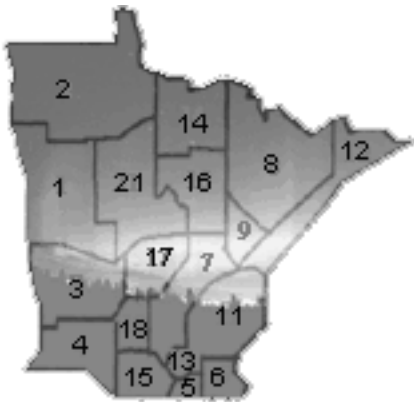


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Deadline for the next
Northern Light is
January 4, 2010

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

AREA OFFICERS

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TREASURER

BETH E.
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SECRETARY

SARAH S.

AREA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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BOB K.

ARCHIVIST

BRAD I.

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GRAPEVINE

LAURIE R.

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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

ROBERT S.

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

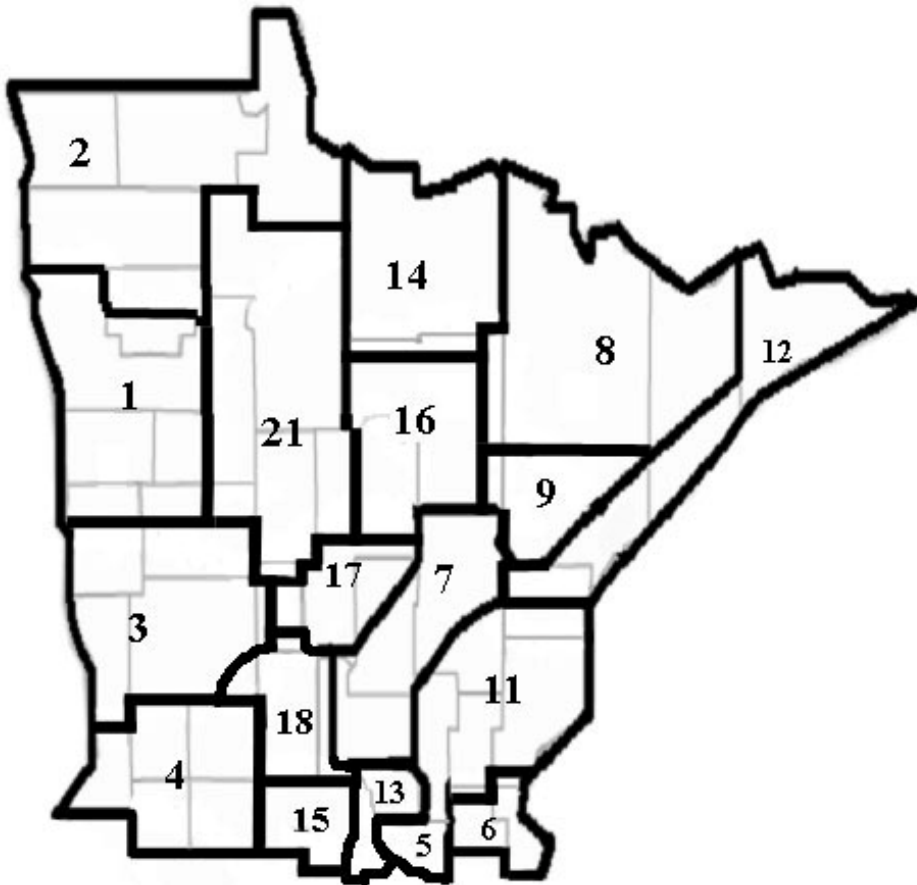
Panel 56 Jerry S.	2006-2007	Panel 38 Scott J.	1988-1989	Panel 20 Clarence B. (deceased)	1970-1971
Panel 54 Charlie C.	2004-2005	Panel 36 Louie H	1986-1987	Panel 18 Dave H.	1968-1969
Panel 52 Tim C.	2002-2003	Panel 34 Bob P	1984-1985	Panel 16 Arno A. (deceased)	1966-1967
Panel 50 Tom A.	2000-2001	Panel 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. (deceased)	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 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, Erskine, Fertile, Fosston, Mahnommen, Naytahwaush, Red Lake Falls, Twin Valley, Waubun,
- 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** - 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** - Beaver Bay, Brimson, Brookston, Cloquet, Duluth, Esko, Finland, Fredenberg, Grand Marais, Grand Portage, Hermantown, Hibbing*, Knife River, Lawrence Lake*, Lutsen, Mahtowa, McGregor*, 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 style="text-align: center;">District 1</p> <p>Sunday, June 8, 2:00 p.m. Fertile Community Center 101 S. Mill St. Fertile, MN 56540</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">District 6</p> <p>3rd Thursday of Month, 7:30 p.m. Spring Lake Lutheran Church 8440 Erickson Rd. N.E. North Branch, MN 55056</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">District 13</p> <p>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>
<p style="text-align: center;">District 2</p> <p>2nd Sunday of Odd Months, 2:00 p.m. First Lutheran Church 210 Park Ave. N. Middle River, MN 56737</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">District 7</p> <p>3rd Thursday of Month, 7:00 p.m. First Lutheran Church 424 8th St. S. Brainerd, MN 56401</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">District 14</p> <p>Not currently active.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">District 3</p> <p>3rd Sunday of Month, 10:00 a.m. Perham Alano Club 827 Summit Ave. Perham, MN 56501</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">District 8</p> <p>Committee Meetings at 6:30 p.m. General District Meeting at 7:00 p.m. • Friday, December 7, 2007 Palo, MN</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">District 15</p> <p>1st Monday of Month, 8:00 p.m. Albany Community Center 741 Lake Ave. Albany, MN 56307</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">District 4</p> <p>2nd Saturday of Month, 5:30 p.m. Call D.C.M. Bruce W. for location (it rotates) Potluck at 6:30 p.m. Round Robin at 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">District 9</p> <p>Last Sunday of Month, 6:00 p.m. Hibbing Alano Club 3725 1st Avenue Hibbing, MN 55746</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">District 16</p> <p>3rd Wednesday of Month, 7:00 p.m. United Methodist Church 1701 S.E. 5th Ave. Grand Rapids, MN 55744 Handicap Accessible, Non-Smoking</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">District 5</p> <p>3rd Monday of Month, 7 p.m. St. John Lutheran Church 13045 Fremont Ave Zimmerman, MN 55398</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">District 11</p> <p>1st Tuesday of Month, 7:00 p.m. St. Joseph's Catholic Church Basement Finlayson, MN 55735</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">District 17</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">District 12</p> <p>Rotating Call D.C.M. Tim H. Duluth Alano Club 3009 Restormel St.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">District 18</p> <p>1st Tuesday of month, 6:30p.m. Long Prairie Alano</p>
		<p style="text-align: center;">District 21</p> <p>2nd Monday, 7:00 p.m. Bemidji Alano Club 1225 Anne St.</p>

Delegate's Report

Greetings to all in Area 35!

As I sit down to write my last Northern Light report, I find it difficult to put into words the last two years of service and commitment to Area 35 in serving as your Panel 58 Delegate. Has it been a lot of work? You betcha! Have I thoroughly enjoyed the experience? Yes, yes, yes! Has it changed my life? Most definitely and it has brought me to realize how much I really do love all the people that suit up, show up and work so diligently in serving Alcoholics Anonymous.

It was amazing to be a part of the elections for our incoming Panel 60 area officers. We are in good hands and I'm certain the work will continue on. I would be remiss if I didn't thank the past delegates for their participation in coming to the assemblies and area committee meetings.....we will always need your experience!

I met with Jon C. and Jim K. on November 4th in Aitkin to do an orientation of what the conference process is about and covered numerous other items. Jon will be going to Rye, New York next year for the conference and he'll also tour the General Service office and Grapevine on Tuesday. Then on Saturday after the conference closes he'll take a tour of Stepping Stones. As I go through paper work I'm certain I'll have plenty to pass on to Jon.

My health had not been the best since the conference this year and I want to thank Sarah for helping me on numerous occasions whether it was listening to my chatter, carrying my briefcase and/or hauling my luggage around. Susie thanks for always encouraging me along this journey. Jerry, just think you won't be getting all those phone calls and questions anymore! To **all** of you, I send my love and thanks for your support while serving as your Delegate. Remember - continue to do good, continue to be generous, continue to be warm and caring as you carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

In service,

JoAnne

Alternate Delegate's Report

Hello Area 35,

It's hard to believe this is my last report of this rotation, the last ten years of area service have just flown by. I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to be of service.

I deeply appreciate the experience. Thank you Area 35. Now, on to business.

The January workshop will be held in Alexandria at the Holiday Inn Jan 16 & 17 2010. Rooms are \$109.95 phone # 320-763-6577 [www. hialexandria.com](http://www.hialexandria.com). The Guest speaker is Bob Mayer past East Central Trustee. This information is also available in the northern lights.

I have ordered the banner for the workshop. One again I would like to remind the participating districts the focus of the workshop is **service** please keep this in mind when For your presentations.

In your service

Dan H.

Area 35 Alternate Delegate

Area Chair Report

Where have the past two years gone? It seems like it was just yesterday that I was asking myself if it was a mistake to commit to serving as the Area Chair for the Northern Minnesota Area. I remember saying to myself, well you have done it now. Instead of just getting yelled at by your group, you are now answering to half of the state of Minnesota.

Like so many of the things I have experienced in sobriety, my first reaction is always fear. After that passes, (if it does), I am left with the dilemma of whether or not I am going to ask for help or try to do this on my own. Thankfully, I have been blessed with people in my life that I can trust to tell me the truth. Often with much tact, they provide me with the things I need to do the right thing. If I am willing to do the right thing, it works out well. If I am reacting out of fear, I am incapable of doing what is required and chaos follows.

I am very grateful for the wonderful relationships I have been given as a result of this experience. There is no way to substitute the experience that I have received being with all of you. I hope that I am able to continue those relationships now that I am not doing area service. Our book tells us that we cannot determine what lies ahead. We must place our reliance on our creator and keep our side of the street clean, for we cannot transmit what we do not have. But it also promises that we can be with each other as we trudge the road of happy destiny.

I would like to congratulate and thank those elected to serve for the next two years. I believe that the area is in good hands. I am very grateful that we had elections with multiple candidates so that the will of our higher power could speak. Please let me know if I can be of help. I am willing to help where I can, but will not be coming to tell you how to do your job. I believe that is probably the area we need the most action and where I feel I have fallen the shortest. The problem with coming back after we serve to force what we believe is right is twofold. Firstly, if we are doing so because we are afraid the ones after us are going to do it wrong, we are acting out of fear, which can never work out. Secondly, we will create fear in those currently serving, which is the chief activator of their defects of character. Instead of constructive action, all we create is chaos and disunity. My prayers will be with you as you move forward.

I guess I have rambled on more than enough. Thank you once again for all that you have given me. I shall never be able to repay this debt, but shall try to add to other lives and hopefully some of yours for as long as my creator allows.

Respectfully submitted
Jay A., Panel 58 Area Chair

Secretary's Report

Greetings all. I am busy wrapping up another wonderful year of AA service, typing minutes (at the last minute of course...actually, that was my husband typing minutes at the last minute), updating the Area Actions Book so it will be ready for printing and distribution at the February committee meeting, and making fliers for all our wonderful events, among other things. I hope all is well with you and I look forward to seeing you in December. Feel free to email me if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for sending me your district minutes. You all have some amazing secretary's in your districts! Be well.

Sarah

Treasurer's Report

Greetings Northern MN, The rotation is rushing by and coming to a close. This year continues to be a challenge for me, but as we all know without challenges there is little growth, and without growth we wither and die. Hopefully, the challenges will bring tides of eventual sunshine, abounding love and understanding. Contributions are up and the work of closing out the year is becoming apparent. Thank you to all who had faith in me throughout this term and for your continued encouragement and prayers. As the next rotation approaches please keep our incoming officers in prayer as they consider the task ahead. Each day will bring new opportunities for growth for us all, may we continue to be blessed by each others presence and the fellowship of this life saving program called Alcoholics Anonymous.

Thank you each for allowing me to serve,
Yours in Service,

Beth E.



Archivist's Report

Since the Fall Assembly I have brought the Archives display to the St. Cloud Round-up. I had several new additions for the display. There was a steady stream of traffic on Friday and Saturday. I tried to answer some great questions and had a great response on the display.

I did a history presentation and an archiving presentation in St. Cloud for the zonal workshop. I also recorded the Long timers panel.

The cataloging of the entire collection is moving along as is the digitalizing of the tapes.

I look forward to working with the incoming area committee and the DCM's who will be assigned to Archives. If any one ever wants to come down and see the collection or look for items on their group or district please give me a call or e-mail. I would love to help. Thanks for giving me the experience of being the Area Archivist.

In Service
Brad I.
Area 35 Archivist

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHIVES

On October 17 we had a long-timers panel and history talk at the St Cloud alano. There was a good turnout considering that it was a beautiful day fall day. Thanks again to all that were there and the long-timers for sharing their experience. Brad had a collocation from our Archives there also. We should be glad that someone had the foresight to start and keep adding to the collection that we have.

The online version of MARKINGS (archives news letter) has some good information on preservation of material and an article about AA's past.

To be the Archives committee chair has been a good experience for me. Learned a lot about AA's past and I'm sure glad that Bill and Bob didn't give up and it's our responsibility to keep it going and learn from the past.

Yours in service
Bob K.
Archive Chair

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

Greetings to all!

Thank you for sending me to Fall Assembly in Superior. The enthusiasm was great to see and hear during the election process using the Third Legacy Procedures. I want to wish that the new officers, delegate and alternate delegate have a lot of participation from the Area to make this another great rotation. Everyone that participates has a lot to offer the still suffering alcoholic.

Thanks again for the opportunity to serve.

Yours in Service
Area 35 CPC Chair
Dee K.

NORTHERN LIGHT

Greetings all,

This is my last report of this rotation and it is with mixed emotions that I prepare to step down as your Northern Light editor. I have enjoyed my last four years of service at the area level and wish to thank Area 35 for the trust you have placed in me.

I am looking forward to taking a break from service for a short time, and then I would like to become more involved in my district. There is always work to be done for A.A. at all levels.

Editing the Northern Light has been an interesting and challenging experience for me. As most of you know, I'm a web guy – there's a huge difference between formatting for the Web and formatting for print!

Yours in Service,
Ed A.
Northern Light Editor

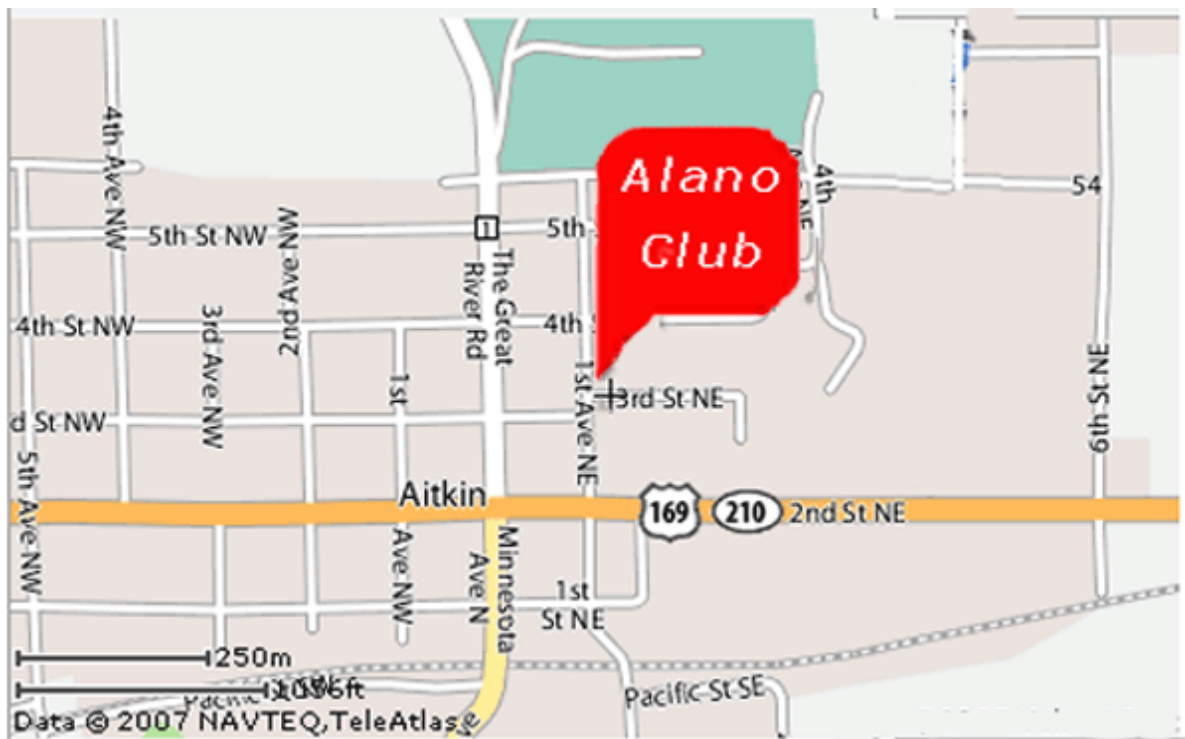
Inclement Weather Procedure For Area 35 Events

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 6s 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)

CORRECTIONS

Hello Everyone,

The Corrections and Treatments Committee had their workshop in October in Superior. It was very well attended. The presenters did a fabulous job. The feedback was very positive and I think we helped some members better understand this type of service opportunity.

I was able to attend the Fall Assembly and minutes can update you on the committee meeting. Congratulations to all the incoming Officers. Thank You for your willingness to serve and your dedication to AA. Thanks also to the outgoing members. The examples you set are a powerful thing to many of us.

I received a request to attend a transition fair at the Moose Lake Correctional Facility. This is for inmates who will be release within 18 months. It was rather short notice but I was able to get the support from my employer and attend. We spoke with quite a few interested inmates and set them up with prerelease contacts. This was a very rewarding experience and I am grateful for the chance to do it. During and after the event I was able to speak with many of the employees. The information I obtained really brought home

how complicated working with some facilities can be. I think it reinforced the idea to have a non rotating contact for this type of facility.

Thanks for the chance to serve. I can't begin to express how wonderful your Corrections Committee has been. They are a truly great group to have served with. I wish everyone the best for the next rotation. I sincerely thank you for your help. I has been a pivotal part of my sobriety.

Krishna



LITERATURE

Northern Light Report - NOT GIVEN



GRAPEVINE

Hi everyone,

I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying some of the nice weather we are having. Just a couple of items to report. The new Grapevine book *A Rabbit Walks into a Bar* is hot off the presses and I will have some copies with me at the December committee meeting. Also there are two new La Vina CD's out; they contain nineteen selected articles from La Vina on how the Traditions work in AA groups and in the lives of AA members. I look forward to seeing everyone in Aitkin in December.

Yours in service Laurie R.

TREATMENT

Hello All,

I hope this fall season is finding you all in good spirits as we actively attempt to carry our life saving message to those who still suffer. First of all I want to thank the area for allowing me to attend the Fall Assembly held at Barkers Island. Secondly, I want to thank the committee responsible for hosting the event. They did a very nice job and it was wonderful to see you all there. I also want to thank those who participated in and attended our final corrections/treatment workshop held that weekend. I hope the information presented was useful as you go out to carry the message into both treatment and correctional facilities.

We met as a committee at the fall assembly and reviewed our work completed for the year. I would be remised if I did not give a special thank you to all of those committee members who worked together throughout the past rotation for their special work in our Northern Minnesota treatment facilities. You have been a wonderful group to work with and I thank each of you for all your service. Skip and Pat, two of our committee members, were gracious enough to offer to attend the MARRCH Conference held in St. Paul in late October. This event is a wonderful way for us to cooperate with Area 36 in working to build relationships with professionals in the treatment field. Thank Skip and Pat for your service.

I have continued to make contacts for those requested through our joint efforts with the Area 36 Temporary Contact Program. This is always a very fulfilling assignment and one that I have greatly enjoyed these past 2 years. Thank you to all who have offered to be contacts to individuals getting out of treatment around the state.

Finally, I wish to express a very sincere thank you to the body of Area 35 who has entrusted me to serve as your alternate delegate for the upcoming rotation. I am looking forward to this opportunity to serve. I wish to also thank JoAnne for meeting with John and I to discuss the duties and share her experience as the outgoing delegate.

I wish you all warm blessings this fall and winter season.

Yours in Service,
Jim K.



GROUP RECORDS

Thank you, Area 35, for the opportunity to serve. Serving as your group records secretary has taught me a lot about AA, about myself and about the bulk mail system.

As I pass the baton to the incoming group records secretary, I have to say there are still some unaccomplished goals in the Group Records arena. As we have already discussed, I think that DCMs will be key in cleaning up the group records and achieving the ideal of a 100% up to date database.

aameetinglocator.org is an ongoing project and I am sure it will grow and develop just the way the fellowship needs it to do.

If you did not receive the late November/early December issue of the Northern Light, and you would like to start receiving it, please email grouprecords@area35.org and we will get you added to the list.

Thanks again to you all. Audrey



WEBMASTER

Our 2009 Web site access totals are as follows: - Total for the year – Unique visitors – 16,153 for September 1,485 – Oct. 1,510 - As of Nov. 11th 486 unique visitors - As well as these unique visitors there are 10's of thousands of return visitors each month. Our most popular pages were the Meeting Search , Calendar of Events, followed by the Meeting pages.

One of the great tools on our website is the meeting page. You can search by day of week, by district or by other information typed into a search text box. For new DCM's or GSR's I would suggest you search by district your meetings and see if they are accurate. If they are not, use one of the forms at the bottom of the meeting page and send it to both me and the Group Record secretary. You can register or change your group info with the "Paper" New Group or Change Group forms but it will not get to the Webmaster the information needed to update the Area 35 meeting page.

I recently sent out an email explaining that I have been going through the meetings for each District on the Area web site and will be deleting all meetings that do not have information that matches what GSO has on record. As I go through district by district I will send the DCM's a document with all the meetings that are listed on the online meeting pages. I will supply the Service number for all meetings along with reasons for deletion. I will also print out a copy of this and bring it to the next Area meeting on Dec. 6th.. Hopefully this will get updated by the next group of DCM's, Alt-DCM's and GSR's because some of the meetings that will be deleted have been there a long time and either have not been registered or have missing info like wrong address, wrong name online "I have no way of telling what the registered name is".

Seeing that this will be my last Northern Light report as now out-going Webmaster I want to say it has been an honor and a pleasure to serve the Northern Minnesota Area!

Yours in Service,
Webmaster
Dan R.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

PUBLIC INFORMATION

I attended the West Central Regional Forum held in St. Cloud on Sept. 11-13 and also attended our Fall Assembly held in Superior on Oct. 3-4. I want to thank Area 35 for your support.

The West Central Regional Forum was a great learning experience for me. The GSO was represented by many service people such as the Chairman of the Board, General Manager, and *Grapevine* Director to name a few.

GSO trusted servants made presentations on Class A and Class B trustees, trustee at large, AAWS director, staff assignments, *Grapevine* and *LaVina*. After each presentation, time was given for general sharing and questions.

I was also given an opportunity to moderate a breakout session, and Heidi from District 5 had the opportunity to assist as the recorder. The Regional Forum coordinator gave each moderator a packet of materials explaining the workshop guidelines for moderators and records. This was very helpful. I also received a written thank-you from the coordinator for serving as moderator.

Our West Central delegates made presentations on the following topics: the twelve concepts, anonymity, sponsorship, the Test of Twelves, and the voice of the enemy. These presentations were made by delegates from Area 36 (Southern MN), Area 40 (Montana), Area 24 (Iowa), Area 76 (Wyoming) and Area 41 (Nebraska). Each and every one made an excellent presentation. After the presentations I was proud to be a member in our West Central region. Thank you again for the opportunity.

The Fall Assembly kicked off with our Area Action Committee meeting. We discussed a number of items. One: the State Fair which we support with a \$500 contribution and also man the booth the first weekend. All the volunteers who served thought this activity was both worth the money and time. The volunteers also participated in an informal survey, and I collected and categorized this information. I made 150 copies and distributed them at the assembly. It is my hope that this information will assist in deciding whether we participate or not.

We also discussed anonymity breaks at the level of radio, TV, and the Internet (Facebook, MySpace, etc.). After much discussion, we came to the conclusion that we must educate our members. It only makes sense of the importance of anonymity – it represents half our name.

We also went around the room and shared what each district was working on in the fields of PI/CPC and any questions or concerns they had. That was very productive.

I want to thank all the DCMs, GSRs, and members who participated. As this rotation comes to an end, I feel we had many positive experiences. Our sharing gave others who attended ideas about carrying our message. Many different ideas were explored throughout Area 35 districts. I believe we're heading in the right direction, but we have only scratched the surface in PI/CPC. Each and every one of us must reach out to make this program available to the suffering alcoholic and the professional who may want and need information on alcoholism. Again, thank you for your support and sharing. It truly was a great learning experience for me.

I want to thank all the members that were willing to stand at our area elections. As your elected panel 60 delegate, I look forward to serving with you all and will do my best at serving Area 35. My goal is to keep the lines of communication open to all members, from the group members to the GSO and from the GSO to the group members. It is my responsibility to keep Area 35 informed and myself available. This is truly an honor and a privilege to serve Area 35 as your delegate. I will not take this responsibility lightly.

In Service,
God Bless –
Jon C.



2010 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

The 2010 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held July 1-4 in San Antonio, Texas with the theme "A Vision for You." A.A. members and guests from around the world will celebrate A.A.'s 75th year at this event with big meetings held Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday morning in the Alamodome. Other meetings, scheduled or informal, will take place throughout the weekend in the San Antonio Convention Center and local hotels.

Convention registration and housing reservations will open on September 1, 2009.

Looking for a Minnesota A.A. meeting? Try the meeting locator at
aameetinglocator.org/

Northern Minnesota Area Assembly**October 3 and 4, 2009****Saturday October 3rd**

~ 1:00 pm: Call to Order Open with the Serenity Prayer followed by:

~ Acknowledgment of Past Delegates in attendance (Jerry S, Tim C, Charlie C, Bruce B, Scott J, Bob J, Susie A. & Tom A.)

~ Reading of "Why We Need a Conference" written by Bernard Smith

~ Approval of the Spring 2009 Assembly Minutes (**motion made, seconded. All in favor. Motion passes**)

~ Additions to the Agenda: our speaker tonight being drawn from the hat is Jerry S, Zonal Forums, Self-Support, Birthday Plan, Central Service Contingency Plan.

AREA OFFICER REPORTS

~Delegate Good Afternoon. It is a pleasure to be here today and to be of service to Area 35! The Zonal Forum was held August 8th in Eveleth, MN and was well attended. Thanks to everyone for their presentations and great participation. Later that night I had the opportunity to hear Kelly D. the DCM from District 5 and also Dan R. our Website Master on Sunday share their experience, strength and hope at the Keep It Simple Weekend. August 29th I was at the Area 35/36 Workshop in Elk River, MN. It was well attended by Area 35, so thanks for showing up! You guys are great In this issue of the Northern Light are the minutes and I believe a thanks goes out to Sarah for including them and Phyllis from Area 36, S. MN for typing the minutes and distributing them to Area Officers and Committee chairs in both areas. On September 11-13, 2009 the West Central Regional Forum was held in St. Cloud, MN at the Holiday Inn. There were 356 people registered. All I can say is: WOW! WOW! WOW, talk about a great host committee with Roger DCM from District 13 heading it up and to all that went above and beyond in giving of their service to show everyone in the West Central Region how hospitable Area 35 Northern Minnesota really is! Thanks to those who graciously accepted my loving invitation to be moderators and recorders. You are all very special to me. and once again I would like to thank you from my heart to yours. I heard many times over the weekend that the goodies were awesome from the hospitality room. I also received a letter from Eva S, GSO coordinator thanking us for the wonderful weekend and kindness she received at the WCR Forum. Forthcoming will be a Final Report and I'll make certain that it is emailed out to all of you. Don M., Trustee at Large, US, Bob M., Past East Central Regional Trustee, Howard L., Past Southeastern Trustee, and Robert H., Panel 58 Delegate from S. Carolina and also Judy L. Panel 59 Delegate from Colorado attended the WCRF.

The 2010 WCRAASC will be held in Dubuque, Iowa at the Holiday Inn from March 5-7th. The rooms are \$81.00 per night and the phone number is: 1-563-556-2000 and remember to reserve your room under the "2010 WCRAASC" room block. Area 35 Northern Minnesota will be doing a General Session III on Saturday, March 6th at 3:15 pm on "General Service Conference Agenda Selection Process – Collective Participation." So this means the incoming Delegate already as a "honey do" list awaiting him. I brought fliers with me today this is an event you don't want to miss . Don't forget about the International Convention coming up in July 1-4, 2010 in San Antonio Texas. A soft cover souvenir edition of A.A. Comes of Age will be available at the International for \$7.00. Rick W., 2010 International Convention Coordinator sent a letter asking for suggestions for possible speakers for the hundreds of meetings that will be held during the convention. Selection of speakers is through a group conscience of the Convention Planning Committee. 2010 – Additional West Central regional Forum will be held, November 12-14th in Rapid City, South Dakota at the Best Western Ramkota Inn. And that's all the information I have so far.

Two new staff members were hired at the G.S.O. - Jim M. serving on Corrections and Mary S. who will start on October 5th, as C.P.C. chair. There will be more about Jim and Mary in a future Box 459 article. There is an opening for a Nontrustee Appointed Committee Member for Trustees' Committee on Public Information and I emailed the information to the area with the attached resume that should be completed by applicants for this opening and returned to the GSO by December 30, 2009.

I have received a contributions statement for the six months ending 6/30/2009 the percentage of groups contributing in Area 35 on a comparative basis is: 30.58% and is a 1.76% increase from 2008 of 28/82%. I have print outs for each district in our area and if DCM's want this information let me know today, I have them with me. Finance: Net literature sales were \$8,410,300 approximately 6% more than budget and \$1, 923,300 more than the first six months of last year. It should be remembered that with the A.A.W.S. literature price increase effective 7/1/09, many purchasers were stocking prior to the increase. For the first six months of this year, contributions of \$2,883,440 were received. This was \$221,000 less than budgeted and \$203,000 less than last year as well. Total operating expenses for the period of \$6,659,927 were approximately \$40,200 (.6%) more than budgeted, but \$70,600 less than the first six months of the prior year. Total revenue for the period was \$7,983,534 against incurred total expenses of \$6,659,927 leaving a net profit for the period of \$1,323,600. This compares with a budgeted profit of \$1,153,700 and the prior years profit of \$43,500. Grapevine – Total costs and expenses of the magazine of \$947,973 were approximately \$35,378 less than budgeted and \$25,464 more than last year. After subtracting the direct costs and expenses from total income, the result is a \$27,139 loss for the period compared with a \$163,055 budgeted loss and a \$66,168 loss for the first six months of last year. The LaVina magazine incurred a \$22,124 loss. The Reserve Fund has a balance of \$3,571,998 at June 30, 2009. After adding back the provision for pension costs (FAS 158), the balance used to compute the number of months of operating expenses is \$11,873,997. The Fund is currently earning approximately 3%, and represents approximately 9 months of combined operating expenses.

A letter dated August 10th from John K., the chairman, informed us that the A.A.W.S. Board met on July 30th, 2009 and the cancellation of the Fourth Edition Big book from the Kindle website was approved and the reasons for cancellation were:

1. The contract did not allow us to have control over consistent pricing of our product.
2. The advertising surrounding the completion of a purchase gave the impression that we were affiliated with other titles and authors, advertisements and referrals.
3. The functionality built into the Kindle website did not allow for any adjustments to meet our requirements.

Effective 8/13/2009, a memo was received from our General Manager, Phyllis H. informing us of organization changes. Chris C., Publications Director was ending his employment of six years and Valerie O. was appointed Publications Director effective 8/17/2009. I also received a letter on 9/15 from Phyllis H., GM that a decision was made by A.A.W.S. to move ahead with the construction that was postponed in 2008 to expand the Archives and add an employee break room. The Archives will be closed to all visitors and researchers for approximately 30 days. The Archives renovation will double the Archives storage space, add a new workroom to process collections and add modified shelving, which will enable more efficient space in which to store our holdings. The revised pamphlet: "A.A. For The Native North American" is available. I also received the: Alcoholics Anonymous 2009-2010 General Service Offices, Central Offices, Intergroups and Answering Services Overseas pamphlet. Gayle S., staff member on Treatment Facilities/Special Needs assignment sent out a letter requesting stories for a proposed Special Needs recovery pamphlet for newcomers or prospective members. The

suggested deadline for receipt of stories is December 15, 2009. I received the 2009 Final Conference Reports right before the WCRF and I brought the remainder with me today. Some DCM's picked up their reports but those who did not, would you please stop by and see me after giving your reports so you can take the final reports back to your districts. Thank you!

On September 19th I sent out an email to the area regarding a request for Fellowship sharing on Self-Support in regards to Advisory Action #8 which reads: The committee **recommends** that a discussion of additional ways to communicate with the Fellowship be included on the agenda for the Conference Finance Committee for the 60th G.S.C. In closing I wanted to mention that our Past Delegate, Susie A.'s mother passed on September 29th and please keep Susie's family in your prayers. Once again, I thank each and every one of you for being here today. It is hard to believe that I'm almost on my way out, and this will be my last assembly as your Panel 58 Delegate but this it is probably a good thing for all of you! I'm totally excited to be a part of the elections tomorrow and we will welcome a new Panel 60 Delegate and Area Officers using the Third Legacy procedure of voting. I'm certain this will be a spiritual experience for all of us. God Bless JoAnne N.

~Alternate Delegate – The January Workshop will be held in Alexandria at the Holiday Inn Jan 16 & 17 2010. Rooms are \$109.95 phone # 320-763-6577; www.hialexandria.com. The Guest speaker is Bob M. past East Central Trustee. This information is also available in the northern lights. I have ordered the banner for the workshop. Thanks you for sending me to the West Central Regional, it was informative and I hope proves helpful in carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic, I was impressed with out non alcoholic trustee's and appreciated hearing their insight. I would also like to remind the districts participating in the January workshop that the focus is service. Thank you all the districts that send me their minutes. Dan H.

~ Chair- I attended the West Central Regional Forum, and had the wonderful opportunity to chair a sharing session. Thank you also to my secretary, Deb, for taking minutes. I also attended the Joint Area 35-36 workshop and it was amazing. If there is one thing I learned, it is that Area 35 does not suffer from apathy. I also attended the Zonal Forum at Camp Chicagami and had a great time, great discussion and some incredible food. I also had to remove my name for Delegate due to personal reasons. I hope to come back some day, and one thing I learned that I will take with me is the memory that our purpose here is to carry the message. Jay A.

~Secretary I can email you an electronic copy of our 2008-2009 Area Actions Book if you would like one until our next printing in February of 2010. I have been updating you on my service activities through the Northern Light, but again, I have attended the Regional Forum and Joint Area 35-26 Workshop, both of which reminded me of the importance of keeping in contact with our AA neighbors throughout the year, not just when we meet once a year. This way we can truly encourage an informed group conscience and increase communication. I know our Regional Delegates have been in contact on a regular basis via teleconferences. What a wonderful use of technology to keep the information flowing. I was also privileged to proctor a group inventory, which was very fun for me and hopefully useful to the group. Thank you for allowing me to serve you, Sarah K.

~Treasurer Greetings Northern MN, before I begin my report I need to offer some amends to the Fellowship. I need to apologize to the Area for my lack of participation in some of my expected duties. I have been unable to attend a couple of the functions and have not been diligent in submitting Northern Light reports. Additionally, my ability to perform my other duties has been lacking: i.e. depositing contributions and sending out thank you letters. My only excuse is just that, an excuse: It has been necessary for me to move and change residents three times this year, after having lived in the same place for 13 years. This has been a very stressful year for me. Murphy's Law and some personal problems have come into play. In hindsight, I probably should have resigned. I do thank you for supporting me as you have; first as a person, and second to the functions I have been able to attend. Additionally, thanks for your continued faith in my abilities and for allowing me to serve. I continue to be blessed by my experiences, though extremely overwhelmed. You will find 3 reports out by the registration table: A Group Contributions Report, the Detailed Expenditures and the Contributions and Expenditures Report for both Periods IV and V (as I was not at the August Committee Meeting to submit Period IV). Period IV began on March 27th and ended on July 26, Period V began on July 27 and ended on October 1, 2009. I also must apologize for the appearance of the Group Contributions Report. Amazingly, I had those printed prior to my arrival yesterday and neglected to share with my fellow travelers the contents of the box they were in. I was asked if the contents were breakable – which they were not. Upon arrival last evening, it was a tad bit breezy and in unpacking the vehicle, evidently the top of the box blew off and the contents dispersed in the wind, and appear to have fallen into some form of liquid. In our room I had them spread out to dry a bit, but they remain a bit wrinkled. If you see any errors either in Group names, numbers, amount of contributions, or in my adding please bring these to my attention. Frequently I receive checks with no Group Service Number, no District number, and occasionally I have received checks even with no identifying information whatsoever. Not even a return address. These are amongst some of the notations that make my job easier. You will also find a Report of the Detailed Expenditures which lists and identifies expenses of every officer and committee chair. These two reports were not completed on my arrival, and some of the receipts were in the box that became airborne, and therefore were a bit difficult to read, due to being soggy. Through using my check book register, I was able to know how much and when, and had to make a couple of guesses as to exact amounts of meals, traveling expenses and etc. The total amount on the check and therefore the amount identified in the reports are accurate. The third report is our detailed report of Contributions and Expenditures. You will note that for Period IV our total Group Contributions was \$4031.75 and for Period V \$2,592.96. I accept responsibility for the considerable decrease in contributions during Period V, as my notifications and thank you letters were not being sent. These are being worked on and will be sent out ASAP. It is obvious how much impact the receipt of these items makes on future contributions. Total Contribution for Period V, including funds received from the Hospitality Room at the WCR Forum is \$2,847.23. Re: expenses the totals for Periods IV and V, respectively were \$1,191.30 and \$4,766.53. On the back of this report you will find the Statement of Retained Funds and note the Beginning Balance at the start of the year, plus the YTD Income (\$18,712.91) minus the YTD expenses (\$17,733.09), leaves us with a balance on October 1st of \$12,555.88. We have set aside a prudent reserve of an estimated two months expenses (rounded to the nearest \$1000) of \$6,000. Which leaves us with a net available for service of \$6,555.88. Again, I thank you for the opportunity to serve in this capacity, and I assure you I will not be moving anymore this year, and hence my ability to adequately perform and meet your expectations ought to dramatically improve in the coming weeks. Thank you. Yours in Service, Beth E

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS

~ PUBLIC INFORMATION Since PI and CPC have a combined committee meeting, Dee, CPC chair will be sharing the minutes from that meeting. As for the State Fair booth, per request, our people gathered information to provide a summary of the materials that were taken. I distributed a report consisting of statistics compiled from what we recorded at our weekend for the amount of literature distributed and demographic information. Hopefully the DCMs and GSRs will take this back to their groups to help us with our future decision to take part in the State Fair. We only took statistics from our two days. I do not have the statistics gathered by Southern MN for the rest of the week, but I will get those and publish both Areas' statistics in the Northern Light. There were a few suggestions: to change the location of our booth to the Health and Education building, which would save us \$600-700. We would have to request the change by Nov. 2009. The second suggestion was to know the location of the Alanon booth so we can

give directions. I attended the Joint Area 35-36 Workshop and sat in on the PI discussion. One suggestion was to have a joint Area workshop on Tradition 11: Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion. We need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films. Currently we are facing a number of anonymity breaks through FaceBook, Blogs, and other internet sites. Thank you for the honor and privilege to serve, Jon C

~ District 5 Greetings and blessings from all of us in District 5. As you know, we have all had a busy last few months with all the AA events that have occurred. We had our AA booth at the Mille Lacs County Fair August 6th - 9th again this year and I had the opportunity to staff the booth on August 6th along with Char S. I would like to thank Heidi our CPC/PI Chair for her work in organizing this event and everyone that volunteered at the booth over that weekend. This has always proven to be a time when District 5 can continue to carry the message to the public. I attended "Keep it Simple" August 7th - 9th along with others from our District and would like to thank the committee for inviting me to speak. It was another great weekend of fun and fellowship. One of the highlights of that weekend was the Zonal 4 Workshop on service. Thank you to all our Area Officers for a great presentation on what AA service is all about. Our District hosted the Area 35/36 Workshop on August 29th. There was another good turnout for this event with a lot of information passed between the areas. I would like to thank everyone that volunteered and helped organized this event. After the workshop Joe N. and I were off to the State Fair AA booth. I like to thank Skip D. and Ryan H. also for volunteering on Sunday evening. District 5 gave out a lot of Literature during the 6 hour time slots and we all enjoyed the time we had there carrying the message. I was only able to attend the West Central Regional Forum in St. Cloud on Saturday evening. I made the trip from Duluth after spending 8 days there with no sleep while my stepfather was in ICU. He had 5 surgeries and we truly needed a miracle from God which I am so blessed to say happened! I would like to thank Alcoholics Anonymous and all my AA friends for their prayers and support during this difficult time for me. A special thank you to Rita for stepping in and finishing up the work that I needed done as my responsibilities to schedule greeters for the Forum. I would like to thank everyone that volunteered to be a greeter that weekend, my co chairs on the committee for all their hard work and everyone else that gave of some way to make it a wonderful and successful Forum. I attended a mandatory Department of Corrections safety meeting on September 15th along with 4 others that volunteer to go into the Mille Lacs County jail. They had us fill out new background checks and we will also be required to wear badges with our pictures on them when we go in now. I would like to thank Rita, Jenna, Joe, Jared and Steve for their commitment to carrying the message into that jail. Our "Lost and Found Group" hosted their annual potluck and open speaker meeting on Wednesday September 30th. I was not able to attend but heard that Pam W. our interim Literature Chair did a great job speaking. Our District will be hosting a CPC/PI Luncheon on October 16th at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Princeton. So far we have 17 professional's that have responded to our letter and plan to attend. Thanks to Heidi our CPC/PI Chair, Rita and everyone else that have helped in some way so far to plan this event. A special thank you to the groups that were willing to sponsor a professional. We held our elections for our District Chairs for the next rotation at our last District meeting. Rita D. will be serving as our new DCM and Skip D. the Alternate DCM. We currently have all other positions open. I would like to personally thank them both for their commitment to be of service. We are not discouraged however with having the open chairs because we truly believe that God will put the desire to be of service in the hearts of some of our fellow AA's and District 5 will continue to work and grow together to carrying the message. As I stand here before you at the last assembly of my rotation, I am truly grateful for everyone one of you in service. My journey with you all as DCM has been full of learning and growth, laughter and some pain but truly an experience that I will forever hold in my heart. God has manifested his love in many ways and it was you, Alcoholics Anonymous that brought me to him. A very special thank you to my sponsor for her love and guidance as she helped me through the good times and difficult times with her many years of service experience. I will forever be grateful to God for bringing her into my life. To all of you here today, where ever your journeys leads you next may you be guided by a loving God as you continue on the road to recovery and give back what was so freely given to you. Thank you all for the opportunity I have had to be of service as DCM of District 5. With love and gratitude, Kelly D

~District 18 Our district is making some changes, including changing service positions. I would just like to announce that Jason A is our new DCM, and we are all confident that he will do a wonderful job in representing us. We also filled some chair positions: corrections is Dave B., Literature is Spencer J., Jean is Grapevine, Roger is Treasurer, and I will serve as alternate DCM. Marilyn will be rotating out from the secretary position and we would like to thank her for her dedicated service. Also, Long Prairie Alano Club has moved across the street to 21 - 2nd Ave North. Jason and I staffed the State Fair Booth this year and had a fabulous time. I was honored to be able to represent AA, and we got to visit with a lot of alcoholics. It's hard to believe it is rotation time. Being of service has enhanced my sobriety and helped to build a solid foundation. Thank you for the opportunity to serve. Doreen L

~ GROUP RECORDS Thank you for the opportunity to serve. This report will be short and sweet. The work continues on aameetinglocator.org and area35.org. Please keep working with me on group information changes. Again, thank you! Audrey S

~NORTHERN LIGHTS I attended the Joint Workshop; it was a real good event. It is a pleasure to work with our neighbors and we were so well represented. I also had the privilege to attend the Forum, it was a great experience. I took a couple things away from it, one being the amount of work put in by non alcoholics for our fellowship. It was great to see that the staff and board at GSO are people just like us. If you send your reports to me for the Northern Light, if it doesn't make it in I apologize for that. If you are ever in doubt as to if I got your report, you can always call me. Thanks, Ed A

~ District 4 We had an excellent turnout at our last district meeting. 19 members showed up with the willingness to step forward in service AA. I was excited to see so many members of AA walking the walk. We had our elections for new service positions in our district and all positions were filled this year including the DCM and alternate, Literature, Secretary, Treasurer, and both Corrections positions for male and female. I want to thank these people for their contribution of time and expertise in these matters. Our District is doing well in most matters, people are still recovering and there are miracles occurring. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as DCM for the last rotation. I cannot begin to tell you how much this has helped me in my own recovery. If there is anyone out there not quite sure about doing service work, I beg of you to give it a try and let God do the rest. I remember it was my willingness to go to any length to stay sober and in the process I will learn patience and tolerance of others. Not perfect yet, but a lot better than I was. Yours in service, Bruce W

~ District 7 We are holding a GSR school on December 17th during our regular District meeting time to help new GSRs get informed about their positions and the District, and in the hopes of getting more GSR participation. We are also having a CPC luncheon on Oct. 20th. Each group is encouraged to sponsor someone from the community who interacts with alcoholics. Tim C will be speaking and we want to thank Bill M. and Neil F for their hard work on this so we could have a luncheon again this year. We held elections and were able to fill 3 positions: Mark N is DCM, Gary S is literature, Bob H is our new treasurer. We are happy to welcome all our new servants to their positions in the District. They truly have a heart for service and above all, a willingness to serve. Our other positions are still open but there are people considering being of service. We have found that the "railroad" doesn't work very well and trust that God will nudge the right people to be of service. We also have some interest in starting an intergroup in the Brainerd area again. We have a monthly district newsletter and soon we will be voting on whether to pass it out to the groups and if we are going to do it for the next two years. I am in the process of organizing a lovely binder for the new DCM in the hopes that it will help him also the archives to pass on. Thank you to everyone who touched my life during this rotation. So many helped me out in ways you may not even know. It has been a true blessings and huge learning experience for me. I am very grateful for the experience and the growth it has brought me. Thank you also to my husband for his patience and staying married to me while I was DCM. Blessings to you all and Gods peace, Lee Ann H

~ CORRECTIONS I was able to attend the Forum and it was a fun, interesting experience. I also attended the Joint Area 35-36 workshop and we got a couple of really good ideas from that which we will continue working on, namely getting volunteers and ensuring continuity through rotation. I was able to attend a transitional fair at Moose Lake Correctional Facility for prisoners about to transition out of the facility. We were also able to get administrative contacts for bringing meetings into Moose Lake. Thank you to my committee and all the presenters from last night. It has been such a pleasure to work with all of you at Area. Thank you to Ed for emailing me the night before the Northern Light reports are due. Otherwise, I am sure I would never have gotten my reports in. There were twelve in attendance at the Corrections' meeting. We discussed the Area 35/36 workshop. One of the ideas was when talking to potential volunteers for jails or prisons to keep in mind that there maybe a fear factor involved. So many of us that bring in meetings know how rewarding it is and may have forgotten that initial fear we had to overcome in order to do those first meetings. Another idea we think could be incorporated is have a non rotating member be the long term contact for an individual facility. This person would be the go to person between the administration and the district. This could help maintain continuity from one rotation to the next. The district Chair would still coordinate the volunteers but the facility administration would have the person with whom they have built a good working relationship to contact for changes, etc. We are meeting the majority of our obligations with one or two no shows but the district chairs are aware and working to make sure the spots are filled. The dedication of our district people is very inspiring and please thank them for their hard work as many will be rotating soon. You are all so wonderful, Thank You. Krishna Z

~ District 1 District attendance was low, and some reports were not given. The Wild Rice Round up was well attended and had good AA fellowship. My husband Rick and I attended the West Central Regional Forum, and got a lot of information and handouts. The great part of the weekend was to meet all the GSO staff and hear a summary of what they do there. It was very well attended. The end of summer celebration was held the same weekend and attendance was down because the treatment center cancelled again. Our corrections area is a bit unstable. We lost our chairperson and are trying to continue with the meetings. Group attendance is the same, not all GSRs are attending and the groups need more visits from the DCM. Our finances are fairly good and our spirits are high. Elections for the various positions will be held this next weekend, as it is time to rotate. This has been an exciting experience. I have learned a lot. Thank you to all for your support. A Big thanks to my husband for his

guidance. We are also having a public information night on Oct 14th. Lisa, our District PI chair, has done a great job with this. I am looking forward to this. There hasn't been on of these in years. Saying sober through service, Priscilla A

~ District 11 Most of our corrections commitments are being met by volunteers. I was able to attend the Regional AA Forum in St. Cloud. From my own experience, it really was that you have to be there to get all the value of the experience. To listen to all the people who are running the office trying to keep AA together was really wonderful. To be at one of these is worth any expense. I got a feeling of assurance that AA is in really good hands. Meeting the Board members and GSO staff and watching them, along with all the alcoholics from seven different states is incredible. There were all these people who care about AA and are continually reaching out to the still suffering alcoholic, as well as communicating information so we can have an informed group conscience. I can't say enough about how wonderful this is. Thanks, Doug N

~ C.P.C I was able to attend the joint workshop and if you have the opportunity, don't miss it; it is a wonderful experience. The Forum was awesome too. I was able to greet, visit with people, and chair a sharing session. It was a wonderful experience. At our committee meeting today we had 15 (18?) In attendance, including districts 21, 6, 8, 5, 6, and 9. Discussion centered around PI/CPC activities such as keeping meeting schedules updated, putting on presentations in schools, training newcomers to service, planning luncheons for professionals, continuing the State Fair booth, running phone lines, holding a Joint Area 35-36 workshop on Tradition Eleven, and holding a CPC/PI workshop. Yours in service, Dee K

~ District 3 Good day everyone. You can sure tell that summer is over- especially last night coming over the bridge and then unloading the car! Anyway, it's great to see some old faces again. (Some REALLY old!) I was fortunate to be on the Host Committee for the Forum. District 3 was in charge of setting up and hosting the AA meetings. Those meetings were great! Patti and I also did a stint as Greeters. What a great Forum, it was so positive and thought provoking! The workshop on Friday night was excellent, also! Our Area was well represented and did a great job! Oh yeah, GSO was OK, too! District 3 is financially sound, active and just held our elections. Jeff C was elected as our new DCM. We filled ALL of our chairs. How cool is that?!? We are out in force again delivering literature to schools, hospitals, libraries, Chambers of Commerce, cop shops, etc.. It's a non-stop event. (Hopefully) We did the State Fair, we're in jails, treatment centers and halfway houses. We hold monthly District meetings and have those now famous "FREE DONUTS". Anyone in the area is welcome to attend on the third Sunday of the month at 10 am, in Perham. Our toll free Helpline and our website are still active and going well. Thanks for allowing a guy like me to hang out with you and allowing me to serve. Bill D

~District 6 I only recently took over as the new DCM, so I don't really know how the District is doing, but at our last District meeting we filled all our other chairs with the exception of one, the Treatment position. I am pleased that Dave accepted the secretary position. His experience will be very helpful to us. Thank you also to the other members who stepped up to fill District positions: Melissa (Alt-DCM-Corrections), Randy (Treasurer) (, Erica (PI-Literature), Russ (Grapevine), and Garrett (CPC). I was able to attend the WCRF and thanks to the GSO staff for all they do and all the information, and thank you to the host committee for the sweet treats. The Fall Assembly in Superior was an experience not to be missed, especially driving across the high bridge in the big wind, but more important was the process and spirit of rotation. I will miss working with the outgoing officers, but welcome the opportunity to work with the incoming officers. I am very grateful for all the people in AA who have helped me along the way, and although I am very nervous, I am exited and looking forward to being of service to the fellowship which saved my life. Thanks for the opportunity to be of service. Kathy G

~ GRAPEVINE Hello everyone. In our committee meeting this morning we had two Grapevine chairs. Rod from District 2 reported that they voted in a new Grapevine chair. Carla from District 9 reported that they are going to combine the Literature/Grapevine chair into one position and since she came into the Grapevine position in the middle of the rotation, she will continue for the next rotation. The Grapevine has a new book that will be coming out this fall. It is a book of cartoons and jokes from AA Grapevine Inc. titled " A Rabbit Walks into a Bar" and it is a collection of the best jokes and cartoons over the decades that have appeared in the Grapevine. With chapters that cover topics from "The Drinking Life" and Newcomers in AA" to "Life in AA" and "AA Wit and Wisdom," readers will find plenty to laugh about. Plus, a special chapter is devoted entirely to Victor E; the Grapevine's classic and lovable recovering alcoholic character. I will have more information at the area committee meeting. The Grapevine needs stories on the Steps, Traditions and the Home Group. Yours in service, Laurie R

~ District 9 District 9 is doing well. We have active action committee chairs and a little growth at District meetings. The RMH outpatient has asked us to start a beginners meeting. Angela, the CPC/PI chair is organizing that. Our Corrections/Treatment chair, John, has been busy maintaining our commitments. In the spirit of rotation we have three new GSRs for this next rotation. The new District positions are: DCM- Chuck, Alt. DCM-John, Treasurer-Tom, Secretary-Antoinette, Literature/GV-Carla, PI/CPC-Angela, Corrections-Robert, Treatment-Fred, Archives-Kathy. I had fun at the Regional Forum and our District supported the new DCM to attend also. Thank you for allowing me to serve. Robert S

~District 21 (Harold was unable to attend, Al B composed the following report) We had our elections and all positions were filled except for Treasurer, and we expect that to be filled at the next district meeting. Our last rotation has been very successful at carrying the message and having district representation attend area functions, thus we are experiencing a budgetary concern. We enacted a spending moratorium until we are better able to sustain spending on nonessential services. Our essential services at this time are our AA member run phone referral service and district meeting lists. Our phone service chair has asked that we add caller ID to our phone service which we agreed to do because of concerns with not being able to obtain phone numbers of suicidal callers. Our Jail meetings are going well. We have scheduled presentations at local high schools and found that if you look at the high school website, you can get a lot of contact information for people a and can set up presentations in their health classes. We have stocked up on literature too. Three of our district members attended the WCRF in St. Cloud. I personally enjoyed learning more about our Class A Trustees, and I enjoyed the workshops. As always I am inspired by our trusted servants at all levels. Peace-Al B. (For Harold S)

~WEBMASTER First i want to say it is nice to be home in Superior for this Assembly. Over the last 4.5 years as GSR then as Webmaster I have been to Alexandria a couple of times, St. Cloud many times, Brainerd, Grand Rapids, Virginia, Thief River Falls, Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, Fargo ND and Aitkin. Each one with it's own unique and special experiences and I and i am very fortunate and grateful for them. I do however greatly enjoy the idea of doing my 10th step inventory saying my prayers and laying my head on my own pillow tonight. For those of you who are new this, the Webmaster maintains the Area 35 Web site at area35.org. The site has information on meetings in Northern Minnesota and this small sliver of district 12 here in NW Wisconsin - There is also a link to the joint Area 35/36 state wide meeting locator at ameetinglocator.org. There is a Calendar of Events for the Area and a Download page with the AA Service Manual, New Group and Change Group Form, and other literature as well as links to other pamphlets. There is also a link that will lead you to where you can read the Big Book Online. I also update a page that has all the anonymity protected versions of the Northern Light Newsletter going back to June 2008 and a contact page with a listing of area officers, chairs and DCM's if you need to get in touch with somebody. If you need to get in touch with someone not listed, the Area Chair can always direct you! Our 2009 Web site access totals are as follows: - Total for the year - Unique visitors - 14,289 August 1,684 - Sept 1,485 - As of Oct. 2nd 92 unique visitors - As well as these unique visitors there are 10's of thousands of return visitors each month. Our most popular pages were the Meeting Search, Calendar of Events, followed by the Meeting pages. I have added some settings to the sites' configuration files that speed up the sites loading times and added protection against hackers. I had a call informing me that we had been hacked in August. I went to the site and found that the main page had been changed to a hacker's signature. It was someone from Brazil and was in Portuguese. I changed the page back easily and reported the incident to the FBI. One of the great tools on our website is the meeting page. You can search by day of week, by district or by other information typed into a search text box. For new DCM's or GSR's I would suggest you search by district your meetings and see if they are accurate. If they are not, use one of the forms at the bottom of the meeting page and send it to both me and the Group Record secretary. You can register or change your group info with the New Group or Change Group forms but it will not get to the Webmaster the information needed to update the Area 35 Web site. I am very grateful to have been invited to moderate the workshop Anonymity and the Internet at the West Central Regional Forum in St. Cloud last month. The discussion was lively and informative and most if not all of the 8 Areas in our Region were represented. I also attended the workshop What Trusted Servant Really Means moderated by our Area Chair "My Sponsor" Jay A. and heard great presentations by past delegates and Class A and B Trustees from GSO. The skit by Roger and the gang was a gas! Seeing that this will be my last Assembly report as now out-going Webmaster I want to say it has been an honor and a pleasure to serve the Northern Minnesota Area! Yours in Service, Dan R

~DISTRICT 17 No DCM

~ARCHIVES . We had 9 present at our meeting this morning. I attended the Area 355 36 workshop in Elk River and it was interesting to here what Area 36 was doing with there Archives. I also was at the WCRF and that is history now. I thought it was one of the better ones that I have been to. I got response back from GSO staff on a couple different questions I asked, which is very nice. We are asking our rotating Area Committee to write a couple paragraphs about their experiences in service for archives We talked about what the districts should have in there Archives collection—minutes of district meeting with day month and year. We are asking the outgoing DCM's, committee chairs, and officers to write a few paragraphs about there experiences that they have had over the last 2 years, that would be put in a folder and added to our area Archives. District 13 is hosting a Archives Workshop Oct 17 at the St Cloud Alano 12:00 to 3:00 pm. District 5 has a district archives display which will be at the

Zone 3 workshop. In District 9, Cathy is new to Archives committee and is interested in getting long-timers interviews. Scott from District 8 reports they are sorting and getting their collection in order. Art in District 2 says they have a nice collection of district history, and that being on the Archives committee was more interesting than he first thought. We discussed that in different parts of the area it's getting harder to find those long-timers. Where have they all gone? Why have they quit coming to AA? Maybe it is because they don't drive at night or stairs are difficult for them. If we can find out why, we could help them back to the doors of AA. Remember some day YOU will be a long-timer also. WHEN EVER A SOCIETY OR CIVILIZATION PERISHES THERE IS ALWAYS ONE CONDITION PRESENT: THEY FORGOT WHERE THEY CAME FROM (CARL S) Yours in service, Bob K

~ARCHIVIST- Since the Area committee meeting I attended the joint workshop in Elk River and met with the area 36 Archives chair. A 6 table display was at the Regional forum in St. Cloud. What I had room to set up was well received and sparked a ton of questions. We have an Archives workshop on the 17th of October at the Alano club in St. Cloud. The Next full display will be at the St. Cloud Round up on the 23, 24 and 25th of October. I am getting really good at loading the van. The cataloging of the collection is making progress and the digital conversion of the cassette tapes is moving along. The Archives received another box of tapes from a recently deceased member from St. Cloud. I have been invited to go to Founders Day in St. Louis Park by the Southern Area and bring the full display. Thanks again to the Area for this opportunity to be of service. Brad I

~District 2 At our last district meeting we had fourteen in attendance, which was great to see. We have three new GSRs, two who were able to make it this weekend: Scott and Ken. Denise was not able to make it, but I am sure she will do a wonderful job. Our new DCM is Rod, and I can't say enough about how much he has helped me out. I know he will do great job as DCM. We didn't get all of our chairs filled yet, but we have some, including DCM, Alternate DCM, Secretary, Treasurer, Archives, CPC-PI, and Grapevine! Thanks everyone!! Yours in service, Art A

~ District 13 All is well in District 13. I attended an informative Are 35/36 Joint Workshop. We held our elections which two past delegates proctored. They strongly encouraged those in attendance to give back to AA. This resulted in successfully electing officers for all district positions except the Treatment and CPC chairs. We are in the process of printing 10,000 meeting schedules and look forward to hosting a Zone 3 Archives Workshop on Oct. 17. Thank you to Area 35 for giving District 13 the opportunity to host the WCRF, and I'd like to extend a very special thanks to our host committee for all your hard work. Thank you to JoAnne N, Roger R, Doug N, Kelly D, Gayle S, Hal S, Randy A, Bruce W, Bill D, LeAnne H, Arthur (Art) A, Robert S, Mary C, Neil S, Rita D. A very special thank you to my co-DCMs who really came to the table to fulfill key positions on our host committee as this is my last assembly as DCM. Thank you for the opportunity to serve. Roger R

~LITERATURE I attended both the Joint Workshop and the Forum. When I came back, I got the feeling that we had a lot in common with GSO, and that they were concerned about us. I had a good feeling when we left, like we are in good hands. I didn't get that feeling a few years ago. I appreciate all NY does for us and I know we all continue to do the best we can. All the literature they displayed they donated to us. They also donated Braille forms and sign language tapes. So if anyone needs them, or knows of a place that could use it, let me know. I also made a complete inventory of the books and pamphlets and ended with a total of \$5,801.38 of literature. I did put in another order for \$370 to complete the inventory. I'd like to thank you all for letting me serve. At the committee meeting this morning we had 12 in attendance. Most Districts have combined GV/Literature. We'll have new faces coming to the committee this year. Mike V

~ District 15 We held elections for the new rotation last month and two positions were filled. Pete B will remain treasurer for the new rotation as he came into office earlier this year. Sue N is our new secretary, and Scott P is going to do another rotation as literature chair. Our DCM and Alt. DCM positions are still open as are all of our other chairs except literature. District 15 has 28 meetings; however, not all of them are represented at the District meetings. We are again holding elections this coming Monday night and are hoping for a much better turnout than last time. An unstaffed booth was set up at the Stearns County Fair and a number of pamphlets were taken. We have just lined up our speakers for the Stearns County Roundup on March 27, 2010. Our flyers will be ready for our December Area Committee Meeting. Yours in service, Sandy H

~ District 16 Mary C was not present, so Steve, a GSR in District 16, spoke. We recently had elections and did fill all our seats: Mary S is our DCM, Griffin is our Secretary, Mike is CPC/PI, Mary C is GV/Literature, and Becca is treatment. It seems like District 16 is doing well. Thanks, Steve.

~TREATMENT I want to thank the area for allowing me to attend the WCRSC and the committee who did a great job with hosting the event. I also want to thank the Area for allowing to serve as the treatment chair throughout the rotation and the great committee I have had to work with. Thank you to everyone who attended and participated in the treatment/corrections workshop last night. A special thank you to Krishna for helping set up the event and for MCing. All the presenters did a great job. We met this morning as a committee with 9 people in attendance. We discussed the activities happening in each district. Questions were discussed about how to set up meetings for treatment facilities and the importance of setting up informational meeting for both clients and treatment staff members. Other topics discussed included the importance of being consistent and persistent in our efforts. Our committee had two members volunteer to staff the booth at the MARCH conference this year in St. Paul. This conference is a great venue to meet with treatment professionals throughout the state. We continue to provide contacts for individuals getting out of treatment through our temporary contact program. Thank you for this opportunity to serve Area 35. **Jim K**

~ District 8 Greetings once again from District 8. Many things have happened since we last met had a lot of things going on in our District. We are still carrying the message and making our commitments, we have some very eager and willing people that make this all possible. Our elections are over and we have a new slate of Officers as well as new Committee Chairs and Alternates. Randy A. will be our new DCM as well as some of those attending today. Our phone line has been active and we seem to be going through a lot of meeting schedules. We also have some new facilities in our District and will be deciding how to handle these at our next regular meeting. Many of us attended the Area 35/36 Workshop and the Forum in St. Cloud. The Forum was a wonderful experience for me; it was great to put faces to names and be able to see and feel how dedicated the GSO staff and trustees are to Alcoholics Anonymous. On a personal note I attended the T/C Workshop last night and a thank you to Krishna and Jim for fine job. It was well attended and informational; it was great to see so many people attending a function such as this and asking questions. I also continue to speak monthly at the Range Treatment Center in Virginia and am active in the Meeting held in the Detox Unit on Saturday nights. The Keep It Simple weekend was a good time with great Speakers, good food, fun and fellowship. Assemblies are special to me seeing old friends meeting new friends and seeing AA in Area 35 at work. Thanks again for allowing me to serve. Butch R

~ District 12- I'd like to thank everyone from District 12 who has helped out with this event. We have had a lot of people sitting in the hall this weekend making sure people get registered and get coffee. District meetings doing good; we had 14-16 GSRs at the last one. We started rotating the location of our district meeting throughout our district and it seems that the further we get from Duluth, the more attendance we have from people from Duluth. Moving has helped get more participation. This month we'll have our meeting in Silver Bay, and then we'll be back at the John Club. We held elections and our new DCM is Jana, and our Alt. DCM is Servando. We also ended up with a committed coffee maker. We currently only have one empty action committee chair and that is corrections and we are working hard to fill that one. I'd like to thank everyone who was at the district meeting. Tim H

End of reports

___ Delegate nominees presented themselves to the Assembly by reading their resumes which were previously published in the Northern Light, and then we had a past delegate speak (Jerry S.) followed by an Ice Cream social!

Sunday October 4th

___ Business Not Completed Saturday

~ GSR Sharing Session Report: There were 64 GSRs present, 17 new GSRs and 7 visitors. We passed the hat for copies of the minutes (questions and discussion) from the GSR sharing session and received \$73.64. As District 12 donated the paper and there was no cost for the copies, we donated the money to the Area. We discussed the following questions: Are we being prudent with our groups' funds? How do we encourage groups to contribute to the three entities (District, Area, and GSO)? How can we contribute to the three entities without a prudent reserve? How do we encourage more fellowship before and after meetings? How do we organize a business meeting where members actually show up? How can we, as a group of GSRs, encourage rotation? There was confusion going on about when we are to discuss the questions from this weekend at the Winter Workshop or the Spring Assembly 2010, and we will be discussing those questions at the Winter Workshop. The new questions are: How can we

encourage newcomers to get a home group? How can we get members to honor the commitments they have made? What are the three entities and what are their functions? How can we talk about Traditions 7 without preaching? How do we encourage/motivate more speakers to carry the message to treatment centers and correctional facilities, or in general? How do we deal with AA member indifference? (i.e. when someone is asked to do service and they say no.)

~ DCM Sharing Session Report: First we discussed who could be at our session and we allowed one guest, current DCMs, new DCMs, and alternate DCMs. We discussed four points: What can parting words do we have for the incoming DCMs. In other words, what can we pass on to new incoming DCMs as far as what we learned and suggestions. (We will have a handout of that to pass on to incoming DCMs) What worked in getting groups and individuals involved in service? How do you deal with difficult/contrary people who are being antagonistic? Fourth, What makes a trusted servant a trusted servant? Or, what does it mean to be a trusted servant?

OLD BUSINESS

~Area Treasury Review Committee: recap we discussed the need for an annual review of our treasury, to take some of the burden off the treasurer. All other areas in our region have a financial committee which does a review once a year. The committee went through all past treasury records for continuity/consistency and we found an error in the spread sheet. In discussing this error, it became clear that it would be good, prudent business to have an annual independent review of the treasury to ensure the accuracy of the treasury. In Southern MN they draw names for a finance committee and they have a review policy where they look over the finances. So, we are recommending that we set up some type of finance committee with an annual review. We also discussed having a standardized recording system for our finance reports so we don't have a change in the appearance for the reports with each rotation. Dan put it to the floor for discussion on what we as an area want to do. Motion to develop a policy for an annual audit/review of the treasury and to standardize. Seconded. Motion was amended to change "audit" to "review," and include the standardized format for reports. Simplified Motion: Motion to develop a policy for an annual review of the treasury and to accept a standardized format for the treasury reports. Discussion ensued: Subcommittee did recommend this. We do have a statement of financial responsibility in place already, so maybe we just need to firm that up and set that as our policy. Jay read the current statement of financial responsibility. Who would do the review? That is what we need to determine. The committee had two suggestions: past treasurers or we could draw names and assign people to the committee. There was another suggestion to have an outside person sit in on the review/audit. The software standard would be Quickbooks. There was some concern that we do not have a finance committee, and do not have enough DCMs to put on a Finance Committee. A suggestion was to put the alternate delegate, past treasurer, and/or past delegate or some other people available to serve on this committee, because we do not want to take DCMs away from the existing committees. It was discussed that we might consider seeking to hire an outside agency to do an audit of our treasurer, but that it will probably cost us approximately \$5,000. It was pointed out that an annual review, done by us (volunteers = free) would provide an added assurance for the rest of us as to the accuracy of our books. Sense of the meeting was taken and: Jay noted that it seems like we do want to do a review, but the question is who we want to have do this. It was suggested that perhaps today all we need to do is decide if we want the review, and add an amendment to our statement of financial responsibility, but leave it to the committee to decide who we want on the review committee. Suggestion to leave the motion as is and discuss the logistics of it at the December committee meeting. Previous motion passed with all in favor.

~Spring Assembly 2010: March 27-28, at the Holiday Inn in Detroit Lakes.

~January Workshop 2010 is at the Holiday Inn in Alexandria.

~ Fall Assembly 2010: Jay is still looking for a facility for this.

NEW BUSINESS

___ Elections: Area 35 follows the third legacy procedure outlined in the Service Manual which states that if any candidate receives 2/3 of the total vote, then the voting ends and the position is filled. If no one candidate receives 2/3rds of the vote for each election (Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Secretary, Treasurer) is proctored by a different past Delegate who is drawn from the hat. Nominations are taken from the floor for Area Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Only voting members may nominate for these positions.

Delegate:

First vote- Jon C: 39, Jim K:26, Mike (Jake) J:25, Robert (Butch) R:6. Total of 96 votes. 2/3 is 64, no one candidate has 2/3rds of the vote, so all go to the second ballot.

Second vote- Jon C: 48, Jim K: 26, Mike (Jake) J: 22, Robert (Butch) R: 0. All candidates with over 20% of the vote remain in for the next vote.

Third vote- Jon C: 53, Jim K: 22, Mike (Jake) J: 20. Out of 95 votes. 2/3 is 64. The two highest stay in.

Fourth Vote- Jon C: 66, which is 2/3 of the voting population. Jon C is our new Area Delegate.

Alternate Delegate:

First vote- Jim K: 54, Mike (Jake) J: 33, Robert (Butch) R: 8.

Second vote- Jim K: 57, Mike (Jake) J: 32, Robert (Butch) R:5. Two top candidates stay in.

Third vote- Jim K: 62, Mike (Jake) J: 34.

Fourth vote- Jim K: 61, Mike (Jake) J:31. 92 total votes, required 2/3 is 62 (rounded up). Motion to go to the hat. All in favor of going to the hat: 34. All those against going to the hat: civil majority against going to the hat. We moved on to the fifth ballot.

Fifth vote- Jim K: 61, Mike J: 34. Total votes: 92. We go to the hat.

Hat: from the hat came Jim K.

Area Chair: Nominees: Butch R, Roger R, Mike J, Sarah K, Steve L

First vote- Roger R: 27, Mike J: 30, Butch R: 7, Sarah K: 24, Steve L: 5.

Second vote- Roger R: 26, Mike J: 32, Butch R: 3, Sarah K: 27, Steve L: 3.

Third vote- Roger R: 22, Mike J: 36, Sarah K: 37.

Fourth vote- Mike J: 41, Sarah K: 52, Motion to conduct a fifth ballot: seconded. All in favor: civil majority in favor of going to a fifth ballot.

Fifth ballot- Mike J: 38, Sarah K: 58. 96 total voters.

Hat- From the hat came Mike (Jake) J.

Treasurer: nominees- Steve L, Dee K, Sarah K.

First vote- Steve L-13, Dee K- 23, Sarah K- 58. Need 63.

Second vote- Steve L-6, Dee K-17, Sarah K-68.

Secretary: nominations-Heidi R. No other nominations. **Heidi R is secretary.**

___ Vote to allow incoming Area Chair to Select Committee Chairs approved at Dec. Committee Meeting: Motion to allow incoming Area Chair to select the Standing Committee Chairs to be approved at the December Committee Meeting. Seconded. All in favor.

___ Zonal Forums-It was brought up for discussion whether we wanted to continue holding zonal forums. Open for discussion: most people felt the forums were well attended, and that it works best if we are going to be helpful to the Districts, and not trying to tell them how they ought to do this. It was explained that the purpose of zonal forums was to allow the districts to have contact with the area officers at no added expense to the districts. No motion was made, so we Moved on to the next item.

___ Self-Support- The subcommittee on self-support at the General Service Office requested further Area sharing on Self-Support. This is the second request, the first request in 2008 got limited responses from Areas. They are looking, again, for our thoughts on GSO being fully self-supporting by group contributions with discussion on the ongoing supplementation from literature sales. There were five suggested discussion points recommended by the subcommittee:

- 1) How to reach 50% of groups MIA;
- 2) Ways to discuss the effects of inflation;
- 3) Wider use of the Birthday plan;
- 4) How can we share and encourage sharing of information pertaining to successes in Self-Support; and
- 5) How can we use Box 459 and the Grapevine.

Discussion on these points was as follows: Area Officers and District Officers, especially DCMs could focus on these areas for Zonal Forums and talk to them, all informational statistics is based on those groups who are contributing—we have found discrepancies in GSO data in that they are counting groups who are not even in existence anymore, which means we don't have accurate information. So, we need to do the work to update them on active/inactive groups to make sure our statistics are accurate. What do we do about the districts in our Area which are no longer participating? How do we contact them and help get them going again. Talk about the facts, what one dollar was worth in 1950 compared with what it is worth today. What the book cost then, and what it costs today. We can ask, how much would you pay to get drunk. Also, explain what the money is for: it is for an organization which gave us our life back. This is a sensitive issue, but to deliver the facts is important. If we never tell them the truth, they will remain ignorant of the financial situation. Back in 1988 Gordon Patrick put Challenge of the Seventh Tradition packets. They were sent out and it worked like a charm. Contributions went up. It was amazing. The best way I know to get money is to talk about it. If we talk about the need, the money comes. I have never seen alcoholics not stand up and dig a little deeper if need be. Look at making a commitment to an increased contribution amount to home group. As a district treasurer, you could send out contribution envelopes three - four times a year to all groups. We could do this at the Area level as well and have a mailing a few times a year to send out contribution envelopes. The key is the DCMs traveling to talk to the groups-it is fun and effective. DCMs should bring information along, including contribution envelopes, and keep it brief but tell them we need them and leave the information. In larger districts we may need to alter the plan because just one person cannot make it to all the groups. When treasurer gives report they can stand up and say: we need money. There is nothing wrong with that. The solution to this problem is in this room, not at GSO. There was some extended discussion on whether or not the statistics from GSO on the number and percentage of contributing groups was accurate, due to the fact that GSO lists all groups, even if they are no longer in existence. It was emphasized that in order to ensure GSO has accurate group information to use for their statistical analysis, DCMs need to make sure all the groups are updated with their correct status with the Group Records chair. The Birthday plan is a great way to increase contributions by contributing an extra birthday contribution to District, Area, and GSO as well as your group. We were provided with a list of all services provided by GSO at the Forum and we can use this list at our groups to discuss our needs and see our financial responsibilities. There is an online form from our Area website which has the exact information needed to input and update group statistics into the database. Funding group services through contributions is our ideal. We are a spiritual fellowship and we live by spiritual principles. We also need to look at what we are doing financially at GSO as far as literature profits covering our operating costs. Currently less than 1/2 of our services are being covered by our contributions. So maybe we should start looking at what we need to or should cut, if we are not fully self-supporting. It would be nice to see the subcommittee establish a goal pertaining to literature sales and how to reduce our dependence on them. I think we need to set a goal at GSO to work towards being more fully self-supporting without reliance on literature sales and discussing what services we may need to cut.

___ WCRAASC with be in Northern MN for the year 2011. JoAnne previously asked for volunteers to help research locations for it to be held. We have two quotes from St. Cloud both over \$3,000.00. The other members on the committee were Audrey, Jim and Sarah, Butch, Dan, Roger, and Christine. We need to get this nailed down, and would recommend the new Area Chair set up a committee on this.

___ Birthday Plan- at the assembly, a member of AA shared that they witnessed another area who at every Area Committee meeting or assembly called upon anyone with birthdays from the last period to come forward and introduce themselves, and then they received three gifts: contribution envelopes for area, GSO, and a subscription form for the GV.

___ Continuity of Central Service Contingency Plan-(A Contingency plan is a plan devised for a specific situation when things could go wrong.) Clarification: has the Area discussed what our service priorities would be if we did not have enough funds to provide all services and needed to cut down on some? Or other methods for reducing costs for Area. We previously discussed that our Area's contingency plan is to have a reserve fund (prudent reserve) which we can rely on in emergencies and that we do recognize that if funds are limited, there are certain things which we could change as far as expenditures.

___ Calendar of Events:

~St. Cloud Roundup

~December 6 Area Committee Meeting,

~Winter Workshop Jan 15-16 at Holiday Inn

~February Committee meeting is the third (action book says the fourth Sunday-discussion: show of hands to have it the third Sunday- fourth Sunday, one. It will be the third Sunday.) Sunday of February the 21st,

~Iron Range Get together

~Zone III Archives workshop Oct 17, 12-3 pm St. Cloud Alano club

~Winter Wrap-Up March 19-21 in Virginia MN, Coates Plaza Hotel.

~Spring Assembly, March 27-28, 2010, Detroit Lakes, MN

~WCRAASC March 5-7, 2010 Holiday Inn Hotel and resorts in Debake Iowa,

___ Ask it Basket

~Why don't we have a banner? The Area Chair stated he accidentally threw the banner away.

~How do we keep group information up to date? It is really complex process at GSO and they have a ton of work. We are always working towards this, but it is ongoing. We have new technology which we thought would help, but as discussed earlier, it is still complicated.

~How can we hold our Area Officers responsible to help or struggling districts, and not blame them for the struggles? I have never seen anyone blame the districts for going dark. In the past, the area officers have gone to struggling districts to try and help, and it can be started again. I hope that a struggling district would also be willing to ask for help if they needed it.

~Any suggestions with how to approach groups on hand holding or not to hold hands during the closing of the meeting due to flu season? Ultimately, it is a group or individual's conscience on that. It is left up to you.

~Can Area get the questions for our group for a GSR more quickly before assemblies? If this means GSR sharing session questions, they are in the Northern Lights. If this means the agenda items that our Delegate brings, the Delegate gets those the 15th of February, so it is a rushed situation to get the agenda items to the DCMs to distribute to groups by the February committee meeting.

~How can we get a dress code implemented? A dress code, I don't know if that means a dress code at assemblies or what, but I think we all do the best we can and that for a lot of folks this is an informal event, and they dress the way they can. As Area officers and delegates we try to dress up some. There was a comment that we dress up to show respect for AA. I think back on the advice from my sponsors, and I think it is up to our own conscience. When a delegate goes to NY they dress up pretty well. We are carrying the message to newcomers, and that is our primary purpose. We are also trying to make the program attractive, and sometimes people dress to suit that as well. But as far as instituting a dress code, that will probably never happen.

~Could you please expand on tradition two and how the group conscience ties in with the GSC. This is what the body of voting Delegates do when they vote at the conference. Their votes there are a reflection of the group conscience. Your conclusions as a group might differ from the delegate conference, but what the delegate conference says, is pretty much the conscience of AA. That tradition applies to them just as much as us.

~How do we know if our meeting is registered? First, you can check with the Group Records chair, and you could check with GSO (call them), and you could purchase a directory to see if your group is published in it. Unfortunately, they were not published this year.

~Why is the literature so good? Because when I was delegate I was on the literature committee at GSO. It is up to us to make it good. If we don't have input on our literature, which we spend extensive time discussing, then it wouldn't be so good.

~I heard someone introduce themselves as GSR for three different meetings. Is that ok? They can only cast one vote, so the different groups lose out on their voice. It's kind of impractical to be GSR for three groups. Understandably, the groups in a district should be informed about what goes on, I inform our group when our GSR cannot attend, but I do not vote.

~What would be a prudent reserve for a District? Generally, 2 months of operating expenses gathered from expenses to send the DCM places and to provide the services of the District.

~Who calculated and how was the price of coffee calculated? Will we at least break even? Jay: price of coffee was \$20 a gallon for coffee, so our best guess would be \$1 a cup and we are still losing money.

~How do we let the fellowship know how to reach out to the hearing impaired? I guess to talk about it, ask questions and if there is a need to vocalize it so we can go about discussing the need for obtaining an interpreter (if at the Area level).

~Should you be a treasurer for the district and alano club at the same time? Personally, as long as there is transparency and an accurate and ongoing reporting of the money, and a separation of the two, I don't really see a conflict.

~Is there anything the area is going to do about reactivating districts 14 and 17? Suggestions: Area officers can contact the district and travel to visit them and have a talk. Sometimes that can get people to attend. We were well received; we did not go tell them what to do, rather, we asked how we could help them.

~What can we do if there is little or no participation in the district? We serve AA to the best of their ability. Showing up is a big thing. Splitting Districts is troublesome because it doesn't always help revive things. Sometimes districts with small towns just can't survive. Are does not have any policy on what to do and actions to take in regard to these situations.

~Who can go to the Area Workshop? Any alcoholic that wants to.

~What is the difference between AA and an Alano Club? They are two completely separate entities. Alano clubs are intended to rent rooms or meeting space to the AA groups. It is a landlord tenant relationship. There are some guidelines on this as well.

~If you get voted in as GSR with less than two years (the SM suggested amount of sobriety) is that ok? It is up to the group as each are autonomous. The Service Manual is largely a collection of the experience of AA and there is probably good reason why a person should have two years, but it is just a suggestion. There is no rule.

~After you are a delegate can you be Area Chair? There is no rule, but our Area does not have this policy. Once you are Delegate you are done. In Montana you actually rotated from Alternate Delegate to Area Chair. The thing about this is Area 35 has no policy on this, just as long as the person has not been Area Chair previously.

~Who pays for the past delegates to come to the assembly? Nobody. We pay for ourselves. We are diehard stick in the muds who love AA. We are so grateful to be able to be here out of love for AA.

~If one served as GSR six years ago, can they become GSR again? It is not suggested that you serve again. The spirit of rotation give the opportunity for others to serve, but you can really do whatever you want.

~ Most controversial floor action at the GSC? Should we keep the circle and triangle, the Mexico situation.

~Is there a term limit on GSR, Treatment, and DCM positions? Yes, it is suggested in the Service Manual that all positions rotate after two years, and that we have two years of sobriety for GSR, and there are also suggested sobriety time for the DCM which can be found in the Service Manual.

~What does a Delegate do? A delegate does a lot of things. The number one, they serve you, the fellowship of AA, by showing up and doing what is asked. Then they go to NY at the GSC and represent us and our point of view as an area. They keep us well informed, and severe to facilitate communication between GSO, Area, Groups, and Other Areas in the Region.

~What do our Area Chair, treasury, secretary, alternate. Area Chair sets the agenda, organizes the location of assemblies, assigns rooms for breakout sessions...(the speaker to this question was interrupted by the results of an election and never finished.)

~My skill at taking notes is poor. I am slow and can't spell well. There is a solution: photo copy notes from someone who can take notes and offer them to others. If we are determined enough, we can learn to become better at these skills.

~Why does Area 35 run their Delegate elections differently from the Service Manual and other Areas? It was like that when I got here. I have been looking at resumes for 33 years. It was decided on a long, long time ago, but I can't tell you how it evolved. I think it is a wonderful process though. There are a lot of areas envious of the way we run our election and many of them are trying to change to our procedure.

~How do I bring to my group information on how or why to donate to the three entities? Be really well informed as to why groups should contribute to the entities, and bring that information to your group and present it. If a group is well informed, then they will be more willing to donate.

~Why do we have time limits for Action Committee Chairs and DCM reports? We always try to get these assemblies started and completed in a way that uses your time most effectively. We looked at multiple other options, and what we decided was the ability to distill and condense information is a vital skill in AA service, and so we ask them to do this also. It helps keep the assembly moving and allows enough time to discuss business.

~Other very interesting questions were: Where can I get a tie like Scott J? Why do all the past Delegate's have shiny heads? (For which there were several witty answers.) and, What was one of your most memorable travel experiences?

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.



2009-2010 – AREA 35 SCHEDULE

Area Committee Meeting

December 6, 2009 9:00 a.m.
Aitkin Alano Club, 322 1st Avenue N.E., Aitkin, MN

Winter Workshop

January 15-16, 2010
Holiday Inn, 5637 Hwy. 29 So.
Alexandria MN
Reservations: (320) 763-6577

Area Committee Meeting

February 21, 2010 9:00 a.m.
Aitkin Alano Club, 322 1st Avenue N.E., Aitkin, MN

Winter Wrap-Up

March 19-21, 2010
Coates Plaza Hotel
Virginia, MN

Big Ole Roundup

March 12-14, 2010
Alexandria, MN

Spring Assembly

March 27-28, 2010
Club House Hotel, Detroit Lakes
Reservations: (218) 847-2121

Iron Range Get-Together

April 30—May1-2, 2010
Wendigo Lodge
Grand Rapids, MN

Zone III Archives Workshop

October 17, 2010 Noon-3pm
St. Cloud Alano Club
St. Cloud, MN

November 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Daylight Savings Ends Fall back 1 hour	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Veteran's Day	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving	27	28
29	30					
						U.S. Federal Holidays are in Red.

December 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Hanukkah
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Winter Begins	22	23	24	25 Christmas	26 Boxing Day St. Stephens Day Kwanzaa
27	28	29	30	31		
						U.S. Federal Holidays are in Red.

Upcoming Events in Areas 35 & 36

WCRAASC

March 5-7, 2010
Holiday Inn Hotel & Resorts
Debuque, Iowa

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
December 6, 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

- ___ GROUP RECORDS-Audrey S.
- ___ NORTHERN LIGHTS-Ed A.
- ___ District 4-Bruce W.
- ___ District 7-Lee Ann H.
- ___ CORRECTIONS-Krishna Z.
- ___ District 1-Priscilla A-W.
- ___ 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-
- ___ ARCHIVES-Bob K./Brad I.
- ___ District 2-Art A.
- ___ District 13-Roger R.
- ___ LITERATURE-Mike V.
- ___ District 15-Sandy H.
- ___ 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.

OLD BUSINESS**NEW BUSINESS**

- ___ Approval of Incoming Area Committee Chairs
 - ___ Calendar of Events
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- ___ TBA
- ___ Adjourn

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