

District 61 AA Business Meeting Minutes

May 2, 2024

Opening: The May 2, 2024 District 61 AA Business Meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer, followed by roll call and the reading of the Twelve Traditions by Deborah. There were 16 GSRs present representing district groups, and 12 committee members/chairs present.

Concept: Concept 5 was read by Brian.

7th Tradition was collected for in person participants and Venmo information was provided for those online.

Calendar: The calendar was reviewed and approved. Meeting minutes were reviewed and approved for the April 2024 meeting.

REPORTS:

Treasurer Report:

Hello District 61 members. Here is the March recap for the District:

Income for last month totaled \$1,046.98. Breakdown is as follows:

7th Tradition \$44.48

Literature Sales \$302.50

Group Contributions \$700.00

Our expenses totaled \$858.75. Breakdown is:

Literature Store - Power \$63.53

Literature Store - Rent \$185.00

Church Rent \$50.00

Reimburse Alt DCM \$33.85

Reimburse PI – Meeting Schedules \$144.00

Literature Store \$1.00

Reimburse BTG Area \$149.37

PO BOX - District \$232.00

With these transactions, our checking account balance is \$1,603.39 and our prudent reserve is \$948.67 – for a total of \$2,552.06 in District funds. Pink Can account is \$35.00.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Kim Aiken

district61aatreasurer@gmail.com

406-439,8801

Mail - PO Box 805, Helena, MT 59624

DCM

Heeeeyyyyyyyyyy!!!

Well, I certainly miss seeing all of your faces at the assembly. I was able to get on zoom and follow along as I could and I was very proud of you all as a district for participating. Your feedback and comments and questions are so valuable. I was also super proud of Nate for stepping in and mostly the outstanding delivery of heeeyyyyy when giving my report.

I forwarded an email to you guys from Kacie regarding The decision on the new trustee and also a few outcomes regarding agenda items. I want to pass around a card to send her way and thank her for all of her hard work on our behalf, she does such an amazing job, really trying to hear all of us and our ideas and opinions and then taking that voice to New York. It's pretty awesome.

I'm also going to pass around this postcard from her that she sent us.

Hope to see you all this weekend at the corrections and treatments workshop!

Love Krissy

Committee Reports:

Archives:

After reading the job description provided at last District meeting, I realized there is much more to do with the Archives Committee. I spent a few hours talking with past chair Rick W. And he gave me much to think about and some information for preservation. I will begin by contacting the committee chairs to get caught up on past minutes from the committees.

Bryan S., D61 Archives Chair

Bridging the Gap

Only 2 contacts out of MCDC and 1 out of prison. Looking forward to working with Elkhorn to perfect the BTG and sponsorship programs, more to come on that.

Hope to see you Saturday at the workshop.

Area was a great experience. Had great talks about service work and I am looking forward to next years adventures.

Thanks for letting me serve.

Kari

Corrections

Good evening, district 61. This is your April corrections report. The men's Lewis and Clark county jail side is going great. As far as the women's side I hear they are looking for volunteers. I talked to TJ last night and the Boulder jail is going smooth. We need a volunteer or 2 to go down there. I talked to Diana last night and the women's side in Townsend hasn't had a meeting for 4 months. I also talked to Dave last night and the Townsend men's side is going regularly. I talked to Russ last night and the pre-Release is going smooth. He's getting about 8-10 people on average. And as far as the prison, Gary said, it is going smooth. And they are still planning on having a mini Conference around the weekend of September 28th . Also, watch West AA

meetings are up and running again And I will soon be attending with Dave, hopefully. This Saturday is the corrections workshop! Thank you to everyone who worked on this. You all did an awesome job!! Looking forward to see you all! Thank you for letting me serve.

Jamey C.

CPC

CPC met with the VA Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program Addictions Counselor last month. She agreed that a meeting with her staff would help alleviate at least some of their resistance to/suspicion about starting an AA meeting on site that residents of the treatment program could attend without leaving the VA. She invited us to attend a short meeting of all the staff on May 14th, so we are preparing for that.

We are making slow progress on our mission to reach out to the clergy - and that's it on that for now.

I learned something from the pamphlet 'AA in Your Community' that is not important to us, since we already know AA works, but that is important when discussing AA with professionals:

Is there evidence-based proof of AA's efficacy?

A rigorous independent study published by the medical journal Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews in 2020 examined 25 previous studies involving 10,565 (alcoholic) participants around the world. They discovered that AA is 20-60% more likely than other treatments for alcoholism to be successful, including Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, outpatient treatment by a doctor, and alcohol education programs. And, it saves alcoholics \$10,000 over 2 years.

Deborah

Grapevine:

The Assembly was great. Kacie and I were able to connect so SAVE THE DATE: Grapefest will be September 28, 2024 from 1-5 pm.

Details to come.

Rebecca

Literature

Literature Committee Chairperson Report for April 2024. Sales for April totaled \$306.50. One small sale to the PI committee and the rest to groups and individuals. This also includes the income from literature sales at Pockets of Enthusiasm, which totaled \$118.50.

All service positions are still filled!

Housekeeping items: if you are writing a check for books, please make it out to District 61. As always, if you need a case of books, please let me know so I can make sure the store remains stocked for the newcomer. You can reach me at 406-293-1486.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Katelyn S
District 61 Literature Store Chair
kbethshea@gmail.com
406-293-1486

Public Information/Answering Service:

Hello District 61. I was able to attend the Area 40 Spring Conference for the first half of the day on Saturday. I met with the PI small group and there were quite a few items on that agenda. We went over all of them and discussed. Just as a brief overview, there was lots of discussion on how to reach alcoholics through the internet, ie. using google, You Tube, Instagram, etc. Lots of research and data being collected to find out how many people are using these platforms and if they are cost efficient.

We also discussed and made some minor changes to the area 40 website page to make it easier for people to find a meeting. If you click on the page you will notice it now asks you to click on the "city's first letter" when trying to find a meeting. The hotline phone number has also been enlarged and has a bolder font. The overall layout has been changed slightly so check it out when you have time.

There was lots more discussion on making some changes to various pamphlets, and also many more items on the agenda. I found it all quite interesting and I would invite you all to jump online and take a look if your interested. There is too much to cover in this quick report!

Dawn

Treatment

Hello District 61! Thank you for presenting this material to your groups as follows. Meetings as listed:

MCDC- Treatment facility in Butte. Held the 1st Saturday of the month. Meeting is at 630pm. Meet at Albertsons at 5pm on Fee street. Please contact Amy N, Tom F., or Jon C to get you on the volunteer list. 1-2 year sob requirement. Please know this time of year warrants winter conditions.

BHU- Weekly meeting on Tuesdays at the BHU in St Peters Helena. Meeting starts at 630 pm. Please contact Anya or Amy N if interested in a Tuesday. 1-2 year sob requirement.

Elkhorn- This is a weekly meeting on Saturdays at 1030 at the women's treatment center in Boulder that our coordinator Jan has asked me to announce. Please contact Amy N or Jan and we will get you on a rotating list. This requires a PREA training prior that Shawn Frederick does on Mondays a 4 at the pre release. (Interesting and well done). 1-2 year sob requirement.

Boyd Andrews- Monthly speaker meeting the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 9 and 10am. Share your story to these groups!

Corrections/Treatment workshop next Saturday May 4th!

Planning with the Mega meeting is coming along nicely. We have great speakers, as well as professionals from the community attending. Copperline is catering. Our final planning meeting is Monday, April 29th at 530 at the Wilson house before the final event on Saturday, May 4th. Hope to see you there!

Planning for our next Attitude of Gratitude event that is on November 23rd at Our Redeemer's, has been fun to be involved in.

I plan to attend the Bridging the Gap Workshop in Missoula Sept 6-8th Hosted by Area 40 at Fairbridge Inn and Suites & Big Sky Conference Center. Refer to BTGWW for workshop rate of \$139.

Area was a most informative event and I was grateful for all the learning in this area. To get to see this process of how AA works was one of gratitude. I must say we have some stellar people representing us. From our locals, to Kacie on the state level. Getting to hear from the past Delegates was heartwarming as they are all so unique, informed, and strong servants. And um, our table definitely had the best snacks on board!

There is currently a 2 year halt of activity on new agenda items so GSC can get caught up on Agenda items. Also a 2 year process to any changes with a 75% majority to approve them. The topic of the Plain and Simple translation of the Big Book is a big one right now. I highly suggest listening to the Big Book Presentation, 'Researching Issues, Possible Tools and Access 70th GSC 2020. For example, the Big Book reads at a level '3'. A little under 1/2 the population can read at a '3'. Less than 1/5 of people with a high school diploma can read at a 3. It can be embarrassing and detour people when they don't want to admit they cannot read the book.

Each group would need to contribute \$168 per year to Area and \$300 to GSB to be self supporting,

In our Treatment and BTG breakout group we discussed Military Outreach (there are 3 of them) this also now includes Veterans stories, so there will be more. These are on the GSO AA website. We discussed choices and picked topics for the conference to work on. There will be no changes on the Treatment workbook. We discussed the pamphlets 'AA in Treatment Settings' and 'Where Do I go From Here' and there will be no changes on these. We discussed planning on how money has been saved at the GSC totaling approximately 125,000. Things such as decreasing coffee from 24 to 15 or handing out \$15 gift cards instead of the buffet. That alone saving thousands of dollars. In short, they are being cautious with the funds and not just spending foolishly. We had good discussions on what people are doing in their own areas. BTG pamphlet and service materials also discussed, and this will be discussed more in depth and the BTG conference in September. Hope to see everyone at this conference that Area 40 is hosting.

Amy N.

Anyia: 406-465-0711 Tom F.: 406-438-1844 Kari: 406-371-6959

Jon C.: 406-603-0953 Jan Z.: 406-459-0970 Dave P.: 415-342-5195

Tech

No report

Workshops

Next Attitude of Gratitude plan meeting is scheduled.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you!

Karla I.

Group Reports

Laurie C – Fellon night meeting is the theme for this Friday's speaker meeting.

Sat night 9 pm at the Wilson. Going through the stories in the back of the book. Needs support.

Need to remove the E. Helena Fireside from the online website.

Cheryl asked where to find group contributions for District – get from Kim.

Old Business:

Review of job description – questions were offered by group members. Suggestion was made and Deborah Laurie and Karla volunteered to form an ad hoc committee to review descriptions.

New Business:

Reminder to take back to your group that we need a volunteer to be the Roundup committee chair. We are hosting in Fall of 2025

Concept 6 volunteer – Karla I.

The May 2, 2024 District meeting closed with the Responsibility Statement @ 7.20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Wendy Donahoe.