

District 61 AA Business Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2026

Opening: The July 9, 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 Nate S. There were 15 GSRs present representing district groups, and 9 committee members/chairs present. There were 4 present on Zoom.

Concept: Concept 7 was read by Kari H.

Calendar: The calendar was reviewed and approved with an amendment to add an AOG meeting the 3rd Mondays at 5:30 at the Library. 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

Greetings District 61, 7/9/26

I hope everyone is having a fantastic summer so far! June and early July has been quiet from the DCM's chair. There are still a ton of campouts, picnics and river floats throughout our area this summer. These are great opportunities to fill the car with friends and sponsees for an AA road trip.

A few reminders as we look towards the fall:

-Area assembly is September 25-27. I spoke with the hotel and the block code is currently available for rooms. Use code A40 and the room rate is \$119 + tax per night.

-The fall roundup is in Missoula on October 2-4. I spoke with some members of their roundup committee, and it has turned into one of the more expensive roundups in recent memory. The best way we can support our friends in District 81 is to spread the word at your meetings and pre-register if you plan on attending. There will be some flyers here tonight, please take them back to your groups.

-And of course, your monthly reminder that District 61 elections will be taking place at our October 1st meeting! Please start announcing this at your meetings and encourage anyone who is interested to attend a district meeting *before* elections are held. It's easy to attend in person or on Zoom and folks can get a taste of District before making a 2-year commitment. And if you think it's better to surprise them, it's also ok to just tell them you are picking them up for a "meeting" on October 1st and strongly encourage them to stand for service positions! Many of us were "volun-told" to stand for a district position and we turned out ok. Right?

All kidding aside, do please announce our upcoming District elections at your meetings, and feel free to pass my number along if I can answer any questions.

Yours in service,

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

Committee Reports:

Archives: (Jeff M)

Greetings District 61:

This month I have finished drafting all the home group histories I have from group history questionnaires going as far back as 1993 and as recently as two months ago. I have currently organized these histories according to the dates that the questionnaires were filled out, and I have brought several copies if you would like to see how I shaped this information into short, readable narratives that may be interesting to members of Helena AA.

I plan to create a more chronological ordering of these histories over the next few months, and I hope to have some more questionnaires from home groups who have expressed interest in creating a home group history or updating an older one. I am very happy to help with your group's effort to do this work, so please ask if you'd like me to meet with you and group members and to gather information about your history.

I have also updated the last few months of agendas, minutes, and other documents from District 61 meetings.

Thank you for allowing me to serve,

Jeff M.

D61 Archives Chair

Bridging the Gap: (Amy N)

Good evening, district 61. There are 3 females that are awaiting release to district 71 and have been set up with connections. We currently have one male releasing on July 29th. He lives in Townsend, and there's a local person who will be bridging him. Thank you for announcing BTG in your service areas. My last eve on call and hope to see you next month. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Corrections: (Jamey C)

Good evening district 61. This is your June corrections report.

Lewis and Clark County jail, men and women's side is going great.

T J said Boulder is pretty slow for participation.

The prerelease is also pretty slow For participation.

Townsend jail men and women's side is growing good. I'm assuming the prison is going good. I have not heard back from Neil yet. Other than that not much this month..... Thank you for letting me serve.

Jamey

CPC: (Alysia)

The committee has confirmed that we will be supplying 50 "Is A.A. For Me?" brochures to Jen Miller, Assistant Professor of Nursing at Carroll College, for their Mobile Health Unit for their use in screening. They also want schedules for meeting times and locations.

Jen thinks that 50 will probably be enough to supply them for the year. How do I go about purchasing those for MHU? (Alysia was given a bundle of 15 to start with)

Thanks for the opportunity to serve.

Alysia R.

Grapevine: (Katelyn S.)

Hello District 61,

The July issue is the "Annual Prison Issue," featuring powerful, hopeful stories by AA members inside corrections facilities and the members who do the important service corresponding with and sponsoring them.

We've still got some copies of the new Gratitude book at the bookstore. The 136-page book includes chapters on spirituality, fellowship, family, service, getting through tough times and more.

I was able to attend the delegate's report and Lisa shared some great information about the Grapevine. There was some discussion about allowing the Grapevine to accept contributions, however this was not pursued, so please remember that The Grapevine is completely self-supporting, so it relies on sales of books and subscriptions to stay afloat; the app has helped keep more people connected in the digital age, but the printed issues remain important for many people, so we as a Fellowship have to do our part to keep this valuable resource afloat.

For anyone who is not familiar with the Carry The Message Project, this is a program that allows groups or individuals to purchase a gift subscription of the Grapevine print or digital to an individual, group or organization, who is unable to purchase this on their own, such as alcoholics in remote areas with limited access to meetings, jails, non-profit rehab centers, etc. The Grapevine office keeps a list of folks who have requested a gift subscription. Alternatively, a group can purchase subscriptions for local organizations. My group has 2 yearly subscriptions for the YWCA that we voted to buy to keep people in our own community plugged into AA and the Grapevine.

I have set the date for the Grapefest as 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'm still hoping to find a speaker who has had a story published in the Grapevine, and/or has been on the Podcast, so if you know of anyone, please let them know I'd love to discuss this with them. 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!

In case you didn't know, Grapevine collects short audio stories (6-8 minutes) by AA members and publishes them on YouTube. Many of these stories are published in playlists with themes, such as sponsorship, young people around the world, and from relapse to recovery. If you have a short attention span, this is a great way to hear some recovery! Go to <https://www.aagrapevine.org/audio-portal> to listen to stories or submit your own.

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

- What's On Your Mind? — Have ideas about meetings, sponsorship, sobriety, Traditions or anything AA? Tell us how you really feel. This is your chance to share exactly what's on your mind. We want to know! (Stories due Aug 1, 2026)

- Making Amends (Stories due Sept 1, 2026)
- Fun in Sobriety (stories due Oct. 1, 2026)
- Emotional Sobriety (stories due Nov. 1, 2026)
- your life changed? Share some examples of emotional sobriety in your life today
- 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!

As a reminder, if you are a part of a home group, and you do not have a Grapevine representative, you're missing out not only on valuable ways to carry the message, but your group is missing out on a potential service opportunity for someone who may need a reason to stick around. Grapevine rep is a great position for someone new, coming back, new to service, or someone who just wants to carry the message. Please let me know if your group wants to know more.

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.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: (Kari H.):

Hello District 61. Bookstore sales were slow enough to beat the Hare if this were an AA Fable: \$30 for June.

I had a shift open but it filled with one announcement at a meeting; I am SO grateful for the volunteers in this program. I had a couple women step away from jail so am looking to fill some spots; please spread the word and give my contact info.

If anyone needs a case of books have them reach out. Bookstore hours are M, Th, F and Sat 11:30-1:30.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Kari H.

District 61 Literature Store Chairperson

notagluml07@gmail.com

406-371-6959

Public Information/Answering Service: (Teresa R.)

Happy Summer!

Made a few schedule changes and printed out new quarterly schedules, I will be distributing them to the Hospital, and the BHU tomorrow. I have recently updated the Jail racks and added new schedules. I will be making rounds to the other locations next week. I have brought several schedules for tonight, please take some for your home groups.

That is all I have for this month.

Sincerely,

Teresa Realing

District 61 PI

Treatment: (Amanda T.)

Greetings District 61.

We are getting meetings into all of the places.

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

There was no MCDC this month due to it being a holiday.

I have 1 speaker for Boyd Andrew later in the month. Still looking for 1 more. If anyone is free at 9am on the 15th let me know.

Thanks for allowing me to serve,

Amanda

Tech Support (Kelly S.)

Hello from the Technology Committee.

Unlike last month, I have something to report. The monitor for Zoom is failing, and Carleen L. (It's in the Book Group) offered another that she has, to replace it. I didn't get that accomplished yet. So, I will do so. (I dropped the ball...)

This month's meeting, I will use the projector we have, and get with Carleen to actually get the replacement.

My apologies for not getting this completed. I will also take the failing monitor for disposal.

Aside from that issue, the equipment is functioning as it should, and I am keeping the laptop updated.

In Service,

Kelly S.

District Tech Chair

district61tech@hotmail.com

(406)439-2305 Personal Cell

Workshops: (Wendy D.)

hello District 61. Last month we held a workshop for our Area Delegate, Lisa C., to provide information on her recent visit to New York on June 13th. Not gonna lie, I was hoping that more people would have attended. We had 11 people show up. But it was informative and fun. I brought printouts of her truncated report if you would like to take one.

I also held the 1st AOG committee meeting . 4 people attended. While that was a great start, I still need much more help to put on the AOG event later this year. So please spread the word. Meetings will be the 3rd Monday of the month for now until it gets closer to the event date (TBD). Location - library. Time 5.30. Please plan on attending. Bring a sponsee or sponsor. The more the merrier.

Wendy

Round-Up: (Rebecca S-Q)

No report.

Group Reports

Primary Purpose Group Speaker is last Saturday at Salvation Army at 7 pm, Connie R. Celebrating their group's anniversary with a picnic Aug 8 at Vigilante Campground. See Flyer.

Benjamin said Wilson House float trip will be Aug 8. See Flyer

Fellowship Group speaker meeting is 3rd Thursday at 7 pm. There is a doorbell at the main door if it is locked.

IITB speaker flyers are out.

Free For Lunch has a Saturday noon meeting at St. Mary's.

Women in Recovery is merging into Sister to Sister and Spiritual Seekers will not be meeting through the summer.

How &Y of it is having their Bad Bitch Beach Day. See Flyer

Old Business:

No old business

New Business:

Nate brought up that there are financial issues with Area. District is ok, but will need more before Area. Venmo requires a phone number. District no longer has Venmo. Jeff brought up there is a pamphlet that discusses splits, but couldn't remember the name.

Carleen brought up that another 12 step group brought up a project they are doing and wanted to have AA reach out with it. Carleen talked with Connie and Gerry about the traditions and was told it is outside our traditions. Benjamin reminded District each group can be autonomous.

Tommy from the Alano Club passed away. His service is reportedly scheduled for Aug 14.

July 15 Boyd Andrews 9am speaker needed, talk with Amanda

Riverside Women are moving to Pine Hills and it is going to be juveniles, which we cannot take meetings to per DOC.

Carleen said she talked with Renee from MDOC about who to talk with about incarcerated persons getting in touch with someone from AA.

Passcode for the Zoom meeting 856260.

The next meeting will be held Aug 6, 2026, at 6:30 pm. Carleen will do the 8th Concept.

The July 9, 2026, District meeting closed with the Responsibility Statement @ 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Karla Ivie for the July 9, 2026, District 61 Business Meeting.