422-0530 if they wish to purchase a book.

William Puckett

Literature Store: Karla F.

It was a very slow month in August. We only sold \$10.00 worth of goods and \$205.80 to Corrections Committee.

Our volunteers are doing swell, and will keep passing the word about where we are, what we have and how easy it is to get...Christmas is coming up and gifts will be needed...

Thank you for letting me serve...karla flanders

P.S.- We have been cleaning up, our shelves and have found lots of stuff not sold in years-we will also be setting up a table at the AOG 2015.

Public Information- Ken D.

Literature racks are stocked, routes are working well. Tina will cover Shodair. New Meetings schedules should be out 2nd week in October. Answering Service- no new information. Will be looking for some options at the Fall Assembly.

Treasurer: Eric G.**August Report**

Beginning Bank Balance
Income
Group Contributions
Other Income
Total ALL Income

Expenses
Ending Bank Balance

Prudent Reserve
Interest
Total Prudent Reserve

Total District Funds

Treatment: Justin H.

No Report

Workshops: Gerry R.

My Name is Gerry and I'm an Alcoholic.

We made progress this last month in setting up the Archives workshop planned for this coming October.

I've placed flyers for the event on the front table. If you haven't picked one up yet, please do. If they're gone please let me know and I'll be glad to email you a copy.

A little archival note to go along with this flyer: It's the same one used for a district workshop ten years ago. Outside of a few small tweaks, the only major changes were changing the presenters and the date from October 22, 2005, to October 17 2015.

We may add the Area 40 Archives Chair, Mike D. as a presenter, if I can get in touch with him.

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Other than that, I had a great time working on the Literature Store ad hoc committee. It was definitely one of the most enthusiastic committee's I've participated on. Well, Claudia was a little boring but, otherwise, it was pretty crazy.

As always, what a joy to be sober today, and what a privilege to be of service. Thank you for both.

D.C.M.: Rebecca S.

I'm back with lots of information to share.

Thank-you to Bryan for taking care of the meeting in my absence. Welcome Carol!

In August, I went to the West Central Regional Forum. A Regional Forum is held every 2 years. The staff from the GSO, AAWS and Grapevine are available to directly connect to the rest of the fellowship outside of the delegate type service structure, which is how our voice is normally heard.

Saturday started with a presentation from the Grapevine staff. It was really good as the GV is operating in the black. Part of that is because the fellowship responded with increased subscriptions and part of the turnaround involved the Grapevine staff cutting a significant amount out of operating costs. \$500,000 if I remember correctly. That is an AMAZING accomplishment. Does your group have a GVR? I don't think mine does. You or your group can get gift subscriptions for distribution to correctional facilities.

AAWS – Joe from Canada was the AAWS director that presented about how GSO communicates with the fellowship. There have been over 9 million hits on the website this year, the 4th edition BB is available for free online reading in English, Spanish and French. They also communicate via snail mail, booklets and the Box 459 newsletter.

GSO: Phyllis H is the General Manager. She is retiring in October. She spoke about the literature translations. The Big Book has now been translated in 67 languages. Recent ones are TWI (Ghana-Africa), Farsi, Thai and Zulu. Pamphlets are available in 89 languages.

David M. is the Board Treasurer and he gave a great numbers presentation that you all can read in the GSO booklet. Most of it was over my head. But generally, AA is OK.

Saturday and Sunday also had workshops. The workshops were a place for attendees to share experience, strength and hope with each other about different topics. I went to "Informed Group Conscience vs Group Conscience" and "Open vs. Closed Meetings and our Primary Purpose".

Informed Group Conscience: What is it? Pg 28 of the AA Group pamphlet: "The group conscience is the collective conscience of the group membership and thus represents substantial unanimity on an issue before definitive action is taken. This is achieved by the group members through the sharing of full information, individual points of view, and the practice of A.A. principles. To be fully informed requires a willingness to listen to minority opinions with an open mind. On sensitive issues, the group works slowly—discouraging formal motions until a clear sense of its collective view emerges. Placing principles before personalities, the membership is wary of dominant opinions. Its voice is heard when a well-informed group arrives at a decision. The result rests on more than a "yes" or "no" count—precisely because it is the spiritual expression of the group conscience. The term "informed group conscience" implies that pertinent information has been studied and all views have been heard before the group votes."

Open vs. Closed meetings. Again from the AA Group pamphlet: **Closed meetings** are for A.A. members only, or for those who have a drinking problem and 'have a desire to stop drinking.' **Open meetings** are available to anyone interested in Alcoholics Anonymous' program of recovery from alcoholism. Non alcoholics may attend open meetings as observers. At both types of meetings, the A.A. chairperson may request that participants confine their discussion to matters pertaining to recovery from alcoholism."

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Lastly, there was discussion about what gets on the agenda for the General Service Conference. The GSC is made up of the delegates that we selected to be our trusted servant to the General Service Office and staff. When an agenda item is sent to the GSO, there is a committee that will look at the item and decide whether to put it on the conference agenda or not. The committee is made up of trustees, which is another voluntary service position. Currently, Andrew W from Missoula is the trustee for the West Central Region and the first Montanan to serve as a trustee.

It was a good weekend that flew by with friends, sobriety and an overload of information. The Casper WY groups did a great job with hospitality. Next up is Fargo in 2017.

In service,
Rebecca

Questions for committee members:

Group Reports and Announcements:

New GSR Valley Big Book --- Jody A.- Welcome Jody

Old Business:

Election of CPC Chair- No Nominations for the September Business meeting

Report form Literature Store Ad-Hoc Committee- 5 Options were presented from the Committee. Lively discussion followed- vote on the options will be at the October 1st Meeting Agenda

New Business:

Carla – AOG Hospitality Chair brought information about cost of coffee for AOG and asked for a motion to have the District “sponsor” (purchase) 2 Urns of coffee for the 2015 AOG. Motion was tabled till October 1st Mtg.

The ___**September**___ District meeting closed with the Responsibility Statement @ **_732pm**_____.

Respectfully submitted by Bryan Sharp for the ___**September**___ District 61 Business meeting.