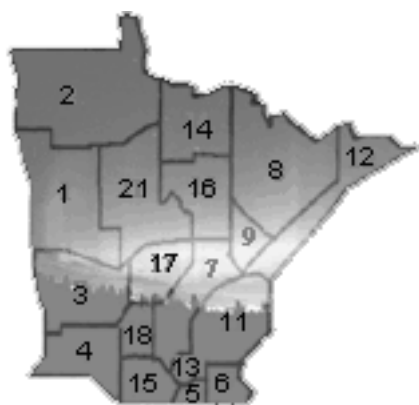


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Deadline for the next
Northern Light is
March 8, 2010

This is YOUR Newsletter.

Please send your questions or comments for publication to
Daniel R. 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://area35.org>
Event Calendar - Meeting Directory - NL Online - Download Pamphlets - District Pages

AREA 35 COMMITTEE 2010

AREA OFFICERS

DELEGATE
JON C.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE
JIM K.

AREA CHAIR
MICHAEL “JAKE” J.

TREASURER
SARAH K.

SECRETARY
HEIDI R.

AREA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

PUBLIC INFORMATION
ROGER R.

ARCHIVES
ART HUR J. A.

ARCHIVIST
BRAD I.

CORRECTIONS
KELLY D.

LITERATURE
BOB K.

GRAPEVINE
DOLORES D. K.

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

TREATMENT
ROBERT (BUTCH) R.

WEBMASTER
IONE B.

GROUP RECORDS
LAURIE R.

NORTHERN LIGHT
DANIEL R.

DISTRICT 15
SANDY H.

DISTRICT 16
MARY S.

DISTRICT 18
JASON A.

DISTRICT 21
CARL B. JR.

DISTRICTS 10, 14, 17, 19 AND 20
UNKNOWN

DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

(D.C.M.s)

DISTRICT 1
RICHARD "RICK" W.

DISTRICT 2
RODNEY P.

DISTRICT 3
JEFF C.

DISTRICT 4
JIM T.

DISTRICT 5
RITA D.

DISTRICT 6
KATHIE G.

DISTRICT 7
MARK N.

DISTRICT 8
RANDY A.

DISTRICT 9
CHUCK R.

DISTRICT 11
GARY H.

DISTRICT 12
JANA M.

DISTRICT 13
GAYLE S.

MOVING?
ADDRESS NOT
CORRECT?

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

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

GroupRecords@area35.org

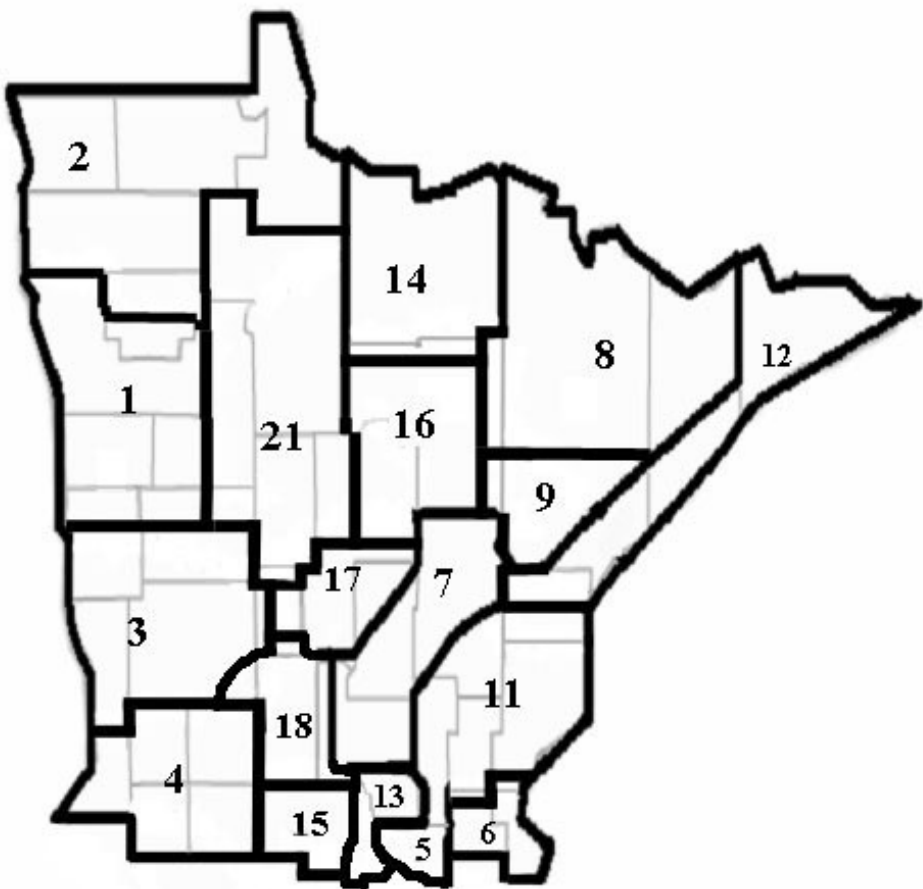
Thank you!

Our Past Delegates

Panel 58 JoAnne M. N.	2008-2009	Panel 26 Vern R. (deceased)	1976-1977
Panel 56 Jerry S.	2006-2007	Panel 24 Gordon B. H.	1974-1975
Panel 54 Charlie C.	2004-2005	Panel 22 Frank P. J. (deceased)	1972-1973
Panel 52 Tim C.	2002-2003	Panel 20 Clarence B. (deceased)	1970-1971
Panel 50 Tom A.	2000-2001	Panel 18 Dave H.	1968-1969
Panel 48 Susie A.	1998-1999	Panel 16 Arno A. (deceased)	1966-1967
Panel 46 Bill P.	1996-1997	Panel 14 Donald F. (deceased)	1964-1965
Panel 44 Bruce B.	1994-1995	Panel 12 Donna T. (deceased)	1962-1963
Panel 42 Greg G. (deceased)	1992-1993	Panel 10 Bob B. (deceased)	1960-1961
Panel 40 Bob J.	1990-1991	Panel 8 Pearl N. (deceased)	1958-1959
Panel 38 Scott J.	1988-1989	Panel 6 Waldo H. (deceased)	1956-1957
Panel 36 Louie H.	1986-1987	Panel 4 Wendell H. (deceased)	1954-1955
Panel 34 Bob P.	1984-1985	Panel 2 Arthur R. (deceased)	1952-1953
Panel 32 Tom L.	1982-1983		
Panel 30 Don M. (deceased)	1981-1982		
Panel 28 Garfield (Duffy) S. (deceased)	1978-1979		

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 6f 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, Mahnomén, 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

District 1
Sunday February 7th, 2:00 pm
Fertile Community Center
101 S. Mill St., Fertile, MN 56540

District 2
2nd Sunday of Odd Months, 2:00 p.m.
First Lutheran Church
210 Park Ave. N.
Middle River, MN 56737

District 3
3rd Sunday of Month, 10:00 a.m.
Perham Alano Club
Hwy 34
Perham, MN 56573

District 4
2nd Saturday of Month, 5:30 p.m.
for location (it rotates)
Potluck at 6:30 p.m.
Round Robin at 7:00 p.m.

District 5
3rd Monday of Month, 7 p.m.
St. John Lutheran Church
13045 Fremont Ave
Zimmerman, MN 55398

District 6
3rd Thursday of Month, 7:30 p.m.
Spring Lake Lutheran Church
8440 Erickson Rd. N.E.
North Branch, MN 55056

District 7
3rd Thursday of Month, 7:00 p.m.
First Lutheran Church
424 8th St. S.
Brainerd, MN 56401

District 8
Committee Meetings at 6:30 p.m.
General District Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Palo, MN

District 9
Last Sunday of Month, 6:00 p.m.
Hibbing Alano Club
3725 1st Avenue
Hibbing, MN 55746

District 11
1st Tuesday of Month, 7:00 p.m.
Peace Lutheran
2177 Hwy 18
Finlayson, MN 55735

District 12
Rotating 3rd Thursday 6:30 p.m.
Jan., Feb, Mar. at
1609 John Ave.
Superior, WI 54880

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

District 15
1st Monday of Month, 8:00 p.m.
Albany Community Center
741 Lake Ave.
Albany, MN 56307

District 16
1st Wednesday of Month, 5:30 p.m.
United Methodist Church
1701 S.E. 8th Ave.
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Handicap Accessible, Non-Smoking

District 18
1st Tuesday of Month, 6:30 p.m.
Long Prairie Alano Club
21 2nd Ave.
Long Prairie, MN 56347

District 21
2nd Monday, 7:00 p.m.
Bemidji Alano Club
1225 Anne St.

Districts 10, 14, 17, 19 and 20
Not currently active.

Delegate’s Report

I hope that all of you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I pray that we all enter into this new year happy, joyous, and free. It is also important to remember that we are all working toward the same goal of helping those who have a desire to stop drinking.

At our December committee meeting, we were informed of an area 35 Treasury issue. Our past officers are working very hard to audit our books and figure out the discrepancies and shortages. I have been informed of all communications regarding our treasury. At this time, no concrete figures are available. When this information becomes available, it will be shared with all Area 35 members. We are also planning to hold an information session where we hope to have this treasury information available. At that point, we will answer questions and concerns and seek input from the fellowship. Please plan to attend, as we need everyone's input. We want to have checks and balances in order to prevent future issues.

As our January workshop approaches, in conjunction with our treasury problem, let us all do everything we can to keep our expenses to a minimum by sharing hotel rooms (when appropriate), car pooling, as well as watching the dollars spent on meals. As we know, we always need to be very prudent with group contributions; however, at this time, it is even more necessary. As your delegate, I am appealing to all of the groups in Area 35 to contribute as much as you can to all the officers and chairs to serve the area. I assure you all contributions will be used for service in carrying the message.

I have received information from the General Service Office regarding what committee I will be serving on at the General Service Conference. I will be representing Area 35 on the conference committee for Cooperation with the Professional Community. We have a total of eight committee members and one secretary on this committee. I have been reading all of the available information in the area of CPC in order to be as informed as possible.

On December 27th, 2009, I participated in my first conference call including our West Central Trustee and West Central Delegates, which was very interesting. The following subjects were discussed: Grapevine, scheduling at the General Service Conference, Diversity Statement, Hope Video and inventory of our G.S.O.

It is my obligation and responsibility during the rotation to keep all members of Area 35 informed. Communication is so important. I will pass on all communications from the G.S.O. and be available by email or telephone to answer concerns of the fellowship.

On December 31, 2009, I attended the Aurora Big Book open meeting with Al-Anon participation. We had two excellent speakers: Hazel A. for Al-Anon and Tom. L. for AA. Tom was a past delegate from Area 35.

On January 9, 2010, I will be attending an open speaker meeting with Al-Anon participation in Cook, MN. The AA speakers are going to be Tim C., who is a past delegate from Area 35. On January 16 and 17, 2010, I will be attending our Area 35 workshop and on January 23, 2010, I have been invited to share my story in Virginia.

I look forward to serving this fellowship to the best of my ability. I will work very hard for Area 35 and Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. It will be an honor and a privilege to serve the fellowship of Area 35. In order for Area 35 to effectively carry the message, we need every member of this fellowship to participate. Please attend all of the area functions and let your voice be heard. May we all work together to reach our common goal.

Thank you and God Bless,

Jon C.
Panel 60
Area 35 Delegate

Alternate Delegate’s Report

Greetings members of Area 35. I hope you all had a good holiday season and are looking forward to our service opportunities this new year. No doubt that this year will be providing us with a great opportunity to take inventory as an Area and develop useful strategies to insure that we are able to continue to fulfill our primary purpose; that of carrying our life saving message to the still suffering alcoholic.

I want to thank you for this opportunity to act as your alternate delegate for the 2010-2011 rotation. I have had the opportunity to talk with Dan H., our past alternate delegate, and I am hopefully getting a better understanding of the position. I have read through the Area’s position description and have contacted those districts which are presenting at this years Area Service Workshop. I want to personally thank each of the districts who have agreed to present and I am looking forward to seeing your presentations. I also worked out a schedule which will allow us to discuss our current Area financial situation at the beginning of the workshop. I hope that this proves to be a useful and helpful time for us to discuss our current situation as well as developing a program of action that will insure our that Area is able to move forward and continue with our services. It has been said that God never gives us more than we can handle and I truly believe that this applies to our current needs in Area 35.

Once again I wish you all the best this new year and look forward to working with you throughout the rotation.

Yours in Service,

Jim K.

Area Chair's Report

Greetings Area 35,

As we start this new year and new rotation into Panel 60 for Area 35 we face many difficult challenges that were not foreseen. This is not unusual for us really. We are a problem people and often respond better under difficult circumstances. I have every confidence that the groups and districts will rally to support the Area in our hour of need and the Area body will respond with an out-pouring of gratitude!

In my years in service I have learned that it may take time but the group conscience will prevail with the truth!

I am looking forward to working with all of you this rotation. Don't hesitate to call or email me with any questions, suggestions or concerns!

Yours In Service,
Michael "Jake" J.

Secretary's Report

Greetings,

Well I have met with the past Area Secretary, and have gotten all of the information on my new position. I have been spending my time reading past Area minutes, the services manual, the actions booklet, and the trusted servant guidelines. I am very excited to start. Right now, I am working on getting a flyer made for the Spring Assembly on March 27th and 28th in Detroit Lakes. I want to thank those districts that have started sending me their minutes. They have been very interesting to read. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. I will try to help as best as I can. I look forward to seeing everyone at the January Workshop.

Yours in Service

Heidi R.

Treasurer's Report

I would like to extend my deepest apologies to the Area for my part of what happened to the Area's treasury. Perhaps if I had paid more attention to Beth's emotional distress and struggle to perform her duties during her two year rotation and intervened in the treasury sooner, this might have been prevented. For my hesitance in insisting that nothing but the highest importance be placed upon our financial statements and reporting, I sincerely apologize. To bring the Area up-to-date, I was notified of the missing money at the December Area Committee Meeting by the Area Chair who told me and the Area Delegate that the check for the Fall Assembly facilities at Barker's Island had bounced. I had no prior knowledge of any misdoings by the previous treasurer until she notified the Area Officers later that week of what she had done. At that time I assure you the Area Officers' entire focus became how best to rectify the current situation and how to prevent this from occurring again.

For my part, what I will do during my rotation to ensure transparency and honesty is make all the upcoming bank and financial statements available to any member of the fellowship through email. All you have to do is send me an email at treasurer@area35.org requesting the most recent financial and bank statements and I will send them to you as soon as I am able. I will also be providing the Area Chair with an online banking code so that he may review the bank account and ensure its accuracy. I currently have no up-to-date information on the status of the previous treasury which Jay is still working to reconcile, but as of the time of this report the contributions to the new Area Account total \$3,431.77 (this includes \$500 given to me by Jay from the old account to open the new checking account).

I would like to make a couple suggestions for the Area Assembly to consider regarding the treasury. First, that we form two ad hoc committees to review and reconcile the treasury books, one to review the treasury going back two to six years and the other to move ahead with the new treasurer (me) and review my books on an annual or quarterly basis. The backward looking review will help to establish an accurate accounting for the books for the last few years, while the forward looking review will provide one additional check and balance to ensure that the books are always accurate. Both ad hoc committees would be given access to the bank records and treasurers reports and should be tasked with giving a report of their findings to the Area on a predetermined and regular basis.

Second, many of you know that the Area does already have a set of checks and balances in place called the Statement of Financial Responsibility (SFR) which can be found in the back of the Area Actions Book (Appendix IV). According to the SFR, the responsibility of ensuring the accuracy of the treasury (after the treasurer) falls to the Area Chair. However, the SFR does not currently require the Area Chair to actually review the treasury on a regular basis, or provide any kind of regular report to the Area regarding the treasury and thus ensure its accuracy. I would ask that we also have an ad hoc committee look into tightening up the SFR to include a provision requiring regular oversight by the Area Chair and regular reporting to the fellowship. As we can clearly see, two sets of eyes on the treasury are always better than one.

I know there are those who call for justice to be served in this matter, for formal legal charges to be brought. As I have thought long and hard about this, I just want to take a moment to express my feelings. First, our Traditions state that AA cannot govern any individual, and more importantly, ought never be drawn into public controversy. In discussing Tradition 1, Bill writes that "We do suggest, but we don't discipline. Instead, compliance or noncompliance with any principle of AA is a matter for the conscience of the individual; he is the judge of his own conduct." In replying to those who wonder how we can protect AA if we cannot discipline anyone, Bill replies, "The moment any action seriously threatens the common welfare, group opinion mobilizes to remind us; our conscience begins to complain. If one persists, he may become so disturbed as to get drunk; alcohol gives him a beating. Group opinion shows him he is off the beam, his own conscience tells him that he is dead wrong, and if he goes too far, Barleycorn brings him real conviction." Tradition 11 emphasizes the importance of good public relations, and Tradition 10 speaks loudly of the absolute necessity of avoiding controversy, for this above all could destroy the unity of AA. To me, taking Beth to a public court to be penalized by Alcoholics Anonymous is both trying to discipline her and is a very public controversy. To preserve the wellbeing of the fellowship we must think of AA as a whole and how our actions right now might affect (or reflect) on AA. I'm reminded of how Bill refused to take the job with the Hospital because of the danger of linking AA's name to one facility (the principle was that AA's wellbeing was tantamount to any other issue, even his personal financial wellbeing). Similarly, I believe we should be concerned with linking the AA name so publically to the crime in this

Continued next page >>

<< Continued from previous page

case. Surely too we all know our own conscience places far worse consequences on us than any penalties the outside world would impose. That said, the Area Assembly is, of course, free to deal with this situation in any way they deem best and I welcome loving deliberation on this, for the decision should come only after careful consideration of our Traditions and the well being of AA as a whole. Finally, I am reminded of an analogy I once read, although I don't recall it completely, the gist was this: *if you leave a dog alone in a room with a table full of food and return to find the dog has eaten the food from the table, can you in good conscience hold the dog solely responsible for the misdeed? Shouldn't you who left the dog unattended in the room full of tasty, tempting food have some accountability as well? For you knew the dog's nature.* By this I mean to say that the Area needs your involvement. I ask that every group in Area 35 discuss the treasury issues and send representation to the Area, or each member consider personally volunteering to get involved in the review of the treasury and an overhaul of the Statement of Financial Responsibility. It is, in the end, the fellowship who is responsible for their finances, and it is, in my opinion, far overdue that we have an active committee looking at how to best protect those finances. I have asked the Area Committee to consider their budgets carefully, be prudent, and create them in accord with the SFR which states that they are to be a goal setting guide for which important services we might provide the Area. Please be involved in considering which services you want the Area to provide. It is my greatest hope that this controversy will not tear Area 35 apart, but rather will draw us closer together as we work together to find a solution. While I am not sure of exactly how we will solve the current problem, I do know that to prevent it from occurring again we need volunteers in AA with the willingness, ability, and time to form committees to review the previous treasuries, and create a more effective (and protective) Area financial policy.

It almost goes without saying that at this time we also need financial support if the Area is to continue providing services and maintaining the vital connection between Area 35 and the General Service Office. So PLEASE consider how you personally may be able to assist the Area, both with your time and with your financial support. If you haven't given a Birthday Contribution, do so now! What a wonderful way to put your gratitude into action and enable the people you have elected to serve AA to engage in the activities that make Area 35 such a wonderful place of service. Have your group treasurer discuss the importance of being self-supporting and supporting the three entities. Encourage group members to be generous in the hat (or basket), where money and spirituality mix. Work with your District Committee Member and treasurer to get the word out to other groups in your District about the need to support AA with contributions. Looking ahead, the Area needs to cover costs for the Winter Workshop (approximately \$2,400) and the Spring Assembly (around \$3,000), costs for copying the background information (approximately \$1,000.00) and the Area Actions Book (around \$200), and for sending (at least) our Delegate to the WCRAASC and the General Service Conference. Your financial support of the Area is just another way to show your love for a fellowship that has saved so many lives, ours included. Please consider the action you are willing and able take for AA. In the words of Bill Wilson, as he usually says it best, **"Yes we AAs were once a burden on everybody. We were 'takers.' Now we are sober and by the grace of God have become responsible citizens of the world, why shouldn't we now about-face and become 'thankful-givers'! Yes, it's high time we did!"** (Grapevine, June 1948.) Please send all future contributions to Northern MN Area Assembly, PO Box 328, Brainerd, MN 56401.

Well, I think that is quite enough out of me. Thank you for allowing me to be of service and I look forward to working with all of you in the future. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sarah

The following is an email that was sent to area members 12/12/09 from the incoming Area Treasurer Sarah K.:

WE NEED HELP!

Please take this information to your groups and let them know of the Area's situation. If you have already contributed, please consider giving again. It is my hope that the individuals and groups within Area 35 will rally to support their Area. I have set up the new PO Box for the next rotation. After January 1, 2010, please send all contributions to: **Northern MN Area Assembly, PO Box 328, Brainerd, MN 56401.** We needn't panic. This is not the first time the Area has faced problems like this. We came through it then, and we will come through this too!

Seriously though, we really do need your help. We have many events coming up, including the January Workshop on January 16 & 17 in Alexandria, MN. If you haven't preregistered for the January Workshop already, consider doing so now! Send your \$10.00 pre-registration to: **Northern MN Area Assembly, PO Box 328, Brainerd, MN 56401.** Be sure to label it as PREREGISTRATION money so it gets credited appropriately. Soon after, we will also need to pay for copies of the GSC agenda items and background information (at a cost of approximately \$1,000.00), we usually support members of the Area Committee to attend the West Central Regional Service Conference in Dubuque, Iowa to share our area's conscience, we have the Spring Assembly, and we need to send our Delegate to New York.

Our fellowship always comes through in a crunch, and it will now if we all just pitch in a little bit! If you have celebrated a sobriety birthday this year, or last year, and haven't sent the Area a **BIRTHDAY CONTRIBUTION** consider doing it now! Share this with your groups. Ask members to show their gratitude for their sobriety by sending in a birthday contribution. Label them: **BIRTHDAY CONTRIBUTION** and send them to: **Northern MN Area Assembly, PO Box 328, Brainerd, MN 56401.** We can make a difference here! We can in this moment, *"be the change we wish to see in the world"* (Ghandi).

I think Jay and JoAnne have made clear in previous emails sent to the Area that there is a reconciliation process taking place, and if we learn anything from this experience, I hope it is that we absolutely need to have at least two sets of eyes actively watching our finances at all times. Current Area policy requires the Area Chair be on the bank account as well as the treasurer. In the future, as soon as I open the new bank account, I will be setting up online banking and giving the pass code to the Area Chair so that he can access our bank records at any time of the day or night, and ensure our accounting is all above board. This may warrant some modifications in our Statement of Financial Responsibility (See the Area Actions booklet). I would also recommend two ad hoc committees be formed, one to review past treasury reports and bank statements, and one to review the current and ongoing treasury reports and statements. I am sure we can look forward to some fruitful discussions and helpful advice on how to prevent this in the future at the next area meeting. Certainly our decision to conduct an annual review of the treasury is now more than ever a step in the right direction.

Please help me reach all the AA members in Area 35. Forward this information to other GSRs, groups, districts. Print it out and distribute it at your district meetings, clubhouses, and AA meetings. Let the whole Area know that their help is needed!

Thank you all so much. Yours in service, Sarah K., Incoming Area 35 Treasurer.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHIVES

Looking forward to working with the Districts and our Archivist this rotation!
Yours in service
ART HUR J. A.
Archive Chair

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

Greetings to all!

District 6 asked me to attend their CPC Luncheon on February 12, 2010 at North Branch Area Library. I feel very fortunate to have something going on and will be participating. What more could a Committee Chair ask for, than to have an active committee already in operating condition. District 6 has kept me aware of their CPC functions the past two years while I was DCM for District 11. I'm looking forward to meeting more CPC members at our February Meeting and welcome suggestions and comments since I am new to this position.

Yours in Service,
Douglas R. N.

NORTHERN LIGHT

Greetings Area 35,

This is my first report of this rotation and have had fun putting this issue together. As with any new service position I have done I want it to go well. I am a perfectionist and always have to continue to take my inventory so I don't waste time on trivial things.

As some of you know I was the Panel 58 "previous" Webmaster and usually got my reports in on time after a few gentle but persistent reminders from the NL Editor Ed and the Area Secretary Sarah. I have a new appreciation of them now.

I have added three articles to this issue. One from past DCM and incoming Corrections Chair Kelly D.. We both shared our stories at the Keep It Simple Weekend this last Summer. One from our previous Treasurer Beth E. and a copy of Dr. William D. Silkworth's original letter "TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN" .

Last night I used what I had learned while serving on the 35/36 Adhoc Web Committee. The committee met several times online as I am in Superior, WI some were in St. Cloud, Minneapolis and various other locations. You can talk on the phone and see the presenter's desktop computer screen. We were able to save time and Area monies by doing this.

I had an online conference call with Ione B. our new Area Webmaster. I was able to show her how to do some of the duties of updating and maintaining the web site.

We are in good hands with Ione as our new Area Webmaster. She is a dedicated servant and a quick learner. She is also a delightful person to talk to and was very patient with my geek talk and kept me light!

I want to encourage you all to submit articles to the newsletter ! I will continue throughout this rotation to select and add the best content I can to our newsletter but I need your help!

Yours in Service,
Daniel R.

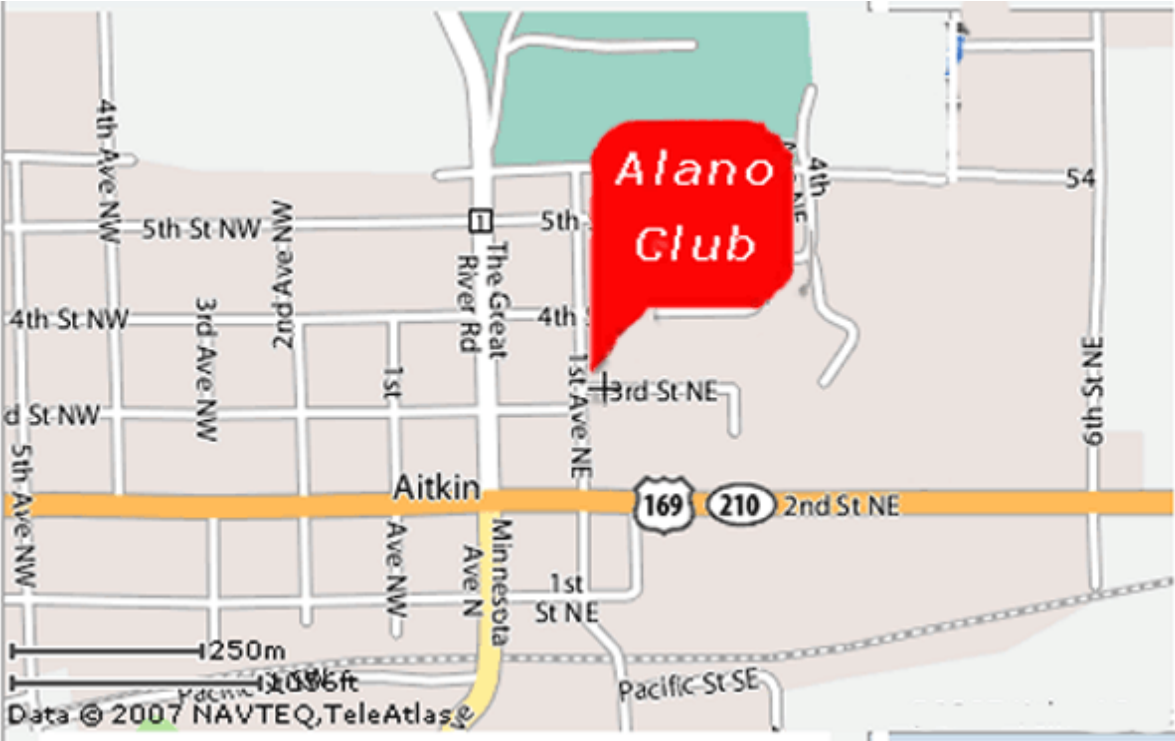
Inclement Weather Procedure For Area 35 Events

- 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. Most other file formats can also be accepted. You may also send articles or letters to my postal address, listed on page 2. The deadline for each Issue is printed on the front page.

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

Daniel R., NL Editor

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

CORRECTIONS

Greetings and Happy New Area 35!

As I am writing this my first report as your Area 35 Corrections Chair of the 2010-2011 rotation I have to share with you the first thought that came to mind for me after the Aitkin Committee Meeting in December which was...oh no what did I get myself into now! That thought immediately came when Krishna was loading my trunk with all the “stuff” she had to pass on to me! I am still working on reading and getting through all the material and she has told me she will be available to help me out with questions and meeting with her. Thanks Krishna for your help and support and your commitment to serve this last rotation...I am sure I will learn a lot from you! Although I have some fear (I am sure I am not alone in my feelings) on making this commitment in service and doing the best possible job I can do, I know that with the guidance of a loving God and all of you it will be full of growth and learning as we continue to carry the message to the alcoholic that still suffers. Most of you know that my passion has always been in corrections and I feel we have been given a wonderful gift and opportunity in Alcoholics Anonymous to bring our “design for living” into the correctional facilities. I truly look forward to serving with all the Correction Chairs from all the Districts and getting to know each and everyone of you on the Area level. Thank you all for your commitment to serve and your confidence in me to serve as your Area 35 Correction Chair. Grateful to be of service,
Kelly D.

LITERATURE

Literature report for NORTHERN LIGHTS (January 2)

January 4th Mike will be bringing boxes and boxes of books and pamphlets and help with making an order of books to have on hand for the January workshop. AA COMES OF AGE in paperback for the first time will be the souvenir of the 2010 International Convention. The next thing is to get AA COMES OF AGE in BIG PRINT In the Box 459 page 5 STORIES FOR PROPOSED SPECIAL NEEDS PAMPHLET. “We are soliciting stories for recovery pamphlet for AA members with special needs—such as deaf or hearing impaired, blind, wheelchair bound, learning disabilities, etc.

Your stories might include barriers you may have had to overcome in order to hear the AA message. Also any literature, other tools or efforts by AA members that you found helpful.

Manuscripts should be 500-800 words double spaced. Attach your name and address on a separate piece of paper.

The anonymity of all authors will be observed, whether or not their story is selected for publication.

Please send your sharing to”

SPECIAL NEEDS COORDINATOR

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE

BOX 459

GRAND CENTRAL STATION

NEY YORK, NY 10063

Thank you for this new opportunity to serve.

Bob K.

Area 35 Literature chair

TREATMENT

I am incoming so I haven't much to report. Hopefully and God willing we as a Committee can carry on what our Districts and Area does so well. Carry the message of Hope to the still suffering alcoholic. Kelly and I have already talked of a joint Corrections and Treatment Workshop in the not to distant future, topics and format have not been decided on yet and will pick up some input at the upcoming Area Workshop. I have a Birthday coming up shortly and it is very fresh in my mind where I was, how much you of the Fellowship have helped me and made me Responsible to anyone anywhere that asks for help.

Yours in Service

Butch R.

GROUP RECORDS

I hope everyone is doing well as we start the New Year and that everyone is staying warm. I want to take a moment to thank everyone for allowing me to be of service to the area again and I will do the best job that I can. I want to give a big thanks to Audrey for being so willing to meet with me and helping me learn the ropes of being Group Records. She is always willing to answer any questions I may have when I'm not sure if what I am doing is right. I also want to thank the DCM's for getting their information to Dan and I, it does make things a lot easier for us. I also look forward to seeing everybody at the January workshop.

Yours in Service Laurie

GRAPEVINE

Recent issues of the Grapevine focused on “The Joy of Living” August 2009; “Letting Go of Self” September, 2009; “Diversity in AA”, October, 2009. November 2009 issue contained a special section on “Classic Grapevine: Women in AA”; and December 2009 issue focused on “What Gives You Hope” and the January issue featured “Hitting Bottom; The Moment of Truth”

New Publications include a collection of Grapevine cartoons and jokes called *A Rabbit Walks into a Bar* (September 2009). The La Vina Traditions CD's (April 2009); 3 monthly 3-newsletters; the wall calendar and pocket planner; and a revised handbook for La Vina reps. A handbook for GvR's went to press in October.

The Grapevine received 30% more story and letter contributions (347) and 50% more contributions to La Vina (45) this quarter than during the same period last year.

www.aagrapevine.org Web traffic has held steady.

A.A. Grapevine showed an actual loss for operation budget 2008 was (\$151, 462) and for 2009 the operation budget was (132,280) loss.

This information came from the A.A. Grapevine, Inc., Report to the General Service Board on Monday November 2, 2009; and the Quarterly Report from G.S.O. November 2009.

I did get a chance to scan some of the cartoons and jokes from *A Rabbit Walks into a Bar*. I think you all would enjoy a copy to help lighten some of your days.

Yours in Service,

Dee K., Area 35 Grapevine Chair

WEBMASTER

Greetings All,

I am very excited to take over this position and am looking forward to the next two years. As some of you may know, I am learning as I go and am putting trust in my higher power to guide me along the way.

I have met the Area 35 Web Site and it seems friendly - I have taken care of changing the emails for the area officers and dcm's. I appreciate everyone's patience as I transition into this position.

Yours in Service,

Ione B., Webmaster

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Greetings!

I would like to thank Jake J. and Area 35 for asking me to serve as your PI Chair for the 2010-2011 rotation. I truly enjoy AA service and will do my best as your new Area PI Chair. I seem to have picked a very challenging time to join in service work down at the Area level.

My work as Area 35 PI Chair began at the December Area Committee Meeting where I met with outgoing Chair Jon C.. I would like to thank Jon for our transition meeting and the literal trunk full of information on Area PI activity/ materials that he gave me.

So is it now time for my “wake-up” call to extend to Area 35 PI activity? I think so. I know that much was accomplished in Area 35 PI during our last rotation. At this time I am asking the question: what could we accomplish in PI in the next two years? Could our district meeting schedules be available in all hotels, treatment centers, schools and medical clinics in Northern MN? Could AA TV and radio spots be aired on media throughout Northern MN? How many of our 16 active districts could offer newcomer meetings? Could our PI/CPC workshops be both informative and motivational?

I’d like all of the incoming members to the Area 35 PI Committee to begin thinking about your own visions for PI in Northern MN. I look forward to meeting with the PI Committee at the February Area Committee Meeting in Aitkin, MN. It is my hope that we can work together to accomplish our goals.

I also look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming Winter Workshop.

In service,
Roger R.
Area 35 PI Chair



2010 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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

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

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

Area 35 Committee Meeting
December 6, 2009

²We opened the meeting at 10:30 a.m. with the Serenity Prayer.

²Past Delegates in attendance were announced: Bruce B. Susie A., Tom A., Tim C., Charlie C., Jerry S.

²Additions to the agenda:

- Procedure for annual review of the treasury
- Assign DCMs to committees
- Decide whether or not we can pay more rent to \$75, or alternatively to pay \$5 for the meal.
- Date of February Committee Meeting
- Website and Web directory

²Approval of August Area Committee Meeting minutes. Motion to approve. 2nded. All in favor.

AREA OFFICER REPORTS

- **Delegate-** On November 4th I met with Jon C. and Jim K. in Aitkin to go over the Delegate’s duties and answer questions. You’ll have to ask Jim about our exciting trip going through Deerwood. We were going to meet at the Birchwood Café and Jon called and it was closed so we met at the Roadside Café instead. Over all we had a great time and went through a lot of information. I am confident that Area 35 will be in good hands over the next 2 years and we have some excellent people willing to serve. I received the print out of contributions for Area 35 on 10/23 from the General Service Office and for the nine months ending 9/30/2009 contributions were 37.79% an increase of 2.56% compared to 2008 of 35.15%. DCM’s if you want the print out for your district stop and see me; I have them with me today! Archives – Michelle M. was appointed Archives Director effective November 1, 2009. The construction project is ahead of schedule and the Archives addition is completed and is now open for visitors. Joseph D. of Ontario was approved as a non-trustee director. Roberta L. was approved as General Service trustee. A letter was sent out to the fellowship requesting recovery stories for a Special Needs pamphlet project. To date they have not received many submissions. The special Needs pamphlet project will be included in the upcoming issue of Box 4-5-9. JoAnne L. and Don M., Trustees-at-large, attended the 16th REDELA (Meeting of the Americas) in Arequipa, Peru October 11-18. Warren S. and Valerie O. attended the 15th European Service Meeting in Frankfurt, Germany, October 19-26, 2009. A.A.W.S. – Finance: Net sales of \$10,891,000 during the first nine months of 2009 were approximately \$247,000 (2.3%) over budget and approximately \$1,333,000 (14%) more than the same period last year. Gross margin from literature was calculated as \$7,895,500, approximately \$274,000 (3.6%) over budget and \$1,103,400 (16%) more than the same period in 2008. Contributions received for the nine months of \$4,371,000 were \$303,000 (6.5%) less than budgeted and \$277,400 (6.5%) less than the first 9 months of 2008. Resulting total revenue (gross profit from literature sales, contributions, and interest earned on cash flow) was \$10,992,500. Total revenue was \$192,500 more than budgeted and \$959,300 more than during the same time period last year. Unaudited income for the first 9 months of \$1,026,100 compares with a budgeted income of \$626,700, compared with a loss of \$315,900 reported for the same period in 2008. Grapevine: Subscriptions have fallen to below 100,000, perhaps reflecting reaction to the price increase. Cash-on-hand in October fell to where the Grapevine had to take a \$50,000 draw down from the Reserve Fund to cover outstanding obligations. While Grapevine finances through the third quarter remained well above budget, the magazine showed a net deficit of \$95,500. Note that the Grapevine Retirement obligations for this year are about \$160,000, so in terms of profit/production costs, that magazine is on track. The Retirement obligations continue to present serious concerns. The International Convention has over 26,000 registrations (about half buying both the souvenir “A.A. Comes of Age” and Grapevine souvenir edition.) The International Convention budgeted for 41,000 attendees, but many more can be accommodated. Nominating: Recommended Class B trustees: Pam R. to serve as AAWS director and El N. to serve as GV directors. Francis B. (Class A) to serve as Grapevine director. The video: Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous in 3-language compilation DVD (DV-09) is available. You may order it in English, French or Spanish. Purchase price is \$10.00. I have not written the letter regarding Area 35 sharing at the Fall Assembly regarding Self-Support. It has to be emailed by January 15, 2010 and I will make sure it is done and a copy will be sent to all of you. Thank you so much for your input. Don’t forget that the 2010 WCRAASC is being held in Dubuque, Iowa, March 5-7th. I brought 300 fliers to the Fall Assembly and they were gone. The flier is available on the area 35 web site. This will probably be the shortest report I’ve given in the last 2 years as I haven’t received much information from the General Service Office. In fact, I haven’t received the October Board minutes yet.....it just seems like things have slowed way down.....but I guess that’s what happens on your way out! All of you have left a big imprint on my heart and more importantly is the fact that all of you show up and continue to carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic. I will always treasure these last 2 years serving as your Panel 58 Delegate and I thank you so much for the love, support and kindness you have all given me. I truly love each and every one of you. Yours in service, JoAnne N. (*After her report JoAnne passed the delegate’s suitcase along to the new Delegate, Jon C. The suitcase has been passed on to the new delegate for over twenty years. (I’m not sure what’s in it...top secret delegate materials I suppose.) JoAnne also made Jon a beautifully decorated cowboy hat and got him several items to assist him in his delegate’s duties: notebooks to take notes on that say “blah, blah, blah,” and “top secret,” some folders to organize his stuff, a towel to wipe the sweat from his head after slaving away for AA, a stress ball, and a red Rudolph nose to guide him home in case he gets lost in New York, and if he really gets frustrated, he can get on his toy pony and ride home. :)*)
- **Alternate Delegate-** Hello Area 35. It’s hard to believe this is my last report of this rotation, the last ten years of area service have just flown bye. I am very grateful and deeply appreciate the experience. Thank you Area 35. Now, on to business. The January workshop will be held in Alexandria at the Holiday Inn Jan 16 & 17 2010. Rooms are \$109.95 phone # 320-763-6577 www. hialexandria.com. The Guest speaker is Bob M. past East Central Trustee. This information is also available in the Northern Lights. I have ordered the banner for the workshop. Once again I would like to remind the participating districts the focus of the workshop is service please keep this in mind when preparing for your presentations. In your service Dan H.
- **Chair- (No report was submitted for inclusion in the minutes. The following is from my recollection of what Jay said from the mic.)** I am still looking for a facility for Fall Assembly. I have passed all the pertinent information on to Mike (Jake) J., for his new rotation as Area chair. On a personal note, my wife is doing much better after her surgery and has returned to light duty work. I have met some truly extraordinary people in service who demonstrate a great love for AA. It has improved my ability to take his own inventory, face fear, own up to mistakes. It will be a little lonely now taking my own inventory. Finally, and most importantly, I hope we remember everything we do here is not an end in itself. We are here trying to ensure that the hand of AA reaches out to every suffering alcoholic. I am very excited about the new servants in the Area. Thank you, Jay A.
- **Secretary-** Due to the costs associated with printing the actions book (approximately \$400-700), we voted at the June Area Committee Meeting that the Area Actions Book be distributed primarily via email, also to be posted on the Area Website, and hard copies would only be given to the DCMs, Area Officers, & Chairs who want them, plus there will be 100 extra hard copies printed for the Literature chair to distribute. Please come write your name on this list if you want it emailed to you, if I have your email address already I’ll send it to you when I’m done. You will also be able to download it from the Area Website hopefully after the February Committee Meeting. As always, serving you and this fellowship has been a pleasure and a wonderful learning experience. I love you and will miss you all, and I hope to see you around in the future. Happy Holidays. Sarah K.
- **Treasurer-** On the back table are several documents for period VI (October 2-December 5): Detailed Expenditures, Expenditures and Contributions summary, and Detailed contributions. The beginning balance for this period was \$11,576.06, Group contributions were up this period, totaling \$3,876.76, Birthday Contributions totaled \$65.00, total period six contributions were \$4,538.76, year-to-date contributions are \$23,251.67. Expenses for period six totaled \$5,815.44, year-to-date expenses total \$23,790.69. Our balance as of December 5, 2009, is \$11,037.04, minus our prudent reserve of \$6,000.00, leaves \$5,037.04 available for service. In service, Beth E. (**Per urgent news from the Area Delegate on December 11, 2009, our treasurer admitted to taking monies from the treasury thus rendering the above accounting inaccurate. The Area Chair stepped in December 11, 2009, and took over the treasury. He is currently working on revising and reconciling the accounts to determine the actual amount available for service. To the best of my knowledge, according to the Area Chair, as of 12/12/09, there is actually only approximately \$2,124.00 left in our Area treasury. There is no prudent reserve. PLEASE LET YOUR GROUPS AND OTHER AA MEMBERS KNOW OF THE NEED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS! Please send all future contributions to the incoming area treasurer at: Northern MN Area Assembly, PO Box 328, Brainerd, MN 56401.**)

COMMITTEE CHAIR AND DCM REPORTS

- **Group Records-** Good morning. It has been really great serving you. DCMs please come and get you Northern Lights. I will not chase you today, but I know who you all are and I will find you. Group Records really is quite an albatross; it is an ongoing problem...I mean challenge... There is a lot of interfacing going on, and we are all trying to do the best we can. Again, deep appreciate from my family for nursing me back to health and loving me. It’s just really been a gift. I could just stand up here and go on and on, but I won’t. Thank you. Audrey S.
- **Northern Lights-**Thank you for allowing me to be of service, and do the Northern Light. It has been rewarding, challenging, and sometimes frustrating. Reminder to all incoming chairs and officers, the deadline for the next Northern Light is earlier than usual to allow for the new editor to get accustomed to the software. The deadline for the next Northern Lights is January 4, 2010. Yours in service, Ed A.
- **District 4-**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone. Thank you for letting me be of service to Area and the District. It has certainly

helped me grow in my own recovery in ways I could never have known possible. District 4 is doing well and we had a great turnout at our last meeting. Our newly elected servants were present and seemed eager to start their new roles in service to AA. We had some individuals visiting from a district in Southern MN who are hoping to learn how to hold and run a district meeting. I am very proud of them for their endeavors and will continue to help them in any way I can. Yours in service, Bruce W.

- District 7-**(Mark, the incoming DCM for District 7, presented LeAnne’s last words as she had to work) District 7 will be holding a GSR workshop on Thursday, December 17th, at 7 p.m. at the First Lutheran Church in Brainerd. This is a potluck and all are welcome. We hope to see a lot of new GSRs at this meeting as well as others interested in becoming GSRs. Flyers are on the back table. We recently had several groups from an adjoining district join District 7. It is very exciting to see people who are interested become active in service. Our CPC luncheon was a great success, and thanks go out to Bill and Neil for all their hard work setting it up, to Mark our MC, our speakers Tim and Jim, and everyone else who made this a success. We had over 35 in attendance. There were many questions asked and our guests left well informed. We have filled some of our District positions, but not all. I am happy to say that Bob is our new treasurer, Dan is our new Secretary, Neil is our new alternate DCM, Gary is literature, and Mark is the new DCM. We have many others involved in the district who are willing to be of service so I am sure the remaining positions will be filled quickly. In January our District is taking part in the 2010 workshop and Mark has already started with planning and organizing. Thank you everyone for this wonderful experience! It has made me grow and I have become a better person for it. I have been very blessed by the people I have met and I am grateful for the experiences I have had while getting to be of service in a program I love so much. God bless you and see you all again soon. LeAnne H.
- Corrections-**We had a huge turnout at the committee meeting this morning with 15 in attendance. The districts are meeting their obligations with few exceptions, and I’ll let the DCMs cover those, but I would like to mention one “God Shot” that District 5 received regarding Sherburne Co. Sue has been informed that the men will again be allowed to bring meetings in to the prison. To ensure continuity, Sue has agreed to stay on as non-rotating facility contact. We spent the majority of the meeting discussing the transition and the importance of it being as smooth as possible for the incoming chairs. Also, there were incoming members in attendance and we were able to review some pertinent information and answer some of their questions. Thanks so much for letting me be of service. Krishna Z.
- District 1-**Our last business meeting was held on Sunday, October 11, 2009, with 13 people attending. We nominated and voted in new positions: Irene J is continuing as the treatment chair, PI/CPC is Lisa S, Loren G. will stay on as treasurer, Laura will be the secretary, Pricilla AW will be the corrections chair, and the DCM will be Rick w. There were four GSRs not present. The informational meeting for Crookston professionals was held on November 19 at the Hospital community room. An invitation was sent to counselors, probation officers, mental health and social workers, and the clergy. I talked with Charlie C. at the Fall Assembly about this and he was so helpful and sent me more information. There were five that attended, and sadly, that included the people presenting the workshop and two AA members who attended to support. I guess we will have to try another way. If anyone has any ideas, please feel free to share them with me. I am very grateful to all those in District 1 who have become active and have participated in so many ways. I feel we did accomplish quite a lot. It’s wonderful to see more participation from the different groups. The District Chairs have been workign very hard, and I am proud of what they have done and continue to do. As the rotation draws to a close, I was reflecting on how very much I have learned, and I am so thankful to have had this time in service. Bill W. wrote, “AA is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message...” Each on of you will be in my thoughts and prayers. Blessings! Pricilla A.W.
- District 11-**At our last meeting the topic of discussion was the deletion of groups from the Area website. I told the groups that I had to update the group information and ensure its accuracy in order for the group to be listed on the website. Gary H. Is he new DCM for District 11, and we gained one person in our district who is willing to do CPC work, Richard S. We have another fellow in and out doing Literature and Grapevine. Yours in service, Doug N.
- CPC-**We had 14 in attendance at this morning’s meeting. We had some great discussion on beginner’s meetings, informational meetings, and alano clubs. Several district chairs present shared their activities. Heidi from District 5 has finally been having success getting people involved and now her rotation is up. She has been getting meeting schedules to newspapers, radio stations, businesses, and schools. She has also started a library sponsorship program and had a CPC/PI luncheon. The big project is getting an AA orientation program started for people on probation, hopefully this will be done by January. Dave from District 6 is planning a CPC/PI luncheon for February and is working on finding a location. Dan from District 8 said their beginner’s meeting and library sponsorship program are going well. Doreen in District 18 talked about their first Round Robin and is updating meeting schedules. Al in District 21 is hearing concerns from GSRs about Tradition breaks in radio and on television. He has decided to give a questionnaire to the GSRs to see what they want from the PI/CPC chair. It was suggested he put facts from the Service Manual into the questionnaire. Charles from District 8 has been working on making more meeting schedules. Tim in District 13 received 10,000 schedules with errors in them and is planning to do a reprint soon. Mark from District 7 talked about having their 2nd CPC/PI luncheon in October with 10-12 professionals in attendance. Jon C. passed out a report from Area 36 regarding the State Fair booth. He asked that we bring that information back to the districts for discussion before our vote on being involved in the 2010 State Fair. Area 36 is currently planning to have a booth. Finally, I just want to finish by saying that Heidi ROCKS!
- District 3-**(Bill is in Arizona and his report was given by the new DCM, Jeff C.) Hi everyone, I’m Bill D. and while I’m not able to be there with you, but am grateful to Jeff for sharing this report with you. I want to tell you all how grateful I am to be involve and committed to AA with great folks like you. District 3 is still alive and well. We are financially sound (no guarantees on our mental condition!) And doing the deal. Our rotation is in motion and going well. Jeff will talk more about that. We are busy updating our meeting lists and I want to thank Dan for all his efforts to help with this. We have learned some things together that hopefully will be helpful to many. I love you all and look forward to seeing you next spring. Thanks again and I’ll do my best to enjoy the wonderful life here in Tucson for the winter. Be peace. Bill. (The following report is from the incoming DCM for District 3, Jeff C.) District 3 has filled all of its committee chair positions. Three chairs who began about half way through the last rotation are continuing on in through this rotation. While each committee chair will concentrate on their respective to-do lists, we as a group have made a commitment to reach out to each meeting and group in our district to ask them to become more involved in the service structure and to get all GSO group records information up to date. District 3 had five counties with correctional facilities. We currently have volunteers bringing meetings into 4 of the 5 facilities. We are working with officials in the 5th county to regain the privilege of carrying the message there as well. We have an active group of people speaking at many treatment facilities throughout the district, although many of the commitments are being coordinated by individuals or groups. We are trying to consolidate our efforts and improve communication in this effort. We have added a c-chair to our PI/CPC committee and are looking for additional volunteers to carry out this important work. Our district meeting is the third Sunday of the month at the Perham Alano Club at 10:00 a.m. During the past two years we have had 6-9 groups represented at district meetings and an attendance of 12-18 people at each district meeting. My goal as incoming DCM will be to improve each of these numbers. Thank you for the opportunity to be of service.
- District 6-** (Jack was not present, but the incoming DCM for District 6 was present and shared the following) I am kind of in the dark about how Dist 6 is doing, but I do know that we have a CPC workshop for planned for February. We have filled some of our district chairs, but couldn’t get into the meeting place for our last district meeting because someone forgot to unlock the door for us. So, the district meeting was held in the parking lot under a light and the minutes were titled, “Things discussed under the light.” I am excited for this rotation. Thank you, Kathy G.
- Grapevine-**Hi everyone, just a few things to report. At our committee meeting this morning Districts 5,7,8,13, and 16 all reported that they have new Grapevine/Literature chairs for the next rotation, which I think is just wonderful. At the fall assembly I sold \$250 dollars worth of Grapevine items and ordered \$140 dollars to replace what I sold. I apologize for the fact that I do not have the new book on hand that I promised to bring. There was glitch with my order and they just sent it out. From Dateline Grapevine just a few things to report. For the next two issues of the Grapevine the topics are January, 2010 - Hitting Bottom: The Moment of Truth and February, 2010 - Special Report: Stateside YPAA. For the next two issues of the La Vina the topics are January/February 2010 - Sponsorship and March/April 2010 - Loner's AA. The new RLV handbooks have arrived and they (the Grapevine) will be mailing them out over the next few weeks. An updated GvR handbook just went to the printer and will be mailed out in December. The new handbooks are also available on the GV and LV Rep section of the Grapevine website at AAGrapevine.org. During the holiday season GRAPEVINE is able to offer two gifts of GRAPEVINE for \$40.00 which is a \$14 savings off the regular subscription price for two. This offer is available until December 31, 2009. I want to thank everyone in the area for giving me the opportunity to serve these last two years, it has been quite the learning experience. One of the most important things I've learned, especially in the last month is that we never have to go through anything alone as long as we are willing to reach out for help. Yours in Service Laurie R.
- District 9-**All is well in District 9. Everybody is excited to rotate. Our usual business is normal. The only thing that is different is that we are conducting an annual review of the treasury. Thanks for letting me serve. In service, Robert S.
- District 21-**Greetings from District 21. Looking back over the last couple years of this rotation, there has been a higher power, laughter, joy, mistakes, and growth present in all of it. It has been a wonderful journey. Thank you all for sharing it with District 21. We are in fairly good shape for this up-and-coming next rotation. One more position needs to be filled, the treasurer. Otherwise, things look pretty well for District 21. We have a fairly healthy treasury and will be able to carry the message in all the ways that the higher power will show us. The recent Gratitude Potluck was a thing of beauty. Over 70 people were there. There were tears of joy and gratitude, lots of laughter and fellowship. A father/daughter combination was so powerful. He was the recovering alcoholic and she felt compelled to join him at the podium and talk about her gratitude for her sober dad and what it meant to her. Really good stuff. Both were crying, and were not alone in shedding their tears. There have been a couple of school presentations by yours truly

and Al B, who so kindly is giving this report, and we will be presenting at Bemidji, Northhome, Blackduck and Cass Lake soon. The jail meetings are going strong. JoAnne got an email that our corrections chairs sent to the jail. At the Gratitude Potluck, one of the people here had just gotten out of jail that morning, so talk about gratitude. Good stuff. Meeting lists are still going out in terms of around almost 1,000 a month. 800 number is doing well. The treatment chair is making the rounds. We could use a couple more females to help staff it. In general, it has been a wonderful fall for District 21, and we wish you all a Merry Christmas. We get to carry the message and stay sober just one more day. Oh, are we blessed. Harold S.

- **Webmaster-** I would usually give totals for visitors to the Area web site but there is much to discuss. The totals are pretty much consistent, an average of about 1600 to 1700 unique visitors per month and we have plenty of room and bandwidth for expansion for the next year. Besides the unique visitors there are tens of thousands of return visitors that use our Area website regularly! I recently sent out an email on November 6th explaining that I would be going over all the meetings in the Area meeting directory for each District and will be deleting all meetings that do not have information that matches what GSO has on record and ones that are not registered. I also said I would send the DCM's a document with all the meetings that are listed on the online meeting pages supply the Service number for all meetings along with reasons for deletions. I would also print out a copy of this and bring it to the next Area meeting on Dec. 6th.. On November 15th I started sending out these documents to each DCM as I went along. This is not a new thing; I have made many requests for help with updating the meetings at Area meetings and Assemblies with limited results. Only three districts completely updated their meetings. Districts 1, 5 and 8. My own District - 12 has 168 meetings listed and almost 40% needed to be deleted. Hopefully this will get updated by the next group of DCM's, Alt-DCM's and GSR's because some of the meetings that will be deleted have been there a long time and either have not been registered or have missing info like wrong address, wrong name online I have no way of telling what the registered name is. Seeing that this will be my last Northern Light report as now out-going Webmaster I want to say it has been an honor and a pleasure to serve the Northern Minnesota Area! Yours in Service, Dan R.
- **District 17-**No DCM; no one present to give a report.
- **Archives-** There were 7 at the committee meeting this morning. Dist.2 has new people in the next rotation that are excited about working with the archives committee in there district. Dist.8 is collecting more and displaying there archives at district meetings. Dist. 5 is working on collecting more for there archives. Dist.13 hosted an archives workshop in October. The new district archives chair is excited. In looking through the pile of papers that I have saved over the last few years, I wondered why I saved them until I started to read them. The first of many is an article from a May/ June Box 4-5 -9 entitled "The Murky Origin of '90 Meetings in 90 DAYS.'" It started in the 1950's from a article in the Grapevine headed "90-DAY TRIAL." The article suggested that one approach to helping newcomers might be: "I'd like to suggest that for a period of 3 months you decide to stay away from a drink 24 hours at a time, and also decide to attend many meetings – every night if possible. Surely you can spare 90 days from your life. They might prove to be the most useful 90 days in your entire life. You may learn whether or not you are an alcoholic, and that is good to know." Thank you for the opportunity to serve it has been a growing and learning experience. Yours in service, Bob K.
- **District 2-**Greetings from District 2. We had our last meeting on November 8, 2009, with ten in attendance. We had a great meeting even though it was deer hunting season. WE are all looking forward to the January Workshop at which we will be doing a skit. The GSRs don't know what to think of that! This is a time of transition and District 2 will be in good hands with Rod. I can only hope the new GSRs will enjoy their new venture and get even half of the serenity and opportunities to learn about AA as a whole as I did. The past two years for me have been trying, but I cannot say in words what service work in AA has done for me. It has given a new meaning and serenity that cannot be found anywhere else. I truly believe that service work is ninety percent of my sobriety as I get the gift of knowing that I am trying to carry the message of AA. I always try to give my very best, and I can fall short at times, but this is not a program of perfection. It is a program of giving hope. It has been an honor and privilege not only to serve District 2, but just to be in service. I'd like to thank my higher power, this program, and all you people for your prayers and support in keeping me sober. If there is anything I can do to keep carrying the message I will do my best. In service, Art A.
- **District 13-**It seems like we've just begun, and soon it will be time to pass our DCM torch on to Gayle S., who is with us today. We also have several other incoming action chairs with us today: Tim R-PI, Gary T-Literature, Jeff-Corrections. My goal has been to leave District 13 in good shape. We are meeting our treatment, corrections, PI, literature, and archives responsibilities. CPC efforts will hopefully benefit from an enthusiastic incoming chair. I am also hopeful that our incoming officers and action committee chairs will strive to achieve excellence in carrying our message and not settle for just covering our basic responsibilities. To Area 35 and District 13, thank you for the opportunity to get out of myself and serve you as DCM and an Area Committee member. I am confident that District 13 is in capable, service-loving hands. All of our officer positions are filled or will be at our meeting tomorrow night. In service, Roger R.
- **Literature-** I would like to thank everyone for all the support and help they have given me these last two years. It is very much appreciated. I hope you will give the next person the same support, encouragement and trust that you put it me. I believe we will be in good hands with the next rotation. We had sales of over \$1,600.00 at the Fall Assembly and had to order another \$1,200.00 to replenish our supply. I was able to fill all the orders that people placed. I have two copies of the new CD's of "Hope." Upcoming they have CDs of the abridged Big Book, Fourth Edition in English, and the Second Edition in Spanish. There is also a Young People's poster available for \$1.00, and the "Young People's video/DVD is \$10.00. These will be available to order after December 7. I must apologize for not having my report in the Northern Lights, as the computer and I don't mix well. I tried to send it twice, but something wasn't aligning right. I have started to miss my daughters as they are my saviors when it comes to computers. I'd like to thank you all again for letting me serve. Time has flown by and I have enjoyed meeting all the people in AA. Keep up the good work all of you have been doing with spreading the message of Alcoholics Anonymous. Happy Holidays as we have been blessed to have such a wonderful area. Yours in service, Michael V.
- **District 15-** Since the Fall Assembly in October, not much in our District has changed. Our monthly meeting attendance is still down; we are averaging 6-8 people. We are trying to increase our attendance by obtaining email addresses to at least update the groups on happenings in the District. The Stearns County Round-up is set for March 27, 2010. Hopefully the professional ones will be ready at the next meeting in February as well as a new meeting list. I was hoping someone would show interest in the DCM position this rotation, but I will be remaining DCM as it seems no one in our district has much interest. I do not want to see the District go without a DCM. AA saved my life and I am prepared to give back. Hoping everyone has a Merry Christmas, Sandy H.
- **District 16-** Greetings from District 16. We held our elections and with only a few glitches were able to fill key positions. They are: DCM Mary S., Alt. DCM Steve R., PI/CPC Griffin M., Corrections/Treatment Becca B., Grapevine/Literature Mary C., Treasurer Lynne H., Secretary Mary R. District 16 participated in a community action festival in October at the Civic Center. We had a staffed booth with literature and books. It was well received with some pamphlets being taken and lots of questions answered. The District is in the process of planning a workshop. It will be geared towards the newcomer, covering topics such as sponsorship, what AA is and isn't, and more! No date has been set yet, but we will keep all informed as it progresses. Our treatment needs continue to be covered by individuals and groups. This rotation we finally have a Corrections/Treatment chair, filling a void which has remained open for several years. Hope all have a safe and happy holiday season. Thank you for allowing me to be of service-it's been a trip! Mary C.
- **Treatment-** We met this morning as a committee with 12 people in attendance, including Districts 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, and 18. Skip from District 5 reported that they have been very busy as the rotation nears its end. They have been able to work with New Beginnings inside of the Sherburne County jail, and have set up a regular meeting there. He discussed the success of conducting an informational meeting as part of the meetings that have been set up. Kathy, incoming DCM for District 6, stated that they have two facilities in their district, Dellwood and Hazelton, and meetings are currently being taken into Dellwood. Butch, Pat, and Jeff, from District 8, reported that efforts continue to bring meetings into all of their treatment facilities. They also continue to work with District 9, cooperating with bringing in and sharing treatment responsibilities in both Districts. Fred in District 9, stated that they are working on getting a new chair for their meeting which goes into the Academy in Bulle. Servando stated that they currently do not have an incoming treatment chair. He stated that they have received requesters to bring speakers into the VA and are meeting those responsibilities. Spencer and Roger from District 18 come to report that they are going to begin treatment work within their District and are looking forward to the experience. Thank you to Pat and Skip who attended the MARRCH Conference-a sort of treatment fair where various treatment centers set up booths to try and attract new clients. We collaborate with Southern MN Treatment chair to staff an AA booth at this event. We discussed and considered some interesting points about whether our attendance their implied affiliation or if it was promotion rather than attraction. I received and responded to several requests from the temporary contact program, gathered materials to pass on to the new treatment chair, met with the incoming Area Delegate and outgoing Area Delegate, and will be meeting with the outgoing Alternate Delegate. I have two bids/proposals pending for the 2011 WCRSC in the Brainerd Area. I also received the Hope video, but have not viewed it yet. I want to thank the current body for all their hard work this rotation, and for the opportunity to serve, Jim K©.
- **District 8-** Greetings once again from District 8. This will be my last report as DCM, I have learned much and am grateful to have been chosen as the DCM. There have been trying times and it seems we always come together. Once again all our positions are filled and our contributions exceed last years. The 8th of December will be the last meeting as chair and I will be passing the gavel to Randy A. A friend and fellow alcoholic, capable of carrying the Districts conscience forward. Service has been a big part of my recovery and hopefully I will be able to continue in whatever capacity. Once again Thank You District 8 for allowing me to serve and Area 35 for having me. In Service, Butch R.
- **District 12-** Greetings from District 12. Things are starting to pick up for us. First, we want to thank Jim K. and Krishna Z. for the great treatment

and corrections workshop that was held at John club the Friday before the Area 35 Fall Assembly. We had our elections, and the positions filled are: DCM-Jana M., Alt DCM-Servando M., Treasurer-Dick P, Secretary-Tom L. At the last committee meeting we shared that we are rotating the District meeting location to encourage more participation. We went up the shore to Silver Bay for our October meeting, and it was well received. We had 21 in attendance, and it was informative for us and them. We learned that they liked receiving the mailed minutes, which we had started mailing again, and they are quite active in working with the alcoholic who still suffers. They are going into the Two Harbors jail, and they have a meeting at the Safe Harbor Boarding & Care three days a week. We were also able to answer any questions they had. Our November meeting was held at the John Club in Superior, WI, where we will be for the next 3 months. At that meeting we had 22 in attendance, five new GSRs, and some new meetings were represented there. Our literature chair put some GSR packets together so new GSRs don't have to wait. PI recently did a thirty minute presentation for the Duluth Lions Club. Forty people were there, including a group from England. We have done a couple of health fairs at malls, and have also been invited back to WITC's DWI class. Yours in service, Jana M.

- Public Information**-Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve Area 35 as your PI chair. We were very fortunate during this rotation in the enthusiasm of committee members carrying the message to the public and professionals. Many new ideas and suggestions were passed between committee members and implemented in their respective districts. In regard to the State Fair booth, I passed out information to our committee from Area 36 regarding the State Fair booth, and there are copies on the back table for all DCMs to bring back to their districts. (Here is a brief summary of the handout contents: The vast majority of the people who approached the booth were AA members. Others included a few professionals and family members/friends. Several people requested meeting directories be available at the booth. Most popular pamphlets included 12 Steps Illustrated, A Newcomer Asks, Is AA For You?, AA for the Older Alcoholic, Young People in AA, Do You Think You're Different?, and Is There an Alcoholic in Your Life?. A number of people suggested moving the booth to the Education building was a good idea. Total costs for the booth were \$2,100.00 including literature. Apparently as of the date of the report from Area 36, Area 35 had not paid their \$500 for the booth.) Hopefully this information will get back to the groups so we can make an informed decision on whether to participate or not. This will probably be my last short report! I want to thank all the members of Area 35 for giving me their support and the opportunity to serve this Area as your Delegate. It is an honor, and will be a challenge, to serve. I will do the best I can and with the help of past delegates, committee members, DCMs, GSRs, and involved members of Alcoholics Anonymous, we will be ok and together we will NOT louse this thing up. Happy Holidays and God Bless. Jon C.
- District 5**-Greetings and blessing from all of us in District 5. Since my last report at the Fall Assembly in October we had our CPC/PI Luncheon on October 16th. We had a good turnout with 16 professionals that attended and had representation from both of our Corrections Facilities, Mille Lacs County and Sherburne County, one of our Treatment Facilities with their different programs and also clergy to name a few. We held it at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Princeton and served a spaghetti dinner with a salad, garlic toast and dessert. We had groups in our District that sponsored the professionals and sent contributions to take care of the costs. A special thank you to all the groups that helped to make this a successful luncheon, Heidi for presenting, Rita, Joe, Skip and Char for helping out in the kitchen with serving and also talking to those professional about AA when they asked us all questions during the luncheon. We are excited to say that some good things came out of having this luncheon. We were approached by two Sherburne County probation officers and asked if we would be willing to put together an AA Orientation Program for people on probation there. They gave us a pamphlet from a program in Isanti County to get ideas from. We formed a committee (thank you, Rod, John, Skip and Heidi for willing to be of service to help with this) and met on November 4th to discuss a format to present to them which would consist of an 8 week program. Heidi our CPC/PI Chair presented the rough draft at our last District meeting and will be contacting them to set up arrangements to hopefully implement a program for them in the near future with what we came up and to get their input. We were also asked if we could help with getting a women's meeting started at one of the Treatment Facilities in our District. Skip our Treatment Chair has made phone calls to try and help be of service. As a District we discussed in length and voted to eliminate the "Pink Can Fund" that we had set up to supply Big Books and literature for our correctional facilities through money contributed from some of our groups. We felt that this could still be accomplished without using a separate account title for contribution to our District and money could be spent in other areas where needed to carry the message. We currently have two cases of Big Books on hand and also a balance of \$241.00 that will continue to be used for this purpose only. Rita and Skip visited those groups to explain what we are doing and give them options if they decide that their group would want to purchase books and literature on their own. Thanks to both of them for taking the time to do this and be of service. Skip also passed on to our Elk River Alano Club's "Beginners Meeting" that meets on Tuesday's at 5:15 pm the format that is being used for District 8 's beginners meeting. We have heard that they are using it but I don't have an update on their progress at this time. Our "Lost and Found Group" held their yearly Thanksgiving morning Gratitude Meeting, our "Into Action Group" held their evening Thanksgiving Gratitude Candlelight Meeting and our "Different Way Group" held their quarterly open speaker meeting on November 30th. Heidi our CPC/PI chair did a great job sharing her story. There were several of us that attended the St. Cloud Round Up from District 5 and I would like to thank them for another great year of speakers and fellowship. At our last District meeting we had a good turnout of individuals along with new GSR's coming into this new rotation. Rita D. will be serving as our incoming DCM and Skip D. Alternate DCM. We did fill two more of our open District positions at that meeting. Lisa G. will serve as our Literature/Grapevine Chair and Neil S. (formally of District 13) will serve as our CPC/PI Chair. Thanks to all of you for your commitment to be of service to District 5. We currently still have open positions for Secretary/Treasurer, Corrections, Treatment and Archives but are hopeful they will be filled soon. Last I would like to take the time to thank District 5 for allowing me to be of service as DCM these last two years. I have had the opportunity to work with some amazing hard working individuals that were dedicated to service. I will be forever grateful to all of you for what I have learned from each and everyone of you. We had amazing growth and we accomplished much together and I know that the District will continue to grow and work hard to carry the message. Thank you also to all of you here at the Area level for your commitment to be of service this last two years. What a trip it has been for all of us! I will be forever grateful that I had the opportunity to serve with all of you. May God bless each and everyone of you where ever your journey takes you next. In gratitude and love, Kelly D.
- District 18**- Season's Greetings Area 35! We had our District Meeting on Tuesday December 1st with twelve members present. We currently are working on having our meeting schedules updated and hope to have those out within the next month. District 18 is planning on having their first Round Robin on February 6th, 2010. We are currently working on the details. Our district and the meetings are doing well. We have almost all of our chairs filled, but we are still in need of an archives chair. Our corrections chair (Dave) has been quite busy with the Todd Count jail and lining up volunteers for Thursday nights at 6:30. Requirements include one year of sobriety and ten years since the last felony conviction, and two years off paper. We have had volunteers speaking at the local schools to the teens. A special thank you goes to Spencer and Dan for their time and service. Jason and myself had the opportunity to speak at Haven Recovery in Long Prairie and share our experience strength and hope. After speaking the clients ended up getting let out of treatment early to attend the Tuesday night meeting with us. VERY EXCITING! Although I will be rotating out as DCM, I will remain active with my District and the Area and I'll do what I can to help carry the message. Starting January 2010, I will be starting a newsletter for our District and I'm looking forward to that. In closing, I would like to thank everyone here who has taken the time to help me along the way this last two years. Your selflessness has not gone unnoticed. My hope is for the new incoming chairs is that you will minds open, your hearts receptive, and have fun! Have a blessed holiday. In service, Doreen L.
- Archivist**- Since the Fall Assembly I have continued to catalog the collection; digitalize the cassette tapes; Add more pieces to the display. I was invited by Area 36 to bring the collection to founders Day Weekend in St. Louis Park. We had a great combined display and had a huge amount of people to talk to. I am amazed still by the amount of myth and misinformation amongst the fellowship. The next scheduled display other than Area functions is the Superior Round Up. I am available for the Big Ole Round Up if anyone here can relay that message I would appreciate it. Thanks to the Area for this opportunity to be of service and I look forward to working with the incoming rotation. I am available to record and participate in District Archives workshops if the districts desire. Yours in service, Brad I.

OLD BUSINESS

- Annual Treasury Review Procedure:** (Dan H.) At Fall Assembly the consensus was that we wanted to have an annual review of the treasury. However, it also seemed that pulling DCMs wasn't a good option because there are so few of them already. Some other options would be asking past treasurers, and/or past delegates. Discussion: do both-have DCMs and past delegates. Proposal: draw from past three treasurers with people dropping out as the new one finishes their rotation as the treasurer. Pull together all past delegates who are interested and have one of them chair it and they would select the committee. Possibly have it as an online collaboration. How many people would it take to do this process? (Answer: two or three.) Does the committee have any recommendations? One option would be to have the committee meet and make a recommendation at the February committee meeting for who might be on the committee. Do yearly. Past area chairs, the current treasurer, and the area treasurers prior to the most recent outgoing treasurer. It was suggested by the Area Chair that the committee will get together at the February committee meeting and begin the review. The report from the review will be presented at the Spring Assembly. The area chair will select the committee.

NEW BUSINESS

- Date of the February Committee meetings:** It was moved to February 21 at the Fall Assembly because that gave everyone more time to review the background material before the WCRAASC, but the February Committee Meeting is typically (according to the Area Actions book) the last (fourth) Sunday in February. After discussion THE MEETING WILL BE FEBRUARY 28.

- **Policy regarding updating meetings on the Area Website:** The website policy is that only registered groups be listed. Dan removed meetings with missing information as well. He asked how much information should be required as a minimum on the Area website? The joint Area 35/36 AA meeting locator, which is a separate situation, is having some similar issues. Our area is maintaining two places for meeting locating: Area 35 website which holds meetings solely for Area 35, and the Joint Area 35/36 at aameetinglocator.org. The meeting are maintained by the group records secretary using the list of registered groups and requires little work. Currently the Group Records secretary uses GSOs Fellowship New Vision software to update the Joint Website aameetinglocator.org. In this software there are several blanks that need to be filled in, called tags. One problem some groups ran into was that some information was not available on the tags through FNV. This resulted in the inability of the joint meeting locator to list certain information some groups thought was important, such as if it was a smoking or nonsmoking meeting, if it was handicapped accessible, and so on. Another problem is that aameetinglocator.org was not listing each meeting, but listing by group, which means if one group meets several days it was not showing up on the locator. All of this can (and is) be resolved to allow for several meetings to be listed, including a note under the meeting that lists the fact that there are several more meetings for that group listed. We are now working out the bugs of this new program, and we have several options for solving these problems including asking Group Records and webmaster to get together and discuss these issues with regard to aameetinglocator.org.

§ Another DCM brought up the point that at the beginning of the rotation we were asked as DCMs to update their district meeting lists and give them to the area, which the DCMs did but are now being asked for that information again. Where did the previous information go? Group records says that there is no hard copy record of that. The information went into the database as updates and then the paper was recycled. Additionally, doing those updates is a continual process. As DCM, you have a lot of responsibility to make sure the information on groups and goings on within your districts are correct.

§ Another issue is the question of whether we need two meeting locators. Discussion followed: the webmaster is acting as the group records secretary and doubling up the work being done by aameetinglocator.org. If we switch to the one uniting all of MN, we should pay something for it. There is already a link on our website to aameetinglocator.org. We already passed that we pay a portion of ongoing annual support fees for maintenance and support. It is very important to have an online meeting database. It is also very important that we have updated meeting information. aameetinglocator.org solves many problems with incorrect group information as it allows groups to immediately check the accuracy of their group information and request a change. The expenses for aameetinglocator.org is under “other” under webmaster’s expenses. For 6 months the expenses were \$120. Area 35.org is \$97 per year. If aameetinglocator.org is improved and works well, it would be less work to update the meetings for Area members, but it needs some solutions to missing group information. Until then we have area 35’s meeting locator, but we should wait until the bugs are worked out. We have problems with area 35’s meeting locator as well in that it is not accurate either. So, it may be way easier to solve them in one place, rather than in two: only update in one place rather than two. As there is no seeming consensus on this issue, it was sent to groups and districts to be brought back for discussion at the February Committee Meeting (old business).

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- **Approval of incoming Area Committee Chairs:** Treatment-Butch R., Archives-Art A. Grapevine-Dee K., Corrections-Kelly D., CPC-Doug N., Literature-Bob K., Group Records-Laurie R., Webmaster-Ione B., Northern Lights-Dan R., PI-Roger R. Archivist-Brad I. **Motion to approve area committee. Motion 2nded. All in favor: unanimously in favor of Area Chair’s selection.**
- **Assignment of DCMs to Area Action Committees:** Group Records: none. Northern Lights: Districts 2 & 16; Corrections: Districts 3 & 4; CPC: Districts 13 & 1; Grapevine: Districts 18 & 21; Webmaster: District 17; Archives: Districts 5 & 6; Literature: Districts 8 & 12; Treatment: Districts 15 & 9; Public Information: Districts 7 & 11. (Jake needs contact information from all new DCMs and Area Chairs by the February Committee Meeting-email him at areachair@area35.org)
- **Rent/Dinner at Aitkin Alano club:** Aitkin Alano club has requested we either raise lunch from \$4.50 to \$5 or increasing rent to \$75 to cover costs incurred from upkeep, maintenance, and repairs of the club. **Motion to increase the cost of lunch from \$4.50 to \$5.00. Vote: unanimously in favor.**

- ***Calendar of Events:***

- Winter Workshop is Jan. 16-17 at the Holiday Inn in Alexandria (Remember to pre-register! Send your pre-registration money labeled to Northern MN Area Assembly, PO Box 328, Brainerd, MN 56401.)
- Wild Rice Roundup in Mahnomen Jan. 16-17.
- North Star Roundup February 19th & 20th in Thief River Falls at the Seven Clans Casino
- February Committee meeting: February the 28, 2009, Aitkin Alano Club, Aitkin MN
- Winter Wrap-Up March 19-21 in Virginia MN, Coates Plaza Hotel.
- WCRAASC March 5-7, 2010 Holiday Inn Hotel and resorts in Debuque, Iowa
- Spring Assembly 2010: March 27-28, at the Holiday Inn in Detroit Lakes. 218-847-2121
- Fall Assembly 2010: Jay is still looking for a facility for this.

Northern Light Article

Please be encouraged to write your own article and submit it for inclusion in the next issue of the newsletter!

One DCM's Journey

I have often heard from many that the responsibilities and duties of a DCM in our fellowship is probably the biggest "job" that anyone in service can experience. I believe that there is some truth in this statement however, every service position in Alcoholics Anonymous involves commitment and work. District 5 was a district that came alive and grew because so many individuals made that commitment and gave of their time to carry the message to the alcoholic that still suffers through service work. I had the opportunity to serve with many dedicated and passionate individuals that worked very hard in their positions and followed their commitment to the end. I do have to say however that there were times in these last two years where I wanted to "throw in the towel" because of difficulties that came up, but one of the answers to the problem was to just have a District Inventory...gee what a concept that turned out to be! Doesn't this happen sometimes in all areas of service work with those that are serving? Don't we sometimes feel like giving up? We have a saying in our program that I find to be true "This too shall pass" and guess what it always does! Our book tells us "we are people that normally would not mix"...I can agree with that statement. Our primary purpose is and has to be to carry the message to the alcoholic that still suffers. Any difficulties along the way in service will only prove to help us learn and grow from each other as long as we stay committed to just doing that one thing and try to follow the AA principals to the best of our ability. I have met some wonderful AA's along the way by visiting the groups and talking to them about AA service. What I found that saddens me is that there are so many that are not educated on what AA is and what AA isn't. As a DCM it is our responsibility to visit all the groups in our District, educate them on service and let them know that the District is there to serve them the groups. I believe that this is the most important duty and responsibility of being a DCM.

My journey as serving as DCM has been an experience I will forever be grateful for. I truly feel that I have learned so much from so many of you. If I take anything from this journey it would be that when I place my life in the care of a loving God, remain teachable (something someone once told me) and remember to be grateful for life's challenges in order to continue to grow and learn then no "job" in the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous will be too big. Thank you District 5 for allowing me to serve and everyone else that has touched my life in some way through the service and commitment that you do everyday for Alcoholics Anonymous!

Grateful to have served,
Kelly D.
DCM 2008-2009

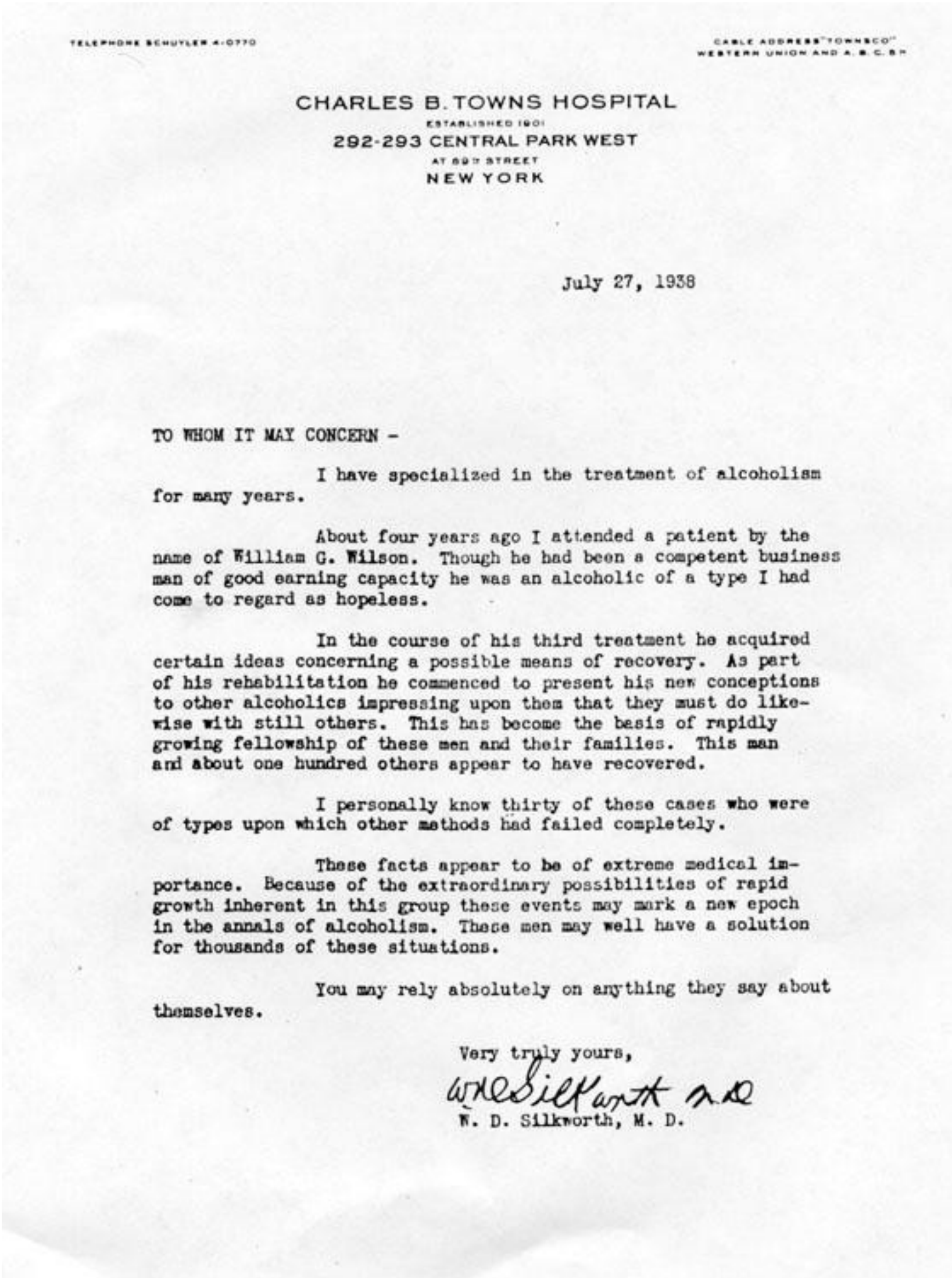
From our previous Area Treasurer

I need to sincerely apologize for my actions as your Area Treasurer from the last rotation. My actions were unacceptable and deplorable. A member of my home group, was speaking to choices and decisions a few weeks ago, and his comment has stuck in my mind. He said, "All choices, all decisions are good ones! There are no bad decisions, providing we learn from them!" At this point I am not certain I agree with that, But I am learning. I have re-learned that our secrets keep us sick. No doubt about that! Another lesson is that whether anyone else knows of my actions, decisions, choices – I do. When making decisions I need to consider whether or not I will be able to live with in my own skin, comfortably, having made that decision. My last several months have been horrible; with my mind reeling as to how I can get out of this, without totally humiliating myself. I can tell you, that I have been absolutely humbled by your responses to me, and by your support and love and letters and phone calls. Thank you all for your kindness and understanding. Regarding my amends, I plan to send \$100 every two weeks, towards repaying the \$1889.16 that I took from you.

Humbly submitted,
Beth E.

A copy of Dr. William Duncan Silkworth's original letter

"TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN" which is in the beginning of "The Doctor's Opinion" in the Big Book; page 1 in 1st edition, page xxiii in 2nd, 3rd edition, and page xxv in 4th edition.



**GSR Sharing Session
Area 35 Winter Workshop January 16, 2010**

Alternate Chair Skip started the meeting with nominations for Sharing Session:
Chair = Scott, Alt Chair = Tim G., Secretary = Christine G., Alt. Secretary = Jason D.
Introductions were made.
Secretary minutes were read and approved.
There were 32 GSRs present and 16 were new GSRs.
An end time of 7:45pm was decided.
Scott read page S40 from the service manual.
The hat was passed and for copies of minutes and questions. \$66.57 was collected. Made 100 copies at \$.15 =\$ 15.00 for copies. That leaves \$51.57 remaining that was contributed to the Area.
Questions were answered from Fall Assemblies. (Answers below)
New questions were formed. (Questions below)
Scott closed the GSR Sharing Session with the Lord's Prayer.

Yours in Service,
Christine G.
GSR Sharing Session Secretary

Answers for Fall Assembly Questions from GSR Sharing Session

How do we encourage newcomers to pick a home group? Opening statements at the beginning of meetings suggests choosing a home group. Encouraging finding a home group through sponsorship.

How can we get members to honor their commitment they have made? Suggesting that individuals do not take too much on. Follow-up with the member and let them know that you are available for questions. Have descriptions of the service positions available and be specific with what the group requires from the position i.e. Attending Area Workshops and Assemblies.

What are the three entities and what are their functions? 1. District – GSRs gather to represent the groups. 2. Area – Made up of the delegate, area committee members, DCMs and GSRs who carry the group's conscience. 3. General Service office (GSO) – Serves all AA groups in the United States and Canada, also offers services to AA overseas, especially in countries where there is no service structure.

How can we talk about Tradition 7 without preaching? Lead by example. Remind members how much money we spent on drinking. Encourage through sponsorship, the rest will follow. Be knowledgeable in where the money is spent and communicate that to your group, people will be more likely to contribute. Have a group conscience meeting to budget what is needed and bring those amounts to the group so they know what is needed.

How do we encourage/motivate more speakers to carry the message to treatment centers, correction facilities or in general? Get a core of people together to bring in the meetings. Putting out a sign up sheet for people to sign up for speaking.

How do we deal with the member indifference ie, when asked to do service work they say no? Acceptance. Lead by example. People can share their service work experiences. Show enthusiasm. Through sponsorship and taking group inventories. Making sure core positions are filled. Practicing the "spirit of rotation".

Questions for Spring Assembly from January Workshop GSR Sharing Session

What functions should GSRs attend?
Why do we have to have sharing sessions and questions?
Are we greeting newcomers?
What has changed in AA today?
How does the group make the treasury accountable?
How does the group approach spirituality in AA?

DCM Sharing Session Report

**Area Service Workshop
January 16, 2010**

I would like to start out by thanking Roger R. for moderating our elections. Also, a big thanks to Mark N. for taking notes....You are a wonderful secretary! We elected a Chairperson-Rita D., Alt. Chairperson-Randy A., Secretary-Mark N. and Alt. Secretary-Gayle S. There were a total of 20 DCM's & Alt. DCM's in attendance. We decided that DCM's & Alt. DCM's will be a part of the sharing sessions. If anything ever comes to a vote it will be DCM's voting & Alt. DCM's if the DCM is not present.

We came up with several topics for discussion. The first one was "Should Districts follow Area 35's example and provide oversight on their treasury?" There was a lot of great feedback on this such as; Having two signatures, we talked about bonding of the treasury, doing an annual audit using 2 District members, requiring 2 signatures on all checks, on-line banking so someone could have 24 hour access to the account and having bank statements along with check register available at each District meeting.

There was discussion on availability of DCM's to help each other. We have made a contact list with all DCM's & Alternate's so we can communicate with each other.

We also discussed how to get more groups involved with the District and filling District positions. Feedback was; It's the DCM's responsibility to visit groups & talk about service etc. It's better to leave a chair position open rather to just fill the position with a body! If groups do not have a GSR they can still register with GSO using a "mail contact" on the group forms. The more communication with groups the more AA members are informed and familiar with service positions. Very important for Districts to hold GSR schools and Service workshops. Also, DCM's should try to get GSR's and Committee Chairs involved, even helping with visiting groups.

We had a great FIRST Sharing Session of the 2010/2011 rotation! Thanks everyone for sharing....great communication & participation!

Yours in Service,
Rita D., DCM District 5
Sharing Session Chair

Holiday Inn Hotel & Resorts
Debuque, Iowa

NORTHERN LIGHT PRIMARY PURPOSE:

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

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

EDITORIAL POSITION & N.L. COMMITTEE:

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

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

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

N.L. COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

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

Twelve Concepts for World Service (Short Form)

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

AREA 35 COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

February 28, 2010

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

OFFICER REPORTS

- ___ Delegate-Jon C.
- ___ Alternate Delegate –Jim K.
- ___ Chair-Michael J.
- ___ Secretary-Heidi R.
- ___ Treasure-Sarah K.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS
LUNCH

- ___ ARCHIVES-Art A.-Archivist-Brad I.
- ___ District 1-Richard W.
- ___ District 2-Bob Rodney P.
- ___ LITERATURE-Bob K.
- ___ District 3- Jeff C.
- ___ District 4-Jim T.
- ___ TREATMENT-Robert R.
- ___ District 5-Rita D.
- ___ District 6-Kathie Getting
- ___ PUBLIC INFORMATION-Roger R.
- ___ District 7-Mark N.
- ___ District 8-Randy A.
- ___ GROUP RECORDS-Laurie R.
- ___ NORTHERN LIGHTS-Dan R.
- ___ District 9-Chuck R.
- ___ District 11-Gary H.
- ___ CORRECTIONS-Kelly D.
- ___ District 12-Jana M.
- ___ District 13-Gayle S.
- ___ C.P.C-Doug N.
- ___ District 15- Sandy H.
- ___ District 16-Mary S.
- ___ GRAPEVINE-Dee K.
- ___ District 18-Jason A.
- ___ District 21- Carl B.
- ___ WEBMASTER-Ione B.
- ___ DISTRICT – 10,14,17,19,20

OLD BUSINESS

- ___ Treasurer Budget approval
- ___ Treasury oversight committee and review
- ___ 2011 West Central Regional Service Conference
- ___ Policy regarding meetings on area website
- ___ Fall Assembly-Thief River Falls

NEW BUSINESS

- ___ Area Inventory
- ___ Area Finances ,Commitments, Expenditures?
- ___ State fair Booth
- ___ Calender of Events

- ___ 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.