

District 61 AA Business Meeting Minutes

September 4, 2025

Opening: The September 4, 2025, District 61 AA Business Meeting opened at 6:30 pm with the Serenity Prayer. Roll was called by the secretary. 15 GSR's were present and 8 committee members with 0 attending online, followed by a reading of the Twelve Traditions by Amy T.

Concept: Concept 9 was read by Jamey C.

7th Tradition was collected for in person participants. Meeting minutes were reviewed and approved for the August meeting.

Calendar: The calendar was reviewed and approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Treasurer Report:

See attached reports

DCM:

Greetings District 61,

Area assembly is right around the corner; I'm getting excited to see you all in Great Falls! The Agenda for the fall assembly is fairly light, but you can find all the juicy background material at:

<https://www.aa-montana.org/dashboard>

Username: Dashboard

Password: xwPa4Sky

There you can find the proposed 2026 Area 40 Budget, background on all agenda items and updates to the Area 40 Structure & Policy.

If you can't make it to Great Falls September 12-14th you can always tune in via zoom from the comfort of your couch. The tech team at Area always does a fantastic job with the online assembly and you can find the zoom info at www.aa-montana.org.

Looking ahead there are some great AA events throughout the state in September, and the West Central Regional Forum in Omaha for those interested. Most importantly, we have the Area 40 Roundup coming to Helena the first weekend in October! This will be a fantastic event and I look forward to seeing you all there.

Thanks for letting me serve,

Nate S.

Archives:

Greetings District 61:

This month I worked on two things: sifting through a collection of recordings for older voices in District 61, and trying to connect with our area archives.

One of my hopes for this rotation is to digitize important documents in our district. I want to do so not only to create a safe repository in the event of damage to our physical collection, but also to make interesting materials more widely accessible to our membership. I had attempted recently to use our archive's cassette-to-mp3 converter to capture some of the older stories in our district, but was unable to get the machine to work. This month I made some progress with a tape recorder and laptop.

A member donated over one hundred cassette tapes and CDs she had collected since the early nineties. Most of the recordings were circuit speakers or local speakers outside our district, but three after sifting through the collection, I found three recordings that might be interesting to digitize. I was able to get one finished, and that was a recording of an Old-Timers' meeting of a Round-UP held in Helena in 1994. It turned out that only three old-timers from District 61 spoke, but it was interesting nonetheless to hear Faye, a regular at the Alano club, say that AA is more tolerant and kinder than it was when he sobered up in 1961. Dallas M. shared at the meeting too, and one new voice emerged, that of Barb from Boulder, who sobered up in 1969. She mentioned attending meetings at the half-way house that Boyd Andrew established shortly after he had gotten sober. This makes me curious what the treatment facility he founded has about the earlier days of AA in Helena and District 61, and I plan to reach out to them to see what they might have. I will also continue to digitize earlier voices in our fellowship and see what we can do about making them available on our district mini-site.

I also reached out to the area archivist to arrange a visit to the archive in Ennis. Since each district has materials collected there, I'd like to learn what they have that we don't have in our archives, and vice-versa.

As always, if you're interested in helping with archives work or have material you think might be valuable to future generations of AA, I would love to talk with you. Please see me after the meeting or reach out to me at 406.465.9385

Thanks for allowing me to serve,

Jeff M.

D61 Archives Chair

Bridging the Gap:

Hello, district, 61 and happy September. I'm pleased to report that there are several males who will be discharging from the VA treatment here and transferring to Billings. We have set up multiple contacts for them.

I personally am still working on some projects and in committee with Angela from Missoula in bedside BTG. We have had a couple opportunities to do this. There's a policy in place if we need thanks to all the work they did in Missoula on this. I'm waiting to hear back from Virginia, who's coordinating AA meetings at Riverside, when I can present BTG there. that's a good reminder, i will give her a call. Thanks for allowing me to serve. Have a blessed week and see you at Area! Amy

Corrections:

Good evening, district 61. This is your August corrections report. The Lewis and Clark County jail men's side is going good. The women's side is also going good. I talked to Diane in Townsend and the women's side of jail is going great. I did not get a chance to talk to Dave in Townsend This month, but I'm assuming the men's side is going good. I talked to Russ at the prerelease and it's going about the same, 2 to 3 guys per visit, which is pretty low. He said they put the sign out the day of the meeting and it's tough to get volunteers a heads up so we may have to talk with them and see if there is something else they can do. I called T.J in boulder, but could not get a hold of him i should hear back from him soon. But I'm sure the boulder jail is going good. I have not heard from Mike about the prison yet this month as our corrections meeting falls after district. Thank you for letting me serve. Jamey C

CPC:

No Report

Grapevine:

Hello District 61,

This month's featured selection is "Stories of Gratitude." AA members share powerful, personal stories about being thankful, appreciating the moment, helping others and living life to its fullest.

As a reminder, the Grapefest is planned for Saturday, October 25th at the Wilson House at 11:00, likely until 3PM. Our Area 40 Delegate, Lisa C, will be there to do her Delegate's report. We will have Lynne W. of Billings to share her experience, strength and hope with a focus on community and connection in AA, which is what the Grapevine provides for many alcoholics worldwide. If you'd like to hear a little more about her experience with the Grapevine, she did the Grapevine podcast in October of 2022, season 3, episode 14 titled Tough Love. She also had an article published in the October 2022 issue of the Grapevine, which can be accessed via the Grapevine archive on the Grapevine website if you have a subscription. As a reminder, the Podcast is free, so you do not need a subscription to listen. Hugh M, our Area 40 Grapevine Chair will be joining us as well. There are flyers here and will be included in the flyers sent out by the secretary.

As discussed at the previous District meeting, we will aim to get the Grapefest scheduled next year in late May or early June to avoid the mid-summer heat and provide an opportunity for anyone interested to hear the Delegate's report before the deadline for agenda items for the fall Assembly.

I'm told there will be a Grapevine workshop this upcoming weekend in Missoula for anyone interested in submitting an article, photo, piece of art, etc, however I wasn't able to get additional information about it and it's not listed on the Area calendar, so please let me know if you'd like more info on this when I hear back from Hugh.

If you're interested in sharing a story to Grapevine, some upcoming topics include:

- How the Steps Changed My Life (stories due Oct. 1, 2025)
- Young & Sober (stories due Nov 1, 2025)
- Annual Prison Issue (stories due Dec. 1, 2025)

I also brought some copies of the editorial calendar for next year and the topics, so you can take these back to your group and encourage members to consider submitting a story to be published. I also included this in my email to the secretary to be sent out with the rest of the flyers.

I've included links to information on how to submit a story, art, photo, caption or opinion, as well as the Grapevine YouTube channel.

Grapevine YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@AAGrapevine>

Story and art submission guidelines:

<https://www.aagrapevine.org/guidelines-contributing-grapevine>

Submit your story:

<https://www.aagrapevine.org/submit-your-story>

Thank you for allowing me to serve,

Katelyn S.

District 61 Grapevine Chair

406-293-1486

Literature:

Hello District 61. I am sorry I can't be there in person but am currently on the road to Great Falls. I am blessed to be hosting the main speaker for Fellowship of the Falls for the next two days. I wanted to mention that there is Helena members on every panel and I hope to see many of my AA family there to support this event.

Total income for August was \$101.

Please announce in your groups that I will be looking for volunteers to sign up to work the Literature table at the Roundup Oct 3-5th . I am looking to fill 2-hour increments for the entire Roundup. Please share my number with anyone interested.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Kari H.

District 61 Literature Store Chairperson

notaglumlot07@gmail.com

406-371-6959

Public Information/Answering Service:

Hi District 61

I am sorry I cannot be there tonight, we are out of town for a final camping trip.

This past month, I have updated the Hospital, BHU, Jail and Club Pamphlets and Schedules. The printer is working out great to be able to print as needed. The library will not allow a rack but I will put some schedules there and the QR code poster that leads to the AA Meeting Guide App. I also posted the QR flyer at the Bagel Company on 11th.

I was at Good Samaritan and they have requested a rack there, will be working with Kari to see what we can do since racks are limited right now.

I could still use help with monitoring the VA rack, I plan on making the rounds there next week.

Thank you for allowing me to serve!

Sincerely

Teresa Realing

District 61 PI Chair

Treatment:

Greetings District 61.

We are still actively doing all the things. Meetings are running at MCDC, Elkhorn, and the BHU. And I have speakers/volunteers lined up for this month.

However, I really need women to go to MCDC. We've been making it work but it's a struggle. So please let your home group members know that I need volunteers. If anyone has any questions, please let me know. My number will be listed in my report.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Amanda T, Treatment

406.475.4954

Workshops:

Hey District 61. I am sorry that I cannot attend tonight's meeting. I have family obligations to attend.

As mentioned last month, we have a date for Attitude of Gratitude, November 1st. We are working on a flyer and will have that done and distributed before Area next weekend. We will need volunteers to share/lead the workshops. If you are interested, or have a sponsee looking for a service opportunity, please call or text me (number below). Our next meeting is Monday, Sept 8th at 5.15 at my work office (203 N. Ewings St). We will also meet, Sept. 22 at 5.30 at that same location. Hope to see you all there.

Kaitlyn has been working hard on the Grapefest now that we have secured a date of Oct. 25th. This will be held at the Wilson House. Flyers are available. Spread the word. It will be a lot of fun, food and fellowship.

Thanks for allowing me to serve.

Wendy D

406-431-7895

Round-Up:

No Report Submitted

Carla T gave an update there will be a hospitality room and they are looking for donations. Eric G passed around sign-up sheet for the donations for the hospitality room.

Tech Support:

Greetings! This month I put out the word at various groups, that the Zoom account is available for the District functions... (Attitude of Gratitude, Mega Committee, Roundup, etc. etc. etc.)

Had to purchase a power strip for the Zoom technical gear, I will submit the receipt for reimbursement.

I am also looking for a monitor (60" or that area, doesn't need web connectivity.) instead of the projector, at least for the Business meeting. As the screen "washes out" under the florescent lights. The projector is more appropriate for a large gathering, like events.

Thank you for the privilege to serve...

Kelly S.

District 61 Technology Chair

GROUP REPORTS:

PPG Speaker for September is Mark F.

IITB speaker list is out and will be emailed out.

Casey announced Last Chance Group will be doing a potluck Sept 30 at 6:30 before the birthday meeting at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church.

Old Business:

Open service position for CPC chair.

Benjamin nominated Alisha. Voted unanimously.

New Business:

Karla reminded district of the printer available, just email docs to Teresa R.

Carleen asked if racks are needed for PI. Katelyn advised there is a shortage of racks currently, but expects more to be available soon.

Carleen asked for clarification on the Alt BTG chair issue that is on the agenda for Area.

Rolfe brought up about the Area budget showing the donations did not look like they would cover the expenses.

Next month's meeting is scheduled for Oct 2, 2025, at 6:30 pm. The meeting closed at 7:25 pm with the Responsibility Statement. Kelly S will do Concept 10.