

District 61 AA Business Meeting Minutes

August 6, 2026

Opening: The August 6, 2026, District 61 AA Business Meeting opened at 6:30 pm with the Serenity Prayer, followed by roll call by the secretary and a reading of the Twelve Traditions by Benjamin. There were 12 GSRs present representing district groups, and 11 committee members/chairs present. There were 0 present on Zoom.

Concept: Concept 8 was read by Carleen L.

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

7th Tradition was collected for in person participants.

REPORTS:

Treasurer Report:

See attached flyers

DCM

I have some exciting news: District 61 will be hosting the 2028 West Central Regional AA Service Conference! On March 3–5, 2028, we'll welcome members from across the region to the Delta Colonial Hotel here in Helena.

The conference is organized by the General Service Office in partnership with Area 40, but there will be plenty of opportunities for members of our district to get involved in service. More will be revealed as planning begins.

Area Assembly is coming up on September 25–27. The hotel discount code is "A40". I booked my room today, and the total for two nights was \$289.94. We'll also be electing a new slate of Area trusted servants, so I hope many of you can attend. If you can't make it in person, Area 40 offers an excellent hybrid assembly that's easy to join from home.

Speaking of elections, District 61 elections are October 1! Please continue announcing this at your meetings and encourage your friends, sponsors, sponsees, and home group members to attend and get involved in District service.

I've been involved in District service for the past six years, and I'm continually inspired by how the members of District 61 suit up and show up. I hope to see that same enthusiasm carry into the next rotation.

A friend and I were reminiscing last night about how little we knew when we were first dragged into District service. The good news is that no experience is required to stand for a District position. All it takes is meeting the minimum sobriety requirement and having a willingness to learn and grow. Detailed job descriptions can be found at our mini-site at www.aa-montana.org, I will include the link below.

One of my favorite sayings is, "My Higher Power didn't choose the qualified—it qualified the chosen"; That has certainly been true in my own experience, and it may be true for you, too.

Yours in service, Nate S. – 978-317-3798 (this is a cell, call or text)

<https://www.aa-montana.org/district-sites/dist61/docs/2024-trusted-servant-guidelines-job-descriptions.pdf>

Committee Reports:

Archives: (Jeff M)

Greetings District 61:

This month I reorganized the homegroup histories so that they follow a chronological ordering from oldest to newest. I also updated a history for one group that has filled out the survey form, and I also wrote a history of Helena Group #1, for which our only source are two mentions in The Grapevine, one in 1946 and the other in 1955.

This document is ready to be posted to our district mini-site, but before I do so, I will reach out to those who have expressed interest in creating a homegroup history. Here is a list the fifteen groups that feature in this document, some now defunct but most still going:

1. Helena Group #1
2. The Fellowship Group
3. East Helena Group #1
4. Wednesday Night Step Study
5. Fireside Group
6. Free For Lunch
7. Here and Now
8. Last Chance Recovery Group
9. Stream of Life
10. On Awakening
11. Women in Recovery
12. Change of Pace
13. Easy Does It
14. Mountain Pacific
15. The How and the Why of It Women's Meeting

Thank you for allowing me to serve,

Jeff M.

D61 Archives Chair

Bridging the Gap: (Amy N)

Hello District 61, and happy August.

BTG has bridged a male from RMTC 7/29/26 into the Townsend and Helena AA. Also bridged a gal released 8/4/26 from Bearcreek Wellness into the Boulder area/AA.

Awaiting a male releasing 8/12/26 from RMTC. Thank you for mentioning BTG in your service areas and assisting when needed. Please reach out with any questions.

In service, Amy

Corrections: (Jamey C)

Good evening, district 61. This is your July corrections report. Lewis and Clark county jail is going great on both men's and women's side.

Townsend jail is also going great on the men's and women's side.

Boulder jail is good

I have not heard from Neil with the prison yet. The PreRelease has been put on hold for now because of lack of participation. And that's about it! Thank you for letting me serve. Jamey C

CPC: (Alysia)

No report to give.

Thank you for letting me be of service,

Alysia R.

Grapevine: (Katelyn S.)

Hello District 61,

The August issue is "Sober Travel!" featuring fun, helpful stories by AA members about getting out and going places in sobriety, and the many ways we stay sober while on the road and in the air. Most exciting about this issue is that there is a story from an AA member from Missoula! Check out Bridesmaid to the Rescue to see Kathie T's message on sober travel. A year subscription is only \$29.00 and gives you access to the Grapevine archive, so you can look up stories from various regions, topics, eras, etc.

As a reminder, for any groups looking for more ways to help carry the message to the alcoholic who is still suffering, you can purchase a gift subscription for a person, entity or you can contact the Grapevine to pay for a Grapevine subscription for someone who has reached out requesting one. I've reached out to the Grapevine to inquire about folks waiting for gift subscriptions, so if your group is interested in doing this, please let me know.

Grapefest is set for October 17th. It will be at the Wilson House again, starting at 11:00. We'll have food, a speaker and this year, the Grapevine writing workshop. I have messages out to 2 folks who have had stories published in the Grapevine, so I'm hoping one of them will be available. I'd like to recruit your group's Grapevine rep (or future Grapevine Rep) to help out at this event, so please send them my way!

I mentioned the Audio Project last month, but I wanted to give you a little more info on this since it's so easy to share. They have a Voicemail system, so you just have to call the number and record your story

on the voicemail. They publish these stories on YouTube for members who prefer to listen, who have visual impairments, or who want to hear something new that doesn't come from the magazine.

Two ways to record:

The Audio Project Voicemail System

- Call the voicemail system at 559-726-1216.
- Press 1 to hear helpful tips and to begin recording your story after the tone.
- When finished, press #. You will be prompted to Press 1 to save your story.
- Press 2 to give AA Grapevine permission to use your story.

Alternatively you can use your own smartphone or other digital recorder (WAV and MP3 files will be accepted) and send your recording to webcoord@agrapevine.org.

Go to <https://www.youtube.com/@AAGRAPEVINE> or <https://www.agrapevine.org/audio-portal> to listen to stories.

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

- Making Amends (Stories due Sept 1, 2026)
- Fun in Sobriety (stories due Oct. 1, 2026)
- Emotional Sobriety (stories due Nov. 1, 2026)
- Sober Seniors (stories due Jan 1, 2027)
- Young & Sober (stories due Feb 1, 2027)
- Also, we're looking for your experience with each individual Tradition! (Pick a particular Tradition and share your experience!) We run one every month! We also need your jokes! Note: Feel free to send in a story of any topic at any time, as long as it relates to drinking, sobriety, meetings, Steps, and other AA topics!
- NOTE: We are always in need of stories of your experience on Steps 4—12 and on every Tradition. Thanks!

Links can be found below with information on how to submit a story, art, photo, caption or opinion, as well as the Grapevine Youtube channel. They will be included in my report sent out with the minutes.

Grapevine YouTube:

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

Story and art submission guidelines:

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

Submit your story:

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

Thank you for allowing me to serve,

Katelyn S.

District 61 Grapevine Chair

406-293-1486

Literature: (Kari H.)

Hey ... The bookstore took in \$221 in July in sales and a \$7 donation for a total of \$228. I will not be at District as I am headed out the door to a cabin in East Glacier.

Kari

Public Information/Answering Service: (Teresa R.)

Greetings District 61

July was pretty quiet, I did make rounds and fill some racks and distributed July Schedules. There have been a couple new updates and they will reflect in the next printing in September. A current copy of the schedule is on our District 61 Mini Site (Remember to print on 11 X14 legal paper, both sides). The Area 40 Schedule for our District is current and up to date.

That is all I have for now, enjoy the rest of your summer!

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Teresa Realing

District 61 PI Chair

Treatment: (Amanda T.)

Greetings District 61.

We are taking meetings into Elkhorn and the BHU weekly. And MCDC and Boyd Andrew monthly.

We did not have enough volunteers to go into MCDC this month so please bring thr need for volunteers back to your home group.

Also, I have 1 speaker for Boyd Andrew later in the month. Still looking for 1 more. If anyone is free at 3pm on the 19th let me know. (taken care of)

Thanks for allowing me to serve,

Amanda

Tech Support (Kelly S.)

Replacement monitor from Carleen L. is now at the Church. (She was glad to not be "tripping over it"... I included the pictures in case we needed serial numbers or anything, and as indicated, I notified the pastor. I will try to include this in my report for Thursday.

In Service,

Kelly S.

Workshops: (Wendy D.)

Good evening District 61. Wendy, Alcoholic here with this months report. We have an official date for Attitude of Gratitude. November 14th. Save the date in your calendar. Flyer is attached to my report and I hope some are on the table for you to take back to your groups.

Monthly committee meetings are held the 3rd Monday of the month. Next one is Aug. 17th, 5:30 at the library. There is still work to be done so grab a sponsor or sponsee and come to the library.

That's all I have for now. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Wendy

Round-Up: (Rebecca S-Q)

No report

Questions:

Jack brought out the numbers on the Treasurer Report are inverted, Dawn will fix it.

Amanda asked for the minimum sobriety requirement for district, 2 for committees, 3 for officers and 4 for DCM.

Carleen asked for the phone number for the voice recording for the Grapevine.

MCDC mens and womens go at the same time on the 1st Saturday of the month and sobriety requirement is 1 year. Just need 2 of each.

Group Reports

Sister to Sister is now at St. Pauls Methodist Monday, Wednesday, Friday at noon.

IITB speakers, see flyer

Valley Big Book Group has closed its doors.

Amanda announced Bad Bitch Beach Day.

PPG speaker last Saturday of the month. Speaker is....

Old Business:

Area is still needing contributions to make Area less stressful.

Aug 14 Tommy's services, 11am at Anderson Wilke Funeral Home.

New Business:

None

Passcode for the Zoom meeting 856260.

The next meeting will be held Sept 3, 2026, at 6:30 pm. Dawn will do the 9th Concept.

The August 6, 2026, District meeting closed with the Responsibility Statement @ 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Karla Ivie for the August 6, 2026, District 61 Business Meeting.