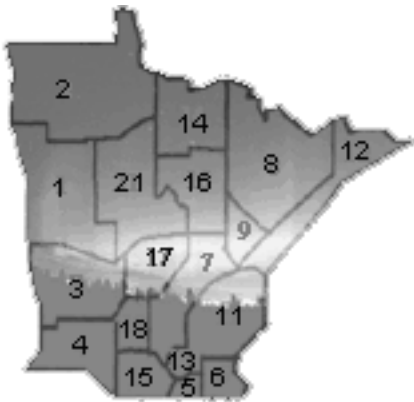


NMAA
234 19 1/2 Ave N
St. Cloud, MN 56303

Change Service Requested

NONPROFIT
ORG
U. S. Postage
Paid
Permit 381
St. Cloud, MN
56301



Deadline for the next
Northern Light is
November 10, 2009

This is YOUR Newsletter.

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

Please bring extra copies to share with your group!

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

<http://www.area35.org>

AREA 35 COMMITTEE 2009**AREA OFFICERS****DELEGATE**

JOANNE N.
 delegate@area35.org

ALTERNATE DELEGATE

DAN H.
 alt_delegate@area35.org

AREA CHAIR

JAY A.
 areachair@area35.org

TREASURER

BETH E.
 treasurer@area35.org

SECRETARY

SARAH S.

AREA COMMITTEE CHAIRS**PUBLIC INFORMATION**

JON C.

ARCHIVES

BOB K.

ARCHIVIST

BRAD I.

CORRECTIONS

KRISHNA Z.
 corrections@area35.org

LITERATURE

MICHAEL V.

GRAPEVINE

LAURIE R.

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

DEE K.

TREATMENT

JIM K.
 Treatment@area35.org

NORTHERN LIGHT

ED A.
 NorthernLight@area35.org

GROUP RECORDS

Audrey S.
 GroupRecords@area35.org

WEBMASTER

DAN R.
 webmaster@area35.org

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

PRISCILLA A. W.

DISTRICT 2

ART A.

DISTRICT 3

BILL D.

DISTRICT 4

BRUCE W.

DISTRICT 5

KELLY D.

DISTRICT 6

JACK J.

DISTRICT 7

LEEANN H.

DISTRICT 8

ROBERT (BUTCH) R.

DISTRICT 9

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

**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

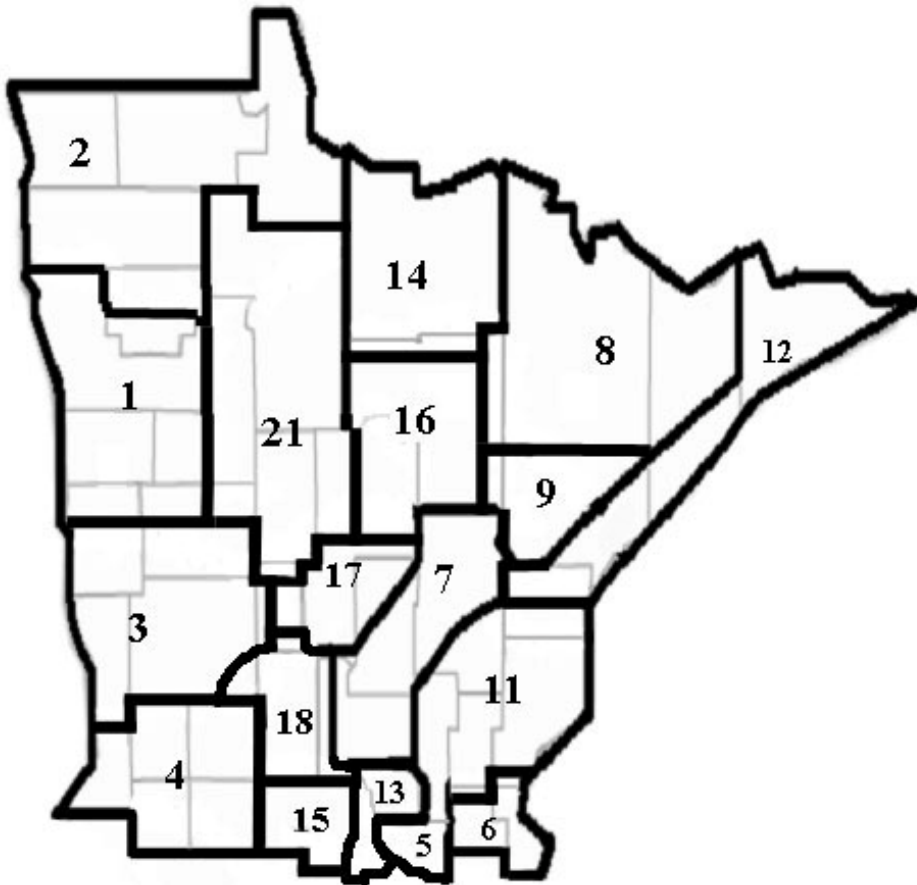
Panel 56 Jerry S.	2006-2007	Panel 38 Scott J.	1988-1989	Panel 20 Clarence B. (deceased)	1970-1971
Panel 54 Charlie C.	2004-2005	Panel 36 Louie H	1986-1987	Panel 18 Dave H.	1968-1969
Panel 52 Tim C.	2002-2003	Panel 34 Bob P	1984-1985	Panel 16 Arno A. (deceased)	1966-1967
Panel 50 Tom A.	2000-2001	Panel 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 5f 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>District 1 Sunday, June 8, 2:00 p.m. Fertile Community Center 101 S. Mill St. Fertile, MN 56540</p>	<p>District 6 3rd Thursday of Month, 7:30 p.m. Spring Lake Lutheran Church 8440 Erickson Rd. N.E. North Branch, MN 55056</p>	<p>Duluth, MN 55806</p>
<p>District 2 2nd Sunday of Odd Months, 2:00 p.m. First Lutheran Church 210 Park Ave. N. Middle River, MN 56737</p>	<p>District 7 3rd Thursday of Month, 7:00 p.m. First Lutheran Church 424 8th St. S. Brainerd, MN 56401</p>	<p>District 13 1st Monday of Month, 7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Salem Lutheran Church 90 Riverside Drive S.E. Saint Cloud, MN 56304</p>
<p>District 3 3rd Sunday of Month, 10:00 a.m. Perham Alano Club 827 Summit Ave. Perham, MN 56501</p>	<p>District 8 Committee Meetings at 6:30 p.m. General District Meeting at 7:00 p.m. • Friday, December 7, 2007 Palo, MN</p>	<p>District 14 Not currently active.</p>
<p>District 4 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>District 9 Last Sunday of Month, 6:00 p.m. Hibbing Alano Club 3725 1st Avenue Hibbing, MN 55746</p>	<p>District 15 1st Monday of Month, 8:00 p.m. Albany Community Center 741 Lake Ave. Albany, MN 56307</p>
<p>District 5 3rd Monday of Month, 7 p.m. St. John Lutheran Church 13045 Fremont Ave Zimmerman, MN 55398</p>	<p>District 11 1st Tuesday of Month, 7:00 p.m. St. Joseph's Catholic Church Basement Finlayson, MN 55735</p>	<p>District 16 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>District 12 Rotating Call D.C.M. Tim H. Duluth Alano Club 3009 Restormel St.</p>	<p>District 17</p> <p>District 18 1st Tuesday of month, 6:30p.m. Long Prairie Alano</p>
		<p>District 21 2nd Monday, 7:00 p.m. Bemidji Alano Club 1225 Anne St. 1225 Anne St.</p>

Delegate's Report

Greetings to Area 35! There is definitely a “nip” in the air with the changing of seasons and the leaves are starting to turn colors reminding us that fall is here.

Since I sat down to write my last Northern Light report I had the opportunity to attend and present at the Zonal IV Forum in Eveleth, Minnesota. Sarah was unable to attend due to a family illness and was missed! Jay, Dan and Beth gave excellent presentations and Sarah sent her report to Dan which he read. Thanks Sarah!

Next, I attended the Area 35/36 Workshop in Elk River, MN on August 28th which was informative and each time we come together it is a learning/sharing experience. Thanks to both Area 36 and Area 35 for hosting the event and to District 5 for their service work in making coffee and providing goodies! I know there is a tremendous amount of footwork to provide these workshops but I do think it is well worth the time and effort to connect with both areas. I'm certain we'll be given a report by our Area Chair, Jay.

I've been thinking of the upcoming elections in October at the Fall Assembly being held at Barker's Island in Superior, Wisconsin. It is hard to believe that almost 2 years have skyrocketed by and it's almost time to elect a new Delegate. Someone asked me recently what suggestions I would give to the incoming Delegate and believe me I thought long and hard and then commenced to share that everything in our service structure is important from thoroughly reading A.A. Comes of Age, to all literature including Advisory Actions of the General Service Conference, studying the 12 Traditions and of course, the Twelve Concepts for World Service. We have a responsibility to become comfortable enough with the Concepts to visualize the whole pattern and recognize the sound principles within them – principles that can be applied, not only to every part of our service structure, but also to our own thinking and efforts.

Concept IX discusses good service leaders. Bill says: “No matter how carefully we design our service structure....no matter how well we apportion authority and responsibility, the operating results of our structure can be no better than the personal performance of those who must man it and make it work.” Almost every area problem could be avoided with the election of good service leadership.

Lastly, I sent a talk by Bernard Smith, Class A Trustee given in 1951 at the closing Conference session and it was to be published in the last issue of the Northern Light. I sent it to late Ed A. our Northern Light Editor and he assured me that it would be included in this edition, so please enjoy reading it. Thanks Ed.

In Service,

JoAnne

Alternate Delegate's Report

Hello Area 35,

We are winding down in the rotation time goes so fast. I will be asking districts once again to participate in the January workshop. I attended the area35/36 workshop. After the workshop the ad-hoc financial group met. I have published the findings, and we can discuss it at Fall Assembly the January workshop is in Alexandria January 15, 16 2010 at the Holiday Inn Alexandria.

In service

Dan H.
Area 35 Alternate Delegate

You can't lead where you haven't been.
You can't teach what you haven't learned.
You can't be what you are not.
And you damn sure can't give what you ain't got!

Wilson M.

Area Chair Report

Greetings:

As I sit here and write my second to the last Northern Light article, I find myself somewhat retrospective. It has been a wonderful journey filled with many moments I have enjoyed immensely. I have met some of the most wonderful people that I would have not met if it weren't for making the commitment to serve the fellowship. I have found myself passionately engaged in the things that affect our ability to carry this message to the still suffering alcoholic. There have been times where I have been painfully reminded of my shortcomings and inspired by the actions of others. Over all though I have found myself driven to try to set an example of what I have been taught by the ones before me. As my first sponsor, Gary, told me long ago... You will be an example no matter what you do; either a good one or a bad one.

I have learned a few things along the way that I would like to share. First of all, that it is much easier to criticize than to do. Secondly, that this fellowship is in very good hands because of the love that those who recover from a seemingly hopeless state of mind and body bring to the task at hand. Thirdly, that this fellowship must never allow the service structure to become a business where there is a division between those who know and those who don't. The spirit of rotation is not just the literal definition, but there is a spirit that requires a much higher standard. Fourth, that service is not a substitution for recovery. Without recovery, we merely use our defects of character to get our way without realizing the harm we cause others and the fellowship. Finally, that there is a higher power that is ultimately in charge. Without his divine oversight, our best efforts will be creators of confusion rather than harmony. May this fellowship never forget that fear cannot ever be the reason we do things, for fear brings out our defects and our defects separate us from God and each other.

I will be at the Regional Forum in St. Cloud next week and look forward to seeing you in Superior for the Fall Assembly.

With Love and Service
Jay A., Area Chair

Secretary's Report

Greetings Area 35.

I was privileged to attend the Joint Area 35 & 36 workshop, where we had much fruitful discussion and the time really went too fast! Perhaps next year we can extend the length of our meetings! Anyway, we discussed several topics in the area officers breakout session, including following formal meeting procedures, dealing with delinquent area servants, getting out to visit districts as area officers, informing GSRs better, assisting DCMs, voting procedures, bidding for Assembly locations, and furthering communication.

All in all, a wonderful experience as usual! Looking forward to the next one. I know we are coming upon a busy season, and I look forward to seeing you all again at the Forum and Fall Assembly. Oh, just a reminder, if any groups, districts, or individuals have agenda items or ideas/questions, the deadline is January of 2010, so we'll want to be discussing any ideas in our groups and districts now, and then at the Area Fall Assembly in October. Best wishes, and if you have any questions or comments on the minutes, please shoot me an email or give me a call.

In service,
Sarah K



STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHIVES

Northern Light Report - NOT GIVEN

ARCHIVIST

The Archives collection has been moved down the hall. Due to the different configuration of the room and the experiences of the past years the collection has been rearranged. The items that are used frequently are readily accessible and the items that don't get used are now buried. The cataloging, filing and digitalizing are making progress.

I took a personal trip to Akron in June. I toured Dr. Bobs house, the Seiberling gatehouse and the Intergroup Archives. I had a long chat with the assistant archivist at Intergroup. We are working on a lot of the same projects. I found that there really isn't a concrete system to catalog a collection but putting multiple headers on items eases a catalog search. They are using what I consider a very time consuming process to digitalize cassette tapes.

When I went to the gatehouse at the Seiberling estate I started at the Mayflower hotel and took the route that Bill's taxi would have taken. As I turned on to Portage Trail the houses got grander block by block and I could feel the apprehension rising. When I pulled in to the Estate and saw the stunning house and expansive lawn I had to admire Bill for his courage. I would have got back in the cab and left. It was an incredibly rewarding experience.

The next full Archives display will be at the Regional Forum followed by the ST. cloud Round-up. Thanks again for this opportunity to be of service and keep those district minutes coming.

Brad I.
Area 35 Archivist

CORRECTIONS

Hello Everyone,
We are having a Treatment/Corrections Workshop during the Assembly weekend. It is on Friday Oct. 2 at 6pm till 7:45pm.

It will be at the John Club. The flyer is on the Area Web site. Please join us.

The committee remains steadfast in their work. The meetings obligations are being met. There has been a decrease in temporary contact requests from Southern Area but we have had a few directly from inmates to members bringing in meetings. Everyone has been matched up.

I was able to attend the 35/36 get together and am very grateful for the opportunity. There was an intriguing idea that came up. It is to have one very willing, committed person be the designated contact to a facility. This person would function outside of the rotation and be the contact to the staff. This would instill consistency and a level of comfort that the confusion of rotation may cause sometimes.

I will be discussing it with the committee during our Oct. meeting.

Thank you all for the work you do. You are wonderful.
Krishna

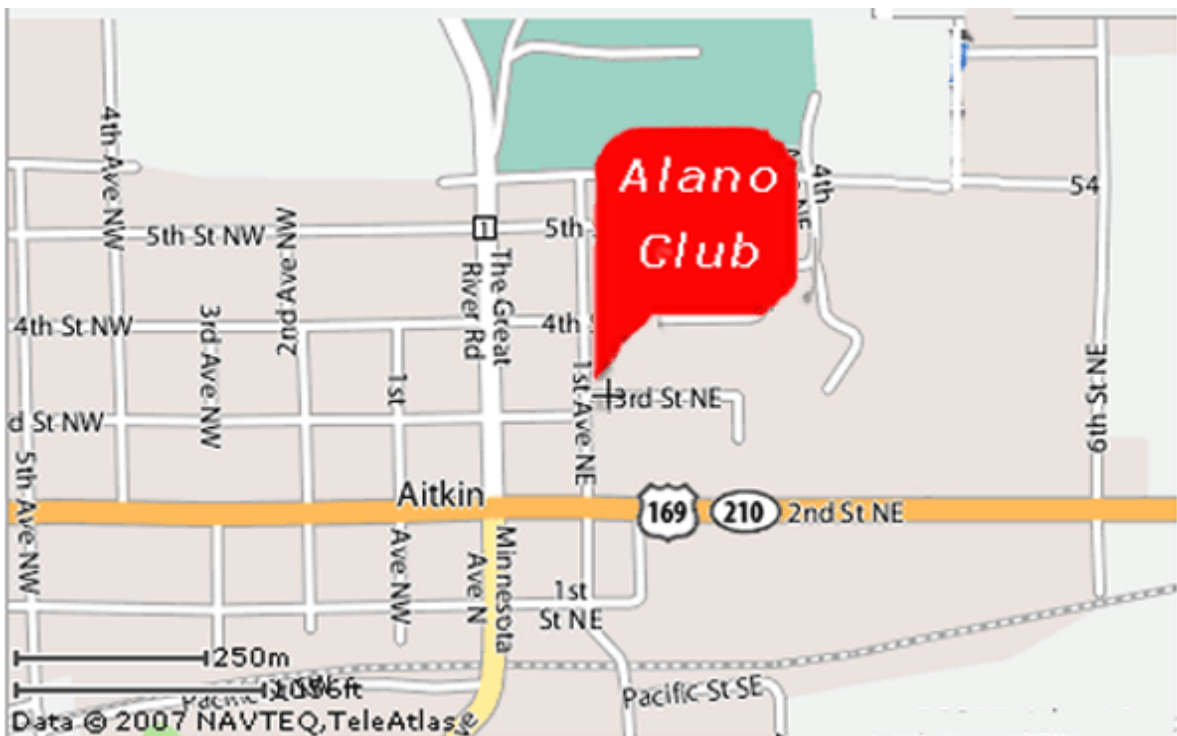
Inclement Weather Procedure For Area 35 Events

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 5s 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)

LITERATURE

Northern Light Report - NOT GIVEN

GRAPEVINE

Hi Everyone,

I hope everyone is doing well. I just attended the area 35/36 joint workshop in Elk River and it was interesting to share info with everyone in area 36.

I don't recall ever going to a WCRF so I am looking forward to it this weekend. I will see everyone this weekend and in Superior for the fall assembly.

Yours in service
Laurie R.

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

Northern Light Report - NOT GIVEN

TREATMENT

Greetings my friends in Northern Minnesota. I hope you all had an enjoyable summer. It seems to be a busy time of the year with so many things going on in our area from no until the end of the year. I attended the August Committee Meeting in Aitkin and rather enjoyed the experience. Our committee met briefly with Corrections to discuss our upcoming workshop in October and set an agenda for the event. Thanks to all of the members who agreed to assist with and present at the workshop. It is wonderful to be surrounded by such an enthusiastic and willing group. I look forward to seeing you all October 2nd at the John Club for the workshop. Come one, come all, just come.

I was able to attend the Area 35/36 Joint Workshop in Elk River in August and found it to be a very satisfying experience as well. It was wonderful to talk with members from Area 36 and look at ways to best work together to carry the message to those who still suffer. I am fully on board with continuing such efforts in the future. I have also been in contact with the Area 35 Treatment Chair who was unable to attend the gathering. We are looking at taking part in the MARRCH conference again this year in St. Pa in October. I will be looking for possible volunteers to staff the booth for one day and provide information regarding AA to professionals working in the treatment field.

I will be attending the West Central Regional Forum in St. Cloud as well as the Fall Assembly in Superior. I look forward to seeing you all there. Thanks for all you do in Area 35 and allowing me to stand as your treatment chair.

Yours in Service,
Jim

NORTHERN LIGHT

Greetings Area 35,

I attended the joint Area 35/36 workshop on August 29. I found it to be very interesting and informative. It's good to co-operate with our neighbors in Southern Minnesota. They always put newsletter, web and group records together

and most of our conversation centered around the new meeting locator. Check it out at aameetinglocator.org/.

I have plans to attend the 2009 West Central Regional Forum in September. While I hate to see the summer slip away so quickly, I have been looking forward to that for some time now.

The next big event is our Fall Assembly. It's the last assembly of this rotation already. We'll be electing a new Area delegate and new Area committee officers. Always curious to see what the next rotation will bring, but I can say with some assurance that Area 35 will be in good hands. Our area has many talented people who are ready, willing and able to serve.

Yours in Service,
Ed A.
Northern Light Editor

GROUP RECORDS

Northern Light Report - NOT GIVEN

WEBMASTER

Our 2009 Web site totals are as follows: - Total Unique visitors for the year – 13455
July 1664 unique visitors - August 1684 - 463 as of Sept. 8th - Our most popular pages were the Meeting Search, Calendar of Events, followed by the Meeting pages.

Hello Area 35. I have been busy making some minor improvements to the web site. I have created a form for uploading files for the Event Calendar. The form asks for an email address so I can get back to the sender if there is a problem with the file or mistakes in the flyer! Also has a CapCha box so bots can't upload with scripts.

A hacker from Brazil was able to change our homepage to show their hack signature "Audrey S. got a Help-Line call reporting it and called me". I had to re-upload the homepage and lock it so they could not do it again. I reported the incident to the proper authorities.

I also added a re-direct to the homepage so if a user put in area35.org it will re-direct to www.area35.org – this is important for indexing by the search engines, google, ya-hoo etc. so they don't index both and cuts down on bandwidth usage! Also simplifies it for users not web savvy.

I also implemented some caching schemes to improve speed and decrease bandwidth usage! Some page loads times have improved by 40%.

Disclaimer: Any improvements made are credited to AA and Loving God who expresses himself in our group conscience!
Yours in Service
Dan R.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

I hope all is well with everyone in Area 35 as we enjoy our last days of summer. We are into our busiest time of the year with our Area 35 and 36 Joint Workshop, West Central Regional Forum, Fall Assembly, and elections in groups, districts, and the

area. It is my hope that we have people willing to stand at all levels of service so we can carry the message and hope to all who have as desire to stop drinking.

I attended the Area 35 & 36 workshop held at Central Lutheran Church in Elk River. The workshop was attended by 68 people. Area 35 had 54 people in attendance at the workshop. We broke into groups as we do at our Area 35 committee meeting. I attended the PI portion of the workshop. There were 6 people present, and we discussed the State Fair and anonymity breaks on the Internet. Area 36 has submitted a proposal to the GSO to change the 11th Tradition. They would like to add at the level of radio, press and TV to include "All electronic media." There are members who are breaking anonymity on MySpace, Facebook, etc. on the internet. We all realize how important anonymity is – it is our second name. We must work harder within our fellowship to educate our members on our position regarding anonymity. At our committee meeting, Area 36 PI Chair Lisa G. asked if it would be worthwhile to have an Area 35 & 36 workshop on anonymity. I feel that this is a very important topic and could help to make sure we are all carrying the same message and the right message.

After we had broken up, we met as a whole body and went over all committee reports and had a question/answer session.

I would like to thank all districts and members for their support and participation at the State Fair. In the future I will be submitting a report with data collected by our members regarding the activity at the Fair, including a summary of who stopped at the booth and what materials were distributed.

In the future, if we continue to participate at the Fair we would have an opportunity to relocate to the Health & Education Building. We would have to let Fair officials know by October if we would like to relocate. We could save about \$600 with this move.

I will be attending the West Central Regional Forum. We are very fortunate to have this forum in our area. I have been given the privilege and opportunity to moderate at breakout session at this forum, and Heidi from District 5 will also serve as the recorder for this session. I would like to thank Roger and all his committee members for their hard work in preparing for this forum. Thank you so much!!

We still have some unfinished business before this rotation is up. We still have to put on a CPC/PI workshop in Zone 4. We would like to do this after our assembly so members in Zone 4 (which consists of Districts 8, 9, and 12) please pick a date, place and time, and Dee and I will be there. This is a little late, but we will have a new group of members in service positions in our districts and groups. This will be a great opportunity to help these new service members carry the message in CPC and PI.

I will close for now, and again thank you very much for this opportunity and privilege to serve Area 35. I am truly grateful to be a part of Area 35. As our elections are approaching, I would like to thank all who are willing to stand and serve.

In Service,
God Bless –
Jon C.

Area 35 Ad-Hoc Committee Report on Treasury Procedures

We have consulted with the other Area's in our region and discovered they all incorporate a financial review policy. Typically the committee reviews the finances and issues a report to the body. The body consists of members of the financial committee and or volunteers from the financial committee. I have included an example of Area 52's guidelines for reference. This is just an example of one Area's policy. We also learned that all the Area's in our region use quicken with one exception. Hopefully this information will help Area 35 determine the course they would like to pursue, and if the Area would like to setup a similar model. We will provide a detailed report on our finding at the Fall Assembly.

In your service
Dan Hess Alternate Delegate reporting for the committee

- 1) Yes we have an annual audit from an audit committee comprised of three volunteer members of the finance committee. This is always done on Saturday evening during our March Assembly to close the books on the previous year.(see attachment)
- 2) I believe that Quicken is the only software used by any Treasurer since computers have been used in Area 52.
- 3) No, to my knowledge we do not have guidelines for the format of the reports the Treasurer gives at assemblies. Under the Area Treasurer's duties in the Area 52 Service Handbook it states that the Treasurer is to provide accurate accounts of all contributions and disbursements to the Area Assemblies, with copies to be included with the Area minutes. I think if a new Treasurer decided to use Microsoft Money or some other software that this would be up to their own discretion provided the Assembly was satisfied with the reports given to them.

“WE SEEK NOT COMPROMISE BUT CERTAINTY”

(Remarks of Mr. Bernard S. at closing Conference session, 1952)

What we do here, and what we have done here, great as it has been, is not nearly or remotely as important, in my judgment, as the fact that we are here. For it is the existence and the preservation of this General Service Conference that is vital. The decisions we make here, important as they are, must in the last analysis, be subordinated to the greater significance of the existence of this Conference, for as long in the future as we can see, as a preserving arm of this great society of ours.

Actually, as I look back I feel the most important decisions that were here made were decisions to table decisions. To me that had a very, very profound implication. For here, unlike any political group, we seek not compromise by certainty. And in seeking certainty, it is frequently essential, as we found in the last few days, that motions be tabled because we were not yet sure.

I cannot reiterate too strongly my feeling that unless we are sure, unless we are certain, if there is yet time left to us to make a decision, I regard no decision as important as the willingness in an American society to postpone ultimate consideration. For again I like to reiterate those two words: We seek not compromise but certainty. If we can think of that concept, we will not fail, we will not err. We will be right and we will never, I trust, be wrong.

I cannot tell you how profoundly I was affected by the discussions that took place on the motion that related to the extension and length of office of delegates. I am sure that everyone here enjoys serving as a delegate for as long as people would have him.

But complete and utter selflessness was implicit in the discussion, the feeling that each individual who spoke never thought of himself but thought of this great society, and therefore decided that far more important than whether he should continue to serve, was the consciousness that it was far better for him not to serve than to take the slightest risk with this great and delicate instrument of yours!

And I might say standing here as your chairman that it was impossible for me not to sense the complete spiritual interpretation of your thinking here. I can't tell you (because I stand here) how that has come across to me in waves. And no one can stand here without being deeply moved by this selfless and spiritual impenetration of this entire Conference.

You in A.A. have done something with the concept, “Love Thy Neighbor,” which has removed it from the cliché. For you have staked out a specific neighborhood. You have found it possible to create a neighborhood within which to work, within which to give full meaning and potency to words that, unfortunately, to a large degree in common parlance, have lost their full significance.

Out of the depth of your suffering, you have been given the light to see how black was the darkness from which you emerged, and to feel for everyone who still blunders along in that darkness, and what is more important, to do something about it. You in your own way have found that man is not a lonely, friendless creature, tossing helplessly about in a hostile world. You here in A.A. have found how deep are the roots of the wellspring of human love and friendship. And those roots can be tapped and the world can look upon you who sit here, and upon the groups all over this country, as evidence that human love and human friendship and human decency is still possible in this world of ours.

I have always found it difficult to know what A.A. is, how we can define A.A. It is probably the most elusive thing in history. It is something more than a movement. And yet not an order. It is a faith and yet not quite a religion. It is a society and yet not an organization.

For you have founded a society that is not divorced from life but has invigorated it and given it meaning. It is not removed from the Church but you have supplemented it, the Church, with an extra spire in your hearts that lifts just a little higher toward the heavens.

We are not free in one sense. We are bound by a faith that has succeeded in making us free for real, creative activity. We are dedicated to a single purpose, energized by a common need and dignified by human decency and humility.

We have learned that the spiritual can take hold of our material world and completely transform it. For A.A. stands before the world as living proof and evidence that in this industrial, mechanized, materialistic world of ours, Man need no longer cower in the shadows but, functioning effectively as an economic and social being, walk the earth fearlessly and erect in the sunlight before his God.

Bernard S.

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

AREA 35 COMMITTEE MEETING**August 2, 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 in attendance were recognized: Jerry S., Tim C., Tom A., Susie A.
- ___ Additions to the Agenda: WCRF Host Committee Update; Area Software Standard: software consistency.
- ___ Corrections to the agenda - Not approval of August Committee Meeting Minutes, but June Committee Meeting Minutes.
- ___ Approve June 2009 Area Committee Meeting Minutes: Motion made to approve the June 2009 Area Committee Meeting Minutes. All in favor, passed unanimously.

OFFICER REPORTS

Delegate-My last Delegate's report back was in Perham, MN for districts 3 and 4. I would like to thank all the districts for their kindness shown, great questions and support as I traveled around the area. I received the 2009 -2010 Conference Approved Literature and Other Service Material Catalog, also the updated pamphlet: "A Message to Teenagers." GSO staff rotation took place on July 13, 2009 and I emailed out a copy of the G.S.O. Staff Assignments. The deadline to fill the G.S.O. staff vacancy to replace Irene K. was June 21, 2009. It was hoped to have a new staff person in place by August. Steven D. is the new Associate Archivist. I received an email from Phyllis H., General Manager, of a managerial decision to not print the three 2009 Regional A.A. Directories (Canadian, Western U.S. and Eastern U.S.). Putting a hold on printing the three regional directories will save approximately \$35,000 this year. The following directories will be printed for 2009: 2008-2009 International A.A. Directory outside the USA and Canada, the 2008 Central Office, Intergroups and Answering Services for the United States and Canada, and the 2008-2009 General Service Offices, Central Offices, Intergroups and Answering Service Overseas. The intergroups and Central Offices have up-to-date meeting information as do some area Web sites. They are hopeful that the newcomer and our Fellowship will find direction and assistance through these service entities and by visiting the www.aa.org website. Markings, the Archives newsletter, will soon begin its first electronic-only version, joining Box 459, and Sharing Behind the Walls in digital format. This reduces expenses of \$4,000 per issue and provides greater on line services to the Fellowship. Contributions online from A.A. members by credit card via an internet website has been underway and is nearing completion. It is planned for roll-out early in August. A link will be sent to Area Delegates, Trustees and Directors prior to going "live" for use by the Fellowship. I have not received the 59th General Service Conference Final Report but expect it soon. So if I receive it between now and the August Area35/36 Workshop, I'll have copies available there or at the Fall Assembly. I'm trying to be prudent with the area's monies! The Regional Forum – September 11-13, 2009 – St. Cloud, Minnesota. Area 35 Northern Minnesota has been asked to moderate workshops and I've asked: Dee K. to do: Rituals and Chanting in A.A.; What "Trusted Servant" really means – Jay A., Communication, Communication, Communication – Krishna Z., Relationships Between A.A. Service Entities – Jon C., The Importance of a Home Group – JoAnne N., and Anonymity and the Internet – Dan R.. Others moderating workshops are: The A.A. Grapevine – Robin B., GV Executive Editor, Singleness of Purpose, Lorna O'C., Self-Support – Where Money and Spirituality mix – John T., and How Can G.S.O. Help You? – Doug R., G.S.O. Staff. Grapevine: I received a new 2010 One Day at a time 2010 pocket planner, the 2010 Calendar, the August Grapevine and the A.A. Grapevine, Inc, Catalog. Received an email from Robin B., Executive Editor, AA Grapevine, informing us that there was a printing error that resulted in the Grapevine's bulk subscribers getting the July issue with "AA Grapevine" on the outside of their packages. The magazine fulfillment house recently moved which required changing the return address labels on all magazine packaging. Unfortunately, when changing the return address labels for the bulk subscribers, the printer made the mistake of putting "AA Grapevine" in the return address instead of Grapevine. I received notice of a Class A Vacancy on the General Service Board from Ward E, chairman of the board after Jeanne S. W. tendered her resignation as Class A Trustee. A special meeting by conference call on Friday, June 5th was made to discuss extending Herb G's term of service for one year through the 2010 General Service Conference to fill the vacancy created by Jeanne S. W.'s resignation. After a lengthy discussion, the GSB decided to leave the position vacant, at this time, and requested that the trustee's Nominating Committee begin the process of filling the vacancy to replace Jeanne W. and present the nominee's name to the 2010 GSC for disapproval, if any. The GSB (2009-2010) will operate short one Class A trustee in addition to operating short one Class B regional trustee and one Class B General Service trustee. In October we will be holding elections for the Panel 60 Delegate in Area 35 and I will be sending in the information of area officers elected to Doug R. at GSO. Agenda Items – The agenda item deadline for the Conference is not until January 15, 2010 but if any items are going to be forwarded from our area assembly it is helpful to the process if some of the items for consideration come in time to be considered at the October meetings of the General Service Board so where applicable these can be worked on and considered again at the January Board meeting. The spring C.P.C. Activity Update: GSO's request for Fellowship sharing on the use of professional actors' full faces in video projects produced by A.A. World Services Inc. has received an excellent response. I emailed a letter from Area 35 Northern Minnesota after our June Committee meeting that our sense of the meeting was taken and the majority agreed and want to honor our Traditions by keeping the use of full faces out of videos. AAWs Finance Committee: Un-audited result for the first 3 months of 2009 reflected net sales of \$3,271,100, contributions of \$1,444,200 and a total revenue of \$3,312,500. Unaudited next income for the first three months of 2009 was \$290,700 compared with a \$359,400 budgeted profit and was approximately \$5,000 less than the \$295,900 profit reported for the same period in 2008. Publications: Total distribution of all books through April 2009 was 734,875, down slightly from the same period in 2008. Through March, total A.A. purchases amounted to 607,456 units, while non-A.A.s accounted for 127,419 units, or 17%. Gross sales for April were budgeted at \$1,187,060. Actual sales, unaudited, were \$1,111,919, or 6% under budget compared to \$1,087,972 in 2008. On Saturday, I received an email from Brooke C., Delegate from Area 76 Wyoming with two attachments that were sent to Ward E, chairman of the General Service Board regarding a formal petition and a Tradition Two Resolution. If anyone is interested in receiving a copy of this let me know and I'll send it out when I get home today. I'll be participating in the Zone IV Forum on August 8, 2009 somewhere up north! I'll probably need directions to Eveleth and Camp Chicagami. On August 29th we'll be attending the Area 35/36 Joint Workshop in Elk River and that should be a fun day of sharing between the areas. Thanks to all the districts for continuing to send me your minutes whether by email or snail mail. Once again, it is certainly a work in progress serving as your delegate. It has truly been a growing and learning experience for me. In Service, JoAnne N

Alternate Delegate – The rotation is winding down. We will be conducting our last zonal forum August 8th in Eveleth at camp Chicagami. As a reminder: if you are attending the Zonal Forum in Zone IV on August 8, 2009, after the forum you are invited to stay for the KISS Saturday evening meal (it is really excellent food!) and speaker for \$7.00. Our January workshop guest had to cancel. I will be finding a replacement and should have that by August committee meeting. I will not be standing for Delegate this next rotation. I apologize for any inconvenience I may have caused the Area. I believe Area 35 has a wealth of dedicated servants, we are truly blessed, and in good hands. Thank you In Service, Dan H

Area Chair- No report submitted. Jay A

Secretary- First, I apologize for errors in the June ACM minutes, there may be more but for sure JoAnne noticed some missing letters/words in her report and I left Art's last name in his report. Sorry about that. I really hate editing. I will continue to work on this. I keep trying to farm it out, but I'm really finding a shortage in willing editors. Again, if you want the minutes emailed to you, write your name on the list in front of me. I got some emails returned. If you want the NL emailed to you (non anonymity protected version) talk to Ed. A. Please get me your reports by tonight; Last time this worked so well I'm trying it again! You can either hand them to me when you are done, or you can email me tonight. Thanks for letting me learn and grow here in service, Sarah K

Treasurer- Beth reported to Jay that she would be unable to attend for personal reasons. If you need to be reimbursed quickly, call Beth and she will mail you a check. She will/did mail the Northern Light Check. She has a new mailing address: PO Box 221, Hibbing, MN 55746. Beth will bring the financial reports to the Fall Assembly and we will approve the financial reports for this period at the Fall Assembly. She did not give any numbers for our current finances but did say that contributions and expenses close to last years. Beth E

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS

PUBLIC INFORMATION- 13 people attended our meeting this morning including individuals from Districts 3, 5, 9, 13, 6. We discussed having a Zone IV CPC/PI workshop sometime after the Fall Assembly. We discussed the State Fair and I passed out information that each District will need when they staff the booth. We will be collecting a data using a log to record who is visiting the booth. For all those staffing the booth, you will need to pay for the cost of parking and the entrance fee. We shared and discussed ideas for things going on in the Districts, including struggles to fill positions and possibly

combing positions, ways of spreading phone line numbers and information (including using fliers), suggestions for putting on a CPC/PI luncheon (including having groups sponsor professionals, having lunch on a Friday, sending letters inviting professionals, and presenting at monthly staff meetings for professionals), staffing local county fair booths, distributing literature to local facilities, and distributing and updating meeting schedules. Thanks again to the lovely Heidi for taking notes and writing this report. As you can tell from the June Committee Meeting report, I am lost without her notes and report. If I can be of any assistance, please contact me. In service, God Bless, John C

District 5- Greetings and blessing from all of us in District 5. Wow it is so hard to believe that we are in the month of August already. Where does the time go? I don't know about the rest of you but I am still waiting for summer to arrive and it is almost over! Since my last report we are staying busy in District 5. I attended along with 6 others from our District the Zonal 3 CPI/PI Workshop in Isanti. Special thanks to Jon and Dee for coming down and passing on some great information to all of us. On June 15th JoAnne came and gave her report back to us along with District 6. We had a potluck before and had a good turnout. Thanks to JoAnne for giving us a very detailed report and everyone that attended and helped out in some way to make it successful. We elected Pam W. as our interim Literature Chair after our previous one resigned. We will also be taking nominations for the next rotation of the 2010-2011 year to fill the District Chairs at our next District meeting on August 17th and then will be voting on them at our September District meeting so I can bring that information to all of you at the Fall Assembly. Our "A Different Way" group held their annual speaker meeting on June 29th and our "Lost and Found" group held their's on July 29th. We held a Workshop on Steps 10 and 11 on July 25th. Special thanks to the committee members (especially Rita and Skip) for their hard work putting it all together, Roger from St. Cloud and Sue from Big Lake that presented on the steps. It was a great time of learning and fellowship for all of us. This weekend coming up August 6-9th we will have again this year our AA booth at the Mille Lacs County Fair. Thanks to everyone that volunteered to man the booth and continue to help carry the message. Our District looks forward to hosting the Area 35/36 Workshop coming up on August 29th. And last I am asking for your help at the Area level to help fill positions I still have open for greeters during the West Central Regional Forum coming up September 11-13th in St. Cloud. I will pass the sign up sheet around and if you feel moved to be of service during this great event please sign up. Thank you in advance for your commitment to be of service. Kelly D

District 18- Not present, no report submitted. Doreen L

GROUP RECORDS- As always, if there is anything you need please let me know. This applies especially to bulk mailing issues because I am an expert, if you don't mind me self-identifying as such. They know me down at the local bulk mail center and we are all good buddies. In fact, one of the guys at the post office recently got a haircut and it looks great! The work continues on ameetinglocator.org. Our next meeting is at the Joint Workshop later this month. After that, we will be having a lunch meeting at the Forum in St. Cloud. If you have any inserts for the Northern Light, the deadline is the same as the submission deadline. Please keep working with me on new groups and group information changes. Audrey S

NORTHERN LIGHTS- Ed told Jay he'd be unable to attend. No report submitted. Ed asked for DCMs to send him events for inclusion in the Northern Light. Ed A

District 4- We had a good turnout at our last District Meeting in Kensington, MN on July 11, 2009, 12 attended. One area of concern was with the West Central Regional Zonal Forum falling on the same day as the Park Rapids Round Up. Several people said they would not be attending the Forum for that reason. District 4 joined District 3 in hearing our Delegate's report back in Perham. We would like to thank both JoAnne for a job well done, and District 3 for hosting this event. I asked JoAnne if she had to use the Right of Decision to change any of our Area's votes in New York and she said she did not. I find this reassuring to know we have been given all the pertinent facts on the agenda items as to make an informed decision. Thanks again for allowing me to serve. I look forward to seeing all of you in September for the West Central Regional Zonal Forum in St. Cloud. Until then, God bless you until we all meet again. Yours in service Bruce W

District 7- We recently held our second annual district picnic and had a great turnout, about 100 attended, and great food. We made a flyer to distribute asking for people interested in service work, passed out a Seventh Tradition packet, and the District 7 calendar of events. We are hosting a booth at the Crow Wing County Fair again this year, following a 2 hour on, 2 hour off rotation, as more literature seems to be taken when the booth is not staffed. I have confirmed that the hotel will be handling the coffee situation for the upcoming Forum in St. Cloud and so we will not need any volunteers for this. Our district has been out visiting meetings, inviting participation, handing out district information, the district calendar, and Tradition Seven packets. WE have an increase at the District level from groups that have not been involved in District in the past, so we are very excited about that. Bob has offered to do a District 7 newsletter each month, and has committed for the next two years. He'll bring the newsletter to each district meeting so we can distribute it to the groups. Thanks Bob! JoAnne attended our last District meeting and shared about her attendance at the General Service Conference. We are grateful to JoAnne for sharing with us, for her representation of our area, and for her willingness to be of service. Thank you so much JoAnne. Thank you so much for the opportunity to be of service-I am very grateful. It has taught me a lot. I just love this program and my AA family. Lee Ann H

CORRECTIONS- We had a huge turnout at the committee meeting 10 in attendance. Thanks for Mary and Robin for joining us. The districts are reporting that they are doing well with current obligations with a few now shows. We discussed the need to make sure literature was available and ways to obtain literature from those who may have stashes they are not using. We also met with the treatment committee to go over our upcoming workshop on October 2 in Superior, WI. Thanks to Butch, Rita, Skip and Priscilla for agreeing to present. We agreed on an agenda, and the topics will be: Understanding singleness of purpose, Living and doing the 12th Step, How to bring informational meetings to client and professionals and Bridging the gap/temporary contact. Please come and join us. Krishna Z

District 1-We met on June 14 at the Fertile Community Center, with 8 in attendance. The treasurer reported that there was enough in our treasury to send the DCM to the Joint Workshop and the Forum. I am very much looking forward to going. The meetings at the correctional center in Crookston are going well. AT the women's meeting there have been only two coming, but it is a beginning. There are also meetings for the men. There are 3 AA members approved, with 3-5 waiting for approval. At the August 9th District meeting introductions and nominations for new district chairs will be made. Wild Rice Summer Round-Up will be held on August 22-24 at eh Sand Hill Bible Camp south of Fosston on Highway 2. The annual "End of Summer Celebration" (aka slumber party) will be held on September 12-13. Two district members volunteered to lead the weekend, as the DCM will be attending the WCRF. Staying sober through service, Priscilla A

District 11- We staffed the AA booth at the Pine County Fair this month, and JoAnne came to give her Conference report. All our corrections commitments are being fulfilled, and three extra people came with to this meeting today from our district: Gary, corrections chair, Liz and Annette, PI and CPC chairs. Thanks, Doug N

C.P.C- This has been a busy summer for us. I was able to attend part of the Area 63 Spring Conference in Souix Falls, SD. What a pleasure to be able to participate and we enjoyed our day there. PI/CPC workshops in Isanti on June 13 was hosted by Districts 5 & 6. We had a good turnout and had good discussion, questions, suggestions, and ideas. I also attended the District 3 Delegate's report back given by JoAnne in July. Glad to be here to participate in service work and plan for the Area 35/36 workshop in Elk River. I am looking forward to the WCRF in ST. Cloud and I look forward to seeing all of you there. Yours in service, Dee K

District 3- Good day and greetings again, everyone from the great District 3. I'm Bill D, an alcoholic DCM. – I'm very grateful to be here and to see all of your bright, shiny, coffee slurping, early morning faces. Anyway, District 3 is still alive and well. We are financially sound and our chair positions are currently filled. We are in treatment centers, halfway houses and jails. We have a toll free help line that's being used. We have a website that's top notch. Our district meetings are on the third Sunday of each month @ 10 am in Perham it's well attended and you're all welcome. (Free donuts!) JoAnne delivered her Delegate Report this last meeting and it was long, I mean ahh.. wonderful! Thank you, Joanne. We had visitors from District 4 as well as about 15 committee chairs and GSR's. Free pot luck, food, beverages and fellowship – what else is there? District 3 is going to the State Fair again. Oh boy, Big Books on a stick, again! District 3 is doing the AA meetings at the Regional Forum, along with District 4, in Sept. Our elections will be in Sept.. Time to rotate. I am grateful to be sober and useful today. Thanks for letting me hang out with you all. Bill D

District 6- Things in District 6 are going well. I am thankful to all those who attend District meetings and the work they do. We are busy trying to plan a CPC/PI luncheon and keeping the literature moving. We just ordered \$275.00 worth of literature so we should be set for awhile. Thank you for letting me serve, Jack J

GRAPEVINE- Hi everyone. I just have a few things to report. With the August issue of the Grapevine the Preamble has returned to a prominent place at the beginning of the magazine and the Steps and Traditions are on the inside back cover. The Preamble and Declaration of Responsibility are also on the subscription cards so they can be torn out and carried in your wallet. The Grapevine is also looking for people to submit stories on the following topics. Moment of Truth: What Brought You Into AA? Submission deadline: August 20. Dealing with Adversity: Financial Insecurity. Submission deadline October 20. Also the new Grapevine wall calendars and pocket planners are now out. The wall calendars are \$9.00 and the pocket planners are \$4.75. From our meeting this morning the only thing I have to report is that Rod from District 5 reports that Grapevine books are being brought into the jails and being snapped up by the inmates. Thank you for allowing me to serve. Laurie R

District 9- We had a brief District meeting after JoAnne gave her delegate's report. We also had a BBQ, which had a wonderful turnout. Thanks to District 9 and to JoAnne. At the District meeting our treasurer discussed banking options and we approved the PI/CPC chair to participate at the county fair with a 3 hour staffed booth. Our next District meeting is August 30th at 6p.m. at the Hibbing Alano Club. Yours in service, Robert S

District 21- Greetings to my family of choice! We had 15 people at our last District meeting with one new GSR and we are grateful for that. I plan to make phone calls or have a face-to-face with the GSRs the week prior to the next District meeting which is August 10th at 7:00p.m. We talked about having one more workshop this rotation and GSRs liked the idea of a step workshop instead of a workshop on meditation. As always, the groups rule. This is good stuff!!! Both men and women's jail meetings are going strong and there is some talk about the men starting a second meeting, so we'll see where that goes. We are gearing up for elections in September and we have a few positions already filled as well as others who are interested. We will wait and see ; HP hasn't let us down yet and we don't expect that to change. The 800 number has a bunch of new recruits, mostly women, from the Bemidji Area, and our hotline chair is very excited about having them on board. We have done a very good job at spending the District's money responsibly to carry the message. Our literature chair placed an order before the prices went up and are sitting barely at our prudent reserve with the Fall Assembly right around the corner. The word was carried back to the groups & they have responded magnificently! For that we are grateful. Our PI chair is keeping the area well stocked in meeting lists as well as the waiting rooms in the clinics. "FAQ" and "Am I an Alcoholic" frequently disappear when there is only one person around the doctor's office. At this point we have 4 volunteers to help out in St. Cloud in September, and District 21 is responsible for the workshop portion of the forum and we will be there. Others have also expressed interest in just showing up. We are excited about this!!! We get to carry the message and stay sober just one more day...Oh are we blessed!! Harold S

WEBMASTER-Our 2009 Web site totals are as follows: - Total for the year -Unique visitors - 10987, June 1267 - July 1663 unique visitors. Our most popular pages were the Meeting Search , Calendar of Events, followed by the Meeting pages. I had to add a new upload page with a form to fill out to upload files. Someone from Argentina was able to upload some virus files that could do no harm but were a nuisance. There were also a number of flyer's that had been uploaded with no address to the event and one with no date for the event. Now the uploader will need to give an email address so the webmaster can contact the uploader if need be. There is also a Capcha text box to fill in for added security. The event calendar developed a problem that caused the events to post in a day earlier than what I put them in. I did not notice this error for a few days. Ed A. our past webmaster had checked to see if the flyer's he needed posted were up yet. Of course they were a day early. He emailed me asking if I was drunk or something. Since Ed had implemented the Calendar script he agreed he was the best one to track down the problem. In the mean time you all would have not noticed it because I posted everything a day later. It is corrected now - Thanks Ed. The Area 35/36 Web Committee had a meeting online on Saturday June 27nd. I was not able to attend. The agenda was to Review Feedback from users, discuss any issues or Changes needed. The minutes from the meeting referred to resolving what issues that came up such as adding 1 and 5 mile search terms in the dropdown box for meeting searches. Some discussion about the Joint Workshop presentation. Also weather we would have a workshop time at the Regional Forum - unresolved at that time! Yours in Service, Dan R

District 17- NO DCM

ARCHIVES- At our meeting this morning Districts 13 & 8 shared a out gathering group histories and putting together a district archives display. District 8 had an old timer's panel in Virginia, MN with 30 attending. District 13 will have a workshop and old timer's panel on October 17, 2009, at the St. Cloud Alano Club from 12-3 pm. District 4 is also going to host an old timer's panel. The 13th National Archives Workshop will be held September 24-27 in Los Angeles, CA. Yours in service, Bob K

ARCHIVIST- The collection has been successfully moved down the hall. We now have a bit more room to work and we have help. A gentleman from the Waite Park group is pulling staples, collating documents and plastic clipping them. The cataloging is making progress. The tape digitalizing is moving along. I submitted an article to the N.L. but I think it got caught in a spam filter or something because Ed never got it and I was on vacation and didn't get the message until post publication. I can not attend the Duluth round-up this year due to it being the same date as the Regional Forum. I will have the full display at the Forum. Please keep those District minutes coming. Brad I

District 2- Absent. No report submitted. Art A

District 13- I attended the Zonal PI/CPC workshop in Isanti, MN and Jon and Dee did a great job. We are in the process of updating our group records for aameetinglocator.org and printing 5,000 new meeting schedules. We are working on a CPC strategy to communicate with medical professionals. We are fulfilling our treatment and corrections responsibilities. Our district officers are getting out to meetings to attract members to attend the WCRF and encourage participation in our next district rotation. We are looking forward to hosting the WCRF September 11-13, 2009. We opened nominations for district positions at our July meeting and will hold elections at our September meeting, which will be held on August 31...Thank you to District 15 for asking me to present on the 10th Step at your District workshop on July 25. Thank you for the opportunity to serve this wonderful fellowship. Roger R

LITERATURE- First, I apologize for not having a report in the Northern Light. I procrastinated then it got really hectic around my house and I forgot. I am sorry about that. At our meeting this morning districts 1, 15, 9, 7, and 5 were present. We discussed county fair activities, visiting different groups, literature purchasing, and taking literature into jails. I have the new literature catalogs with the new pricing. I did not see the price change affect any pamphlets yet. I have put in two separate orders since June. I will have to do a full inventory of pamphlets and books when I get home to find out how we are doing. I also received the revised pamphlet AA for the Native North American. The pamphlet on sponsorship is being received and a special needs pamphlet is being developed. Also, a sentence to encourage newcomers to read the Big Book will be added in the pamphlet, "The Newcomer Asks." "44 Questions" has been changed to "Frequently Asked Questions About AA." Lastly, they won't be printing the directories this year due to a financial shortage. Thanks for letting me serve, Mike V

District 15-I just wanted to let everyone know that I have company this morning. Her name is Marlene and she is one of our GSRs. Unfortunately our last district meeting was not very well attended. Hopefully due to the beautiful summer weather...On 8/16/09 Lake Henry is having their Annual Picnic at the Lions Club park at noon. August 22 is the Cold Spring Hog Roast at the Sportsmans Park from 1 pm to evening, and there will be speakers. This last Thursday I set up an unstaffed fair booth at the Stearns County Fair, and I will pick it up this evening. This year we began sending thank you notes to groups that donate to district. We sent Big Books and excess literature to Stearns County Jail services. At the last meeting a question arose about if there is a limit on how much money an individual could donate to the district. Thank you for letting me serve and I am hoping for some more volunteers for offices this year. As JoAnne mentioned, we lost Mike P. Rest in peace big Mike. Our next District meeting is August 3 at the Albany Community Center. Yours in service, Sandy H

District 16- District 16 is planning a district Big Book study tentatively scheduled for late October in Grand Rapids. When things are solidified a flyer will be distributed. Our treatment needs continue to be met in the adolescent and adult programs in our district. Thank you to the groups and individuals who selflessly give of their time. The District literature chair continues to stuff racks as needed. Still no progress with one of the hospitals/clinic complexes, but she is still trying. PI/CPC is busy updating the directories prior to our November printing. District 16 has a new meeting at noon on Mondays at the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and is a closed Big Book meeting. If you are in the area, please stop by! District 16 is getting rev'd up for the Regional Forum. Six people have stepped up to be of service and several others are thinking about it. We still need people to bring bars and cookies for the hospitality room. Time to be of service in a new and exciting way! Bake, buy or get a sponsee to bake and bring them to ST. Cloud. Thank you for allowing me to be of service, Mary C

TREATMENT- Five of us met this morning in committee including Districts 8, 5, & 12. We discussed commitments being met, covering new facilities and meeting the new needs, building relationships with treatment professionals and facilities. Our committee also met with the corrections committee to

discuss the upcoming Treatment/Corrections workshop on Friday October 2 before the Fall Assembly. Krishna supplied information on the format and we hope to see you all there! I have received very little correspondence from Area 36's treatment correspondence program and I will be contacting the Area 36 Treatment Chair to ensure that all is going well. Jim K

District 8-Good morning and greetings from District 8. We of District are still carrying the message of Hope and meeting our commitments on all levels. This has been possible because of good Sponsorship and active Home Groups. Our District Meeting are well attended with anywhere from 20-26 Groups of 33 in attendance. Our Old Timers Panel went well and we are looking forward to some more annual Speaker Meetings coming up. Next up is the Keep It Simple Weekend put together by a hard working committee and we hope to see many of you there. We have a new facility that opened up in our District and we will be discussing that at our next meeting. Group and District Elections are coming up opening the door for opportunities to be of service something that has been a big part of my recovery as well as it has in many others. Once again thank you for allowing me to serve In Service, Butch R

District 12- (Tim H was not present. The following report was given by Jana a GSR in District 12) First we want to thank JoAnne for coming to Cloquet to share her Delegate's report. Our PI/CPC chair has sent a letter to schools, colleges, and other professional groups with a self-addressed stamped return envelope, offering to put on a 15-30 minute information presentation on what AA is and what it isn't. WITC responded, and a presentation was done there. UMD also wants us to speak to their medical students and might make it a part of their regular curriculum. Our literature was approved to place an order prior to the price increase, and is assembling the items to make GSR packets to give to the new GSRs. Our treatment commitments are being met and we really stress the importance of having consistent people to commit to chairing so we can keep on a positive note with the treatment and correctional centers. Corrections has a meeting at NERC which is well attended and is doing very well. There is also a meeting at Carlton County and St. Louis County jails. To encourage more participation in our district meetings we have been rotating our meeting place. The 1st quarter of the year was at the Superior Serenity Club. The 2nd quarter was in Cloquet, MN. The 3rd quarter up in Silver Bay, MN, and the 4th quarter at the John Club in Superior, WI. We will be staying there a little longer for the transition of the new officers and chairs. Our next meeting will focus on getting ready for the Fall Assembly. Yours in service, Jana

OLD BUSINESS

Area Treasury Review Status Report: Was brought up at Spring Assembly to do an annual audit. The ad hoc committee consisting of Dan, Jay, Beth, and Tom A hasn't met yet, so Jay asked to table that until the August Committee meeting. Change of name: Will no longer be called an "Audit" rather, a "Review." The committee: Jay A., Dan H., Beth E., Tom A., decided to gather more information regarding how this is handled in other areas in our region and then discuss those findings in committee after the Area 35/36 Joint Workshop, the results of which to be discussed in the future.

2009 WCRAAF Host Committee update: (Pertinent information from June: Motion for Area 35 to host a hospitality room at the 2009 WCRAAF in St. Cloud not to exceed \$250. All in favor. Motion passed.) Update: We need help with the hospitality room: volunteers to work in the hospitality room (See Mary C.) And if you can bake, make a couple dozen bars or muffins. Registration: greeters are still needed.

Status of Delegate Resume's/extension: due to a mistake in the dates of the deadline for resume's the deadline was extended and District 12 nominated Jim K.

NEW BUSINESS

Software standard-keep it for continuity/consistency: Multiple area positions need specific software and need to use the software. In the past either people got it on their own, or the Area bought it but sometimes it did not get passed on. If the Area purchased software and made sure it was passed on it would help with consistency during rotation. Currently the Area has purchased Quickbooks for Treasurer, Excel for Group Records, Publisher for the Northern Lights. Since we are already purchasing software for Area positions, we should keep doing this and we have no further discussion.

Calendar of Events:

- Zone 4 Zonal Forum is on August 8, 2009, at KISS-have to pay if you are attending the KISS activities.
- Fall Assembly, Oct. 3-4, 2009, Barker's Island Inn, Superior, WI, rooms \$87. For reservations call 1-800-344-7515.
- Joint Area 35/36 Workshop, August 29, 12-5 pm in Elk River.
- Spring Assembly 2010 is going to be in Detroit Lakes, but not the first weekend of April because it is Easter. It will be March 27 & 28 instead.
- WCRAAF St. Cloud, September 11-13, 2009!!

Closed with the Lord's Prayer



Abra Cadabra Proof It Works

I had been sober from drugs and alcohol for about one and a half years, yet I didn't have much serenity. One summer afternoon I was in my apartment trying to stay cool; it was a very hot and humid day. Then it happened; my air conditioner quit working. I was upset. I didn't like the thought of going through the rest of the day in the unbearable heat.

I had a thought. Why don't I lay hands on the air conditioner and pray for it to work? I felt kind of silly doing that, but why not, it couldn't hurt. So I did just that. Immediately the air conditioner started working. Wow, I thought, prayer really works.

Then I noticed how dirty the air conditioner looked. I got a wet rag and began wiping it off. I noticed that the front came off. I took the front of it off and behold the inside was caked with dust and grime. No wonder it had quit working! Then it hit me, the same way God cause the air conditioner to work again, so He took the craving for alcohol away from me, but like the air conditioner, if the emotional junk like resentments, self-pity, etc. is not cleaned out of me I'll break down again and use.

I need God to clean me out just like the air conditioner needed someone to clean it out. The sixth step says, "We became entirely ready to have God remove these defects of character." Then the seventh step says, "We humbly asked Him to remove these defects of character."

I've had my ups and downs in sobriety, but each day walking with God brings more and more freedom, not only from drugs and alcohol, but also from self.

Teresa D.



Area 35 Northern MN
Treatment/Corrections
Workshop

Friday October 2, 2009
6:00 pm to 7:45 pm

At 1609 John Ave.
Superior, WI

For further information contact
Treatment Chair
Jim K.
Treatment@area35.org
or
Corrections Chair
Krishna Z.
corrections@area35.org



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.

**Area 35/36 Joint Workshop
August 29, 2009
Central Lutheran Church
Elk River, MN**

Meeting opened at 1:00 PM with welcome by Jay A. (Area 35 Chairperson) and Steve K. (Area 36 Chairperson) and Introductions. We then broke into 8 breakout session:

Breakout Session Reports:

Area Officers Report-Sarah:

Discussion of Regional event on years we do not have a Regional Forum: Discussion centered on cost, time, and need. Concerns expressed about budget for the Region and if Areas can afford this. Jay questioned the need? Thought time might be spent connecting with the groups we serve. Do groups understand what we are doing-are we disconnected from them? Sarah suggested we are serving the groups in many different ways and ultimately serving the groups by going to Regional Forums. Suggested Regional Event might center on unity through discussion of past conference agenda items and getting groups involved in discussion of possible future agenda items. Money is issue but communication is important. Discussed using new technology such as a conference call or free broadcast to have a connection between all of us but save money.

How procedurally we run our Assemblies and Committee meetings: Area 35 uses Roberts Rules of Orders and suggested Robert Rules do not seem punitive and might be more positive and keep meeting in control. Rules can be rigid or laid back. Steve K. wanted Assembly to be informal but with larger groups thought it did not seem to be effective. Scott talked about the Trusted Servant Leadership Training and the GSR booklets. Suggestion made to educate GSRs on Robert Rules. Dan suggested a personal approach where someone would sit down with the person who needs help. Area 35 gives new GSRs stickers and pares them with a GSR who has been to a previous Assembly.

Handling of Area Officers or Committee Chairs who are not doing their jobs: Talk with the person. Is the person being more helpful or harmful in their position? Are we better off with or without person? Important to meet with the person who previously held the position and share information. Area 36 does a rotation meeting. Northern Minnesota goes to incoming chairs house and also do rotation at the last Area Committee meeting. Area 36 has a Trusted Leadership Training once a year.

Motivating DCMs to visit groups and provide services in the District: Believe there is indication of problem if Groups don't know what is going on in the Area. DCM might go to Area Functions and Forums but does not foster good communication to Groups. Encourage Area Officers to go to District meetings. Scott A. spends more time with DCMs. Be a resource for Districts. Angie suggested: If groups don't attend go to their meetings and create good will. Doug C. expressed concern about communication-is it more important to go to a District meeting or that he share with Treasurers on how to do there job. Sue thought Districts would be thrilled to see Area Officers. We are not there to run their meeting. Only help if asked.

Finding locations for Assemblies: Area 35 has 4 zones in there Area and they rotate their Assemblies. The DCMS go out and get information on places to hold Assemblies and bring the information to the Area Chair. The Area Chair makes arrangements and the Districts do registration, restaurants, etc. They do this with workshops, too. Voting assembly is in a different zone each time. Area 36 has one day assemblies and tries to have them at churches, hotels or schools because they are cheaper.

Miscellaneous: Discussed auditing procedure and use of Skype and MSN to do meetings via camera and microphone.

Archives Report-Bob:

Area 35 will have an Archives display at the West Central Regional Forum. Per Brad I. Area 35 is working on digitalizing tapes, working from the oldest to current. They are cataloging books and pamphlets. There is an ever growing pile of "I WISH THEY PUT A DATE ON IT" pile. Area 36 is unable to attend Regional Forum because of a Roundup in Mankato. Per Ken R. Area 36 currently has sorted 28 boxes with 54 boxes of unsorted archival material. They are currently talking about having an Archives Associate and also trying to poll past Delegates to be part of the committee. There will be a Zone 3 Archives workshop in St Cloud on Oct 17th from 12:00 to 3:00 PM with old timers panel and history talk.

Cooperation with the Professional Community Report-Heidi: Dee, the CPC chair for Area 35, started the meeting by explaining what CPC means. Discussed what to present at a CPC luncheon for professionals. Some ideas were to explain what A.A. is and is not, have two members of A.A. who were referred by the professional community speak, talk about the A.A. survey, explain what anonymity means, explain our singleness of purpose, talk briefly about the history, and provide literature and meeting schedules. Dave the CPC chair for Area 36 also discussed presenting to professionals at work. Many times organizations have monthly meetings (doctors and clergy) and we could present at these meetings. Ed from District 8 feels we need to do more follow up with places where we drop off literature and see if they need more and if they are using the literature. District 8 has started 3 meetings in a homeless shelter and is working to help the Hmong Community. Committee discussed getting into conferences and health fairs. Area 36 had booths at the MN Social Services Conference, the Physicians Conference, and the Social Workers Conference. The cost of having booths has been a problem but they have always had great participation and involvement from the professionals attending. The group felt we should work together to get to all of these conferences. Charles of District 8 wanted to know more ways to work with professionals. The group felt to reach professionals one might make an appointment and talk with them. Ended the meeting by discussing ways they can work together in the future and decided to write down email addresses and have Heidi email everyone the list.

Corrections Report-Sue:

In Area 35 main problem is getting volunteers; focus is on getting volunteers to take meetings to facilities and finding contacts for inmates getting out of prison. In Area 35 the DCM finds contacts for jails and prisons. Area 36 is currently fulfilling the commitment at Moose Lake and Area 35 will try to take this over. Area 36 has many volunteers in the Twin Cities but fewer in the outlying areas. Districts 21 and 22 and the Area 36 Corrections Committee will have a workshop on taking meetings into Corrections Facilities. Their hope is to replace fear with humility and gratitude. They wish to accumulate a list of contacts in Correctional Facilities and need a person to coordinate this. Additional ideas presented:

Look for volunteers within your groups to get people to the workshops: request everyone involved bring 1 new person with them. Challenge DCMs to challenge GSRs to get 1 or 2 people from their group to attend the workshop.

Showing Video: helps eliminate fear of volunteering in Correctional Facilities. Announce commitments at meetings. Have consistent commitments so everyone knows.

New idea: Have one person (besides the Corrections Chair) be the contact with the jail. On rotation we will still have a contact. Need consistent correspondence with jails; relationship is the key.

Area 35/36 Joint Workshop (continued)

Literature and Grapevine Report- Bill S.: Area 35 has started buying more literature and keeping it on hand. Groups email their requests for literature and the literature chair distributes literature at the Area Committee meetings. Small groups can get literature through him. Area 35 Pink Can Plan is left to the Groups and Districts and only one facility is currently being served. Some concerns on whether inmates are getting books. Area 36 Pink Can Plan is very active; have been discussing how best to purchase the literature (GSO vs. Minneapolis Intergroup). Discussion has focused on cost vs. service, support, and immediate fulfillment.

Literature Proposals: Area 36 has 3 proposals that have come out of the Literature Committee.

1. Change "Question and Answers on Sponsorship" pamphlet to add sentence to section "What newcomer should expect from a sponsor".

2. Produce and publish book on Pioneer Women in A.A.

3. Change Tradition 11 to add "all electronic media". Discussion included:

- Recent blog by member who is sober 30 years.

- Concern is not fear of breaking Tradition but fear itself that we need to pay attention to. The principle is already there.

- Changing all the literature is costly.

Traditions are not rules but spiritual principles-AA doesn't penalize-not police.

Grapevine: Discussion of Grey page, subscription prices and postcard that asks for credit card number. Bring Grapevines to Drs. Office, Treatment Centers, Correctional Facilities, Assisted Living Facilities and Libraries. Have your group subscribe to the Grapevine and use it to give meetings.

Public Information Report-Jon: Discussed moving the State Fair Booth from the Grandstand to the Health and Education Building.

Might need to decide who we are trying to reach. Health/Education would be \$600-\$700 cheaper and might include more professionals.

Grandstand might reach more drunks. Idea was proposed to have a statewide Area 35/36 workshop on Tradition 11. Currently many anonymity breaks through face book, blogs, and internet—people are unaware of Tradition 11 and anonymity workshop could provide information. Some thought we should wait for the need to be expressed before we offer a workshop. Offering unsolicited workshop may only draw General Service people—wouldn't necessarily garner interest. Let people know about anonymity breaks.

Treatment Report-Jim:

Good discussion. How can we better carry the message? How can we work together? What are we doing in our Districts? What kind of program are we working on? Talked about Bridging the Gap program - it still requires us to bring this program to Treatment Center. We also need to bring Informational Meetings to Treatment centers. Also talked about setting up workshops, enthusiasm, and carrying the message.

Website, Newsletter, Group Records & aameetinglocator.org ad hoc Report-Lisa:

Ad hoc Meeting Locator: They will be doing presentation of the meeting locator at the West Central Regional Forum. Audrey will bring a laptop and show the Group Records side of the website. Lisa will show the user side of the website. Only groups with active status are on the Website.

Group Records: suggested that the Treasurer could work with Group Records to identify gaps in data and discuss 7th tradition. Three versions of letter: One for active and contributing, one for active and not contributing and one for inactive and contributing.

Newsletter: Might include meeting locator and group record update process in each issue. **Website:** Discussed Web guidelines/policy. Does it follow GSO guidelines?

General Sharing and Questions from floor:

Alan N. -Regarding the meeting locator: why can't pending groups be listed? Group Records indicated they can be; we currently have it set up to only list Active Groups. Kelly from Area 35 said several groups recently registered. Thinks we should add pending groups.

Alan N.-what type of additional Regional Forums might we want? Per Delegate-Scott A.; 2 other delegates and Scott were asked to put together a Regional event to develop unity in the Region.

Ken R.-Is there a date for next years Joint Workshop? Area 35 has put this on their calendar. Steve K.: Area 36 did not have many people participating today and needs to take their inventory and commit to this event if we were going to participate.

Bill S. - on expanding Tradition 11 to include (electronic media); in a recent blog, a well know person said he was a member of AA-should we expand the Tradition? Randy-all of our Traditions speak to this.

Thanked Kelly in District 5 of Area 35 for hosting this event.

Announcements:

Recovery Unity and Service Conference-January 22, 23, and 24th, Fairmont, MN.

St. Paul Intergroup Ice Cream Social-Sept. 19th, Lutheran Church of Redeemer.

West Central Regional Forum- September 11, 12, and 13th, Holiday Inn in St. Cloud.

St. Cloud Roundup-October 23-25th, St. Cloud Civic Center.

Treatment/Corrections Workshop-October 2nd, Superior, Wisconsin

District 18: Recovery, Unity, and Service Workshop-November 7th -8:30 to 2: 00 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Phyllis S.
Area 36 Secretary

THE STRANGE OBSESSION

By Bill W.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2009-2010 – AREA 35 SCHEDULE

Heartland Roundup

September 11-13, 2009
Park Rapids, MN

64th Annual Duluth Roundup

September 11-13, 2009
Duluth, MN

8th Annual End of Summer Celebration

September 12-13, 2009
Union Campground, Lake Sarah
Just southwest of Erskine, MN

Fall Assembly

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

27th Annual St. Cloud Roundup

Oct 23-25, 2009
St. Cloud Civic Center

Area Committee Meeting

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

Spring Assembly

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

Winter Workshop

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

Area Committee Meeting

February 7, 2010 9:00 a.m.
Aitkin Alano Club, 322 1st Avenue N.E., Aitkin, MN

September 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 <small>Labor Day</small>	8	9	10	11	12
13 <small>Grandparents Day</small>	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 <small>Autumn Begins</small>	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			
						<small>U.S. Federal Holidays are in Red.</small>

October 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 <small>Columbus Day Thanksgiving (Canada)</small>	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 <small>Halloween</small>
						<small>U.S. Federal Holidays are in Red.</small>

Upcoming Events in Areas 35 & 36

* **2009 West Central Regional Forum**

* September 11-13, 2009 — Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
* 75 - 37th Ave. So. - St. Cloud, MN
* 320-253-9000

* **Southern Minnesota Roundup**

* September 11-13, 2009 — Best Western Hotel
* North Mankato, MN

NORTHERN LIGHT PRIMARY PURPOSE:

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

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

EDITORIAL POSITION & N.L. COMMITTEE:

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

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

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

N.L. COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

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

Twelve Concepts for World Service (Short Form)

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

Northern Minnesota Area Assembly
Fall 2008
October 3 and 4, 2009

Saturday October 3rd

- 9:00 A.M. Registration
- 10:00 A.M. Area Action Committees and GSR Orientation
- Noon Lunch on your Own

- 1:00 Call to Order Open with the Serenity Prayer
- Acknowledgement of Past Delegates
- Why We Need a Conference
- Approval of the Spring 2009 Assembly Minutes
- Add To Agenda

OFFICER REPORTS

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS

- PUBLIC INFORMATION-John C.
- District 5-Kelly D.
- District 18-Doreen L.
- GROUP RECORDS-Audrey S.
- NORTHERN LIGHTS-Ed A.
- District 4-Bruce W.
- District 7-Lee Ann H.
- CORRECTIONS-Krishna Z.
- District 1-Priscilla 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.

- 4:45 GSR Sharing Session and DCM Sharing Session
- 6:00 Supper on your Own
- 8:00 PM Open Speaker Meeting (Past Delegate)
- 9:20 PM Ice Cream Social

Sunday October 4th

- 7:30 AM AA Meeting
- 9:00 Assembly Reconvenes
- Business Not Completed Saturday
- GSR Sharing Session Report
- DCM Sharing Session Report

OLD BUSINESS

- Area Treasury Review Committee
- Spring Assembly 2010
- Fall Assembly 2010

NEW BUSINESS

- Elections for Area Officers (Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary
- Vote to allow incoming Area Chair to Select Committee Chairs approved at Dec. Committee Meeting
- Calendar of Events
- Ask it Basket
- TBA
- Adjourn

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