

Providing up-to-date information to the groups within our Area
August 25, 2009

WELCOME TO THE FIRST SAMPLE ELECTRONIC NEWS & VIEWS

You are receiving this electronic newsletter/eZine (pronounced ee'-Zeene) as a sample of our Montana News & Views to review for the up-coming Al-Anon Assembly meeting at the Yogo Inn in Lewistown, MT on September 19-20, 2009. The Thought Force (comprised of Mardi M., Lorelle D., Margaret G., Sue T., Connie W. and Monique D.) has sent you this sample newsletter ahead of time for your input at the Assembly. It may be possible to vote on going electronic with an electronic newsletter at this meeting. The eZine will be cost effective, timely, much easier than print and will help our MT Al-Anon "Go Green."

One of the main purposes of the News & Views has always been a vehicle to receive your copy of the Area minutes. Now it's so easy to keep updated with Al-Anon's bi-annual minutes availability on our MT Al-Anon website. You can download and print out the minutes from the Area World Service Committee (AWSC) and the Assembly by going to <http://www.mt.al-anon.alateen.org/area.html>. Print them out for your Al-Anon folder or notebook.

Many of you subscribe to the News & Views specifically for the contact information in the Directory. Those holding a position at Area level, as well as Past Delegates, will automatically be sent, via email, a pdf of the contact information. Other Al-Anon members, past GRs, DRs, etc. can make a request to newsnviewsmt@yahoo.com, and be added to the mailing list to receive the Directory. Updated contact info should be emailed to the News & Views. The Directory with specific contact information will not be posted online, honoring Tradition 11 regarding Anonymity.

The News & Views has always been a financial challenge to Area. Approximately 300+ hard copies are sent out quarterly and have proven to be extremely time consuming and cost prohibitive. This electronic eZine template was set up by Mardi M and reviewed by the News & Views Task Force. Most Area Committee members and GRs have emails—but not all GRs. This matter will be discussed in September. Simple text versions of the eZine are available and can be printed out for your GRs.

The annual cost of the electronic News & Views will depend on the number of members receiving the email. It's \$15 per month for 1-500 subscribers, and \$30 a month for 501-2,500 subscribers. The 150 of you receiving this newsletter are signed up. Tell others who would like to receive the Al-Anon eZine, to go to our Montana homepage, <http://www.mt.al-anon.alateen.org> and click on the sign-up banner.

If you no longer want to receive the News & Views, you can simply click on "Manage Your Subscription" at the bottom of each newsletter! If you also change your information there, or just go to the Montana Al-Anon homepage and re-sign up again.

iContact takes care of the duplicate email addresses. Please help us by helping yourself to stay connected.

If you like the electronic version or have comments or suggestions please send Mardi an email at [mailto:newsnviewsmt@yahoo.com] newsnviewsmt@yahoo.com. We'll talk about it at Assembly. Thanks everybody!

MESSAGES FROM THE MONTANA DELEGATE

Hello everyone!

Want to: Energize your Spiritual quest? Activate your Creativity? All while enjoying the fellowship of AI-Anon?

Something wonderful is coming to AI-Anon. Last year after the Conference, a Task Force was put together to help save the Regional Service Seminar (RSS). They thought long and hard and came up with Together Empowering AI-Anon Members (TEAM).

TEAM: Where any Area at any time can partner with the World Service Office (WSO) to create a unique service event geared to the interest of our members. I will give a presentation on it at the Assembly and talk about it at any of the District reports. I would love for our Area to host one of these TEAM events.

What makes them different from a RSS you ask? Well let me tell you. TEAM can be held in Montana in the summer, target a smaller audience, no longer limited to three-year rotation. We can have one every year.

WSO participation—who will they send out? One of three (Executive Director, Chair of the Board, Chair of Executive Committee), one WSO staff member, and one volunteer.

Can we bring TEAM to Montana? I think we can! We can also have other Areas help host if we want. What an experience this would be to have a Service Weekend in Montana. I would like to have a task force put together to help make this happen. The first five members that respond(penniek@bresnan.net) to this will be on the Task Force.

Also, there are changes on the WSO website within the[<http://www.al-anon.alateen.org/members/>] Members site. The TEAM link is now up, which is the colorful link of folks standing up, as well as a new information link on the purchase of the AI-Anon WSO property in Virginia Beach; the 15-year trial period will be up soon.

There is also a link to the Members Survey 2009, so please pass this on to other AI-Anon members so they can take the survey. The survey is only up until October 16. Lets get a lot of Montana members to full out the survey, which is really easy and the questions are very good.

In Service to You,

Pennie K.
Montana Area 32
Delegate Panel 47

TREASURER'S REPORT

My last assembly as your treasurer is coming up. If you are thinking about standing for this position, let me tell you that it is fairly easy. You do need some bookkeeping background, and it helps to be organized. I have the records on QuickBooks, as I had the program and that was what Linda used. I have used Quicken for area financial records and found it was easier to use than QuickBooks, and I got good reports. It took a while to get everything set up. I used the Groups ID number to keep track of donations. I would be glad to help the new Treasurer get set up.

The assemblies ask me to check out why we could not have an interest checking account.

There is nothing new in Al-Anon, just recycled. On 5 of 99 Motion C 71 & C 72 was to form a committee to implement Area 32 non-profit status. On 5-02 Motion C 111 was to rescind motion C 71 due to the overwhelming cost, time consumption, and reorganization involved in obtaining nonprofit status, the information can be found at IRS instructions for 501C. It is 37 pages long.

Beginning bank balance 1/1/2009: \$6574.37
Total income through 5/20/2009: \$2419.65
Total expenses through 5/20/2009: \$3143.27
Ending bank balance as of 5/20/2009: \$5850.75

So far a loss of \$733.62.

Your humble servant
Betty D, Area Treasurer

AREA NEEDS ELECTED SERVICE POSITIONS TO BE FILLED BY SEPTEMBER 19, IN TIME FOR AREA MEETING IN LEWISTOWN!

It's time for rotation in service positions at all Al-Anon levels in Montana. Encourage new folks to step up at the small group level (particularly Group Representative (GR), District Level (District Representative, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Information, Special Events, etc.), and to Area level which includes: Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Area Chairperson, Area Secretary and Area Treasurer.

Area Coordinators are also needed for: Alateen, Group Records, Forum, Institutions, Literature, Newsletter, PI/CPC. Literature coordinators are also needed in various Districts. It's time to step up and volunteer for a new service position! Help members avoid burnout. Al-Anon works because we help each other.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Upcoming Assemblies:

Fall - September 19 - 20, 2009

AWSC 9/19/09 @ 9 am

Assembly 9/19/09 @ 1 pm

Speaker & game - Saturday evening

Spring - April 9 & 10, 2010

Fall - September 10 & 11, 2010

Spring - April 8 & 9, 2011

Fall - September 9 & 10, 2011

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR ELECTRONIC NEWS & VIEWS

We're excited about the possibility of transitioning into an electronic eZine for our new version of the News & Views. If the electronic eZine goes through, it will be discussed how often the News & Views will be emailed, but the Thought Force suggests once a month, or at least once a quarter.

You can submit your news, within a simple email or as a word doc, directly to newsnviewsmt@yahoo.com. Please keep your news item to a 250 word count. Time sensitive items will then be prioritized for the up-coming newsletter. **DEADLINE TO SUBMIT YOUR NEWS:** the 20th of each month!

Oh, and please make sure you check out the "QUICK LINKS" in the right margin. By clicking on them, you'll go to places you've maybe never been before. Thanks for reading all the way to the end.

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SUBMISSION DEADLINES

QUICK LINKS

[<http://www.mt.al-anon.alateen.org/minutes.html>] AREA MINUTES NOW AVAILABLE!

[<http://www.mt.al-anon.alateen.org/city.html>] FIND A MONTANA MEETING!

[<http://www.mt.al-anon.alateen.org/events.html>] FIND UP-COMING MT ROUNDUPS,
ETC.

[<http://www.al-anon.alateen.org/forum.html>] Read Excerpts from the FORUM

[<http://al-anonfamilygroups.org/Podcasts/FirstSteps/>] AL-ANON Podcasts!

[[mailto:MTAlanon@hotmail.com?subject=AFG Info/Changes for Website](mailto:MTAlanon@hotmail.com?subject=AFG%20Info/Changes%20for%20Website)] E-Mail
Webmaster with Website Info

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