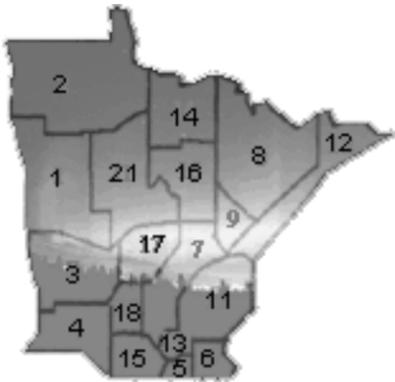


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Deadline for the next
Northern Light is
March 10, 2009

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 2009

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SARAH S.

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GRAPEVINE

LAURIE R.

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

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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

SANDY H.

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

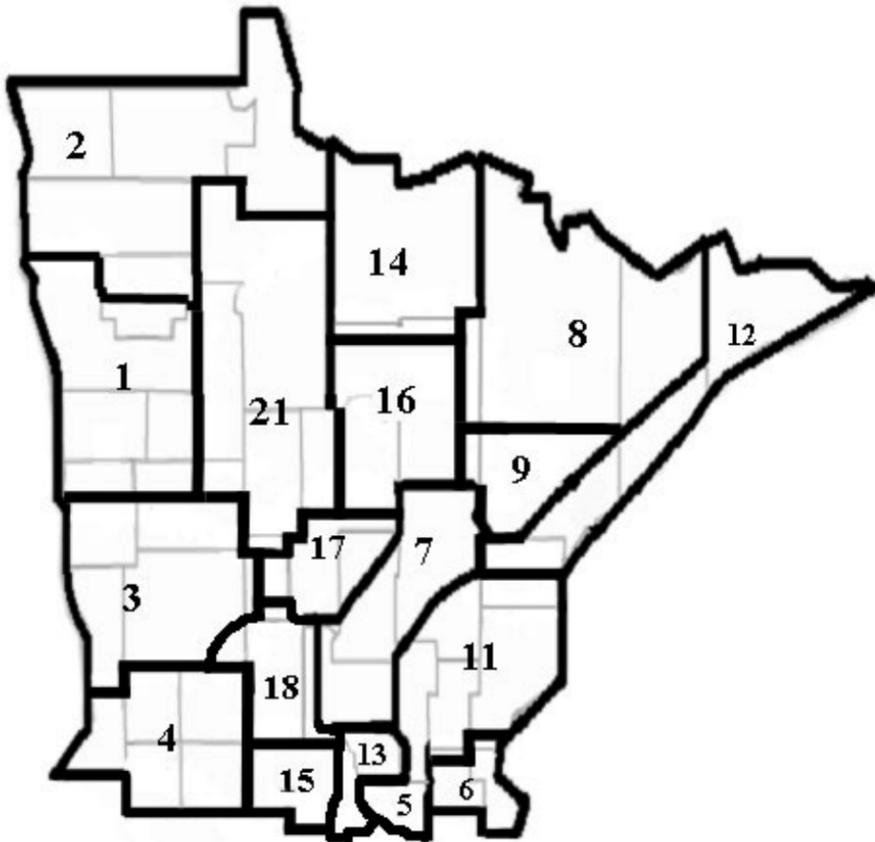
Panel 56 Jerry S.	2006-2007	Panel 38 Scott J.	1988-1989	Panel 20 Clarence B. (deceased)	1970-1971
Panel 54 Charlie C.	2004-2005	Panel 36 Louie H.	1986-1987	Panel 18 Dave H.	1968-1969
Panel 52 Tim C.	2002-2003	Panel 34 Bob P.	1984-1985	Panel 16 Arno A. (deceased)	1966-1967
Panel 50 Tom A.	2000-2001	Panel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

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 1 of 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

<p>District 1 Sunday, June 8, 2:00 p.m. Fertile Community Center 101 S. Mill St. Fertile, MN 56540</p>	<p>District 7 3rd Thursday of Month, 7:00 p.m. First Lutheran Church 424 8th St. S. Brainerd, MN 56401</p>	<p>District 14 Not currently active.</p>
<p>District 2 2nd Sunday of Odd Months, 2:00 p.m. First Lutheran Church 210 Park Ave. N. Middle River, MN 56737</p>	<p>District 8 Committee Meetings at 6:30 p.m. General District Meeting at 7:00 p.m. Palo, MN</p>	<p>District 15 1st Monday of Month, 8:00 p.m. Albany Community Center 741 Lake Ave. Albany, MN 56307</p>
<p>District 3 3rd Sunday of Month, 10:00 a.m. Detroit Lakes Alano Club 827 Summit Ave. Detroit Lakes, MN 56501</p>	<p>District 9 Last Sunday of Month, 6:00 p.m. Hibbing Alano Club 3725 1st Avenue Hibbing, MN 55746</p>	<p>District 16 3rd Wednesday of Month, 7:30 p.m. United Methodist Church 1701 S.E. 5th Ave. Grand Rapids, MN 55744 Handicap Accessible, Non-Smoking</p>
<p>District 4 2nd Saturday of Month, 5:30 p.m. Potluck at 6:30 p.m. Round Robin at 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>District 11 1st Tuesday of Month, 7:00 p.m. St. Joseph's Catholic Church Basement Finlayson, MN 55735</p>	<p>District 17</p> <p>District 18 1st Tuesday of month, 6:30p.m. Long Prairie Alano</p>
<p>District 5 3rd Monday of Month, 7 p.m. St. John Lutheran Church 13045 Fremont Ave Zimmerman, MN 55398</p>	<p>District 12 3rd Thursday of Month, 6:30 p.m. Duluth Alano Club 3009 Restormel St. Duluth, MN 55806</p>	<p>District 21 2nd Monday, 7:00 p.m. Bemidji Alano Club 1225 Anne St.</p>
<p>District 6 3rd Thursday of Month, 7:30 p.m. Spring Lake Lutheran Church 8440 Erickson Rd. N.E. North Branch, MN 55056</p>	<p>District 13 1st Monday of Month, 7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Salem Lutheran Church 90 Riverside Drive S.E. Saint Cloud, MN 56304</p>	

Delegate's Report

Greeting from your Delegate!

I hope everyone is staying warm and cozy during our cold months. The mail is starting to pick up from G.S.O. and as most of you know I received the Preliminary Conference Agenda Items and I email ed copies to all the Area Officers, Co mmittee Chairs and DCM' s. Copies will also be available at the January Service Workshop being held at Cragun's in Brainerd.

The final Conference Agenda Items will be here b y February 15, 2009, and I'll be busy getting them to the printer, collating, and burning CD's to have available for Area Officers, Committee Chairs and DCM's at our Area Committee meeting on February 22nd.

Received the 59th General Service Conference Co mmunication Kit chocked full of forms to be filled out and returned to G.S.O. I'll be making plane reservations soon.

On a sad note a past delegate, Greg G. passed on Decem ber 29, 2008. Greg contributed a tremendous amount of service work to Area 35 and he will definitely be remembered and missed by those of us who had an opportunity to know and work with him.

I'm looking forward to the January Service Workshop. Ken B. our West Central Regional Trustee was invited by Dan, our Alternate Delegate to be our guest. It will be a fun time!

It is hard to believe that we've started another new year and I'm eternally grateful for all the service work that continues on in Area 35. If I can be of any assistance please don't hesitate to ask.

In loving service,

JoAnne

Alternate Delegate's Report

Hello Area 35,

As I write this I am preparing for the work shop this weekend. Some things never seem to change the outside temperature is -31 degrees. It is nice to have consistency with the workshop.

District 21 has requested a workshop on sponsorship, and asked area officers to participate; I think this is an excellent plan. I support workshops and I would like the members to know that speaking for myself I am always willing to participate if time allows. I feel that is part of my twelve step work and not necessarily an area obligation. I hope everyone in area 35 knows that as an area officer and active A.A. member I am always willing to participate. I think our area and AA in general could benefit greatly from more participation at the District level, in the form of workshops, there are many AA members with a wealth of experience who would be glad to share that. District eight just put on a very good concept workshop. I hope districts can provide more of these types of workshop's in the future.

I received the conference communication kit from G.S.O. It reminds me it is close to reviewing agenda items, and Spring Assembly. Wow where does the time go!!

If I can be of service please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours in the fellowship of the spirit
Dan H.

Area Chair Report

Greeting Area 35 Trusted Servants:

The New Year has begun and our rotation is half way through. I am getting ready for the Area Workshop at Cragun's Resort. The holidays were good this year although, like many others, the current economic times dictated what we were able to do for Christmas. Thankfully, the gas prices are down, so we should be able to travel as much as needed to carry this message. It seems like we always start the year at a dead run. The Area Workshop, Area Meeting and the Spring Assembly are all arriving soon. Our Delegate will be distributing the General Service Conference Agenda Items. Your efforts to find a true Informed Group Conscience is vital to her being able to bring the best possible work to the conference. If you haven't had a chance to read your service manual or the Twelve Concepts of World Service, now would be a really good time. The Book "AA Comes of Age" does a really good job of describing what is behind both our traditions and Concepts. Please let me help if you have any questions about these. I have begun discussions about possibly asking our Past Delegates to respond when districts would like to have someone come and talk about various topics excluding the current responsibilities of the Area Officers. There have been many requests for workshops on topics of Recovery and Unity from the Area in the past year. Although some of our officers have more free time than others, it is often difficult to meet all of the requests. I believe it would serve our fellowship well to have these fine people share their experience if they are willing. Please give me your feedback on this idea. Another item, for which I need your help, is the format for the Joint Area 35/36 workshop that we will now be having each year. In the past, it has been in the format where the chairs and officers of each committee meet with their counterpart for a period of time and then report back to the group as a whole. This last time, it was help on three different topics and then shared with the group as a whole. Please let me know what you think about each format and how you would like to proceed in the future. Also let me know if you plan on attending the workshop in the future. Please let me know your current service position as well. I plan on having this as an agenda item at the Spring Assembly.

Thank you very much for allowing me to serve.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay A.
Panel 58 Area 35 Chair

Treasurer's Report

Greetings from frigid Hibbing! Can you believe this weather? Has been a tad bit chilly up here! First I want to thank the Area for the opportunity to serve throughout this last year; it has truly been a blessing! Second, thank you to all the Districts who send me your minutes, it has been a joy reading about and gleaming new ideas on carrying the message. Third, I want to thank the Area for supporting me to each of the events I have attended this year; the year has been exciting, full of changes, a year of learning new skills and of growing from each experience.

Now I need to apologize to the Groups and Districts for my slowness in cashing checks and in getting notification to you that your contribution has been received. Each contribution allows us to continue carrying the message of hope and to carry out the duties requested by the Area as a whole. As many of you know I have moved twice now since last August and I had to rent a storage unit. On the first move I misplaced the stamp used for endorsing the checks and that was not found, until after ordering another, of course (isn't that the way it always goes?). In the middle of the second move, a month and a half later, I had to place the majority of my belongings into storage, as I had to stay with a friend for two weeks, until I was able to get into my new apartment. All of my envelopes (from GSO and for Area contributions) were in the storage unit, soon after finally getting into my new apartment, Hibbing went into a deep freeze and my storage unit was frozen shut! Murphy's Law!!

We have received roughly 658 individual contributions throughout 2008, for a total in contributions of \$25,724.18. The current balance is: \$11,280.94 which leaves us with (after subtracting out our \$6,000 Prudent Reserve) \$5,280.94 available for services. As you know in the beginning of each new year we have several events with varying expenses: (1) the January Workshop, (2) Committee Meeting in Aitkin, (3) West Central Regional Service Conference (in Casper, WY this year), and then (4) the Spring Assembly, followed by (5) the General Service Conference in which our Delegate carries our Area Conscience to New York. These five events take place within the first 4 months of the year. Again, at this writing we have a approximately \$5000 available for service. In order for each Officer and Committee member to carry out these requested duties, over the next 4 months, I need to ask you to take this information back to your groups with a strong plea for support. Along with this information, please inform your group members that our officer/committee chairs do make every effort to be prudent and responsible with Area funds. Most make every effort to travel in packs; I think we generally herd very well! Now as I leave you I hope and pray that you have heard the plea for finances to cover expenses for these events.

Thank you again for this opportunity, I pledge to improve and to stay put!!

Yours in Service,
Beth E.
Area 35 Treasurer

Secretary's Report

Greetings all! I hope the holidays were well with you. I know ours were wonderful and busy. The area officers had good discussion at the December committee meeting and each day I feel like I learn more and more about this position and how to be of service to AA. Speaking of that, it was brought to my attention that I said something misleading at the December committee meeting regarding anonymity protected version of the Northern Light. I create the anonymity protected version of the minutes to put in the Northern Light, but not the anonymity protected version of the Northern Light. Ed creates the anonymity protected version of the rest of the Northern Light with Dan's help, and since Ed works very hard on them, I didn't want to accidentally take credit for his work. Thanks Ed!

Again, I can't say enough how beneficial I found the joint Area 35 & 36 workshop to be, and hopefully with each one we do we will get more organized and better at providing a venue for the beneficial cooperation of the two areas. I am looking forward to a new year, one where I will hopefully be able to get things done earlier rather than later, and where I will continue to learn how I can better serve AA as a whole and be an example to others of the miracle of AA. If you are not receiving the minutes by email and you want to, please [contact me](#).
[Thanks for allowing me to continue learning and growing in service,](#)

Sarah K.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Information

It is my hope that all the members of Area 35 have a happy, healthy, sober New Year

I was looking forward to our January Area 35 service workshop held at Cragun's Report on Gull Lake. Due to open heart surgery, the doctors and cardiac rehab specialists determined it would be in my best interest to stay home and rest. That felt that making a trip like this would retard the healing process. So – for a change – I will be listening to their recommendations. I would like to thank all the members for their cards, phone calls and prayers. In surgery, one of my main arteries developed a hole due to plaque, and my heart stopped. The doctors were able to bring me back to life. I feel it was the prayers from my AA friends and family that brought me back. Again – I thank you very, very much.

In 2009 it is my hope that all the districts in Area 35 as well as the Area PI Chair will do all we can to carry the message to the public. We have many places and people in every city, village, and location where we

can carry the message and tell the people who we are, what we are, and where we are. I feel that it is our responsibility and privilege to inform the public.

In closing, I spend a lot of time at home and can and will do anything possible to help anyone in Area 35 carry the message. If I can be of any assistance, please call and I'll be there.

In Service –
God Bless,

Jon C.
Area 35 PI Chair
Cell: (218) 290-5418
Home: (218) 749-5447
E-mail: curph1998@yahoo.com



STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

Archives

We got some of the group history questionnaires. Thanks it is interesting to read how some groups got started.

There is a quarterly publication from GSO's Archives titled Markings (your archives interchange). In the winter edition there is a little story about one of Bills drinking experience. That can be found at aa.org in the archives pages of our web sight. There is a lot of other good reading there.

Thanks for allowing me to serve

Bob K.

Archives chair

Corrections

Greetings, I have been getting familiar with my new chair position and would like to thank everyone for their support. There are too many to name but want to say a special thanks to the District Chairs and DCMs on the corrections committee.

I apologize for not having a report last time but I got confused and thought the minutes were the report.

I attended the 3/5/36 joint meeting and was very enthused to meet

Annette W. with Area 36 Corrections Correspondence. She and I had talked and emailed but it was good to sit face to face. She is very organized and really helpful with the lists of inmates who are being released and want contact with AA. We had quite a few requests for a couple months but nothing recently. Thank you to the District Chairs and DCMs who match these people up.

Jim K, the Treatments Chair, and I would like to do a joint workshop at the Spring Assembly. If you have some input in topics or agenda please let me know. Our aim is to do what is most beneficial for the Area.

Please read the minutes to catch up on what the committee has been doing and I look forward to seeing many of you at the January workshop.

Thank you for letting me be of Service,
Krishna



Literature

Northern Light Report - NOT GIVEN



Grapevine

Northern Light Report - NOT GIVEN

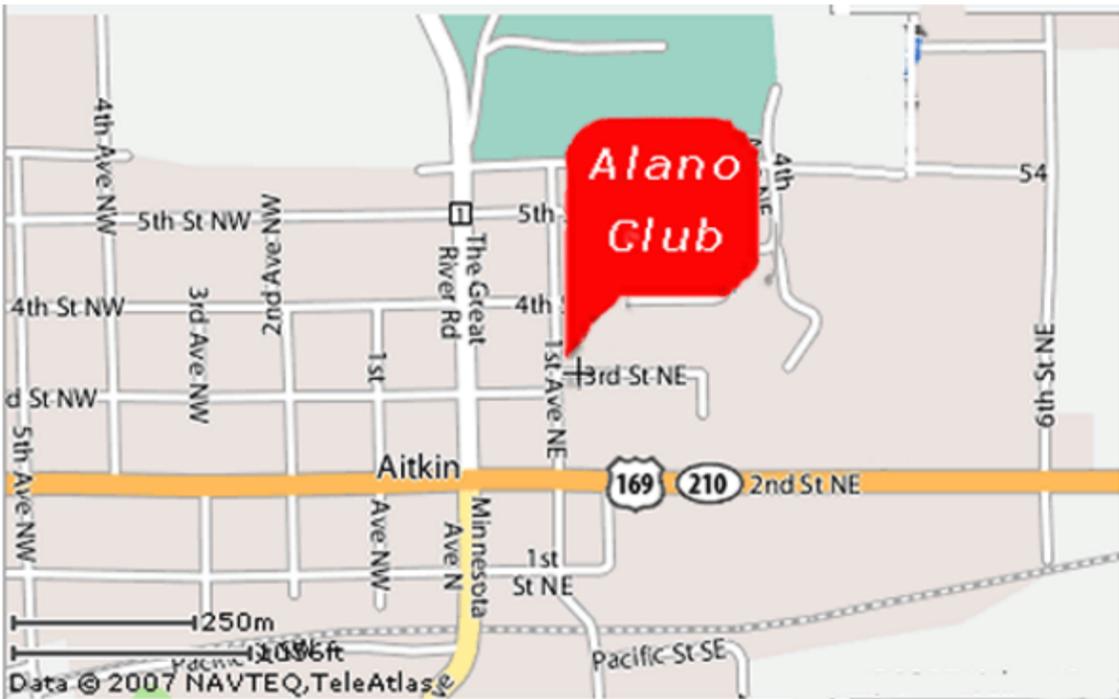
Inclement Weather Procedure For Area 35 Events

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 is 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)

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

Greetings from your CPC Chair:

I hope you all had a joyous holiday and safe New Year.

The January Service Workshop is just around the corner followed by the February Committee meeting. I am requesting that the CPC committee bring some basic ideas with them to the February Committee Meeting regarding a presentation of "what AA is and what AA is not" for the National Guard Members who will be returning from their tour of duty. Our AA pamphlet would probably be a place to start. We will also need guidelines on how to shorten our stories on what it was like and what it is like now for the 5 minute presentation.

Look forward to seeing you at the February Committee Meeting in Aitkin. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance to any of you.

Which Zone would I like a Zonal presentation from the PI/CPC Chairs?

Yours in service
Dee K.



Treatment

Greetings members of Area 35. I hope that the holiday season was a joyous time for all of you. I want to thank you for sending me to the Area 35/36 joint workshop in St. Cloud. This was an excellent opportunity for our committee and various members to discuss how we can better work together to care the message in to many of our states treatment facilities and how to best be of service to alcoholics leaving treatment. I was able to meet with Robert S., the Area 36 Treatment Chair, and received a large package containing all the information that is used with the Area 36 Bridging the Gap program. Our area has cooperated with Area 36 for a number of years with this endeavor to help line up AA contacts for individuals leaving treatment. If you are working with your local treatment committees I would like to provide you with all of the pamphlets and information regarding this program.

I attended the December committee meeting in Aitkin where we were able to meet as a Treatment committee. I want to thank all of the district chairs who are working with their local facilities and educating both the clients and the staff about AA and what we do and do not do. Our committee discussed holding a workshop in conjunction with the Corrections committee the Friday night before the Spring Assembly in Brainerd. More information will be coming soon.

Contacts through the Bridging the Gap program continue to be made and we have already received two new requests for the new year. I apologize that I will only be able to attend the Winter Workshop on Sunday but look forward to seeing many of you there. I also wish to apologize that I will be unable to attend the West Central Regional Service Conference (WSRSC) in Wyoming due to work. I will do

my utmost to read through all of the background information and talk with others regarding discussion on the topics from the WCRSC. Thanks again for this opportunity to serve Area 35.

Yours in Service,
Jim K.



Northern Light

Greetings Area 35!

Not much to report on this time. I'm getting ready for the winter workshop at the time of this writing. A couple of guys from my District are going to be doing a presentation. I'm curious to see what they came up with.

I'm still looking for articles for the Northern Light. I've tried begging and even groveling, but nothing has worked yet. I guess the alcoholics in Area 35 have nothing to say. An alcoholic with nothing to say! What's up with that?

Many times, due to the format of our area newsletter, I am in need of filler content. Fortunately, our co-founder, Bill Wilson's writings are readily available. Bill had a lot to say!

In closing, I've said it before – I'll repeat myself; nobody in this program is too unimportant to contribute to the Northern Light.

Yours in Service,
Ed A.
Northern Light Editor



Group Records

Hello to all, warm greetings in this snowy and cold weather. I'm working on the NL labels to get that data in order. Also, I'm appending in meeting place data into FNV so that the meeting locator web site will function as it is supposed to. As always, if there is anything you need from me please let me know. It is an honor and a privilege to serve.

Audrey



Webmaster

Our Web site totals are as follows: - Totals for last few months - January 09, 813 Unique visitors (as of the 12th), Dec. 234 Unique visitors, Nov. 1432 unique visitors, Oct. 1749 unique visitors - Our 2008 Web site totals are as follows: Unique visitors – **19,136** (1.48 visits/visitor) – Total Band width **6.84 GBs**. Our most popular pages were the Meeting Search, Calendar of Events, followed by the Meeting pages, District pages and Officers page.

Pricilla DCM from District 1 has sent me the updates for the meetings in her district to be updated. That's five districts now that have updated the meetings on the

Area Web Site.

I want to encourage all the district chairs to continue to check that all the meetings in your district are up to date with all the information required and that they are registered with GSO. The reason this is important is that if we do end up going completely with the joint 35/36 Area meeting directly a lot of the meetings are going to disappear or be completely different than what is up there now.

The Joint Area 35/36 Web Committee has discussed having the meeting either on February 7th or 8th in St. Cloud at 10:30 to go over the progress on the meeting locator that Mike S. from Area 36 is working on. The committee has some new chairs from Area 36 as their rotation is opposite of ours so we will need to go over everything to help bring them up to date. One problem we have been discussing is that the locator is picking up the registered contact persons address instead of the meeting address. Mike may have figured this out by now.

Yours in Service
Dan R.
Area 35 Webmaster



A.A. history quiz

1. What make and model was Dr Bob's last car?
2. Who was editor of Liberty magazine in September of 1939?
3. In what hotel was the 1st General service conference held?
4. With what serial killer did Bill W. correspond with in 1954 while this individual was on death row?
5. Who was on the cover of the Time magazine where Dr. bob's obituary appeared.

Answers

1. Buick Roadmaster Convertible
2. Fulton Oursler
3. The Hotel Commodore
4. Caryl Chessman
5. Hopalong Cassidy



Area 35 Northern Minnesota
December Committee Meeting
December 7, Aitkin, MN

The Area Chair (Jay A.) opened the meeting with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Past delegates in attendance were acknowledged: Jerry S., Tim C., Charlie C., Susie A., Tom A., and Bruce B. Additions to the agenda: Reporting Procedures for Missing Area events, Trustee's Finance Proposal, State Fair Booth, Northern Light Mailing, Joint Area Workshop Format, Mailing Overseas to the Army National Guard Joint with Area 36. **Motion to approve Aug. Committee Meeting Minutes. All in favor.**

Area Officer Reports

Delegate - The Zonal Forum held in St. Cloud on November 15th had an excellent turn out! It was a great day for discussion and sharing. Thanks to District 5 and 13 for the treats and great hospitality. I was also asked to sit in on the Ad Hoc web site committee meeting. Then I was off to the Area 35/36 Workshop on November 22nd. Our main reason for the workshop is to foster communication and participation between the two areas. I'm looking forward to the next one! I sent off two letters of support for Area 76's (Wyoming) proposals to the General Service office. Thank you, Sarah for all the help writing these proposals. I also sent copies to Brooke C., Area 76 Wyoming Delegate and received a grateful acknowledgement. Thanks to Area 35 for unanimously supporting these proposals at the Fall Assembly. The 2009 General Service Conference will be held April 26 – May 2nd and DCM's can schedule the Delegate's report-back starting May 17, 2009. I do have one scheduled already for District 8 on June 1, 2009 and I'll be traveling to Aurora, MN. I mailed and received acknowledgement that Charlie C.'s resume for Trustee-At-Large U.S. was received by G.S.O.

Finance for AAWS (first 9 months): Net literature sales \$9,558,200 2.8% over budget, Contributions \$4,648,600 .25% over budget, Shipping costs 27% over budget due to increased fuel prices, postage and express line item, Unaudited loss \$325,900. The archives remodeling project is temporarily on hold. (Defer ceiling and lighting projects for a year due to uncertain economic times). The book Experience, Strength and Hope price was reduced from \$9 to \$5 until end of year. Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Ages to be published in soft cover for \$7. Living Sober in ASL agreed to in concept that Living Sober be published in ASL format on DVD and the DVD include the A.A. Preamble, Serenity Prayer, "How It Works" from Chapter Five of the Big Book, and limited excerpts from some A.A. recovery pamphlets. The committee forwarded this proposal to the A.A.W.S. Board's Finance Committee for budgetary consideration for 2009.

Grapevine (first 9 months): Average circulation was 105,984 which is 202 below 2007. Total magazine income was \$1,555,163 Net loss of \$95,111 for the nine-month period ending September 30, 2008. The bimonthly publication (5 issues) of the La Vina is 10,492. Net loss for the La Vina for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 was \$56,351. On July 1, 2009, the Grapevine is going up \$7 and the La Vina will increase \$2.

Conference: The GSC for 2010 is going to be held at the Rye Town Hilton Hotel in Rye, New York. A subcommittee was appointed consisting of George M., Ken B., Jane T. and Doug R. secretary regarding the process of developing Conference agendas after discussing the 1965 and 1973 conference advisory actions. GSO will compile a list of items tabled or upon which "no action" was taken by the trustees committees similar to the List of Final Conference Agenda Items and send out after the GSB's Winter Quarterly Meeting with the List of Final Agenda Items to all Conference members. The committee agreed to forward to the Conference Policy/Admissions Committee a request to formulate a procedure for filing a minority appeal directly with the General Service Conference, as described in Bill W.'s commentary on Concept V.

Nominating: The new General Manager is Phyllis H., past Pacific Regional Trustee, who will start January 1st. Rev. Ward Ewing, Class A Trustee will become Chairman of the Board after the General Service Conference. Two new non-Trustee Directors of AAWS are: Billy N. and Andrea B. Ken B., WCRT will join the GV Board and Vic P., Western Canada Trustee, will join AAWS board after the GSC.

Archives: At the 2010 International Convention exhibit, in San Antonio, Texas there will be a complementary copy of Markings and a book-mark.

Treatment: The committee reviewed a "rough cut" final version of the revised video, Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous and agreed to forward to the 2009 conference committee on Treatment Facilities a final version of the revised video. The Treatment committee agreed to forward an area proposal for consideration: "Discuss including TF literature that would assist area/district TF committee with their effort to carry the A.A. message to treatment professionals and patient in out-patient treatment programs."

CPC: The committee agreed to forward to the 2009 Conference Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Community, the revised video segment directed to professionals in the employment/human relations field with minor changes reviewed by the trustees' committee.

Corrections: The committee recommended to the GSB that the biennial mailing to correctional professionals be suspended until a more effective and fiscally prudent means of communicating with professionals can be identified. The cost per response for the two mailings done in 2004 and 2006 was \$293.30 and \$160.42 respectively. The committee forwarded a request to evaluate a prudent approach to contacting correctional professionals.

International: 59 Delegates from 40 countries attended the 20th World Service Meeting held in New York, October 26-30th. They also attended the Board weekend. A subcommittee was formed to discuss and review the concept of creating and sharing digital/electronic versions of the international trip presentations made by trustees-at-large at Regional Forums and other events. The presentations would be made available to areas and A.A. members upon request for sharing at local events. The 2020 International Convention will be held in Detroit, Michigan.

Literature: A subcommittee was formed to review the introduction of the pamphlet "A.A. for the Native North American" and present a report at the committee's January 31, 2009 meeting. An area's request that "we explore creation of a Conference-approved video addressing the spiritual vs. religious nature of our program." A subcommittee was appointed to review this request and broader aspects and present a report at the January meeting. The manuscript of the revised "The A.A. Member – Medications & Other Drugs" pamphlet which incorporates the committees suggestions be forwarded to the members of the 2009 Conference Committee on Literature.

Public Information: Eighteen video submissions were received by September 1st, 2009 regarding A.A. Videos for Young People project. The Publications Department will bring a rough draft 15-20 minute video to its January 31, 2009 meeting. The committee agreed to forward to the 2009 Conference Committee on Public Information a rough draft of the updated text and graphics of the pamphlet "A Message to Teenagers." A subcommittee was created to review current television public service announcements for relevance and usefulness, assess the need for a new television public service announcement, and provide a progress report to the committee's January 2009 meeting.

Thanks to the districts who continue sending their minutes...I love reading them! Lastly, thanks to everyone here today for all their dedication to Alcoholics Anonymous and for going that extra mile to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic. It is a pleasure to serve as your Delegate and may all of you experience wonder and joy in this Holiday Season and throughout the year. Thank you for allowing me to serve! JoAnne N.

Alternate Delegate - Hello Area 35. We had a zonal forum in zone three with 25 in attendance. The topics were requested by the GSR's and DCM's from zone three. We had a very good discussion on service items including financial duties of officers what is general service and a question and answer session on common problems. I thought it was very informative and many great questions were asked and discussed. Thanks to all who helped make this event possible. Things are set for the January workshop. Our guest is Ken B. Regional Trustee. I have room information and a phone number for reservations. I will be asking for help from the local districts for registration and setup assistance. The banner is printed and ready to go. I am working on the site for next years January workshop which will be in zone 2. As for zonal forums, we have two more forums to do in 2009. They will be in zone's 2 and 4. I will have those scheduled by the January workshop. I will be contacting the DCM's from the respective zones to schedule. In closing I would like to add that if I can be of service or help please call and also if any districts would like any help with a service workshop I am available. We had so many good questions at the forum, but sometimes due to the size of zone's not everyone can participate. I believe district workshops could be very cost effective and provide great information. Yours in Service, Dan H.

Area Chair - Happy Holidays! As the holidays are often difficult times for us, please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. Please make sure your phone number and email are correct in the Northern Light. I will need to use that information to contact you if there is inclement weather. Thanks to Lee Ann and District 7 for inviting me and Servando to speak at their workshop on sponsorship and service. My sponsee, his sponsee, and I are very grateful to have been a part of it. My apologies to Zone III for being unable to attend the Zonal Forum. I did attend the Joint Area 35/36 workshop and found the sharing of information to be invaluable. Please remember to get Dan R., webmaster, information for your District to be put on the area website. Jay A.

Secretary - After some difficulties and revisions, the minutes were sent to the N.L. for publishing. In the future I will be sending the minutes to the Area Officers for proofreading prior to sending them to the N.L., which hopefully will minimize errors. If you are not getting the minutes by email, please email me and I'll add you to the list. In the interest of helping get the N.L. out earlier, I am requesting that area officers, chairs and DCMs get me their reports within 2 weeks after the event in question (in this case, by the 21st of Dec.), then I can get the minutes to Ed earlier. To help reduce the length of the minutes, please try to keep your reports concise. Per request, I have emailed our upcoming Area events for 2009 to Box 459, so keep your eyes peeled! I also always send our minutes to GSO, WCR Trustee. I attended several Area functions in Nov., which were all wonderful, including the Zone III Forum, Area 35/36 Web meeting, and the Joint Area 35/36 Workshop. All events were well attended. At the Joint Workshop there was much helpful information shared regarding how each Area does things, including putting on leadership training, holding monthly area officer meetings, making sure contact information for area committee chairs is shared through Area Chairs, encouraging involvement in service and fostering unity as an Area and between Areas. The Joint Web site is amazing! It has some incredible functions that I cannot wait to utilize and that might be worth considering for our Area 35 website. Thanks for letting me serve, Sarah K.

Treasurer - Greetings Everyone. I apologize for my tardiness. I had some work left to do this morning and set my alarm for 5am, 5 minutes later it was

7am. My ride was to leave at 7am. Being handed out to you, by these trusted servants are three reports: Group Contributions Report, Detail of Expenditure, and the Contributions and Expenditures Report for Period VI. Period VI extends from September 26 to November 26, 2008. The Group Contributions Report details each group's contribution throughout the year. If you or your group Treasurer note any discrepancies please let me know and will take the necessary steps to correct the error. The second report, the Detail of Expenditure report, details all expenses of each Officer and Committee Chair. Please let me know if any discrepancies are observed here. Thirdly, you have the Contributions and Expenditures report for Period VI. Also, included here is my proposed budget for 2009, in the 4th column over. As you can see we received \$120 in coffee contributions, a contribution of \$100 from District 7, a total in group contributions of \$3,010.17, and birthday contributions totaling \$20. Total Income for Period VI is \$3,280.17. Under Expenses we have Workshop Expenses which includes the cost of Ken B's room (\$210.88) for the 2009 January workshop, as we need to pay for this in advance; and the expense for the Fall Assembly, giving us a total Events expense of \$830.52. Total expenses for Officers and Committee Chairs totals \$4950.81 and the total combined expense for Period VI was \$5,781.33. On the back side of this you have the Budgeted Statement of Retained Funds which shows the Beginning Balance on 1/01/08 as: \$12,293.01, plus the YTD Income as 23,125.68, minus the YTD Expenses of 25,097.18 which gives us a balance remaining on 11/26/2008 of \$13,321.51 less the Prudent Reserve (two months operating expense rounded to the nearest 1000) of 6,000 giving us a Net Total Available for Service of \$4321.51. Request for Approval of 2009 Statement of Financial Responsibility: I would like to thank each of the Officers and Committee Chairs for sending me their proposed budget for 2009. As you can see this proposal includes Officer/Chair Expenses of \$34,314.94 and proposed Event Expenses is of \$3,731. The estimated Income includes Coffee contributions at \$500 (\$100 more than budget for 2008), Special Contributions at \$2,000 (same as in 2008), 7th Tradition Contributions of \$200 (same), Group Contributions of \$33,000 (\$3,000 more than in 2008), Birthday Contributions of \$250 (\$250 less than in 2008), \$30 for GSR Sharing Session Contributions (\$30 more than in 2008), and Workshop Registrations of \$1500 (same). Total proposed Income for 2009 is budgeted at \$37,480 and the Total Budgeted expense for 2009 is at \$38,045.94. (There was a motion to approve the Statement of Financial responsibility, a second, all were in favor. Motion passed.) Thank you for the privilege of serving Area 35 in this capacity. Beth E.

Committee Chair Reports

- Cooperation with the Professional Community – At our morning meeting we discussed carrying the message through videos, working with Iraq veterans through reintegration training sessions/seminar presentations, a singleness of purpose packet, the State Fair booth, and information for those looking to do CPC/PI luncheons. Districts 8, 12, 21, 7, 18, 5, and 6 were present. They shared a format for Beginner's meetings, and discussed how PI/CPC work was going in their districts. Several districts are distributing meeting schedules and books, running phone lines, taking meetings into Jails, and putting on PI/CPC luncheons. Thanks for letting me serve, Dee K.
- Treatment - We met this morning with seven members in attendance. Districts 3, 5, 8, 9, and 16 were represented. Dan from district 16 stated that they are continuing to try to meet commitments in their district. Skip from district 5 said that meetings continue to be brought into Riverplace in Elk River. He is going to be making a personal contact with other treatment facilities to see if they are interested in having AA bring meetings in. R.J. from district 3 just took over as the treatment chair. She has contacted all of the facilities in the district and is currently working on setting up meetings for Pine Manor, Bell Hill, and Lake counseling. Heidi and Butch from district 8 discussed how they are meeting commitments in their district as well as cooperating with district 9. Heidi also shared that the district has had 10 requests for their Bridging the Gap Program. Butch also discussed their upcoming district workshop and concepts workshop. John from district 9 discussed how they are working with other districts including 8 and 16 to bring meetings into various facilities and getting volunteers. I want to thank the area for sending me to the Area 35/36 workshop. It was a great experience and provided a good opportunity to discuss the Bridging the Gap program and other issues that we can cooperate on. We also discussed participating again in the MAARCH conference which we have cooperated on in the past. Our committee discussed participating with the Corrections committee to host a Friday evening workshop the weekend of the Spring Assembly. Finally I want to apologize that I will not be able to attend the Winter Workshop on Saturday but I will be there Sunday. Thank you for the opportunity to serve Area 35. Yours in Service, Jim K.
- Archives Chair - We had 9 in attendance and had a lot of questions and different thoughts about archives. We have a group history questionnaire in the Northern Lights. Please fill it out for your home group and get it to Brad or myself. This will be added to your district file to help to form a district history. We also talked about doing a photo gallery of our meeting places similar to what's in the Grapevine "IF WALLS COULD TALK" so if you have a digital camera or cell phone that can take pictures take a picture of your home meeting room and send that to Brad or myself. Thanks for allowing me to serve. Bob K.
- Northern Light Editor - I wish to thank everyone for getting your reports turned in by the deadline. We're starting to get good at this! We must be half-way through the rotation. I still need articles for the Northern Light. Please spread the word around your Districts and at meetings you attend. Nobody in this program is too unimportant to submit an article. Look to the AA Grapevine for inspiration. Yours in Service, Ed A.
- Group Records Chair - Thank you for sending me to the Fall Assembly and Joint Workshop. I also attended the Zonal Forum in St. Cloud. They were all very informative and I thoroughly enjoyed them. As for the Group Records, I am trying to get the FNV and group data all cleaned up and correct information added. The Northern Light Mailing is going fine, but some of the mailing labels have been missing which I recently rectified so you will be getting them this time. Audrey S
- Area Webmaster - I encourage DCMs to get updated group information to me. Yours in Service, Dan R.
- Public Information - I attended the Area 35/36 workshop and have submitted a report on it. At our breakout meeting this morning I distributed some information regarding the Area 35/36 workshop, Beginner's meeting format, AA TV PSA distribution, and singleness of purpose and how it relates to Traditions 3 and 5. Dee, our CPC chair, who is more articulate and informative than I, will be giving a full report of our meeting. Please know that I am willing to help in any way I can and feel free to contact me. Thank you. God Bless. In service, Jon C
- Literature - November has been difficult for me. My brother is having some serious health issues. We got rid of a lot of materials at Fall Assembly, around \$1,200 worth, and I'll have to restock again. I try to inventory frequently to make sure we have a good store of information available. I'll do a complete inventory by Feb. To give a complete value assessment of our stock. Our District Literature chairs are busy; multiple districts have new chairs. They are all working on obtaining and distributing literature and discussing what literature to distribute to service personnel overseas. I have several Final Conference Reports available and they are very useful. Thank you for letting me serve, Mike V.
- Archivist – Since Fall Assembly, I have taken the Archives display to the St. Cloud Round-up where it was very well received. I researched some items, printed some items and burned some CD's for attendees. I also attended the joint Area 35/36 Workshop. The outgoing Area 36 Archives chair contributed several display items. The next display will be at the Area Workshop in Brainerd. Work continues on cataloging the Archives collection. I am still removing staples. The "what is this pile" is shrinking thanks to Scott J. past archivist. The "I wish they would have dated this" pile is still growing. I have 2 boxes of hanging folders left to go through. The digitalizing of the tapes is going well. I am planning a trip to Akron in June to tour the Akron Archives and meet with the Akron Inter-Group Archivist to get some more ideas on collating the collection. I also need to be in 2 places at once in September. The Duluth roundup and the Forum are the same weekend. I plan on discussing this at the meeting this morning. Please keep those group histories and minutes coming. DCM's please make sure I am on your mailing list. There are huge gaps in district minutes. Brad I
- Grapevine - Just a few items to report from the Grapevine. All prices for Grapevine books, with the exception of the *Beginners' Book* and the *Best of Bill* book, will be going up. But, we will be able to get books at the old price through Feb. 1st 2009. Upcoming issues of the Grapevine will feature the following topics; for January - Getting the Message Inside Treatment Centers and for February - Character Defects. The Grapevine is looking for articles on the following themes: How Agnostics Work Step 3 and Living a Balanced Life in Sobriety. Here is what is going on in some of the districts in our area. Harold S. the DCM from Dist. 21 reports that they do not have a Grapevine chair, but they did get the ok to take stapled copies of the Grapevine into their correctional facilities. Mary C. the DCM for Dist. 16 reports that they are collecting Grapevines for armed services personnel overseas. Rod the Dist 5 Grapevine chair reports that they are ordering another packet of back issues of the Grapevine for distributing into the community. I hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. I will see everybody at Cragun's in January. Yours in service Lori R.
- Corrections - Thank you, Krishna Z

DCM Reports

- District 1 - There were 10 present at our last District meeting. Our groups in the District have been well attended. The nine people from our district who attended the Fall Assembly were amazed at the large number of people who attended, and that all the business gets taken care of. At my first assembly I remember being impressed by how smoothly everything flowed, and of course all the laughter and fellowship. I attended the Joint 35/36 Workshop and heard a lot of good ideas and discussion, including getting more people involved in service, communication between Areas, and being in a leadership position. It was definitely worth the drive. We will be holding elections for the Alt. DCM, GrapeVine and CPC chairs, and the secretary at the next District meeting, and we have a newly registered group! Staying sober through service, Pricilla A
- District 2 - Our district meeting is doing really well, and was even well attended on deer opening. Meetings around the district are doing well, and we are especially excited about one going on at the casino for Native Americans. Yours in Service, Art A
- District 3 - (Given by Ed A.) We are doing good. All our chair positions except CPC are filled, and that is because we had to ask him to step down as he was unable to fulfill his commitments. District three has its own website and phone line, both of which are excellent resources for us and are being well used by alcoholics. Yours in Service, Bill D
- District 4 - There are some troubling things going on in our district, including losing the cooperation and participation of some senior AA members in service. We are also struggling with messages being shared by individuals that are opposed to, or that completely ignore the principles of AA. These

opinions are being heard by newcomers, and we are deeply concerned that the message of AA may not be reaching them, and also severely handicaps AA as a whole, and works against our primary purpose. It seems that in this case, a few are ruining it for the many. At our district meetings there continue to be a lot of excited people doing service work and staying sober. I have also confirmed the reservation for the 2010 January Service Workshop in Alexandria at the Holiday Inn. Yours in service, Bruce W

- District 5- Greetings and blessing from all of us in District 5. We held our second Workshop this year on October 18th on Steps 8 and 9 and we had another good turnout. Tom A. gave a great presentation and Dana J. also did a great job sharing his story with all us. A special thanks to both of them for being a part of this. We ended with a big potluck and some wonderful fellowship amongst friends. We had our Zonal Forum "The GSR and Service" at the St. Cloud Alano Club and there was about 25 in attendance. We had 9 present which included 5 of our GSR's from District 5. A special thanks to our Area Officers, JoAnne, Dan and Sarah and also to Tom A for doing a great job on their presentations. Thanks also to Roger and District 13 for hosting this event. The Area 35/36 joint workshop also had a good turn out. We had 11 in attendance from District 5. This proved to be as like in past years a great time to exchange information with Area 36. Thanks to everyone that helped to put this all together. I attended the St. Cloud Round Up along with several others from our District and we would like to thank them for another great time of speakers and fellowship. We have another new GSR and had another group from the Elk River Alano Club get registered with GSO. All 6 meetings from the Milaca Alano Club have sent in the information to get their groups registered too. That leaves us with about 7 groups out of our 38 groups in District 5 that still need to get registered with GSO. I will continue to encourage and pass on the information to these groups about the importance of getting their group registered. I have been working with Dan our Webmaster to get our District 5 webpage on the Area 35 website completed. Special thanks to Dan for all the hard work he put into this. If any of you get a chance to, check it out. It could give some other DCM's ideas on how to get theirs up and running. It definitely serves as a great tool. It is with regret that I report that District 5 will not be bringing in volunteers for the men in the Sherburne County Jail until further notice. The jail is now requesting 7 volunteer's weekly to go in and cover all the separate groups of men. We have had some trouble not getting enough volunteers, and with them being consistent. Sue, our Correction Chair, continues to work on getting this resolved. They are still allowing the female volunteers to go in. We will continue to purchase literature and books however as needed from the Pink Can with the contributions given from some of our groups. We all look forward to attending the January Workshop at Cragun's Resort in Brainerd. JoAnne, our Area Delegate, asked me to moderate the DCM breakout session at the West Central Conference in Casper, Wyoming. I want to thank her for the honor and privilege it is to be asked to be of service. I cannot believe that we are at the end of the first year of this two year rotation already. It has truly been a great year for us in District 5. We have had a lot of growth and many accomplishments that we are truly grateful for. I want to thank every District Chair, GSR and volunteer in District 5 who have helped by their commitment to serve and to continue to carrying the message. I would like to also thank the groups that have made their contributions to us, the Area and GSO. We all know the vital role our groups play in order to be able to continue to carry the message. We could not do it without them. I want to personally thank District 5 for the opportunity I have been given to serve as DCM. My heart is truly filled with the love that I see in every one of them that give of themselves to be of service to this wonderful program that we all have been given. Thank you so much! I want to wish everyone the very best of the Holiday Season and look forward to working with all of you in the upcoming New Year. Yours in service, Kelly D
- District 6- November is gratitude month and so I'd like to thank you for letting me be of service. Things are going well in our district; people are keeping busy. Also, please keep Todd E. In your prayers as he is battling throat cancer. Thank you for letting me serve, Jack J
- District 7- District 7 is anxious to increase the attendance of GSR's at District and Area, and at the November District meeting we discussed visiting meetings. I am unable to visit all 64 meetings so the group offered to help, and I am very grateful to them for that. On November 1st, we held our Fall Workshop on the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions and had 28 in attendance. Jay, our Area Chair came, along with his sponsee, Servando, and Servando's sponsee. They shared with us how they work the 12 steps and 12 traditions in their lives and with their sponsees. We also had a panel of an additional 4 people who all shared their experience and answered questions. Thank you to all who were involved and for all the GREAT food! I was unable to attend the Area 35 Zonal Forum on November 15th. However, one GSR, Neil, attended and he has agreed to give a report to the District at our January meeting. At our November District Meeting, we held a Group Inventory which Tim C. moderated. It went very well and brought up some things we will be focusing on this next year. The discussion was very positive, informative, relaxed, and we had a great Chili dinner together. Thank you, Tim, for being of service to our Group. We are in the process of planning our topic for the January Workshop at Craguns. In the upcoming year, our district will be focusing on financial support and how to get it, increasing GSR attendance at District meetings, putting together an AA informational meeting format for Focus Treatment Center, working on District newcomers information & placing them with District mentors, the District budget, and we will be setting our calendar in place early so the planning can begin sooner than this past year. Please remember Tim B., our Treatment chair, and his family in your prayers as Tim is very ill. Tim has contributed greatly to service for many years and has touched many lives. Last but not least: Marilyn, one of our members works for the Historical Society and was able to get the 12 steps from the wall of the old Brainerd State Hospital before they were thrown away, which she donated to District 7! Thank you so much for the opportunity to be of service. I wish Blessings to all of you, during this Christmas season. May the Peace of God fill your hearts and minds. In loving service, LeeAnn H
- District 8- Good morning and greetings from District 8! Meetings are doing well and our commitments are being made. Our phone line seems to be working quite well. We operate on a two month rotation. Our groups are providing school and city libraries with copies of the Big Book and AA Comes of Age, and literature when requested. We also held a District Inventory with good attendance and found that we could use a little improvement in some areas. I attended the Area 35/36 Workshop, a new experience for me. I also continue to visit groups and attend open speaker meetings. Today our new Alternate Treatment Chair Heidi A. is in attendance. We are also preparing for our part in the upcoming area workshop. We also have a district workshop and open speaker meeting in the works for the 21st of February. We also have our annual Winter Rap-Up coming up in March and the committee is working hard to make it a fun event. Not much else, so thank you for letting me serve. Yours in service, Robert (Butch) R
- District 9- (Given by Tom) We recently elected a new DCM, Robert S., and a new Literature Chair, Carla P. Our District has been busy and active. Our Treatment Chair and our Corrections Chair are both busy working with the local facilities. Our Treasurer has requested we do an audit, so we will be doing that soon. We look forward to our presentation at the Winter Workshop. We had 13 people attend the last assembly and have seen repeated and increasing attendance at District meetings. We hope this continues. Robert S.
- District 11- Our District is taking care of corrections meetings, and our Literature chair is buying literature for our groups. We had six people here today including two new GSRs. Thank you, Doug N
- District 12- Dist 12 is alive. Our treatment and literature committee delivered 20 Big Books to a treatment center that had requested them. St. Louis Co. Sheriff requested 150 of the contact cards Dist 12 had made up. He is giving them to his deputies to hand out when they feel someone may need to contact AA. The district completed its inventory. The suggestions are being looked at and next meeting people are coming back with comments and ideas from these groups. PI is attending a health fair at the Mariner Mall in Superior. That is all for now. Thank you. Tim H
- District 13- Everybody wake up! We enjoyed hosting two area events in Nov., the Zonal Forum and the Joint Workshop. Our district had previously given a PI presentation to the Army National Guard in Southern MN, and about two weeks before the Joint workshop our contact requested we do another presentation, so we will be working on this with Area 35 and 36. Our district meeting continues to have a strong turnout, and we are currently working on our 2009 budget as well as making sure our phone line is visible in the phone book and is answered at all times if possible. Our Treatment and Corrections responsibilities are being fulfilled, but we cannot find our Archives Chair...he may be history. ;) I plan to meet with our action committee chairs on an individual basis to discuss what they have done and their future plans. Roger R
- District 15- Recently our DCM, Patti, and our Treasurer resigned. I took over for DCM in Oct. We have a literature and archives chair. I have been trying to get GSRs or contact people by going around to the meetings, which has resulted in an increase at our district meeting. We are getting ready for our presentation at the Service Workshop in January, and looking forward to upcoming events including the Lake Henry Christmas party, and the Stearns Cty. Round Up. Have a happy and safe holiday! Sandy H
- District 16- We have gathered two large boxes of Grapevines for distribution to veterans at VA hospitals, clinics, and group homes, and will continue to work on this. We are planning a workshop on sponsorship and singleness of purpose for February. Our corrections and treatment needs continue to be met by the groups as we have no district chairs in those positions. PI/CPC is busy with the directories, and our PI breakfast. Hopefully with all the new GSRs attending we'll be able to fill our open positions soon. FYI-Remer Sun. Meeting has folded, and the Thurs. Meeting has moved from under the water tower to the depot for the winter. Thank you for allowing me the privilege of service. Mary C.
- District 17- Currently no DCM.
- District 18- We held our November District meeting and had 22 attendees! We appreciate all that attended and look forward to hearing from you and your group conscience. John H. has resigned from his position as treasurer and found Roger B to replace him. Thanks John for your willingness to serve and we wish you the best in your continued journey of Alcoholics Anonymous. We welcome Roger and look forward to "carrying the message" with you! All groups in our district are having steady attendance. Sobriety In Motion has found a new location; 601-1st Street SE; #2 (upstairs); Little Falls, MN. I've started to check out different locations to hold our Public Information luncheon sometime in February or March. I will keep you posted as I get more concrete information.
District 18 has their new district AA meeting schedules. Thank you Marilyn for your hard work helping to make that possible! To obtain a copy of those schedules, please contact your GSR. A few of us from the district will be attending the workshop at Cragun's and look forward to seeing you there! Have a wonderful upcoming 2009. Yours in service, Doreen L.
- District 21- At the last District meeting we had 18-19 people present. We are still learning, sometimes from our mistakes. So many things are going on

in our District, we have had several potlucks recently, and at one we ran out of table space. Gratitude was the topic and there were some touching things shared. We are having a District inventory in January to use as a road map for the next year and we hope to get input from the groups. We hope to have a sponsorship workshop in the spring, a Big Book workshop next summer. We have been communicating with professionals about AA and we have seen proof of this communication in our meetings. Our Treasury is strong. Our PI Chair is making presentations at schools and is distributing meeting schedules; we go through thousands of meeting lists a month. We do still need a GV chair. Our Jail meetings are doing great, and volunteers there are very active. Harold S.

OLD BUSINESS

Area Inventory

Discussion on inventory: No discussion.

Support for AA Members Overseas

A member at the Fall Assembly expressed interest in obtaining contacts and AA literature for an Air guard unit being deployed and the MN Army National Guard.

Floor Discussion: One District is collecting old Grapevines, boxing them up, and a contact at the VA is shipping those overseas. Books are heavier so shipping those has been limited. An adhoc committee regarding this was set up to gather contacts and Grapevines for those overseas, to be discussed further at the December Committee Meeting, to be spearheaded by Mary C. Email the Area Chair if you have any questions or suggestions.

NEW BUSINESS

2009 Statement of Financial Responsibility

corrections made were: clarification given for "Events Expenses": the \$208.00 under the phone for the workshop speaker should be under the lodging, and \$100 under meals (which is coffee) should be removed as we are not paying for coffee at the Spring Assembly; under the Secretary, the heading of "Zonal Forum" with a \$450 charge under it should be changed to "Area Actions Book." ***Motion to approve with changes made, all in favor.***

Missing functions:

If you as an area chair or officer are going to miss an event, you must let the Area Chair know as soon as you know.

Trustees Finance Proposal

Jay read the letter received by JoAnne and distributed by her to all Area chairs, DCMs and officers, regarding the following: **That the trustees' Finance and Budgetary Committee gather input from the Fellowship on the benefits and liabilities, both spiritual and practical, of fully funding G.S.O. Services to the Fellowship (G.S.O. Functional expenses) by the voluntary contributions of A.A. members and groups and that this information be forwarded to the 2009 Conference Committee on Finance.**

Discussion: It was mentioned that the above request is confusing and several questions were raised regarding it: What did they want us to do? Are they trying to change traditions, or just looking for ways to be self-supporting? Is this a request to encourage us to support more, or to look at what we want to cut for services? The majority felt it was important we look closely at our traditions, as we are guardians of them, and ensure they are not altered or modified in anyway. Majority felt that we have traditions to guide us financially and we should stick to them while encouraging self-support. There was a consensus that literature sales should not be considered contributions as it is inconsistent with our principles and it is important that the power of the purse remain. (Concept 12, warranty 2, in 1962, Bill wrote about the issue of profits from books and he notes it should only be profits from *non-commercial* sales of literature. The world is very different now, we are no longer selling our books to AA members, but to commercial entities.) It was suggested that instead of raising literature prices to cover costs, GSO should consider cutting services. The majority felt that if the fellowship wants more services, maybe we need to seriously consider the worth and necessity of each of the services being provided and then contribute more when it's needed. We also need to pay attention to our budgets. We each should look within our districts and work there to encourage self-support, and individually we all need to consider how grateful we are and go to the place where money and spirituality mix: in the hat.

State Fair Booth

John our PI Chair passed out a report outlining the costs (it costs us \$500 for booth rental, \$2,100 total cost), volunteer requirements (over 100 volunteers), highlights (some literature given out and some), and difficulties to be brought to groups for discussion. We have had difficulty staffing the booth, and there have been complaints that it isn't a prudent use of time and money. It was requested that this be taken back to the groups to discuss if they feel it is worth continuing, and report their conscience in February. Area 36 is also discussing this issue.

Area 35/36 Joint Workshop Format

Per Jay's request, as he hadn't been to one in a long time and was unsure what the format should be, Niles created the schedule and the format changed this year from the previous years. A copy of both formats will be emailed to the DCMs to take to the groups, Area Chairs, and Area Officers for consideration of which format they would prefer.

Northern Light Mailing Date

When should the Northern Light be mailed out? Consensus was that we should get the Northern Light a week before the event so all AA members have time to read it, and that Ed should move the deadline for submissions earlier (by a month-as it has been in the past) to accommodate this. It is also available online and you can read it a week earlier. There were various reasons mentioned why it gets held up, for instance, it frequently sits at the post office for extended times. There was some concern that the information would be out of date, but as there are no other Area events occurring in the between time and as the pertinent information is from the previous event, it would not be the case that the information would be out of date. THE DEADLINE FOR THE NORTHERN LIGHT IS JANUARY 13, 2009.

Communicating with Area 36 and National Guard regarding reintegration presentations

There is a desire for guidelines to be developed for presentations at the reintegration presentations. Anyone interested can contact Dee, Roger, or Mark. Southern MN is also forming an ad hoc committee to come up with guidelines. Are we in favor of taking part in this presentation? There aren't any costs to the Area for this?

Zonal Forums Space limitations at the Aitkin Area Committee

Background: At the Fall Assembly it was mentioned that we are crowded in Aitkin and we don't have enough rooms for the action committee meetings. A proposal was made to bring the catering people with us if we move. It was also pointed out that any committee may meet anywhere they like outside of the Alano Club. Dec. Committee Meeting Discussion: No action was taken on this.

Area 35/36 Joint Workshop report back

Jay will be composing a report on this to be included in the Northern Light.

We closed with the Lords Prayer.

2009 – AREA 35 SCHEDULE

Area Committee Meeting

February 22, 2009 9:00 a.m.
Aitkin Alano Club, 322 1st Avenue N.E.
Aitkin, MN

WCRAASC

February 27—March 1, 2009
Casper, Wyoming

Big Ole Round-Up

March 13-15, 2009 — Holiday Inn
Alexandria, MN
— FOR MORE INFO:
Phone: Bonnie M. 320-834-3710 Duane R. 320-491-6660

Winter Rap Up

March 20-22, 2009
Coates Plaza Hotel,
502 Chestnut Street, Virginia, MN

Spring Assembly

April 4-5, 2009
Cragun's Resort
Brainerd, MN

64th Annual Superior Roundup

April 17-19, 2009
Superior Fair Grounds Curling Club
4700 Tower Avenue
Superior, WI

Area Committee Meeting

June 14, 2009 9:00 a.m.
Aitkin Alano Club, 322 1st Avenue N.E.,
Aitkin, MN

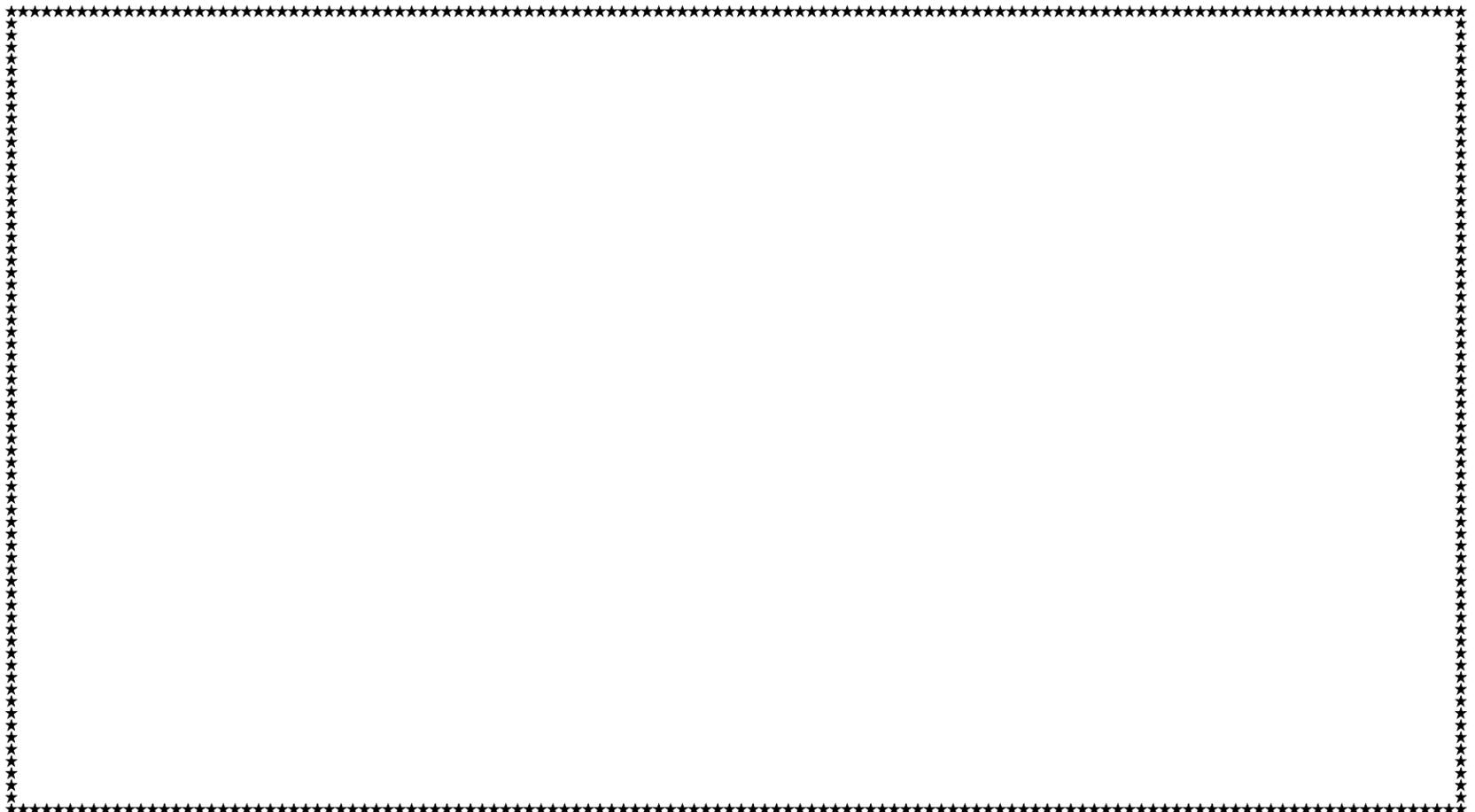
Fall Assembly

October 3-4, 2009
Barker's Island, Superior, WI

March						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						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					

April						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		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 36



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. purse 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
February 22, 2009**

- ___ 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 August Minutes

OFFICER REPORTS

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS

- ___ ARCHIVES-Bob K./Brad I.
- ___ District 2-Art A.
- ___ District 13-Roger R.
- ___ LITERATURE-Mike V.
- ___ District 15-
- ___ 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.
- ___ GROUP RECORDS-Audrey S.
- ___ NORTHERN LIGHTS-Ed A.
- ___ District 4-Bruce W.
- ___ District 7-Lee Ann H.
- ___ CORRECTIONS-Krishna Z.
- ___ 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-Robert S.
- ___ District 21-Harold S.
- ___ WEBMASTER-Dan R.
- ___ DISTRICT 17-Sheldon L.

OLD BUSINESS

- ___ Area 35 Inventory

NEW BUSINESS

- ___ West Central Regional Service Conference-Feb 27th - Mar 1st
- ___ General Service Conference Agenda Items-JoAnne N.
- ___ Calendar of Events

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- ___ TBA
 - ___ Adjourn

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