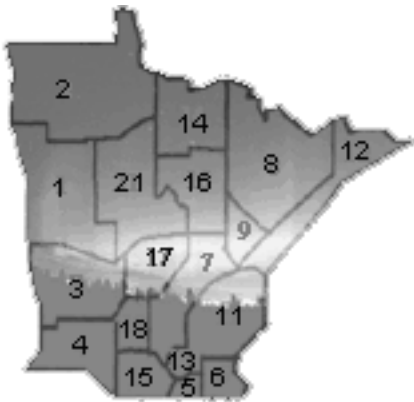


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Deadline for the next
Northern Light is
September 19, 2008

This is YOUR Newsletter.

Please send your questions or comments for publication to
Ed A. at NorthernLight@area35.org.

Please bring extra copies to share with your group!

Don't forget to visit and bookmark your Area 35 web site!!

<http://www.area35.org>

AREA 35 COMMITTEE 2008

AREA OFFICERS

DELEGATE

JOANNE N.
delegate@area35.org

ALTERNATE DELEGATE

DAN H.
alt_delegate@area35.org

AREA CHAIR

JAY A.
areachair@area35.org

TREASURER

BETH E.
treasurer@area35.org

SECRETARY

SARAH S.

AREA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

PUBLIC INFORMATION

JON C.

ARCHIVES

BOB K.

ARCHIVIST

BRAD I.

CORRECTIONS

DIANNA S.
corrections@area35.org

LITERATURE

MICHAEL V.

GRAPEVINE

LAURIE R.

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (C.P.C.)

DEE K.

TREATMENT

JIM K.
Treatment@area35.org

NORTHERN LIGHT

ED A.
NorthernLight@area35.org

GROUP RECORDS

Mike P.
GroupRecords@area35.org

WEBMASTER

DAN R.
webmaster@area35.org

DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

(D.C.M.s)**DISTRICT 1**

PRISCILLA A. W.

DISTRICT 2

ART A.

DISTRICT 3

BILL D.

DISTRICT 4

BRUCE W.

DISTRICT 5

KELLY D.

DISTRICT 6

JACK J.

DISTRICT 7

LEEANN H.

DISTRICT 8

ROBERT (BUTCH) R.

DISTRICT 9

KAREN H.

DISTRICT 11

DOUG N.

DISTRICT 12

TIM H.

DISTRICT 13

ROGER R.

DISTRICT 15

PATTI G.

DISTRICT 16

MARY C.

DISTRICT 17

UNKNOWN

DISTRICT 18

DOREEN L.

DISTRICT 21

HAROLD S.

MOVING? ADDRESS NOT CORRECT?

Please help us keep our mailing list for the *Northern Light* accurate and up-to-date. It costs the Area \$.50 for each piece of returned mail.

Please contact our Group Records Secretary with your new or changed address:

GroupRecords@area35.org

Thank you!

Our Past Delegates

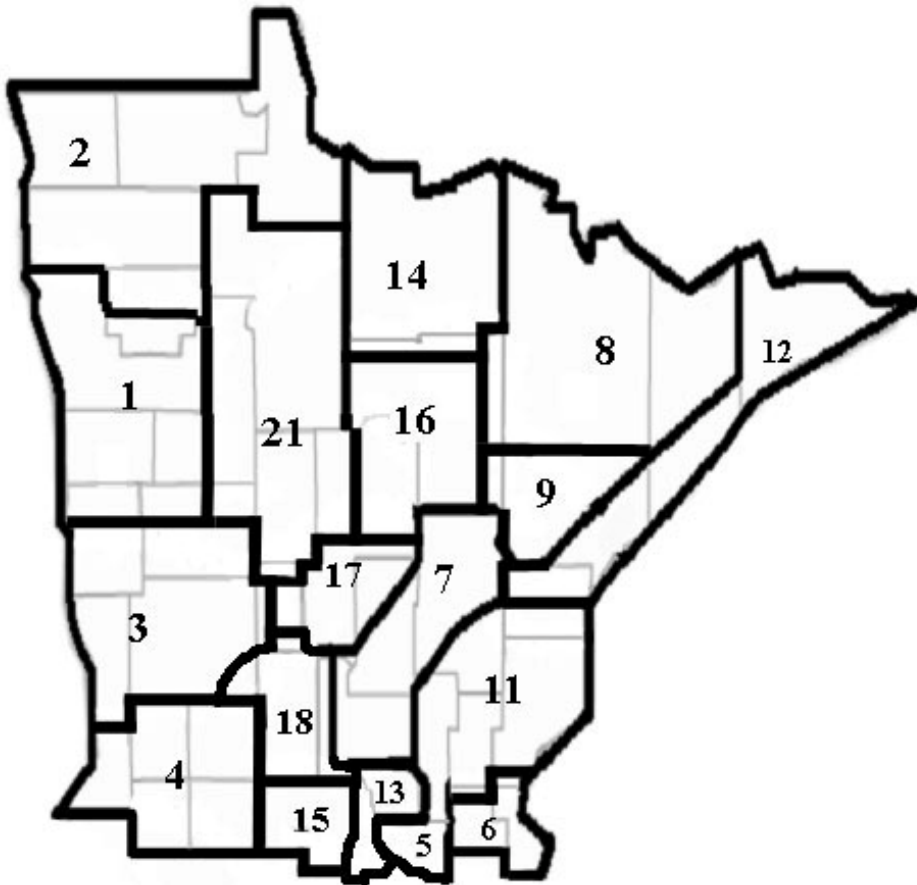
Panel 56 Jerry S.	2006-2007	Panel 36 Louie H.	1986-1987	Panel 18 Dave H.	1968-1969
Panel 54 Charlie C.	2004-2005	Panel 34 Bob P.	1984-1985	Panel 16 Arno A. (deceased)	1966-1967
Panel 52 Tim C.	2002-2003	Panel 32 Tom L.	1982-1983	Panel 14 Donald F. (deceased)	1964-1965
Panel 50 Tom A.	2000-2001	Panel 30 Don M. (deceased)	1981-1982	Panel 12 Donna T. (deceased)	1962-1963
Panel 48 Susie A.	1998-1999	Panel 28 Garfield (Duffy) S.	1978-1979	Panel 10 Bob B. (deceased)	1960-1961
Panel 46 Bill P.	1996-1997	Panel 26 Vern R. (deceased)	1976-1977	Panel 8 Pearl N. (deceased)	1958-1959
Panel 44 Bruce B.	1994-1995	Panel 24 Gordon B. H.	1974-1975	Panel 6 Waldo H. (deceased)	1956-1957
Panel 42 Greg G.	1992-1993	Panel 22 Frank P. J. (deceased)	1972-1973	Panel 4 Wendell H. (deceased)	1954-1955
Panel 40 Bob J.	1990-1991	Panel 20 Clarence B. (deceased)	1970-1971	Panel 2 Arthur R. (deceased)	1952-1953
Panel 38 Scott J.	1988-1989				

The Delegate's Duties

Though the high point is the Conference meeting, the delegate's job goes on year-round and involves all aspects of the Conference structure. The delegate should:

- Attend the Conference meeting in April, fully prepared. Immediately upon election, every delegate is put on the G.S.O. mailing list to receive Conference materials.
- Communicate the actions of the Conference to area committee members and encourage them to pass on this information, and the delegate's enthusiasm, to groups and to intergroups/central offices. If an area is too large for the delegate to cover in person, he or she will ask area officers and committee members to share the load.
- Be prepared to attend all area, state/provincial, and regional service meetings and assemblies. From these meetings, delegates come to better understand their own areas and can make suggestions for the Conference agenda. Here, too, they come in contact with A.A. members who might not be reached otherwise.
- Help area committees obtain financial support for the area and G.S.O.
- Provide leadership in solving local problems involving the A.A. Traditions.
- Remind G.S.R.s to inform groups and individuals about the A.A. Grapevine and Conference-approved literature.
- Cooperate with G.S.O. in obtaining information—for example, making sure that up-to-date information reaches G.S.O. in time to meet the deadline for each Issue 4f the A.A. directory and helping carry out the triennial membership surveys.
- Visit groups and districts in the area whenever possible.
- Work closely with committee members and officers, sharing experience throughout the year. After G.S.R.s and committee members have reported on the Conference, learn from these A.A.s how groups and members have reacted.
- Assume added responsibility if the area chair and alternate chair are unable to serve. Or, if an area committee is not functioning effectively, the delegate may take an active role in remedying the situation.
- Keep the alternate delegate fully informed and active, so that the alternate can replace the delegate in an emergency.
- Late in the second term, work with newly elected delegates to pass along a basic knowledge of Conference proceedings and problems.

(from The A.A. Service Manual, pages S44-S45)



**Area 35
Northern Minnesota**

Zone I

- District 1** - Ada, Crookston, East Grand Forks, Erskine, Fertile, Fisher, Fosston, Oklee, Red Lake Falls, Twin Valley, Waubun, White Earth
- District 2** - Badger, Baudette, Grygla, Hallock, Halma, Middle River, Rainy River (Ontario, Canada), Roseau, Stephen, Thief River Falls, Warren, Warroad, Williams
- District 16** - Bowstring, Boy River, Cohasset, Deer River, Grand Rapids, Hill City, Lawrence Lake*, Longville
- District 21** - Akeley, Bagley, Bemidji, Blackduck, Cass Lake, Debs, Menahga, Onigum, Park Rapids, Red Lake, Shevlin, Solway, Squaw Lake, Walker

Zone II

- District 3** - Audubon, Barnesville, Battle Lake, Cormorant, Deer Creek, Detroit Lakes, Dilworth, Elizabeth, Erhard, Fergus Falls, Frazee, Hawley, Henning, Lake Park, Moorhead, Osage, Ottertail, Pelican Rapids, Perham, Underwood, Wadena
- District 4** - Alexandria, Browns Valley, Carlos, Elbow Lake, Evansville, Glenwood, Herman, Kensington, Morris, Osakis
- District 15** - Albany, Avon, Cold Spring, Holdingford, Lake Henry, Melrose, Paynesville, Richmond, Sartell, St. Joseph, St. Stephen, Sauk Centre, Watkins

Zone III

- District 5** - Becker, Big Lake, Elk River, Milaca, Otsego, Princeton, Zimmerman
- District 6** - Bethel, Cambridge, Forest Lake, Harris, Isanti, Lindstrom, North Branch, Rock Creek, Stacy, St. Francis
- District 7** - Aitkin, Baxter, Brainerd, Fort Ripley, Garrison, Ironton, Little Falls*, McGregor*, Palisade, Pierz, Pillager*
- District 11** - Askov*, Braham, Finlayson*, Grasston, Henriette, Hinckley*, Isle, Lake Lena, Malmo, Moose Lake*, Mora, Ogilvie, Pine City, Quamba, Sandstone, Wahkon, Willow River
- District 13** - Kimball, Rice, St. Cloud, Sauk Rapids, Waite Park
- District 17** - Backus, Cross Lake, Nisswa, Pequot Lakes, Pillager*, Pine River
- District 18** - Browerville, Cushing, Eagle Bend, Little Falls*, Long Prairie, Motley, Parkers Prairie, Staples, Verndale

Zone IV

- District 8** - Alango, Aurora, Babbitt, Biwabik, Cook, Cotton, Ely, Eveleth, Gilbert, Hoyt Lakes, Mountain Iron, Orr, Palo, Pike, Tower, Virginia, Zim*
- District 9** - Chisholm, Floodwood, Goodland, Hibbing*, Keewatin, Kelly Lake, Lawrence Lake*, Nashwauk*
- District 12** - Askov*, Beaver Bay, Brimson, Brookston, Cloquet, Duluth, Esko, Finland, Finlayson*, Fredenberg, Grand Marais, Grand Portage, Hermantown, Hibbing*, Hinckley*, Knife River, Lawrence Lake*, Lutsen, Mahtowa, McGregor*, Moose Lake*, Nashwauk*, Pike Lake, Proctor, Sawyer, Silver Bay, Foxborro (Wisconsin), Side Lake, Superior (Wisconsin), Toivola, Two Harbors, Zim*
- District 14** - Effie, International Falls, Nett Lake

** In cities marked with an asterisk, some meetings consider themselves to be in one District, and some meetings consider themselves to be in another District.*

District Meeting Location Information

- District 1**
Sunday, August 10, 2:00 p.m.
Fertile Community Center
101 S. Mill St.
Fertile, MN 56540
Call D.C.M., Priscilla Amiot-Waslaski
218-281-6457 or Kenny M, District
Secretary, 218-281-1891 for next meeting.
- District 2**
2nd Sunday of Odd Months, 2:00 p.m.
First Lutheran Church
210 Park Ave. N.
Middle River, MN 56737
- District 3**
3rd Sunday of Month, 10:00 a.m.
Perham Alano Club
Hwy. 34
Perham, MN
- District 4**
2nd Saturday of Month, 5:30 p.m.
Call D.C.M. Bob Kuhlman (320) 762-1680
for location (it rotates)
Potluck at 6:30 p.m.
Round Robin at 7:00 p.m.
- District 5**
3rd Monday of Month, 7 p.m.
St. John Lutheran Church
13045 Fremont Ave
Zimmerman, MN 55398

- District 6**
3rd Thursday of Month, 7:30 p.m.
Spring Lake Lutheran Church
8440 Erickson Rd. N.E.
North Branch, MN 55056
- District 7**
3rd Thursday of Month, 7:00 p.m.
First Lutheran Church
424 8th St. S.
Brainerd, MN 56401
- District 8**
Committee Meetings at 6:30 p.m.
General District Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Palo, MN
- District 9**
Last Sunday of Month, 6:00 p.m.
Hibbing Alano Club
3725 1st Avenue
Hibbing, MN 55746
- District 11**
1st Tuesday of Month, 7:00 p.m.
St. Joseph's Catholic Church Basement
Finlayson, MN 55735
- District 12**
3rd Thursday of Month, 6:30 p.m.
Duluth Alano Club
3009 Restormel St.
Duluth, MN 55806

- 1st Monday of Month, 7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
Salem Lutheran Church
90 Riverside Drive S.E.
Saint Cloud, MN 56304
- District 14**
Not currently active.
- District 15**
1st Monday of Month, 8:00 p.m.
Albany Community Center
741 Lake Ave.
Albany, MN 56307
- District 16**
2nd Wednesday of Month, 7:00 p.m.
United Methodist Church
1701 S.E. 5th Ave.
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Handicap Accessible, Non-Smoking
- District 17**
- District 18**
- District 21**
2nd Monday, 7:00 p.m.
Bemidji Alano Club
1225 Anne St.

District 13

Delegate's Report

Time certainly flies by when you're having fun. It certainly has been a pleasure going to the districts and giving the 58th General Service Conference Delegate's Report Back and I want to thank the districts for their attendance and support. I'll be giving the report back in District 7 on July 17th and I'll be in District 3, Perham, MN on July 20th and that will complete all my reports to the districts in Area 35.

Mail has slowed down considerably from the General Service Office and I'm patiently waiting for the arrival of the 58th Annual 2008 General Service Conference Final Report. Hopefully, I'll receive them before the August committee meeting!

As I had mentioned before there will be an opening for a Class B Trustee-At-Large, U.S. position next year as Dorothy W. will be rotating. I contacted past delegates and those willing to stand are Charlie Craven, Susie Ardolf and Tom Ardolf. This means we will be having elections at the Fall Assembly in Thief River Falls. Possibly we could have their resumes printed in the September/October issue of the Northern Light so the assembly would be fully informed regarding the qualifications of the candidates. We can discuss this at the August Committee Meeting.

Keep smiling and I'll see you all soon!

In service,

JoAnne, Panel 58 Delegate



Alternate Delegate's Report

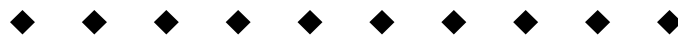
Hello Area 35,

The Zonal for zone one is August 23rd @ the Alano club in Thief River Falls. The topic chosen is sponsorship always a good topic. The next zone forum is in zone three. I hope to schedule that soon.

The January workshop is at Craguns Resort and Conference center. Our guest will be newly elected West Central Regional Trustee Ken B. I will be asking for district participation in the January workshop.

Thank you Area 35 for this service opportunity.

Yours in Service
Dan H.
Area 35 Alternate Delegate



Area Chair Report

Greeting Area Trusted Servants:

Summer is in full swing and life seems to be taking off full blast. Thank goodness that the weather has finally gotten warmer. My furnace hasn't run for almost 2 weeks and I am very grateful. The price of gasoline and heating our houses this next year are going to be very challenging. We are going to have to make sure that we maximize car pooling whenever possible so that all of our Committee Chairs, DCM's and GSR's are able to attend whatever functions we have scheduled. I have spoken with our Area Records Secretary, Mike Pederson, and he has informed me that he can no longer serve the fellowship because he has Stage 4 Cancer. Fortunately, he is responding to treatment. I have sent an email to the fellowship asking for help to find a new person for the job. Please email me any candidates you may have.

The Fall Assembly of 2009 will be held in Superior Wisconsin at the Barkers Island Inn and Convention Center. I will be signing the contract soon. I have been given a one option for the Spring Assembly 2009, but it appears very expensive, so I am continuing to ask for input. Time is running out.

I hope you all are able to enjoy the Summer to the fullest and look forward to seeing you at the August Committee Meeting on August 3rd. May God bless you and keep you until then.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay A., Area Chair



Treasurer's Report

No Report

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

Secretary's Report

Hi All! Hope it is all well with you. Nothing new here. Been busy with meetings, service opportunities, work and wedding plans! Hope the minutes are ok and accurate! If you have any questions, please contact me at: Sarah S.

Public Information

Thank you again for the honor and privilege of serving Area 35 as the PI Chair. We are very fortunate that in Area 35 we have so many members who are willing to serve in any capacity asking in carrying the message. I am very grateful to be a member of Area 35.

We held our Area 35 Committee meeting at Aitkin on June 1, 2008. At 9 a.m. we had our Action Chair Committee meeting. CPC and PI meet together at this meeting. The districts in attendance were 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 13. We had 12 people in attendance. We went around the room and discussed what PI/CPC work each District was doing and any concerns they may have. Many Districts are providing public information to police stations, hospitals, health fairs, high schools, libraries, Chambers of Commerce, probations offices, and churches, to name a few.

One interesting point brought up is that a number of groups are changing their starting times. As these meetings continue, members would like feedback on the effects of changing the times. One area of concern is that meeting schedules must be changed to keep current. It is so important that our meeting schedules be kept current. It may benefit a District if a home group is deciding to change their meeting time to wait until that District is out of schedules and will be printing new ones. It's food for thought.

We are also schedules to cover Saturday, August 23 and Sunday, August 24 at the State Fair. We in Area 35 have to provide volunteers to cover the booth. We are also contributing \$500 of financial responsibility to support the booth. It is the State Fair Board's policy that this booth be manned at all times. So – please – if you have signed up, show up. Thank you so much.

We are also working on setting up PI/CPC Zonal Workshops. We would like to hold two workshops in 2008 and two workshops in 2009.

Thank you again for the privilege to serve. If I can be of any assistance, do not hesitate to call. I will try to do anything I can to help carry the message to anyone, anywhere.

Thank you –

Jon C.
Area 35 PI Chair

Archives

At the June area committee meeting there was a question about Dr Bobs medical bag. Akron Archives has one of Dr Bobs golf clubs. No Bill W. golf clubs yet. Dr Bob's medical bags are on display at 855 Ardmore in Akron. A lot of Dr Bobs medical items were purchased by

Brown University from his daughter. We went to Bemidji June 7 to here the long timers in that area and there experience of there early days of AA there. In AA COMES OF AGE there is a reference to the Stockholm (Sweden) seven steps on page 26. I often wondered what this had to do with AA and here is another example of why singleness of purpose is important. This info is from GSO Archives. When AA first came to Sweden, Alcoholics Anonymous came in the form of a different kind of society. A man named Axel Sällqvist, a nonalcoholic, learned about AA and began a group (with himself and six alcoholics) in Stockholm called "The Link Society" in 1945, to help alcoholics stop drinking. The Link Society was based on AA but soon distanced itself from AA in many ways.

The group shortened and condensed AA's Twelve Steps into something they called the "Seven Points." According to the book *The History of AA in Sweden*, which was written in Sweden and was approved by Sweden's General Service Conference in 1995, the "Seven Points" (short version) read as follows:

1. *Admit that you cannot control alcohol.*
2. *You must believe in a power that is greater than your own.*
3. *Make no demands on your fellow human beings.*
4. *We strive for absolute honesty, purity, love for fellow human beings, and unselfishness.*
5. *Admit your faults and shortcomings to another person.*
6. *Make amends to all persons you have harmed in any way.*
7. *As you have been helped, so you must help others.*

The Link Society at first grew rapidly, and was very much associated with AA - - Link groups in the city of Göteborg were registered by our office as AA groups in the late 1940s. Bill visited in 1950, and kept corresponding with Link groups throughout the 1950s, but he was concerned about these groups being on the wrong track.

Eventually, the Link groups splintered, and Swedish alcoholics wrote expressing frustration with the fact that "The Link Society" was not "proper" AA, and was getting involved in too many "outside enterprises." We have letters from alcoholics who say they are founding their own AA group, moving away from the Link Society, "since they do not follow the concepts of Alcoholics Anonymous but are merely friends who still get together." Many "traditional" AA groups began forming all over Sweden, and gradually the Link Society and Alcoholics Anonymous parted ways – there was a particularly big split in 1958. The Link Society continued to influence AA in Sweden up until about the 1980s, however.
Yours in service
Bob K.
Area 35 Archives Chair

Corrections

Hope everyone is enjoying their summer so far. Boy, time sure does fly by. The past few months since the Area Committee Meeting, seems to be somewhat on the slow side. I have received (3) requests for

Temporary Contacts since June from Area 36. One was a duplicate, there had already been a request from another agency for this person. Jim the Treatment Chair and I have been in contact with each other, and we are planning to do a Zone I Treatment/Corrections Workshop on October 3rd, 2008 @ the Thief River Falls Club House. This is the Friday night before the Fall Assembly. Jim, Art and myself will be working out the details, and hopefully have a flyer for you by the August Committee Meeting. Unfortunately I will be unable to attend the August Committee Meeting, I will be taking my grandson back home to California. I receive several e-mails weekly from different District Corrections Chairs, just asking for advise on a particular subject, and/or just giving me an update on what's going on in their District. I sure appreciate it. I received a memorandum from the Corrections Coordinator @ GSO, and they are currently working on a revised Corrections Workbook and Kit, it will not be completed until the end of summer. I have copies of what they will be adding, if anyone is interested. Looks like some good stuff will be added. It appears that the need for sober members to do Corrections Correspondence is in need again. They have been flooded with inmates asking for members to correspond with them. (Mostly males) There are 30 inmates on the waiting list. I need to do some follow-up work on a few people who were interested in doing a meeting @ Moose Lake, I will be getting in contact with them within the next month or so. That's all for now. If anyone has any questions, please let me know. Thanks for keeping me sober.

Yours In Service-
Dianna S.
Area 35 Corrections Chair

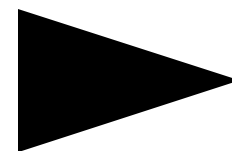
Literature

No Report

Grapevine

Hello to everyone in Area 35. I hope everyone is having a great summer. I only have a couple of things to report. Mike V. and I had our joint workshop in June. It was a small group, but a lot of good information was shared. Bob K. emailed me with what I think is a really good idea for a General Service conference agenda item. Will talk more about it at the August area committee meeting.

Yours in Service Laurie R.



June Committee Meeting Minutes

Area 35 Northern Minnesota June Committee Meeting June 1, 2008, Aitkin, MN

Jay opened the meeting with a moment of silence, followed by the serenity prayer. Additions to the agenda: Clarification on Area Chair Zonal Workshops, Cost of Assemblies and Choices of Assemblies, Consider printing Spring, Fall and Area Committee Meeting Minutes in the Northern Light. Past delegates in attendance were acknowledged: Susie and Tom A., Tim C, Charlie C, Jerry Si. A Motion was made to approve the February Committee Meeting Minutes, 2nded and passed.

Area Officer Reports

Delegate - Thanks Area 35 for sending me to the General Service Conference held April 27 – May 3, 2008 at the Crowne Plaza

Hotel in Mahattan, NY. I can't find the words to express my gratitude and appreciation to all of you for asking me to be of service as your Panel 58 Delegate. Is truly was an amazing experience! At the GSC elections were held for the WCR Trustee replacing Chuck B. who rotated out at the end of the 58th GSC. Kenneth (Ken) B. from Area 41 Nebraskas was elected from the hat. I received an email from Ken requesting that he be added to our Northern Light mailing list and a calendar of Area 35's meetings. I notified Mike P., Group Records Secretary giving him Ken's mailing address. Also, elected for the Western Canada Regions was Vic P., whose name also went to the hat and he'll be replacing the outgoing trustee, Tom K.

So far, I have given the Delegate's Report back to Districts: 9 & 16 on May 18th in Hibbing. I missed the picnic due to getting lost but was in time to give the report. Thanks to the Districts for inviting me and to Karen H. DCM of District 9 for all her work. On May 22nd I traveled to Duluth for the report back to District 12 and thanks, DCM Tim H. for the kind introduction. It was great seeing Don L., Past Area 35 Archivist, David P. past Area 35 Secretary, and Bruce B., Past Delegate. Tomorrow, I'll be traveling to Ely, MN for the Delegate's report back to District 8. There are only 2 districts that are not scheduled for the Delegate's report back, Districts: 4 & 11. Hopefully, Bruce and Doug will set a date today. I have a tentative date set for District 3 on July 20th. June 7th – Bemidji for District 1, 2, & 21; June 9th – Districts 13 & 15 in Sauk Rapids; June 16th Districts 5 & 6 in Zimmerman; June 21st District 18 in Little Falls and July 17th District 7 in Brainerd.

I received two new CD's – Emotional Sobriety – The Next Frontier, Volumes 1 and 2. There will be a vacancy for a Nontrustee Director of the AA Grapevine Board in 2009. Interested A.A. members are encouraged to submit a resume. Completed resumes need to be submitted by **July 1, 2008**. The A.A. Grapevine has released two new CD's, **Spiritual Awakenings** – Journeys of the Spirit, Volumes 1 and 2. To order these CDs go to www.aagrapevine.org or call 1-800-631-6025.

At the GSC in April 2009, Class B Trustee at Large/U.S. will be elected to serve a four-year term, succeeding Dorothy W.

Each area in the U.S. may elect a Trustee-At-Large candidate and the suggested procedure for this election is outlined in "Procedures for Electing a Candidate for Trustee-At-Large U.S. or Canada." A resume is to be returned to the GSO by the area delegate only before **January 1, 2009**. The resume form needs to be completed, signed, and dated by the candidate before it is mailed. If there are any past delegates in attendance today that would be interested in this position let me know and I'll also be calling past delegates.

There will be two vacancies for Nontrustee Directors on A.A. World Services, Inc. Board in 2009 to replace rotating nontrustee Directors George M. and Jane T. I have a resume form that needs to be completed by each applicant, who may also attach his/her professional, resume. The application needs to be returned to: General Service Office, attention: Joe D., Secretary, A.A. World Services, Inc. 475 Riverside Drive/Suite 1100, New York, NY 10115 by **July 1, 2008**.

A Class A Trustee Vacancy will occur on the General Service Board at the conclusion of the 59th General Service Conference, scheduled April 26 – May 2, 2009. The committee suggests that Area Delegates, G.S.O. and Grapevine Staff, Directors, and current and past trustees submit the resumes of any friends of A.A. they believe would be interested in serving as a Class A trustee to succeed Herb G. when he rotates off the GSB in April of 2009. I have a sheet outlining the procedures for election of Class A trustees. The applicant's business or professional resume must be sent to Valerie O., Trustees Nominating Committee, by **July 18, 2008**. Also, the GSB is beginning the search for a general manager of the General Service Office to replace Greg M. who will retire at the end of 2008.

I received a letter from Rick W, Forums Coordinator regarding the West Central Regional Forum that is being held September 11 – 13, 2009 in St. Cloud, MN at the Holiday Inn. Roger R., DCM of district 13 has agreed to the host contact. Thanks Roger! Six months before the Forum a mailing will be sent to all A.A. groups in the West Central Region. I also received information from Rick regarding the 2010 International Convention stating that from the July 2002 meeting, the trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums agreed to the following: "Reflecting guidance from the Additional Consideration of the 1999 Conference Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums, the Trustees' Committee on International Conventions/Regional Forums suggested that the area/state/provincial committees be made aware that experience has shown that planning a local A.A. event such as a convention, too near the dates of an International Convention may result in a smaller attendance at the local event; this notice to be sent out annually starting three years prior to each International Convention."

On May 16 a request was sent out to all Treatment Facilities Committee Chairpersons requesting committees to share their experience regarding carrying the A.A. message to Treatment Facilities (e.g. providing literature, Bridging the Gap, and working with TF professionals) where out-patient care is one approach used to assist the still-suffering alcoholic. I emailed a copy of this to all the Area Officers, Committee chairs and DCMs.

The WCRAASC will be held February 27 through March 1, 2009 in Casper, Wyoming at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel. Rooms are \$68.00 per night. Request the reservation under "WCRAASC" and call the Ramkota at (307) 266-6000. You cannot call Best Western's toll free number or their online website for the block of room reserved. Rooms will be held until 2/18/09. If you are planning on attending, please make your hotel reservations as soon as possible as one of the State Basketball Tournaments will be taking place in Casper on the same weekend and rooms will be difficult to obtain. The 2009 WCRAASC chair is: Allen W., Casper, Wyoming and his email is.....if you have any questions. Thanks Dan R., our Web Master, for posting this on the area 35web site. Thanks to all the districts for sending your minutes. I love reading them. In Service, JoAnne N.

Alternate Delegate - Hello Area 35, I have been busy working on the zonal forums and the January workshop. Hopefully I will have the workshop site secured in the near future. I have asked our newly elected West Central Regional Trustee, Ken Brueggemann to be our guest at the January workshop. Ken accepted our invitation. I attended Gopher state and had the opportunity to hear one of our regional trustees speak and also share with newly elected trustee Ken B. The zonal forum will be in August in zone one. Yours in Service, Dan H.

Area Chair - Thank you to all of you who sent me your minutes. I am very grateful to all of you for the personal contact I get from you. As Chair, I am responsible for much more, but feel much less in contact with people. In my typical procrastination, I waited until the last minute before I attempted to file our Area 35 Tax return on May 7th, as it was due on May 15th. I still have not been able to apply online, but the site told me not to worry as there is no penalty for filing late. I was unable to attend JoAnne's delegate report in Duluth due to Food Poisoning. Thankfully, I will be able to hear it today. I have had great difficulty in getting a site for the spring assembly. I need all DCMs from zone 3 to get me a site as soon as possible. I will be calling you daily if I have to until we get a site (just kidding), but probably a couple of times a week. I am still receiving treasurer's mail. My forwarding order from moving last year ends this month, so they will be getting them back. I spoke at the Thunder Bay Roundup. Unfortunately, I had trouble with my new diabetes medication and I had to be helped from the stage ¾ of the way through my speech as I almost passed out. I guess my higher power decided I need a lot more humility. I still need District Officer and Chair information for the numerous contacts I get from the area website. We should be very proud of this site. I have received contacts from all over the country and from outside the US. Thank you very much for allowing me to share. Jay A.

Secretary - Hi all! Glad to be of service! So, I got the Spring Assembly dates, hotel reservation code, the cut-off date and the room prices from Jay for the fliers just in time to get them done for this weekend-they are on the back table. A flier will also be mailed out with the next edition of the Northern Light and I have uploaded one to the area website, which last time I checked it wasn't working....? But, I have to tell you, this was quite the group effort. Beth emailed me a great link to a map to use, but I couldn't get it to fit right and be legible, so I created one that I hope won't get anyone lost. When I was googling the Casino, I got two different geographical locations for the same address. But anyway, there it is and I hope it is accurate! I also want to thank some people who have already gone above and beyond helping me get this job done. Thanks to JoAnne, it is

June Committee Meeting Minutes Continued

because of her we even have a flier-she reminded me it was my job to do it, and with her help I hope I got the right information on it. My last attempt at doing something without running it by others first resulted in a huge mistake with the last minutes, which because of Mike P's brilliant thinking actually led to a very good outcome that saved us a lot of money. So thanks Mike for all your help and hard work! And thanks to Dee, who promptly answers the multitudes of random questions I constantly throw her way! Because of her, I knew how many flyers to print out. Phew! Who knew it could be so complicated! Thank you everyone who helped me out with this, I couldn't have gotten it done otherwise. If Districts or GSRs want the minutes emailed to them and you are not already, please send me an email requesting emailed minutes. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to continue learning and growing. Sarah K.

Treasurer - Greetings Area 35: It is good to be here with you all once again! Summer might actually shape up to pretty nice -- after that lovely winter! First I need to thank District 5 and Kelly for inviting me down, yesterday to join in on their International Day of Gratitude in honor of the upcoming 73rd Anniversary of Dr. Bob's last drink and the birth of Alcoholics Anonymous! It was a day of Fellowship, good food and most importantly sharing from Past Delegate Charlie C and Archivist Brad I. I, as well, was given the privilege of sharing some of my experiences with Gratitude and various ways and whys of expressing my Gratitude.

Now for the numbers! This opportunity is becoming a bit mind boggling. Just when I think I have it figured out and ready to print, I take one last glance through and find one or more figures that are listed under the wrong category, person, or not listed at all. By the way, I need to thank you all for your patience with me thus far. This morning, while perusing through some past reports in an effort to insure that all expenses have been accurately documented, I made a startling revelation! on the Period II Details and Expenditure Reports and I presume Period I as well; most of the officers and/or Chairs were listed to have spent more for that particular Period, than was documented under the Year To Date column. I have heard rumor and seem to remember past years where people actually brought these errors to the attention of the baffled Treasurer. Evidently I have mystified all of you so much with my astuteness in these areas that you have simply accepted my work as being correct and been blinded to my apparent and implausible imperfections. Having now made you aware of these inaccuracies, I have no doubt you may peruse the figures more carefully and I will no longer be able to get away with anything. Amongst my more glaring inaccuracies are the following: 1) back prior to the GSC, in February, I wrote a check to GSO for \$1200 that was never listed on any reports, 2) and also the cost of the initial printing of the NL, in January was not listed. Both of these expenses would have fallen into Period I.

Oh yes, the numbers: There are three reports for your perusal today. The first is the listing of Group Contributions. Total Contributions for Period III (April 1 to May 26) was \$3,788.66. This added to the moneys collected from coffee sales and also from the GSR Sharing Session which practiced the 7th Tradition results in a total Income for P-III of \$4,135.77, as noted on the Contributions and Expenditures Report. The expense for the Spring Assembly was \$1,050.88 and total expenditure for the Officers and Chairs was \$3,909.98 (which is documented on the Details and Expenditures Report). On the bottom of the Contributions and Expenditures report is your Statement of Retained Funds; which indicates a starting balance on January 1st, '08 of \$12,293.01 plus the YTD income of \$13,105.29 minus the YTD Expenses of \$14,964.12 giving us a total of \$10,434.18 on May 26, '08. We attempt to retain a prudent reserve of two months operating expenses, or \$6,000 (rounded to the nearest \$1000). This subtracted from the remaining balance gives us \$4,434.18 usable funds. Our expected (Budget) expenses for the remainder of this year are roughly \$21,470 with seven months remaining. Our average spending per month has been \$3,000 thus far and our income has been an average of \$2600. If we are to meet our planned obligations throughout the remainder of this year we will need to amp up our contributions a bit.

Please do not forget the Birthday Plan as an expression of your Gratitude for this life saving Fellowship. As you can see on the back page of the Contributions Report we currently have only one member who has financially expressed her Gratitude to this Area. Perhaps the rest of us sobered up later in the year. A suggestion from GSO, which I am expecting to put into action, is to incorporate a Fellowship day on October 4th, during the Fall Assembly. The suggestion from GSO is for members to contribute \$2 on that day. I haven't quite figured out the details yet, but I am working on it.

GSO reported that in 2006 there were 531 registered groups in Area 35, with 239 of these making contributions to GSO. This is 45% which is, in my opinion quite sad, though it is comparable with the National average. Just as a point of interest, NE Quebec reports that 99.9% of their groups contributed to GSO, in 2006; for all of Quebec the average is 60.13%. The only areas in the US that come close to this are Connecticut with 59.3% and Utah with 58.7%. It appears that Canadians exhibit their Gratitude differently than we do; that or maybe their cost of living is lower, which seems doubtful to me. Wouldn't it be nice if Area 35 could have 60% of our groups contributing? Just a thought! Thank you again for your apparent patience with me and for the honor and privilege of serving Area 35 in this capacity. Yours in Service, Beth e.

Committee Chair Reports

Treatment - Our committee met with 10 in attendance. After meeting as a treatment committee we combined with corrections to discuss workshop ideas and joint activities. Pat from district 8 discussed difficulties with making sure that commitments were being kept. She also stated that she has been working with district 9 and bringing an informational meeting to their treatment facility every 17 weeks. District 8 is also discussing having a treatment professional present at a district workshop. Becky from district 3 just got voted in and is working on contacting all of her districts treatment facilities as well as revising the list for volunteers willing to speak. Wade from district 16 reported that an informational meeting was being brought into the adolescent program. He also stated that they are working on informing professionals about AA's singleness of purpose. Nancy from district 21 stated that their district is working on getting a treatment chair. Skip from district 5 reported that they are bringing meetings back into Riverplace in Elk River. He also stated that their district is trying to figure out how to best cooperate with Area 36 in bringing meetings into the Sherburne county jail. Tim from district 12 said that much has changed in many of their local treatment facilities and some facilities are no longer requesting meetings to be brought in. Butch from district 8 said that many changes in treatment are being seen. Robert from district 7 stated that he is focusing on informing groups about the need for meetings at their local detox center. I have been in contact with Robert S., Area 36 Treatment Chair, and have discussed participating in the MAARCH conference in Area 36 this fall. Bill H., past Area 35 Treatment Chair, has also been helpful in passing on his experience with met. Temporary contacts continue to be set up for individuals leaving treatment facilities through the Area 36 temporary contact program. Diana, Area 35 Corrections Chair, and I have also been discussing the possibility of combining to put on a workshop at the Fall Assembly in October. Our committees also discussed how we can best work together to carry the message into both treatment and correctional facilities. Thank you for the continued opportunity to serve. Yours in Service., Jim K.

Archives Chair - We had 5 at our meeting this morning. Art in Dist 2 is looking forward to the old-timers panel next Saturday. In District 13 they are organizing and taking inventory of what they have. Thanks Roger. Scott in District 8 is taking inventory of what they have and planning an Archives workshop for September. The National AA Archives workshop is Sept. 11-14 in Niagara Falls N.Y. We have a request of whereabouts of Dr. Bob's medical bag? Will see if we have better luck with this one. Didn't have much luck with Bill W. golf clubs yet! Thanks for allowing me to serve. Bob K.

Northern Light Editor - Hello all, Things at the Area level have slowed down considerably for me. This has been good as it has allowed me to be a little more involved in my local groups and at District. There are so many opportunities for service work if you're willing. I have not, however, taken on any service commitments locally, for as I have already learned, Northern Light Editor is a full-time job. I wish to thank all the Area officers and committee chairs for getting you reports to me on time. I feel like a nag each time I send out a reminder, but there is a deadline to meet. Thanks also to those who have written and agreed to write articles for the Northern Light. Yours in Service, Ed A.

Group Records Chair - I was rather discouraged when I wrote my article for the Northern Light. I was frustrated to the point of resigning. Fortunately, I was helped through the fellowship with my computer problems. I met with Tom A, computer in hand, and we went through my procedures working with FNV. We discovered that if I go onto the internet by bypassing my home page, everything worked as it should. I received the Spring Assembly Minutes at the same time as the Northern Light was due to be mailed out. I had the printer insert the minutes and mailed out both together. There were about 460 NL's with flyers and minutes inserted, that were mailed at a cost of \$139.95. By mailing the minutes with the NL, the area saved another mailing cost of \$139.50. I am continuing to update/edit our area database and mailing list. There were quite a few duplications in the last mailing which I will fix. There are 4 returns so far and more additions to the mailing list to edit. It keeps me busy and my mind occupied with AA service. What a great thing in my life service has been. Also, I put in my NL report that I am having health issues. I have a rare form of cancer that is in my lymph nodes and endocrine system. I am seeing an othropedist and I will know more and we will see how it goes. But I would recommend that if the area looks for a new group records chair, they look for one in the St Cloud area so we don't have to pay for a new mailing. (*I just want to add that Mike rocks! He saved the area the entire cost of another mailing by inserting the Spring Assembly minutes inside the Northern Light, and he really helped me out with the minutes-Sarah*) Mike P.

Jay asked for people in the St Cloud area to look for anyone willing to aid Mike as assistant Group Records Chair.

Public Information - We had 12 attendants at our committee meeting this morning: districts 3, 5, 6, 8, and 13. We have to staff the AA booth at the State Fair August 23 and 24. As of today, 11 dates are filled except Sunday 8:45-11 a.m. I was hoping someone could step up to the plate and fill that one. We are having a zonal workshop in Zone Heidi took minutes and noted that Jon C. said "hell" two times during the meeting. Jon C.

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Grapevine - First of all I want to apologize to the area for not having a report in the May/June issue of the Northern Light, I completely forgot about it. I sold \$320 dollars worth of Grapevine items at the Spring assembly and just recently put in an order to replenish my supplies. I had two Grapevine chairs in our meeting this morning and this is what they have going on. Ed B. from Dist. 9 is continuing to build a supply of Grapevine literature. Will G. from Dist. 11 talked about having the groups in his district do gift subscriptions of the Grapevine to doctor's and dentist's offices etc. The Grapevine has two new items out now. The first is two cd's of stories from Emotional Sobriety and the other is two cd's of stories from Spiritual Awakenings. I will be ordering those so that I have some on hand. Yours in Service Laurie R.

Corrections - We had 14 members present. We had Corrections Chairs, GSR's and DCM's. We had a few new GSR's sitting on our committee which was nice to see. I had one request for a Temporary Contact from Southern Minnesota, going to District 12, will pass along to the Corrections Chair. District 9 had 4 requests for Temporary Contacts, and we had some confusion in District 11 over 2 Temporary Contacts getting out next week. District 11 will be getting a PO Box for their Temporary Contacts. I received reports from all who attended today. We focused on our concerns regarding Correctional Facilities work, and they were as follows:

1. The need to get more volunteers
2. Trouble/miscommunication in regards to the Temporary Contact Program.
3. Glitch in getting books into facilities
4. How can we best utilize our Area Officers.

It's always nice to talk about what we are doing, but it's just as important to talk about what we're not doing and where we are struggling so we can work on making improvements. I believe this is where our committee can be most effective and helpful. On a positive note, there are meetings that are seeing the fruits of their labor. There have been members inside correctional facilities that were attending meetings, and now that they are out, our members are seeing them at meetings on the outside. Wonderful!!! I showed the book "In Our Own Words"-stories of Young AA's from the Grapevine. Good for use in meetings with juveniles. We desperately in need for volunteers @ Moose Lake Correctional Facility. Have had some interest, will follow up in the near future.

Treatment and Corrections met together today for the last 15 minutes to discuss zonal workshops, and what is the best use of our resources? Could we be more helpful and effective in a different way? How can the Districts best utilize the Area Officers and Chairs? Jim K., the Treatment Chair and I spoke in general with the DCM, Art A. in District 2 about the possibility of a workshop before the Fall Assembly. Yours in Service, Dianna S.

Area Webmaster - Hello Area 35. I usually give a report on Area 35 website traffic for the month but I could not gain access to the administrative control panel last night. I had the same problem a couple of days ago and others have reported that the site has been down recently. I have a service call into the hosting provider for resolution. I had the same problem awhile back and am concerned that the uptime for our hosting is slipping from advertised around 99.7 % - They all say that though! I will wait for the hosting company to get back to me, if they don't email me before Monday afternoon I will call them to see what I can find out. In the mean time I will install monitoring software to see exactly how much downtime we are experiencing. We can't afford to have the site down, there are people around the world as well as our area that access our site for information. If it turns out that we have too much downtime I will check into other hosting options! Yours in Service, Dan R.

Cooperation with the Professional Community - The nice thing about going after Jon C. the PI committee chair, is that he covers everything we discussed in the committee meeting. So let me just say thank you for sending me to the Spring Assembly, it was close to me, I usually have to drive really far, but this was only 4 miles away! Thank you for your participation there and for all your district minutes. I really enjoy reading them. Zone I is having a PI/CPC workshop September 28, from 1-3 at the Bemidji Alano Club. Zone II has yet to schedule one. Thank you for letting me serve - today is a gift - a present to open and enjoy to the fullest. Dee K.

Literature - I attended the Iron Range Get Together with the Literature. WE were able to sell over \$200 worth of literature there. I had to do an order after the event, and it came to \$708. I had another request for 25 BBs, 15 in Spanish, so I put in another order of \$316 on May 19th. I do feel I am making a little headway on getting the inventory up to where I have enough on hand for what people need. When I can, I've been trying to order over 20 books and 100 pamphlets to take advantage of the discount. We now have two sets of literature racks with extensions and 2 regular ones. If you need literature at any time let me know, and if I don't have it on hand I will get it. We will be having a service workshop at the St. Cloud Alano Club on June 22nd. It will be with my friend the GrapeVine Rep. Also, at our literature breakout session this morning, in District 7, Rick is keeping things stocked and on hand. Mary is filling racks at the treatment center. District 1 found a literature rack in the library, but doesn't have any money to buy literature to put in it. I still enjoy serving AA and meeting all the new people that are serving. I am going to bring the literature with me all the time; I have it all with me right now. I have it for display at all the assemblies, but I will keep bringing it so that if people need literature they can get it from me here. Thanks for letting me serve. I enjoy doing what I can. Any District in Zone I, II, or IV that wants to host a literature workshop, contact me! (And Mike is a new grandpa this week! 6 girls and 3 boys now!) Mike V.

Archivist - I gave a history talk at the district 5 workshop in Zimmerman on the 31st. Bob and I are going to Bemidji on the 7th for a history talk and to record a long timer's panel. I am continuing the tape to CD project. I made a CD for a member from Holdingford of a talk Bill Wilson gave the day that DR. Bob died. I am continuing the Archives Inventory. Paul H., Area 36 archives chair visited the Archives. We looked for an item that Area 36 is missing and didn't find it but found some other fascinating items instead. Since he has a far better scanner than I do and Photo shop pro he is making scans to display. He is also working on getting pictures from the Cleveland, Long Beach and Miami International conventions for both of the areas. I received an answer to my question concerning the box of reel to reel tapes I found. They are from the early 60's and were produced for loners and Internationalists until 1970. If any one has a reel to reel deck that they could loan to the archives I would like to see if there is anything left on these tapes and produce CD's of these tapes. Thanks again for this opportunity to be of service. Brad I.

DCM Reports

District 1 - I would like to thank District 1 for supporting me and giving me the opportunity to better serve each and everyone in our District. I took some information home for struggling groups from the DCM sharing session at the Spring Assembly. There were tips on visiting the groups in the District and the proper way to replace a GSR or DCM. Another area of concern was how to keep our chair people enthusiastic, and when should they step down and let another serve. The last district meeting was held on April 13, 2008, and the next will be on Sunday June 8, 2008, at the Fertile Community Center. The District will continue to have a booth at the Polk County Fair. The cost is \$100, including insurance. On June 7, Districts 1, 2, and 16 will host an opportunity to meet our Area Delegate, JoAnne Nelson, and hear her report, at 1pm at the Bemidji Alano Club in Gratitude Hall. Following the report on the 2008 GSC, there will be a viewing of the Archives and a presentation by Brad A., Area Archivist. Refreshments will be provided. In August, (date unknown), in Thief River Falls, a PI/CPC workshop will be held for Districts 1, 2, 16, and 21 (Zone 1). Everyone is invited to attend. Our groups are about the same in attendance, donations are down some. The PI and Literature chairs have been filled. The District is thankful for their willingness and involvement. Thank you for allowing me to serve, Priscilla A.

District 2 - Hi. Five of us went down for the Spring Assembly. As always, we had a wonderful time until we left. It took us 7 hours to get home. We had our district meeting on May 11. We had 6 people show up. Not bad for Mother's Day! Things are going OK. Finding people to work for AA is like partridge hunting at night. Sometimes you have good luck, and sometimes they just disappear. We lost secretary, but I think we found a new one, and lost two GSRs. On June 7th, we go to Bemidji for JoAnne's Delegate's report. JoAnne, everyone up there just loves the heck out of you because you are such a sweet lady. We look forward to having you up there. On June 28th we are having the Zonal Forum in Thief River Falls. We are all looking forward to the upcoming meeting and I have very much enjoyed working with Harold and Priscilla. Looking forward to great years of working with them. Yours in Service, Art A.

District 3 - Greetings everyone, it's June and there has been a lot of things happening in District 3. Our last district meeting was an open house, held in Perham for the first time in years. We promoted it for months by visiting groups and pitching group involvement in the district and offering free donuts. As a result, we had about 25 people. We got 2 new GSRs and a 3rd group almost committed. I want to go on the record as saying, "Perham Solutions Group has the smartest, kindest, prettiest, and most loving GSR." (I just happen to be married to her and can always use brownie points!) We had two chairs vacated last month, so we got them filled at the district meeting. We voted in an 800 help line for our District, and have it in place already. We are putting the number on all meeting schedules and the website as well as promoting it at different meetings. We have a list of volunteers and are putting a training/info packet together for those volunteers. Oh yeah, and everyone loved the donuts. We are also creating a new list for volunteers to do 12 step calls. We also have started a new list of volunteers for speaking at meetings and institutions. We apparently love lists. Our chairs have been busy putting packets together and getting them out to the appropriate places. There is much more to do. We are financially sound, A motion was entertained repeatedly to increase the DCM pay to \$120,000 per year for District 3. It was debated, considered and reconsidered by a committee and then voted out (all in my head!) The committee in my head also unanimously agreed that JoAnne's salary should be doubled. On that note, JoAnne's report back is July 20th at 10 am in Perham. Thanks for letting my hang out with you all. Bill D.

June Committee Meeting Minutes Continued

- District 4* - Hi all, we have had our monthly district meeting, with 5-8 pp attending. We do not have any volunteers to work at the State Fair. We went over results of the Spring Assembly voting for all who were interested. District 4 would thank all those who helped out with Spring Assembly that was hosted in Alexandria. I called the wrong zone for help 1st and then the right one second, so, thank you all for your help. It was brought up at our district meeting that we should censor our speakers before they speak at our round robins. Some individuals expressed interest in coming up with a list of words or phrases that individuals would be prohibited from saying in their personal stories as it related to their personal spiritual journey and scripture. We used most of our meeting time trying to express the fact that this Round Robin is not an AA function and AA has no right to tell people what they can and cannot say as it relates to their personal stories. Tradition 10. Yours in service, Bruce W.
- District 5-* Greetings and blessings from all of us from District 5. We meet the third Monday of the month at St. John's Lutheran Church in Zimmerman at 7:00 pm. We currently have all our positions filled with the exception of Archives. We are continuing to carrying the message into our two Correction Facilities, Mille Lacs County and Sherburne County however Sue, our Corrections Chair is still in need of help with more volunteers for Sherburne County. Thanks to Mike V. Dave our Literature chair was able to pick up 40 big books (15 of them Spanish) for use at Sherburne County. Thanks Mike, it saved a lot of money. I want to thank those groups for their contributions to buy the books needed to continue to carry the message into those correction facilities. We could not continue to do this without their help. (Aside-Kelly noted that she tends to say um a lot. I told her I wouldn't put the "ums" in the minutes, but I couldn't resist this!) We have had several people interested in district who are showing up at the district meetings. Thank you to the groups for contributing to the district. We have been able to make up our bills. This year's dates for the Mille Lacs County Fair are August 7th through the 10th and we sent in the \$200.00 required to have our AA booth there. Heidi our CPC/PI Chair has done a flier to distribute for volunteers to call her and sign up to staff the booth. We have has several volunteers already. She has also been busy distributing our meeting cards in libraries, businesses, laundry mats etc. and Rita our Alternate DCM has been doing the same in Milaca. Skip, our Treatment Chair, continues to bring speakers into Riverplace Treatment Center in Elk River the third Thursday of the month but is also looking for more volunteers to speak. Our Grapevine Chair Rod purchased 50 of the old Grapevines to be distributed in clinics, hospital etc. in our District. Both him and Dave our Literature Chair will be attending the Zonal Grapevine/Literature workshop in St. Cloud on June 22nd. We have had several visitors at our District meetings over the last few months finding out what we are all about and recently had Squad 17 Women's Group from the Elk River Alano Club register with New York and now have a GSR represented from their group. We currently have 7 groups with GSR's representing them and attending our District meetings. Our "Lost and Found Group" hosted their annual Open Speaker Meeting and potluck on April 30th with another great turnout. Thanks to that group for their hard work in making this available to us and allowing for a great time of fellowship. I attended the St. Cloud Round Up on May 10th along with other members and want to thank that area also for another year of hard work and planning that goes on in putting this event together. It was a great time of speakers, fellowship and fun. Seven of us from District 5 were represented at the Spring Assembly in Alexandria. Bruce DCM from District 4 contacted me the week of asking for help setting up, registration and serving coffee. I want to thank all of the District 5 members that stepped in and were willing to be of service and everyone else that helped out to make it successful. The weekend was exciting as we came together as a whole, then having the breakout sessions on the agenda items and then coming together again and voting on them. Thanks to all of you at the Area level also for your hard work in putting it all together. The Assembly ended with a standing ovation for our Area Delegate JoAnne as we sent her off to New York to represent Area 35. We all knew she would serve us well. Thanks JoAnne for your love and commitment to serve Alcoholics Anonymous! We are looking forward to her giving her report back from the New York Conference with us and District 6 on Monday, June 16th at 6:00 pm at St. John's Lutheran Church in Zimmerman. With the January Workshop and Spring Assembly 2009 scheduled in Zone 3, I did the research required of me as a DCM to look for available space to hold these events in our area. I passed that information onto Jay our Area Chair and Dan our Area Alternate Delegate. We have currently signed up as a District to cover the State Fair AA Booth on Saturday, August 23rd from 5:00 to 7:00 pm and will be willing to take more time slots if needed. John C. then asked if we would also be willing to cover 7:00 -9:00 on that same date and we agreed. We had our workshop "Our National Day of Gratitude" in honor of the 73rd anniversary on Alcoholics Anonymous coming up on June 10th yesterday May 31st at St. Johns Lutheran Church in Zimmerman. We had a good turn out and could not have asked for a more beautiful day of fellowship. Our very special thanks to Beth our Area Treasurer, Charlie our past Delegate and Brad our Area Archivist for graciously accepting our invitation to come and share their experience and gratitude. They did a wonderful job and left us all with a heart full of gratitude! I would like to also thank my co-committee members Jake and Rita, and everyone that helped, and every member present that gave in some way by just being there. Since the last Aitkin Committee Meeting on February 24th I have visited 15 more groups in our District. To date 26 groups out of the 40 have been visited. I want to thank all of them for allowing me the time to visit, introduce myself and talk to them about Alcoholics Anonymous on the District level and importance of having a GSR representing their groups. It has truly been an honor and a privilege to have this opportunity. Yours in service, Kelly D.
- District 6-* We have 23 groups in district 6 our meetings are the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm at Spring Lake Church West of North Branch MN if your in the area stop in. We are having some money issues now we seem to be short but we are working on those. We had to turn down having a booth at the Isanti County Fair this year the cost was 150.00 for the booth and we were told we needed an insurance rider for half a million dollars for liability which would have cost the district approximately \$350.00. So this was not deemed a good use of the districts money. Thank you for letting me serve, Jack J.
- District 7-* No report submitted. LeeAnn H.
- District 8-* Kinda interesting how AA is doing in other parts of the country. From listening to other people, I tell you, being in central MN is the best. Good to be here, good to be sober, proud to be here. By the way, I'd like to mention that the fellowship at and to and from the meetings is wonderful. Robert (Butch) R.
- District 9-* Many of the GSR's, district committee chairs and myself attended the Spring Area Assembly. This was an informative and helpful event for our members. Our compliments go to the host district for all their efforts on our behalf. My trip home prompted me to suggest an addition to our "Inclement Weather Policy" at such time as it will be reviewed. I would add a #7. If the weather should become inclement during an event causing concern for the safe travel of attendees returning home, the agenda should be revised to finish business requiring action only. All recognitions, reports, and Ask It Basket questions will be included in the written report of the meeting, This suggestion does not cover all scenarios so requires more committee work. District 9 is discussing the results of our inventory trying to implement suggestions that would make our district better at carrying the AA message. I have noticed in my attendance at the group meetings that most have a format of studying the steps, traditions, or taking a chapter from one of the AA books to initiate discussion. This format helps the groups adhere to the traditions, especially Tradition 5 on singleness of purpose. AA members have already begun contemplating GSO support issues in response to the General Service Conference item which was relayed by our delegate JoAnne when she reported to Districts 9 and 16 on May 18. We were pleased at the attendance for the delegate report/barbecue. Karen H.
- District 11-* I have been having fun. Been visiting groups in District 12 trying to get them excited about being and having GSRs. I am having past GSRs help me with this. We just visit and talk to them-I am not the boss, I work for you. The only way we are going to keep AA going is to carry the information. Last year at this time our District meeting had 7-9 people, this year we had 17. I am having trouble with the General Service Conference agenda items, so I am distributing the quarterly reports to help us as a district be prepared for discussing the agenda items in the future. I will also distribute and discuss the Final Conference report, so we can have a feel for what is going on in New York. I further explained about our annual GSC in NY, where agenda items are gone over and decisions are made by the delegates - to give our trusted servants some direction for the next year. So hopefully, when we get the next agenda items, we'll know better how to vote at the Spring Assembly and give our Delegate what she needs. I made copies of corrections correspondence forms and pre-release contact information for AA's on the outside to correspond with AA's on the inside. Questions arose as to who we mail them to? We are trying to have one address for contacts to help people I went to a group in Moos Lake, took 3 pages out of the Service Manual about the GSR position and made copies of them, and we talked about them. We are setting up for our AA information booth at the Pine County Fair and we are getting AA's speaking at a treatment center in Mora. Doug N.
- District 12-* No report submitted. Tim H.
- District 13-* Hello and good afternoon.. All is well is District 13. All of our action committee chair positions will soon be filled when we elect a new literature chair at our July meeting. In May we began working on a way to increase participation in District. Our DCMA and myself have been very busy getting out to targeted meetings that are not represented at our district level. We talked about different ways to go about this, one that we called the road runner approach where you hop in to all the meetings in your district and basically go "beep-beep." But we decided to handpick a few meetings we know have the attendance to support a GSR and printed up a one page introduction to general service at the district level that we cover in 3- 5 minutes prior to meetings. This effort has generated a lot of enthusiasm for our district and at least four new GSR's. What we found was that when the district gets up and goes out, the groups respond by getting involved. I even got one GSR who signed up during my shepel. We are planning a pot luck picnic with District 15, prior to hearing our Delegates Report on June 9, 2007....Things are looking up! We had the opportunity to make a CPC presentation to Army National Guard members; it went very well and it might result in meetings throughout the state, and then we will get different districts involved. As far as experiencing stress as a DCM, I attended a 40 hour training on conflict management that I could do as an employee for my job, and I have found some of the principles to be very helpful in AA! Mostly, I just try to be positive, not talk about negatives, work on solutions and not

June Committee Meeting Minutes Continued

stay in the negatives. In service, Roger R.

District 15- No report and no one from District 15 was present. Patti G.

District 16- We are doing a lot of partridge hunting in this district as well. But that is beside the point. Greetings from District 16!

Our district meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the United Methodist Church at 7 pm. In May we had our public information luncheon. A small but interested crowd attended. Thank you to the ever well dressed Jon C for assisting us in this endeavor. Our literature/grapevine chair has been stuffing racks as needed and has developed some crucial contacts in the community serving mental health, recovery, and medical needs. Our treatment needs are being covered by two groups which have adopted the treatment programs as we are unable to find a treatment chair. Our corrections chair remains unfilled also. I have not been as diligent about attending the groups as I could be, but have had the privilege to visit the greater district and meetings the outlying areas. Our may district meeting did not occur as I was out of state and the alternate could not be present, so I am a little out of the loop. We have a new women's group which meets Friday at noon at the Effie Community Center. It has been meeting for 1 year, and is now getting registered. Thank you for allowing me to be of service, Mary C.

District 17- Sorry to be showing up late, I was on my way here, when I ran into someone I know from meetings who was walking 60

miles, so I guess G-- works in mysterious ways, and I made it here eventually. I am still in a dark district, but I was encouraged to hear that District 7 has invited us to piggyback on their stuff. I have been trying to get district 17 going, but it is slow going. I go to a lot of meetings and steal energy from people there. Sheldon L.

District 18- No report. No one from district 18 showed. Doreen L

District 21- Hello and greetings from District 21. At the last district meeting we had 18-20 people present, including all of our action

committee chairs, except we have not filled the treatment chair yet. Oh, I stand corrected. The GV chair was on a ride to somewhere, otherwise all action chairs were there. Things are going, in my opinion, really well in District 21. We have two new meetings starting up. One is a women's meeting which meets Wed. at 5:30, and they are so enthused and so raring to go! They have called 15-18 times asking me, are we doing this right, are we following our traditions, can we do this. Not only that, but they invited me twice to meet with the group at the Wed. meeting and just bombarded me with questions. It is such a huge blessing to have people like that because they want to make sure that they are following our traditions and are doing it right. So, that's been useful for me. The yare really neat things to see happen and to see them grow. There's talk about them having another women's meeting, a step meeting, again women only step meeting, so we'll see how that progresses. Another new meeting is the Tuesday 8pm Beginner's meeting. The CPC/PI chair has been informing the local judges and law enforcement people about this meeting as a place to possibly send the people that are "sentenced to AA." Carl, our treasurer, has started that one up and that has also been going big guns. Our corrections chair and his worker ants have taken inmates to potlucks, and they have so just enjoyed the time to establish and make new contacts for people getting out of corrections and returning to the community, so they have someone in AA to call and talk to or bring them to meetings. Basically, just kind of help them find the men's room or the women's room once they get out of prison. At the last meeting we had three new GSRs, which is so very, very exciting, and since then one more GSR has shown up. At the last district meeting we had representation from ...GSR which had just been 24 hours ago and chose to be included, so that was just something really, really exciting. Thanks, Harold S.

OLD BUSINESS

Spring Assembly Feedback – Jay A: No one I asked could remember what it was that Jay talked about, including Jay himself,

and as luck would have it, the tapes cut out right at that moment. If you remember what he said, please share it with me in August! I think the summary was available on the back table. Sorry!! Sarah

Area 35 Inventory - Here's the plan: We will be holding breakout sessions at the fall assembly during the time usually designated for

the Saturday night Speaker. The inventory will consist of 9 questions, and each group will have 3 questions to discuss, one which will be the common question: What other concerns do you have that are not addressed in this inventory? Four DCM's will proctor the breakout sessions: Kelly-District 5, Mary-District 16, Tim-District 12, and Roger-District 13. After the breakout sessions, we will reconvene in full assembly and use a format similar to what we follow in agenda item discussions, where the DCM will read the question, give a brief summary of the breakout session discussion regarding what we are doing right in the pertinent area, and what we could improve on, then they will open it up to floor discussion. We are hoping to get Ted S. to proctor this event.

NEW BUSINESS

Cost of Assemblies - District Involvement- some people are very opposed to having our assemblies at casinos, partly due to gambling

but largely due to the uncontrolled smoke bothering health problems. Second, the cost of hotel rooms and banquet rooms is getting extremely high. So we are caught. Other options include bible-camps, etc, but I really need your help—a sense of direction on which way we need to go. We can stay with hotels and convention centers at a cost of \$1,000 for banquet room and \$100 for hotel rooms, or go cheaper and go with the casinos. The third option is to get away from having the hotel and banquet rooms connected which causes some different difficulties, but would reduce our costs greatly. Floor Discussion: MC- get a committee to search for alternative sites and come back with some recommendations—I know of a huge bible camp that could hold us. SA—the way that it was created was the DCMs in the zone were to meet in a small committee to discuss this, then go out into their communities and find places, and report back with the options. There used to be a packet for the DCM's telling them what information and questions they needed to ask the respective places. I see nothing wrong with meeting at a bible camp, or technical colleges, anywhere, as long as it works out financially. JS- DCM's once they have the hotel information they turn it over to Jay and he negotiates with the hotel. We need to start two years in advance with this stuff. If we have DCM's getting the information on time, then we have more choices. Jay—I am asking DCM's from Zone III, I need you to get together and get a plan of action for the Spring Assembly and go out and find locations for the . Zone IV, I need to know four or five places within a month.

Printing Area Assembly and Committee Meeting Minutes in the Northern Lights- would the area be interested in printing the minutes

in the Northern Light, instead of mailing them out separately? It will save us a large amount of money, as it cost us \$120 to mail out minutes and \$260 to print them, on top of the Northern Light printing and mailing costs. Discussion: Can we have more NL made available. Mike P. – absolutely, if you want more just let me know. The minutes will also be available in the NL online in an anonymity protected version, which is a great thing. [A motion was made to include the Spring, Fall and Area Committee Meeting minutes in the Northern lights. All in favor.](#)

Clarification on Area Chair Zonal Workshops- confusion over the requirements of area chairs to hold 4 workshops during their

rotation. This is nowhere in any of the action booklets. I believe it came from archives that they wanted to do this, but it was never set as an area action. I am asking for clarification on this. It is really more of the local district responsibility, we are more than happy to do these workshops, but we want district involvement and clarification. Discussion: JS-When I first remember this, the corrections committees weren't getting the bang for their buck, and they stopped doing them. But when they were asked by districts, they would be there to participate, which could result in more work with 18 districts, but in my opinion, it should be that chairs go to districts if they are asked. Consider budgeting for these—making sure finances are there for these. SA-I have never heard, or read that committees need to have zonal workshops. A lot do, I think they are really good, you get to go to districts and talk to people, but there was never a "have to." It might be in the guidelines for chair positions. JA- as we don't have the information here, we don't have enough info at this time to make a decision. I request we table it and bring it back up at the August committee meeting.

The meeting closed with the Delegate's report back on the 2008 General Service Conference.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

Cooperation With The Professional Community (C.P.C.)

We had some active discussion at the June committee meeting regarding Committee Chairs doing presentation in each of the Zones during their rotation. The majority appeared to like the idea of a Zone or District requesting that a Committee Chair put on a presentation. Your PI/CPC Chair did have a scheduled presentation for September 27 in Bemidji.

I would be willing to do a presentation in either a Zone or District if requested. I can only speak for my willingness to put on a presentation. The other concern regarding a PI/CPC joint presentation is their will always be a larger expense since your PI chair and CPC live on opposite ends of the Area. Either of us jointly or separately are here to serve you. Please let us know your preference and if you would like us to have this opportunity.

I attended the Archives Workshop in Bemidji and did enjoy meeting the individuals who were willing to share about their AA experience from their early days until the present. I also heard JoAnns's Delegate Report that same afternoon.

Thank you District 21 for hosting this event.

Yours in service

Dee K.,
Area 35 CPC Committee Chair.

You'll Notice that this issue of the Northern Light is quite a bit longer than usual. This is because it was decided at the Area Committee Meeting in August to include meeting minutes in the newsletter rather than mailing them out separately. This saves the Area a considerable amount of money; and while it is more work for yours truly, I really don't mind.

I can tell that it's the middle of summer, as I only received half the reports from our committee chairs. I would remind all chairs to please get your reports in when they're due. I send out Email reminders about a week before the deadline and again a day or two before. If you have accepted a position at Area, please be responsible! It only takes a minute or two to type up your reports and get them to me. If you cannot or will not be responsible, please step down and let somebody else step up to the plate. I may be out of line here, but that's the way I feel.

Ed A. Northern Light Editor

Treatment

No Report

Northern Light

Hello Area 35,

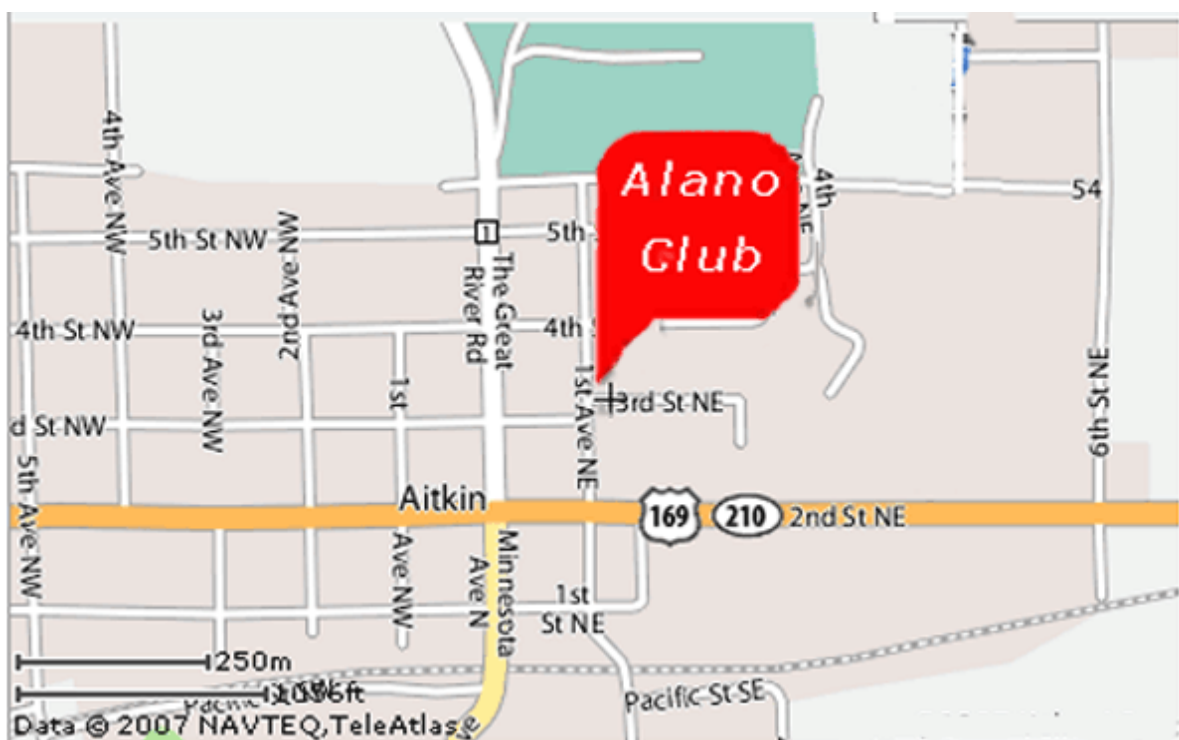
Inclement Weather Procedure For Area 35 Events

1. Area Chair calls to cancel and/or re-schedule.
2. Based on DOT report, national weather service, individual safety being paramount
3. Chair asks for weather reports from all DCM's from respective districts either by email Or phone for those that don't have computers.
- 4 Chair notifies the Alano society in Aitkin on food preparations and possible re-schedule to following Sunday.
5. Chair contacts webmaster results put on Area 35.org and reschedule date and time.
6. Districts contact their DCM in inclement weather for updates on cancellation.

Where is the Aitkin Alano Club?

Area 35 holds committee meetings in February, June, August and December at the Aitkin Alano Club
322 1st Ave. N.E.
Aitkin, MN.

Come join us!



Submissions to the Northern Light

General submissions to the *Northern Light* are very welcome! Feel free to send letters or articles that are pertinent to general service in Alcoholics Anonymous in Northern Minnesota. However, please note that if space is limited, first priority will be given to reports from Area Officers, Area Standing Committee Chairs and D.C.M.s from Area 35.

Submissions are preferred electronically using a Word document to the Area's newsletter e-mail address: northernlight@area35.org. (If I don't reply to your email, please try again or try ed@paradigmwebdesign.net, as sometimes mail gets stuck in the spam filters.) Most other file formats can also be accepted. You may also send articles or letters to my postal address, listed on page 2. The deadline for each Issue 4s printed on the front page.

Letters to the Editor or opinion articles should have a title. Please include the name of the city where the author is from. If you have any questions regarding submitting an item for the *Northern Light*, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you!

Ed A. , Editor

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

Group Records

No Report

Webmaster

The Web site totals are as follows:

June: 1,585 Unique visitors

July: 878 Unique visitors

(as of July, 15)

Our most popular pages were the Meeting Search followed by the Calendar of Events.

The totals for the 2008 year are:

Total unique visitor 10,251

Total visitors 15,073 (1.4 visits/visitor)

Total pages visited 109,030

(7.23 Pages per Visitor)

Total Bandwidth used for year

3.48 GB (241.94 KB/Visit)

Busiest month for visitors

was March with 1757

Some weeks I will make 20 changes to the meeting list some only a few. Made minor changes to web pages to give more info to visitors on how to use the search page and the add/change meeting page.

I sent out an email to all District Chairs and Area leaders asking for help with updating the meeting list with all the information asked for in the online form. It is coming in piecemeal so far.

Yours in Service,
Dan R.
Area 35 Webmaster



Let's Ask Bill Wilson

Question: If an alcoholic comes to an A.A. meeting under the influence of alcohol, how do you treat him or handle him during the meeting?

Bill W. Groups will usually run amuck on that sort of question. At first we are likely to say that we are going to be supermen and save every drunk in town. The fact is that a great many of them just don't want to stop. They come, but they interfere very greatly with the meeting. Then, being still rather intolerant, the group will swing way over in the other direction and say, "No drunks around these meetings." We get forcible and put them out of the meeting, saying, "You're welcome here if your sober." But the general rule in most places is that if a person comes for the first or second time and can sit quietly in the meeting, without creating an uproar, nobody bothers him. On the other hand, if he's a chronic "slipper" and interferes with the meetings, we lead him out gently, or maybe not so gently, on the theory that one man cannot be permitted to hold up the recovery of others. The theory is "the greatest good for the greatest number." (Yale Summer School of Alcohol Studies, June 1945)

AREA 35 INVENTORY UPDATE

We voted at the Spring Assembly 2008 to conduct an area inventory. This inventory will be held on Saturday night of the 2008 Fall Assembly. It will be held at the time we normally have a speaker.

This inventory will consist of nine questions. These questions were taken from an Area Inventory held at the 1993 Spring Assembly. It is important that input is collected from throughout the area for this to be an effective inventory. We feel these questions should be brought back to the Districts and groups for input.

The first hour of our inventory will consist of four breakout sessions. Our whole assembly will be split up into four groups to discuss these questions. Each group will have two questions each, with one common question. Four DCMs will act as moderators.

We will then, after a short break, meet as a full body and discuss main points brought up at these sessions. The DCM would read the question and give a brief review of discussion held as his/her breakout session. Then we will turn the assembly over to Ted Stoa, our past delegate and West Central Regional Trustee, to moderate any suggestions and comments that come from the entire assembly.

The four DCMs that accepted the responsibility to proctor the questions in these breakout sessions are:

- Kelly Dempsey – DCM, District 5. Questions 1, 2, 9
- Mary Coy – DCM, District 16. Questions 3, 4, 9
- Roger Rudolph – DCM, District 13. Questions 5, 6, 9
- Tim Herstad – DCM, District 12. Question 7, 8, 9

The nine questions to be used in this inventory area as follows:

1. Is the Area passing down and collecting information effectively for General Service Representatives, Districts, and Action Committees?

2. Do all Districts feel a part of the Area and receive equal attention and service?

3. Are the Action Committees doing enough to assist Districts in committee work?

Are we spending money prudently as an Area? Consider the following:

-expenses

-committee work

-communications (Northern Light, mailings)

-accommodations (coffee, room rates at Assemblies, Workshops, Area Committee meetings)

5. When Area decisions are made, is there the correct balance between group conscience and the tradition "Right of Decision"? (Concept III)

6. Are Assemblies conducted expediently and effectively? Consider the following:

-length of reports

-Saturday night open meeting or conducting business

-taking a lunch break on Sunday or ending at noon

7. Is adequate opportunity given to all to speak and participate in Area Assemblies, Workshops, and activities?

8. Are Area Workshops worthwhile? How about the format?

9. What other concerns do you have that are not addressed in this inventory?

It is so important that we do all we can at any and every level of service in carrying the message. It is this committee's hope that at this inventory, not only do we point out our deficiencies but also offer suggestions on how to improve our Area. We feel that a good Area inventory will be healthy for Area 35.

Thank you,
God Bless,

Jon C.
Member, Area 35 Inventory Committee

**ZONE 1 ZONAL FORUM
SPONSORSHIP
SATURDAY AUGUST 23, 2008
12:00 to 4:00 pm
TWIN RIVERS ALANO
614 DAVIS AVE SO
THIEF RIVER FALLS MN**

12:00 pm – Welcome and Introductions**12:15 pm – 12:45** Treasurer Beth E. - How does sponsorship differ

From 12 step calls? How does sponsorship help the newcomer? How should a sponsor be chosen? Should sponsor and newcomer be alike? Expectations of a sponsor? Should sponsee agree with everything?

12:45-1:15- Delegate Joanne N.- What if the sponsor is unavailable when needed?

May a newcomer have more than one sponsor? May a newcomer change sponsors? If a newcomer has received a thorough course of treatment and indoctrination in an alcoholism program outside of A.A. will a sponsor still be needed? Is a special approach needed in A.A.?

1:15-1:45- Area Secretary Sarah S.-How does sponsorship help the sponsor? Can any member be a sponsor? When is a member ready for the sponsor responsibility? What does a sponsor do? Is there any one best way of sponsoring a newcomer? Service sponsorship.**1:45- 2:00 Break****2:00- 2:30** - Area Chair Jay A.-Should a sponsor intercede with an employer?

Should a sponsor recommend hospitalization? How can a sponsor work with an alcoholic's family? Can a member sponsor more than one newcomer simultaneously? When and how does the sponsor let the newcomer go How may "outside A.A. groups help groups and members in institutions?

2:30- 3:00- Alternate Delegate Dan H.- How can a sponsor explain the A.A. program?

Should a sponsor lend money to a newcomer? Can a sponsor be too firm? Can a sponsor be overprotective? Can a sponsor be too casual? How can a sponsor handle an over dependent newcomer? How can a sponsor work with a newcomer who rejects help? When a newcomer resists "the spiritual side" of the program what can sponsors do? How can a sponsor deal with slips?

3:00-4:00- Questions and Answer

1. How does sponsorship make us better trusted servants?
 2. Is lack of sponsorship or lack of quality sponsorship the # 1 problem in A.A.?
 3. Who is responsible to educate the newcomer about sponsorship, service and Traditions?
 4. How does sponsorship help the group? What procedures can a group set up to sponsor New members?
-

On Tradition Ten

"Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy."

No A.A. Group or member should ever, in such a way as to implicate A.A., express any opinion on outside controversial issues -- particularly those of politics, alcohol reform, or sectarian religion. The Alcoholics Anonymous Groups oppose no one. Concerning such matters they can express no views whatever.

To most of us, Alcoholics Anonymous has become as solid as the Rock of Gibraltar. We like to believe that it will soon be as well known and just as enduring as that historic landmark. We enjoy this pleasant conviction because nothing has yet occurred to disturb it; we reason that we must hang together or die. Hence we take for granted our continued unity as a movement.

But should we? Though God has bestowed upon us great favors, and though we are bound by stronger ties of love and necessity than most societies, is it prudent to suppose that automatically these great gifts and attributes shall be ours forever. If we are worthy, we shall probably continue to enjoy them. So the real question is, how shall we always be worthy of our present blessings?

Seen from this point of view, our A.A. Traditions are those attitudes and practices by which we may deserve, as a movement, a long life and a useful one. To this end, none could be more vital than our 10th Tradition, for it deals with the subject of controversy -- serious controversy.

On the other side of the world, millions have not long since died in religious dissension. Other millions have died in political controversy. The end is not yet. Nearly everybody in the world has turned reformer. Each group, society and nation is saying to the other, "You must do as we say, or else". Political controversy and reform by compulsion has reached an all-time high. And eternal, seemingly, are the flames of religious dissension.

Being like other men and women, how can we expect to remain forever immune from these perils? Probably we shall not. At length, we must meet them all. We cannot flee from them, nor ought we try. If these challenges do come, we shall, I am sure, go out to meet them gladly and unafraid. That will be the acid test of our worth.

Our best defense? This surely lies in the formation of a Tradition respecting serious controversy so powerful that neither the weakness of persons nor the strain and strife of our troubled times can harm Alcoholics Anonymous. We know that A.A. must continue to live, or else many of us and many of our brother alcoholics throughout the world will surely resume the hopeless journey to oblivion. That must never be.

As though by some deep and compelling instinct we have thus far avoided serious controversies. Save minor and healthy growing pains, we are at peace among ourselves. And because we have thus far adhered to our sole aim, the whole world regards us favorably.

May God grant us the wisdom and fortitude ever to sustain an unbreakable unity.

Bill W.

The A.A. Grapevine, September, 1948

On Tradition Nine

"A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."

"Each A.A. Group needs the least possible organization. Rotating leadership is the best. The small group may elect its secretary, the large group its rotating committee, and the groups of a large Metropolitan area their central or intergroup committee, which often employs a full-time secretary. The Trustees of The Alcoholic Foundation are, in effect, our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which we maintain our A.A. General Service Office in New York. They are authorized by the groups to handle our over-all public relations and they guarantee the integrity of our principal newspaper, "The A.A. Grapevine." All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in A.A. are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles; they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness."

The least possible organization, that's our universal ideal. No fees, no dues, no rules imposed on anybody, one alcoholic bringing recovery to the next; that's the substance of what we most desire, isn't it?

But how shall this simple ideal best be realized? Often a question, that.

We have, for example, the kind of A.A. who is for simplicity. Terrified of anything organized, he tells us that A.A. is getting too complicated. He thinks money only makes trouble, committees only make dissension, elections only make politics, paid workers only make professionals and that clubs only coddle slipees. Says he, let's get back to coffee and cakes by cozy firesides. If any alcoholics stray our way, let's look after them. But that's enough. Simplicity is our answer.

Quite opposed to such halcyon simplicity is the A.A. promotor. Left to himself he would "bang the cannon and twang the lyre" at every crossroad of the world. Millions for drunks, great A.A. hospitals, batteries of paid organizers and publicity experts wielding all the latest paraphernalia of sound and script; such would be our promoters dream. "Yes sir," he would bark "My two year plan calls for one million A.A. members by 1950!"

For one, I'm glad we have both conservatives and enthusiasts. They teach us much. The conservative will surely see to it that the A.A. movement never gets over organized. But the promoter will continue to remind us of our terrific obligation to the newcomer and to those hundreds of thousands of alcoholics still waiting all over the world to hear of A.A.

We shall, naturally, take the firm and safe middle course. A.A. has always violently resisted the idea of any general organization. Yet, paradoxically, we have ever stoutly insisted upon organizing certain special services; mostly those absolutely necessary to effective and plentiful 12th Step work.

If, for instance, an A.A. group elects a secretary or rotating committee, if an area forms an intergroup committee, if we set up a Foundation, a General Office or a Grapevine, then we are organized for service. The A.A. book and pamphlets, our meeting places and clubs, our dinners and regional assemblies -- these are services too. Nor can we secure good hospital connections, properly sponsor new prospects and obtain good public relations just by chance. People have to be appointed to look after these things, sometimes paid people. Special services are performed.

But by none of these special services, has our spiritual or social activity, the great current of A.A. ever been really organized or professionalized. Yet our recovery program has been enormously aided. While important, these service activities, are very small by contrast with our main effort.

As such facts and distinctions become clear, we shall easily lay aside our fears of blighting organization or hazardous wealth. As a movement, we shall remain comfortably poor; for our service expenses are trifling.

With such assurances, we shall without doubt, continue to improve and extend our vital lifelines of special service; to better carry out our A.A. message to others; to make for ourselves a finer greater society, and, God willing, to assure Alcoholics Anonymous a long life and perfect unity.

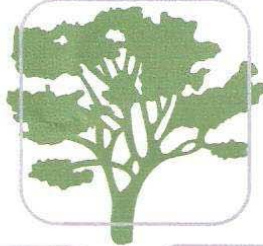
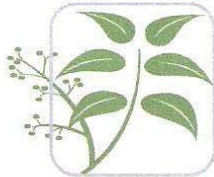
Bill W.

The A.A. Grapevine, August, 1948



AREA 35 FALL 2008 ASSEMBLY

OCTOBER 4-5, SEVEN CLANS CASINO
20595 CENTER ST. EAST, THEIR RIVER FALLS
1-866-255-7848 ASK FOR CODE: 035

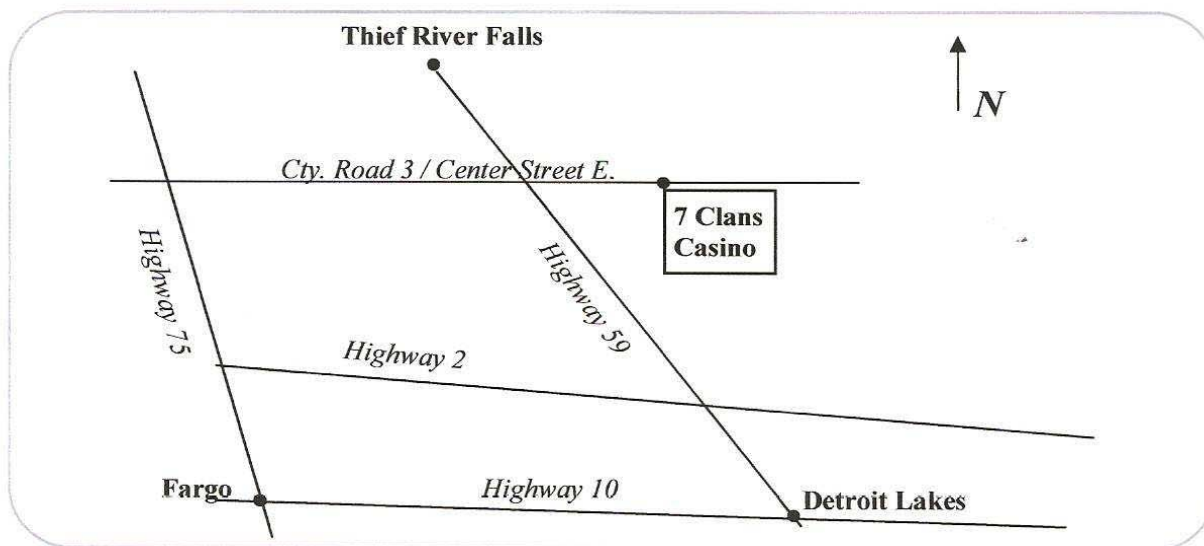


SATURDAY, OCT. 4, 2008

9 A.M. — Registration
10 A.M. — GSR Orientation &
Area Action Committee Meetings

SUNDAY OCT. 5, 2008

7:30 — 8:30 A.M. — Big Book
Meeting
9 A.M. — Assembly Reconvenes



ROOM ARE \$ 69.00 PLUS TAX
RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY: SEPTEMBER 26TH

SEVEN CLANS CASINO WEBSITE: <http://www.sevenclanscasino.com/>

Thanks to Beth, additional information and a *really* good map can be found at:

<http://www.casinocity.com/maps/?propertyid=67400>

THE STRANGE OBSESSION
By Bill W.

It was a hot night in the midsummer of 1934. I found myself at a noted address in Central Park West, New York City. It was in Charlie Towns Hospital for drying out alcoholics.

Sobering and sweltering out a fearful hangover I laid abed in an upstairs room. Downstairs the doctor looked across his desk at my wife Lois.

She was saying, "Doctor, why can't Bill stop drinking? He always had great willpower. Yet here he is, facing ruin again, and still he can't stop. The more he struggles, the worse he gets. I am scared, heartbroken and confused. I know he is, too. He'd do anything - anything at all to stop. Tell me, Doctor, why can't he?"

Lois was asking the same terrible question that uncouth women had asked before. Her's was a riddle quite as old as man's first discovery that alcohol could be made from grapes and grains.

Again she said, "Please tell me the truth doctor. Why can't Bill stop?"

In his long experience with serious drinkers the good doctor had faced that terrible heartbreaker a thousand times. By nature compassionate, he never failed to wince whenever a distraught wife, husband or friend of a sufferer had profounded anew the burdened riddle of alcoholism. Bill's dilemma had interested and moved him deeply. How could he now bring himself to tell Lois the truth?

The benign little doctor's face turned grave as he began to speak. "When Bill first came to this hospital three years ago, I felt that he might be one of those rare cases who might recover. I hoped that when he better understood himself and the nature of his illness, he might win out. In spite of his several severe relapses since then, I have gone on hoping. For, as you say, he desperately wants to quit and his will to do so is very great. But now I'm discouraged. I'm afraid he's going to be like nearly all the other alcoholics who come my way."

"Well Doctor," cried Lois, "just what do you mean by that. Won't he ever get better?"

Gently, the Doctor went on, "Mrs. W.," said he, "As you already understand, your husband is a sick man. But I've never told you just how sick an alcoholic can be, nor have I ever explained this illness to you as I understand it from my long observation. I think the time is here to tell you more about his illness and how really serious his condition now is. There are a lot of theories about the underlying causes of compulsive drinking like Bill's. Of these we can take our pick. But there are some solid facts, too, which no one who has watched many alcoholics could well dispute.

"Fact one is that innumerable alcoholic men and women really want to control their destructive drinking and then find, to their dismay, that they cannot. They cannot moderate their drinking as other people do. Nor, even when faced with the most terrible consequences, can they stop altogether, no matter how desperate their plight. Never do the excuses they make for their sprees justify their pattern of continuous self-destruction. Their behavior becomes completely illogical and irrational - it really verges on insanity. And even when they well understand all this, they go on as before. Where alcohol is concerned, their minds no longer rule their emotions.

"A new spree can be started upon the slightest of excuses or rationalizations. Sometimes the provocations seem great, but it's always very small when the certain destructive results are considered. When for example life gives the average man a heavy bump, he doesn't seize a hammer and beat himself into insensibility. Yet, in effect, that's what the sick alcoholic does, over and over. All reason, all incentive, even the greatest desire to stop, seems to be swamped when the craving for alcohol takes hold.

"Therefore the biggest fact about alcoholism is its obsessional nature. It is one of the most subtle yet most powerful compulsions known. Once it's grip is firm, the chance for recovery is diminished. How to help the alcoholic to expel his obsession is the problem. But we doctors have had little success: I've seldom helped even one case in a hundred.

"Nor is the drinkers obsession the whole story: alcoholism is a physical malady too. In nearly all cases the bodies of problem drinkers become painfully sensitive to alcohol. In the early stages of their malady some alcoholics can drink quantities of liquor without serious physical reaction. But continued excesses finally cause them to lose that ability; they seem to get allergic to the stuff; so much so that hangovers produce great physical agony and sometimes delirium tremens or convulsions too often followed by brain damage and mental deterioration than can be permanent."

Again she asked, "Doctor, what can we do?"

So he had to tell her that I would have to be locked up or go mad and die. That it would all end with heart failure during delirium tremens, or that I would develop a wet brain, perhaps within a year. That soon I would have to be given over to an asylum or an undertaker.

I am responsible.
When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help,
I want the hand of A.A. always to be there.
And for that I am responsible.

"Alcoholism is an obsession of the mind that condemns one to drink and an allergy of the body that condemns one to die."
-- Dr. Wm. D. Silkworth

2008 – AREA 35 SCHEDULE

ZONE 1 ZONAL FORUM

August 23, 2008
 Twin Rivers Alano, 614 Davis Ave. S.,
 Thief River Falls, MN

Area 35 Fall Assembly

October 4-5, 2008
 Seven Clans Casino,
 20595 Center St. E., Thief River Falls, MN

Area Committee Meeting

December 7, 2008 9:00 a.m.
 Aitkin Alano Club, 322 1st Avenue N.E., Aitkin, MN

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Upcoming Events in Areas 35 & 36

BadAxe Mens Advance

August 8-10, 2008
 Bad Axe Lake, Near Park Rapids, MN

Hiawathaland Get-Together

August 29-31, 2008
 Kahler Grand Hotel, Rochester, MN

Camp-A-Rama 2008

August 15-17, 2008
 Lake Region Recreational Center, Ottertail lake

18th Annual Heartland Round-up

September 5-7, 2008
 Northern Pines Assembly Grounds
 Park Rapids, MN

We Sober Fest

September 20-21, 2008
 Northern Thrshing Show Grounds
 7415 Viking Blvd, Elk River, MN

NORTHERN LIGHT PRIMARY PURPOSE:

The *Northern Light* (N.L.), is a general service newsletter that serves Area 35 to facilitate bilateral communication between the groups, districts, Area and G.S.O. levels in the Northern Minnesota area. Its purpose is to:

- Publish an informative and attractive newsletter to the Area in a timely fashion.
- Encourage District reports and be available to work with Districts on communications. One or more of the N.L. Committee should try to attend area events to report on what's happening in their areas. If they are unable to attend, encourage local members to write short articles about events and happenings to be published in the *N.L.*
- Provide encouragement for writing articles, particularly to D.C.M.s and Area Action Committee Chairs. This should include the strong encouragement to submit their reports for each issue, if no report is submitted it will be stated, example "Northern Light Report - NOT GIVEN" this is currently being done in the Southern Minnesota Area newsletter.
- Keep informed of activities and issues going on within Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. The N.L. Committee could subscribe the *Grapevine* or other pertinent A.A. news sources.
- Gather useful service information to publish from sources within the Area, Region and A.A. as a whole. Obtain, read and use other Area newsletters.
- Listen to comments from the Area on the content of the *N.L.*

EDITORIAL POSITION & N.L. COMMITTEE:

Editor - The Editorial Chair is an elected position held during a two-year rotation.

Desirable qualifications: Current or past working knowledge of the printing business. Knowledge of current computer printing programs. The person should also consider the time needed to complete the task required. The candidate should have a working knowledge of A.A. as a whole, i.e., prior experience in service work such as G.S.R., D.C.M., or related position.

N.L. Committee - The N.L. Committee consists of two D.C.M.s in Area 35. Currently, these have been picked randomly at the start of the new rotation. They also serve on a two-year rotation basis. They assist the editor in communications with other area newsletters, in recommendations on general improvements, and with general problems and implementations of new policies. They may also represent the editor at functions when the editor is unable to attend. Seek advice and help from former N.L. Committee members and editors.

N.L. COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

The Committee meets every other month before the start of the Area Workshop and at Spring and Fall Assemblies. Additional meetings may be called for if needed between these times.

Twelve Concepts for World Service (Short Form)

- I. Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.
- II. The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.
- III. To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A.—the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional "Right of Decision."
- IV. At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional "Right of Participation," allowing a voting representation in a reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.
- V. Throughout our structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.
- VI. The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.
- VII. The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purpose for final effectiveness.
- VIII. The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.
- IX. Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.
- X. Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.
- XI. The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.
- XII. The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

**AREA 35 COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA
August 3, 2008**

- ___ 9:00 A.M. Action Chair Committee Meetings
- ___ 10:30 am Area Committee Meeting
- ___ Call to Order Open with the Serenity Prayer
- ___ Past Delegates
- ___ Add To Agenda
- ___ Approve February Minutes

OFFICER REPORTS

- ___ Delegate- JoAnne N.
- ___ Alternate Delegate – Dan H.
- ___ Chair Jay A.
- ___ Secretary-Sarah S.
- ___ Treasurer-Beth E.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS

- ___ GROUP RECORDS-Mike P.
- ___ NORTHERN LIGHTS-Ed A.
- ___ District 4-Bruce W.
- ___ District 7-Lee Ann H.
- ___ CORRECTIONS-Dianna S.I
- ___ District 1-Priscilla
- ___ District 11-Doug N.
- ___ C.P.C-Dee K.
- ___ District 3-Bill D.
- ___ District 6-Jack J.
- ___ GRAPEVINE-Laurie R.
- ___ District 9-Karen H.
- ___ District 21-Harold S.
- ___ WEBMASTER-Dan R.
- ___ DISTRICT 17-Sheldon L.
- ___ ARCHIVES-Bob K./Brad I.
- ___ District 2-Art A.
- ___ District 13-Roger R.
- ___ LITERATURE-Mike V.
- ___ District 15-Patty G.
- ___ District 16-Mary C.
- ___ TREATMENT-Jim K.
- ___ District 8-Butch R.
- ___ District 12 Tim H.
- ___ PUBLIC INFORMATION-John C.
- ___ District 5-Kelly D.
- ___ District 18-Doreen L.
- ___ Lunch

OLD BUSINESS

- ___ Area 35 Inventory

NEW BUSINESS

- ___ Area 35/36 Joint Workshop
- ___ Area Records Secretary
- ___ Area Archive Inventory
- ___ Calendar of Events

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- ___ TBA
 - ___ Adjourn

The *Northern Light* is the newsletter for Northern Minnesota's Area 35 of Alcoholics Anonymous. The articles and opinions expressed herein are strictly the personal opinions of those expressing them. Alcoholics Anonymous General Service Conference Approved Literature quoted herein is reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc. or the A.A. Grapevine. The *Northern Light* is a confidential document. It contains members' full names and addresses, just as directories do. This usage does not in any way violate our tradition of anonymity to the public communications media.