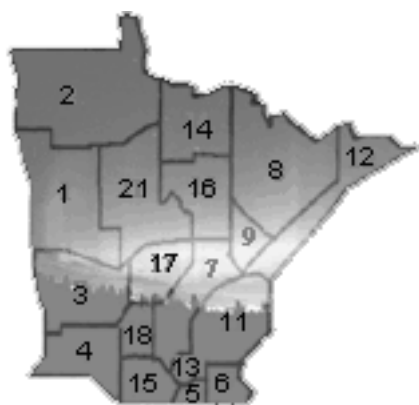


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Deadline for the next
Northern Light is
May 10, 2010

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 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.

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

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!

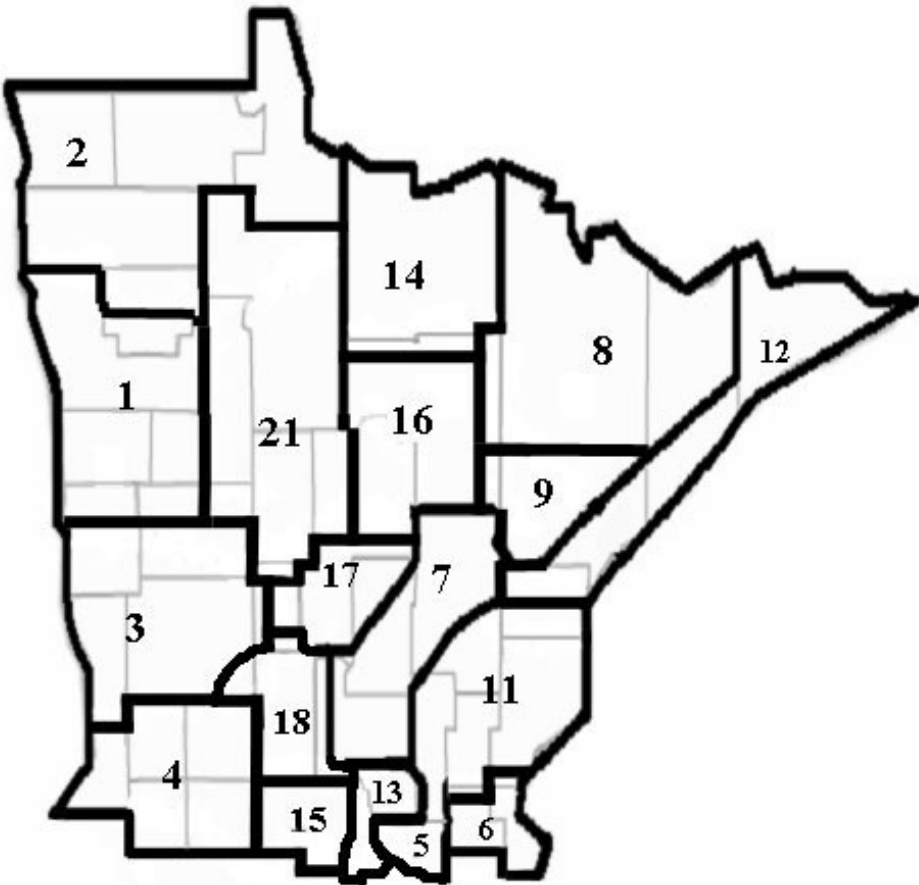
Our Past Delegates

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, Mahnomen, 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 thank you for giving me the privilege, honor and support to represent Area 35 at the West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference (WCRAASC). This conference was held in Dubuque, IA Feb. 4-7. As your delegate, it was a great learning experience to represent our fellowship at this level of service.

I had the opportunity to meet and discuss Alcoholics Anonymous issues with our present West Central Regional delegates and Ken, our West Central Regional Trustee. We were given the regional directory of past delegates and the 2009 WCRAASC minutes. We discussed the special forum which will be held in Rapid City, SD, on Nov. 12-14, 2010. The theme for this special forum is Singleness of Purpose – Carrying AA’s Message to the Native American. I will keep the fellowship informed as more information is gathered.

Our WCRAASCs are held every year and the forums held every other year. We discussed on the odd years, since we do not have a forum, whether it would be beneficial to hold some type of meeting, perhaps a workshop to foster continuity and strengthen our principles of Alcoholics Anonymous. Nothing has been put in place, but we just want a sense of our fellowship’s thinking on whether they think this would be beneficial. Just for your information, Sioux Falls SD is central to our entire region.

Another item of concern was the 2009 evaluation form. The concern is that we don’t have enough time to adequately discuss our agenda items. I feel as we got into the late hours of the night, our agenda items were not discussed with the same passion as earlier in the day. All these agenda items are important and deserve the same diligence.

We discussed the *Grapevine* at this meeting. You may already know that the *Grapevine* is in deficit. The largest cost is postage. The *Grapevine* Board is waiting for a consultant’s report due March 20 to help determine *Grapevine*’s future. In order to fulfill financial obligations, *Rep* had to draw down on the reserve fund in 2009. This is another issue I will provide more information about when it’s available.

On Friday, the past and present delegates met for two 2-hour sessions. We as new delegates (Wyoming, Nebraska, South Dakota and Northern Minnesota) were given shared experiences to understand the subtleties of the conference. We were told to arrive early for our committee meetings. All meetings, of course, are important, but the Delegates Only meeting could set the tone for this conference. Always remember we were told that we as delegates have 2/3 of the vote, so in essence this is our conference. Finally, we were given suggestions about how to be an effective delegate and to enjoy it.

I would like to thank Roger R. and Gayle S. for their excellent presentation on the topic “Practicing These Principles in All our “Service” Affairs/Setting an Example/Attraction to Service. Also a big thank you to our breakout session moderators, Butch R., Treatment, and Scott M., Corrections, and Heidi R. for recording both sessions. You people were awesome and we in Area 35 are fortunate to have your service. Thank you!

My assignments at this conference were to present a 2-minute highlight of our Area and to moderate discussion of agenda items for cooperation with the professional community and treatment facilities/special needs/accessibilities.

I look forward to our Spring Assembly. I am sure our fellowship will be informed on the 2010 agenda items. Please ask questions, discuss items, give opinions, bring back your groups’ conscience. This is all important to this process. We need your input. I need your input and I thank you for it.

So far serving as your Panel 60 Area 35 Northern Minnesota delegate has been an awesome and sometimes frightening experience. I came to realize at our events I have been blessed with a group of past delegates with passion, experience, and the knowledge to assist. No other region has as many past delegates as we have at events to support our area, maintain our singleness of purpose, and adhere to the principles of our Alcoholics Anonymous program.

I pray every day that I may be the best I can be serving our fellowship, our area, our region, our General Service office and my Higher Power. With your help, suggestions, experience and knowledge, we can do what is best for Alcoholics Anonymous and do it right.

God Bless,

Jon C.
Panel 60
Area 35 Delegate
Northern Minnesota

Alternate Delegate’s Report

Greetings Area 35. Thanks so much for this opportunity to serve you as your alternate delegate. I am looking forward to this opportunity and hope that I am able to serve the area well in this new capacity. I attended and facilitated the 34th Annual Service Workshop in Alexandria. It was a lot of fun to see many of you there. We had 123 members attend the event and the overall comments were quite favorable. I have a written report available detailing the event, our Ask It Basket questions, and evaluations. I want to thank all of the DCM’s and the district participants who helped facilitate and participate in the event. It is now time to begin looking for facilities for the 35th Annual Service Workshop which is scheduled to take place in Zone 4. DCM’s from districts 8, 9, 12, and 15 please begin looking at facilities to host the event. I will be contacting you this coming month.

We have set up dates for this year’s Zonal Forums. Zone 1 will be the site of our first Zonal Forum. This is tentatively set for May22nd, 2010. I will be contacting DCM’s from districts 1, 2, 16, and 21 to set up a facility to host this event. We have also tentatively scheduled the second Zonal Forum for the year to be held August 21st in Zone 3. DCM’s from districts 5, 6, 7, 11, 13, 17, and 18 please begin thinking about facilities that would be able to host the event.

I did not attend the WCRSC in Iowa due to coaching/work commitments. I will be discussing the event with attendees of the event to insure that I have a better understanding of the background material. Thanks again for all your efforts in the Area 35 and I look forward to seeing you all at the Spring Assembly in Detroit Lakes this coming April.

Yours in Service,

Jim K.

Area Chair's Report

Greetings all,

Thank you once again for the opportunity to serve and all of your support. While it has been a very busy time it is also very rewarding. It was exciting to chair my first event at the area committee meeting. I was nervous but got thru it. We completed our business in somewhat of a timely manner. I know that there were some who wanted more discussion on certain areas like our spending and finances and will try to have these at our spring assembly.

I was privileged to attend the WCRAASC in Dubuque, Iowa. It was a great conference. Considering the ride down was 12 hours for me, the trip was worth it just to get to know Mark and Doug better. Spending time sharing about ourselves was a fantastic way to find out how much they care about AA and our area. The conference had excellent discussions on the agenda Items. Roger and Gayle did a wonderful job of representing our area, being informative and humorous.

Jon was another great representation and presented himself well as our delegate. Our area had a strong showing and I believe you will see how prudent we are in our travel. God blessed me with several good conversations with chairs from other areas. I attended the early bird meetings in the morning and enjoyed sharing on topics of Step 3 and your home group. We started at 8:30 in the morning with topics and finished around 11.00 pm. Not much time to mingle except for breaks and afterwards. I met with the area 36 chair and alternate chair for lunch Saturday and discussed some issues and how each of us does things. It was good dialogue between Steve, Buzz and myself. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the assembly in March.

God bless and may you be safe until we meet!
Michael (Jake) J.

Secretary's Report

Well, I will let you all know that writing the February Committee Meeting Minutes in one week was extreme. I did get the minutes completed, however, after a while my eyes started to cross. Please look over your reports, the old business, and the new business to see if I made any errors. I did have Sarah, the Area Treasurer, look over the minutes but there still could be some mistakes. Again this is my first time writing Area minutes so be gentle.

This past weekend (March 5-7) I attended the WCRAASC. This was my first time attending the conference and I was shocked at how much I learned. First, I learned that you do not sleep all weekend and second there are some amazing people in the West Central Region. For the Spring Assembly, I am responsible to chair the Agenda Items under the section Agenda. At the WCRAASC, we did not have much discussion on this section. One person did bring up the fact that the Agenda Conference Committee should be responsible for forming the Agenda for the General Service Conference. I agree with this, since the delegates and AA as a whole should be responsible for the Agenda at the General Service Conference.

As for the rest of the conference, I got to take notes for the Treatment and Corrections breakout sessions. I feel after this weekend I am much more prepared for when we go over the agenda items at the spring assembly. At the February Committee Meeting, we discussed creating a committee to review and make changes to the Area Action Booklet. Currently, I have one person who is willing sit on this committee.

I would like to thank Mark from District 6 for volunteering to be a part of this committee. If anyone would like to be a part of this committee to review the area actions booklet, please let me know by emailing me at secretary@area35.org. One thing I would like to do during this year is to visit district meeting around Area 35. If you would like me to attend one of you district meetings, please let me know. I feel visiting different district meeting would be interesting. I would like to see how other districts run their meetings.

Yours in Service,
Heidi R.

Treasurer's Report

Greetings Area 35! For the weekend of March 5-7, 2010 I was able to attend every enlightening minute of the WCRAASC in Dubuque Iowa, at Holiday Inn Resorts. There were between 235 to 250 people registered. I have complete notes if anyone cares to see them! Here I'll just summarize some of the highlights. In the **Area Officers Breakout Session Questions/Discussion** we discussed the following:

1. Remaining a part of rather than apart from. Discussion: loss of personal contact w fellowship. All work no time. Sure, there is more stuff to do now, but nothing changes- pray, go to meetings, go to AA roundups, do service stuff, sponsor, stay involved-don't fool self: stay grounded in recovery don't replace service with recovery and unity with the fellowship. Life is real and life is busy so life gets real busy. These experiences are what keep us connected to AA. There are innumerable great experiences and friends I would have deprived myself of had I not been of service. Yes, I am too busy but what I found was the service commitment took my life and the life is replaced w something so much more incredible than anything I could have imagined. I am selfish. That's what it comes down to, but I get to learn humility and self sacrifice to God and my fellows cuz it's no longer about me. As a result, I have such incredible blessings as a result of these service positions, but things don't happen in my time anymore, they happen in God's time. 2. Maintaining communication w fellowship. Discussion: read service manual for communication in service responsibilities. Phone conferences, emails, area meetings, go visit groups, follow up on promises to give information. Share true and accurate information or you'll lose your credibility. Communicate w groups and fellow servants. Visit districts every month-contact them ahead of time and ask. Delegate shares info-asks to be invited to dist meetings to share info. Call dcms and committee chairs on monthly basis. Point two: passing info from one rotation to the next is vital. One Area's practice is to have a rotation meeting in Dec. where an info packet is handed out. Another Area has an annual training for incoming chairs. One thing that is key is the availability of previous chairs. It is the responsibility of prior chairs to finish their responsibility at end of rotation by passing information on to the new chairs. Pass things on and hold people accountable to do their jobs. If you follow an organized person it is easier. Have policies and procedures in writing and make suggestions and help incoming chair. Make sure that everyone is getting info (some might not have email) be aware. Pass on information about job descriptions, duties, and expectations. Reply to questions in a timely manner. 3. Authority -right of decision and responsibility as area officer. Study of concepts is confusing. Focus should be on spiritual principle. Authority I'd what? Concept 3: freedom. Also comes responsibility to fully and honestly report my decisions. Also acting within my scope. Not to be used as an excuse to not have to explain my actions or take responsibility for acts or use it to do whatever I want. Accountability as well. We hold them accountable. Communicate w area about actions. Concept 10: request and suggest.

I also attended the **Treatment Breakout Session Questions/Discussion:** The questions we discussed were: 1. MN no longer provides literature to people in treatment facilities as a result of budget cuts. Is there a need for us to do this? Should we do this? Discussion: districts groups and individuals have been supplying books and lit. To treatment facilities. Instead of just handing information over, put on workshop or presentation where literature is made available. Contacts in AA and order lists are made available and left w treatment facilities to request literature. The video Hope is given to treatment facilities.. Our job is to carry the message in person not be a library or literature supplier. Our job is to carry message of hope and bridge the gap. To also do some cpc work on informing professionals. Why supply material to treatment center, they pay to go in there so they can pay for books. They may be cutting finding but not on literature specifically. See treatment book for literature items to bring in. PI and treatment work closely to cover treatment facilities. 2. Should we have meetings in treatment facilities. If so, what type of meetings should/do we have? Yes it helps us get the message to them and introduce them to AA. Some counselors are not alcoholics and are only book educated, so that we can carry the Language of the heart. It is important to let pp know we are here and can help! Several shared how they were introduced to AA through AA in treatment. We are supposed to carry the message-didn't know it had boundaries. Be careful to follow the rules of the facility - cooperate but not affiliate - but also mindful of our traditions. Problem is that if we do discussion meetings it becomes fraught with drug history, so instead do speaker and informational meetings. Stick around and visit afterwards-this allows them time to ask questions. Have different types of meetings: tell stories, provide informational meetings, take them to a meeting or have a beginners meeting to invite them. Try not to infringe on the counselors jobs. Get list of treatment facilities and go visit and try to establish a communication program. 3. Treatment AA vs. NA. How are we educating treatment professionals on the differences? Discussion: it's partly a PI job. Use the white sheet-what AA does and doesn't do. Share singleness of pp w patients. Inform/educate counselors and patients. Go over traditions in treatment facilities mtgs. 4. Bridging the gap: discussion: let pp know the diff between fellowships and how to go about getting a sponsor and finding a meeting. Aldo put on workshops to inform AA members on how to bridge the gap and getting temp contacts. Reach out to the individual alcoholics to make sure you emphasize our singleness of pp. Area 35 has a program for bridging the gap with a contact list. District treatment gets a list of names to be temp contacts.

Main session: Gayle and Roger gave an excellent presentation from Northern MN on the topic practicing these principles in all of our affairs. High points being the need to set an example - and eliciting attraction to service. It boils down to Leadership in AA. In studying the Concepts Roger discovered we really have twelve principles of AA leadership by Bill W. available exclusively here for the first time ever. (Top secret as they are not yet copyrighted.) ;)

Our WCRAA trustee (Ken) shared on his experience at the General Service Office on the trustees finance committee. One thing he shared was that we recently made a killing in literature sales this last year. We announced the price increase and a very large treatment organization bought a phenomenal number of books, enough to last a couple years. Plus we're selling books at a higher rate now, also making a killing. At the same time group contributions have suddenly dropped off, and that has continued. We now will just have to watch if the contributions bounce back as economy rises.

General Service Conference Agenda Items: In preparation for the conference, I reviewed the Finance background information. (I have a summary available if anyone cares to see it...a summary of over 120 pages is still a pretty long summary so I didn't include it here.)

Finance discussion: (I could go on and on about the extensive, informative agenda item discussions but we don't have the space, so I'll confine myself to the agenda item discussion on Finance. However, anyone interested in seeing my notes from/on all the agenda item discussions please feel free to email me and I'll gladly forward my shorthand notes (I have a ton of notes!)) **Finance Agenda Item A-1:** we have a 13 million dollar income with 1/2 or more from literature. If we limit our income from literature sales, what happens to slush fund? Will it build? Two pieces of background information are pertinent here: one from Vince, who initially stated, when new on the board, that he felt it WAS ok to accept lit cont. By the end he learned our traditions and completely changed his mind. We are putting a price on the soul of AA, and with two cents per meeting we can save AA. Take our inventory. Much concern expressed about adherence to tradition. Other's stated the groups need to send more money if we want to be off lit profits. It's not a lot to give to a program that has saved our lives. We should come from love not fear. Why don't we allow members to make contributions on the websites. Another member stated you can do that with online banking. **Item A2 Comments:** the concern seems to be protecting ourselves as a publisher. We lost copy rights on our Big Book, and when we increase our costs we cannot compete with the other publishers and we will lose some profits. The real problem is loss of integrity to keep our copy rights; it now created an avenue of competition for others to sell our literature rather than us. There was some discussion about the power of the purse and what that is. The decision not to publish the contact books upset several people. We want to withhold funds? The reason it happened in the first place was we didn't contribute. The background literature contains a ton of opinion consensus is to give more or ways to cut expenses. One suggestion was to move locations. Another member spent over 8 million on pension and retirement. Others mentioned we need to operate under our costs (see pages 241-242 Agenda Item A background attachment 22). We currently apply a floating cap to general fund to acct for excess of funds. Perhaps there should be a plan at GSO to prioritize services and plan what to cut out if we don't have the money. Every expense was conference approved, so are things all approved in perpetuity? One of our many principles is the right to participation, and 85% of the 45% active groups with do contribute. We should look at the services that are serving AA members and prioritize those over others. The wording of this is weird. What limit? The money isn't there cuz we don't like what is going on. Also we ask for this or that (videos and literature) and they say ok. Do we really need more literature and videos? Groups and districts deal with this too, and we have to look at our money. We look at requests and we say, here's what it will cost to do it. If we don't have the money we don't provide services. GSO should do too. If each member of the active groups gives 1 buck a month we'd have no money problems. **Item B1:** pie charts: could we have some pie charts on cuts being made at GSO (not just services) but ones to reflect staff wages and benefits. We could use information from GSO to share w groups where money is going (like the percentage of funds and where it is spent). **Item B2:** came from GV director as the GV is hugely in debt and the GV is just seeking clarification on how they can be supported.

Treasurer's Report Continued on next page

Treasurer's Report Continued!

Item B3: what kind of personal stories are they? In the background information Area 14 & 56 have good examples. **Item C:** was a recommendation from 2009 Conference Committee on communicating with fellowship on self support. One member pointed out that our direct services to groups are being fully supported; it is the office operating expenses and retirement/pension expenses that are not covered. Another member shared that their Area recently experienced a financial shortfall. The first thing they discussed was how we could reduce upcoming costs for the area. Then we went to the groups and asked for money. We present a budget and the groups discuss our expenses and we must consider our spending, why doesn't GSO do this? Where is this vital part on the finance committee's agenda? Where is the involved analysis of GSO's books?

Sarah K.

Public Information

The following report covers my activities that followed our February 28 Area Committee Meeting. I would like to thank Area 35 for sending me to the 2010 West Central Region A.A. Service Conference held in Dubuque, Iowa from March 5-March 7, 2010.

I attended all sessions from Friday evening through Sunday morning. Some of the my learning and contribution highlights follow.

On Saturday morning Area 41 Nebraska conducted a solid presentation on “Unity Through Inventory...,” In this presentation I became aware of the importance of conducting inventories at all levels: personal, group, district, Area, GSB and at the General Service Conference. It is especially important to conduct an inventory when things aren't going well at any of these levels. It is critical to make our amends and follow up on suggestions for improving our fellowship that come through an inventory. For district and area inventories it sometimes works to assign subcommittees to different parts of an inventory, to process information and make recommendations.

I learned a lot on Saturday afternoon in a PI/CPC break-out session with PI and CPC chairs from seven other areas. We discussed three topics: what works in PI/CPC in smaller communities; how do we effectively communicate with professionals; area PI/CPC in comparison to district PI/CPC. The experience of several other areas suggests it is best to communicate with professional (medical, legal, probation, law enforcement) on their turf at their meetings and conferences versus asking these folks to PI/CPC luncheons.

I listened to and participated in the discussion of all of our forthcoming conference agenda items. Discussion of GSO Finance and PI were particularly interesting. It became clear to me that our best finance option on a national level is to cut GSO expenses to the level of group contributions- although the voices carrying this solution are a minority in the fellowship at this time. I also learned in preparing for our Area 35 presentation that a small almost silent voice, which might go against a strong majority in A.A. could have an important solution that we all should listen to for an answer.

I was very interested in the discussion on PI agenda items because I will be taking Area 35 through PI agenda items at our Spring Assembly. I also added to the discussion on PI items by asking why A.A. needs produce and distribute Public Service Announcements? A PSA attraction strategy should be linked to clear need/ goals such as increasing awareness, improving public knowledge or changing attitudes about A.A. I suggested A.A. conduct research outside of the fellowship to better understand current awareness, understanding and attitudes of the general public towards A.A.

On Saturday afternoon I delivered the Area 35 presentation along with Gayle S., District 13 DCM. The topic of our presentation was: “Practicing These Principles in All Our Affairs: Setting An Example—Attraction to Service”. To develop our presentation **Gayle** and I had conducted research in A. A. literature and we also had surveyed our current Delegate and past Delegates from Area 35 on our topic. We received very positive feedback on our presentation from both Area 35 and other regional attendees.

On Sunday morning Brooke C., a past Delegate from Area 36 delivered a presentation on the selection process for General Service Conference agenda items.

The bottom line of her presentation is that areas and delegates have much less to say about the items selected for our conference agenda than we desire.

Ken B. our WCR Trustee delivered the closing speech.

He informed us of his activities as our Regional Trustee. Ken referred to a point made in our Area 35 presentation: sometimes a small voice in the fellowship, which goes against a strong majority needs to be listened to and implemented. The sad part of Ken's presentation is that our Grapevine publication is in serious financial trouble. Plans are in place to revitalize the Grapevine magazine content and increase subscription sales. Our Grapevine magazine definitely needs our support!

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve Area 35.

In service,
Roger R.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHIVES

I enjoyed the meeting in Aitkin last weekend very much. I am so fortunate to have such good members on the committee. I think we will have a very good 2 years. We are trying to line up a workshop for August. Any other district that would like to have a workshop feel free to contact me. If we can work the schedule out with Brad, I,d be happy to do the workshop. Feel free to call me anytime & we will take it from there.

ART HUR J. A.

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

I would like to send a thank you to all Northern Area Groups for supporting the area committees in sending us to the West Central Regional AA Conference in Dubuque, Iowa the weekend of March 5-7, 2010. I attended the PI/CPC breakout session and the following items were discussed:
What works in the smaller communities?
Created a database for professionals with their name, address, phone numbers, and email address.
Meet with them on their time and designated meeting location (i.e. some Districts have used a brown bag luncheon to meet the needs of the professional)
Doctor, Nurse, Psychiatrist, Psychologist, and Emergency

Room Staff, Priest, Minister, Rabbi, and Bishop
Sheriff, Highway Patrol, Police, and Judges
How do we effectively communicate with professionals?
Bring the professionals to open AA meetings.
Hand out meeting schedules to police, for them to hand out to people they are giving tickets to.
What is the difference between Area CPC and District CPC?
Area provides district with information and inspiration to do the CPC work.
District actually does the work in their district (i.e. setting up meetings)
Yours in Service,
Douglas R. N.

NORTHERN LIGHT EDITOR

This issue of the newsletter has been especially challenging to get out with the West Central Regional in Dubuque this last weekend. I did not attend because I was concerned about our recent money woes. Most of our Area Officers and Chairs did go and got back late on Sunday so reports were late in coming. I extended the deadline so they could get reports done and submitted.
The great thing about them being able to go to this event is that they can bring first hand information back to us from the Delegates and especially from the Trustees about the Agenda Items we will be voting on.

Some of what they learned is included in this issue in their reports and in article content. Thanks to all of you that went!

In this issue I had to add an extra page which brought it to 21 pages so I added some content to the newsletter to bring it to the next standard of 24 pages.

There are some jokes and service related articles from past Grapevines and an article entitled Self-ish Program? By our past NL Editor Ed A..

I also included the GSR and DCM sharing session minutes from the January Area Workshop in Alexandria.

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.

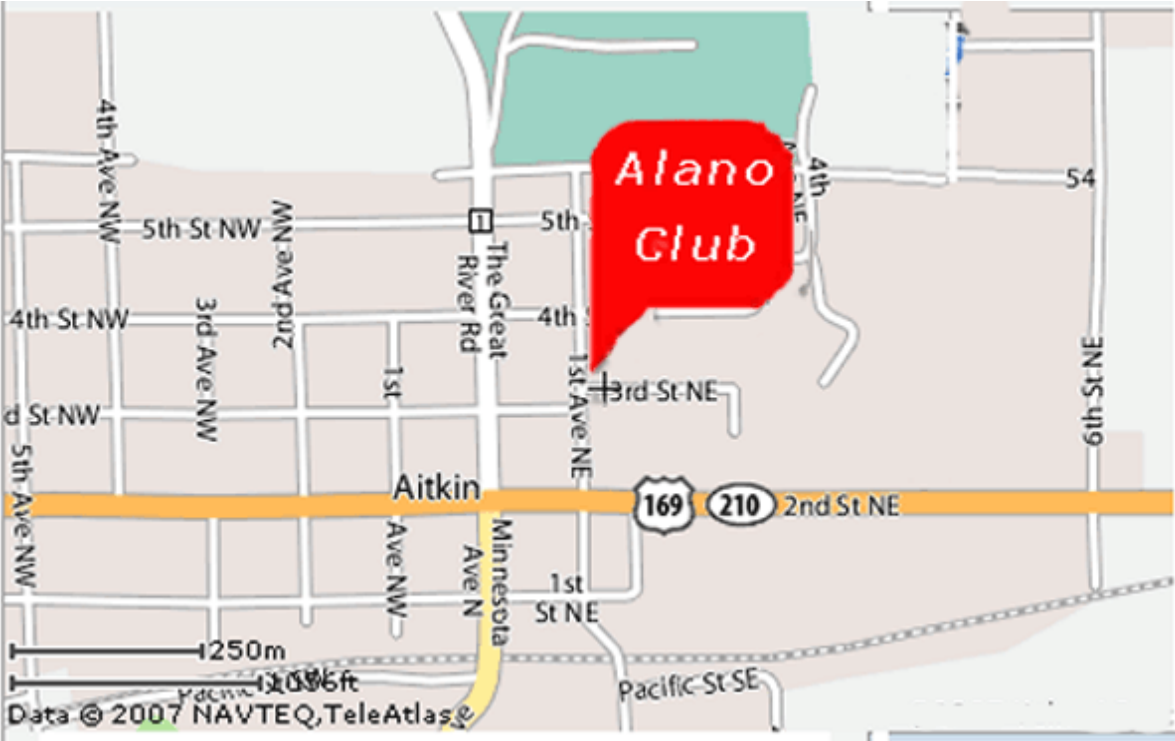
Inclement Weather Procedure For Area 35 Events

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.

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 or WordPad 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. They also can not be anonymous please include the first name and last initial and 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.
Area 35
Northern Light Editor

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

CORRECTIONS

Greetings and Happy New Area 35!

Well I just return from the WCRAASC in Dubuque, Iowa. First of all I would like to thank you for the opportunity I had to attend this conference. Second I want you all to know as your Area 35 Corrections Chair I will be prudent as possible with the Areas monies for costs needed for me to fulfill my commitment to carry the message during my rotation. As you know the weekend was spent going over the Agenda Items for this years General Service Conference. I read over my agenda items for Corrections and was prepared when we discussed them as a whole. I will be prepared to discuss them with you and pass on the information I received about them at our Spring Assembly coming up in Detroit Lakes. I also attended the Corrections and Treatment breakout sessions while I was there. This was a great opportunity to have discussions with the other Areas from the different states that attended. As always it proved to be a great conference and it was wonderful to see so many represented from Area 35! Just a reminder that Butch, Area 35 Treatment Chair and I will be holding a Corrections/Treatment Workshop in Detroit Lakes at the Alano Club Friday, March 26th at 7:00 pm the weekend of the Spring Assembly. All is welcome to attended and we look forward to working with you to continue to carry the message into our Treatment and Correctional Facilities. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Grateful to be of service,
Kelly D.

LITERATURE

We made the trip to Dubuque Iowa and back and only got sidetracked once. There was a whole lot of information shared in a short period of time. It was discouraging that some of the agenda items that are referred to-- as mailed to committee members only and there was not a lot said about them. Some of the agenda items that I thought would have a lot of discussion on no one had much to say and the ones that I thought wouldn't have much discussion had a lot. The most repeated statements were Don't spend any more money!!----We don't need another pamphlet!! One of the things that got my attention was the background information. Some of it was very detailed and they did the research weather it was for or against any agenda item and some was because I think it's a good idea and no added info. I talked to the Area 24 Literature chair and asked how much he sold and how much literature to have on hand as Area 35 will be hosting the service conference next year and he will be getting that information to me. I am looking forward to the Spring Assembly and going over all the agenda items one more time.

Yours in service
Bob K.

GROUP RECORDS

Hi everyone, I don't have much to report other than I continue updating information in FNV and that I appreciate everyone sending me updated information as well. Thanks.

Yours in Service, Laurie R.

ARCHIVIST

Hello all. I just got unpacked from my trip to Dubuque. The Service conference was a great experience as always. Our Delegate and presenters did a great job. I attended the Archives breakout session and share my experience on generating interest in the history of the fellowship. I shared how my home group is doing a series of workshops before the meeting on various aspects of A.A history. In January the topic was Henrietta Seiberling and the meeting of our co-founders. February was on Eddie R. and Bill D. the man could have been A.A. # 3 and the one that was. March will be on the Jack Alexander article and the impact this had on the fellowship. Future topics will bill on Hank P. and the publishing of the Big Book, Clarence S. in Cleveland and the impact of the Plain Dealer articles, Bernarr Mcfadden, Fulton Oursler and the Liberty Magazine Article and so forth. If you do not have any idea what I am writing about, ask your sponsor or grab me at the assembly and I will explain.

Thanks again for this chance to be of service,
Brad I.

GRAPEVINE

I first want to thank all of the new GSR's that attended the January Service Workshop in Alexandria. The enthusiasm is great to hear and see. I was glad to see so many interested in the Grapevine and Literature Committee at the Area Committee meeting on February 28, 2010. Thank you for sending me to the WCRAASC in Dubuque, Iowa. We had an 8 ½ hour drive to arrive at the Holiday Inn in Dubuque. We chose a shorter route, but a scenic route with hills, curves, and more hills. The further south we went it seemed like the snow was shrinking. We attended the Opening and Welcome at 7:00 PM. Rick C., Area 24 Delegate did the opening. The General session I, was put on by Area 63, South Dakota with Delegate Dean B. introducing the presenters on "Practicing these Principles in All our 'Service' Affairs – What is the difference between General Service and Service in General? Estelle G. and Katie M. from Area did a great job with their presentations. Each new Delegate had about 2 minutes to present on highlights from there Areas. Jon C. did a good job holding his presentation to two minutes and seemed comfortable being up in front of about 235 attendees. When the delegates were done with their presentations we started on the Agenda items. We completed I. Agenda, with minimal discussion; II. Cooperation with the Professional Community, also went quickly because there was only one item – Review CPC Kit and Workbook; III. Corrections, The item that was drawing the most attention there was letter D. Consider the request to add a phrase to the pamphlet "AA in Correctional Facilities' regarding the signing of volunteer agreements. We also were able to cover most of the items on IV. Finance although there was a lot of discussion and it was decided to finish this on Sunday Morning. We closed with the Lords Prayer. Saturday Morning there was an Early Bird Meeting. I did not attend due to the long day on Friday. 8:45 AM there was an opening and welcome with Delegate Rick C., area 24 – Iowa making a few opening statements and housekeeping items. We had a presentation put on by Area 41 with their delegate Leon A. introducing the presenters for Unity through Inventory –This we owe to AA's future. Ray & Melani P. were the presenters; they made this very interesting by relating to their own story. We then started on Agenda items. V. Grapevine with the discussion on the cost and how long would we subsidize and when would we stop. Question on the La Vina and whether it should be in color and have a perfect binding or a sewn binding and more stories be included in each edition.

These items brought up a lot of discussion. Next we talked about the VI. Literature committee. Pamphlets that were listed were only sent to the conference committee members. Some were to be updated or a sentence changed etc. Lot of discussion with comments of "don't spend any more money" were made during this discussion period.. We then had lunch followed by the Breakout Sessions until 3:00 PM. I attended the Treatment breakout session moderated by Butch R. during the first breakout. I went to the Grapevine/Literature Breakout for the second session. I did not write down questions for either sessions because they will come out with the report later. General Session 3 Area 35 presenters were introduced by Jon C., Roger R. and Gayle S. with the topic "Practicing these principles in all our "service" affairs – Setting an example-Attraction to Service. This was followed by more agenda items Policy and Admissions. Dinner followed. At 7:30 PM we had an open speaker meeting. Our guest was Dorothy H. Grapevine director and General Service Trustee. We had a short break and got back to work with the Ask it Basket and Agenda Items 4. Policy and Admissions committee items went fairly quickly. Area 33's delegate resigned and approval was being sought for Donna G. alternate delegate be approved to be the delegate. No discussion. Approval sought for 2 observers from Venezuela. No discussion Conference committee on PI We had a lot of discussion on these items – Don't spend anymore money on PSA's most of our members come in from other members. Report & Charter was next. We had a lot of discussion on Directories and service manuals. Most thought that we needed the directories annually and service manual could be every two or three years. We discussed items from the Treatment Facilities/ Special Needs/ accessibilities. One was a created form for treatment clients and once for AA members to serve as temporary contacts. Trustee committee was next with most of it calling for review of candidates or officers or directors. The next item for the evening was on Archives: Mostly reviews and minimal discussion. The last item for the evening was on Conference Committees of International Conventions/Regional Forums. No discussion – it was all reviews with no background information attached. Sunday we had the Regional Trustee report by Ken B. He is the treasurer of the Grapevine and reported it was hard to bring these figures to the Grapevine committee; but did say there is a lot going on and changes will be coming to make this a better Grapevine. Area 76, Wyoming Delegate Allen W. introduced the presenters from Area 76 – Greg B. and Brooke C.. There topic was "General Service Conference Agenda Selection Process-Communication-The Key to and Informed Decision. What an interesting and fun weekend. Thanks again for sending me and giving me the opportunity to serve. Yours in Service
Dee K.

WEBMASTER

Currently I am trying to get up to speed with the Ad-Hoc Committee on the aameetinglocator.org. Hope to have information and facts available at the Spring Assembly concerning both the Area 35 website and the aameetinglocator.org site. Looking forward to meeting with our Group Records Secretary and getting meeting information straightened out. I'm enjoying the duties of the webmaster. And am looking forward to the next two years serving Area 35. Spring is in the Air! Be good to yourself! Enjoy every day to its fullest! Look forward to seeing you all in Detroit Lakes.

Love and Peace,
Ione B.

Historical Article

Abraham Lincoln on Alcoholism

An address by Abraham Lincoln to the Washington Temperance Society, Springfield, Ill. on February 22, 1842. One can only be in awe of this remarkable man. You may have to read it several times, though, because of the manner of presentation.

In my judgment such of us who have never fallen victims have been spared more by the absence of appetite than from any mental or moral superiority over those who have. Indeed, I believe if we take habitual drunkards as a class, their heads and their hearts will bear an advantageous comparison with those of any other class.

When one who has long been known as a victim of intemperance bursts the fetters that have bound him, and appears before his neighbors 'clothed and in his right mind,' a redeemed specimen of long-lost humanity, and stands up, with tears of joy trembling in his eyes, to tell of the miseries once endured, now to be endured no more forever: of his once naked and starving children, now clad and fed comfortable; of a wife long weighed down with woe, weeping, and a broken heart, now restored to health, happiness, and a renewed affection; and how easily it is all done, once it is resolved to be done—how simple his language! Human feelings cannot resist.

I have not inquired at what period of time the use of intoxicating liquors commenced; nor is it important to know. It is sufficient that, to all of us who now inhabit the world, the practice of drinking them is just as old as the world itself—that is, we have seen the one just as long as we have seen the other.

Those who have suffered by intemperance personally, and have reformed, are the most powerful and efficient instruments to push the reformation to ultimate success. It does not follow that those who have not suffered have no part left them to perform. Whether or not the world would be vastly benefited by a total and final banishment from it of all intoxicating drinks seems to me not now an open question.

The victims of it (alcoholism) were to be pitied and compassioned, just as are the heirs of consumption and other hereditary diseases. Their failing was treated as a misfortune, and not as a crime, or even as a disgrace.

There seems ever to have been a proneness in the brilliant and warm blooded to fall into the vice—the demon of intemperance ever seems to have delighted in sucking the blood of genius and of generosity. What one of us but can call to mind some relative more promising in youth than all his fellows who has fallen a sacrifice to his rapacity? He seems ever to have gone forth like the Egyptian angel of death, commissioned to slay, if not the first, the fairest born of every family.

For a man suddenly or in any other way to break off from the use of drams, who has indulged in them for a long course of years and until his appetite for them has grown ten—or a hundred-fold stronger and more craving than any natural appetite can be, requires a most powerful moral effort. In such an undertaking he needs every moral support and influence that can possibly be brought to his aid and thrown around him.

It is an old and a true maxim that 'a drop of honey catches more flies than a gallon of gall.' So with men. If you would win a man to your cause, first convince him that you are his sincere friend.

Is it just to assail, condemn, or despise them? The universal sense of mankind on any subject is an argument or at least an influence, not easily overcome. The success of the argument in favor of the existence of an overruling Providence mainly depends upon that sense; and men ought not in justice to be denounced for yielding to it in any case, or giving it up slowly, especially when they are backed by interest, fixed habits, or burning appetites.

Another error, as it seems to me, into which the old reformers fell, was the position that all habitual drunkards were utterly incorrigible, and therefore must be turned adrift and damned without remedy in order that the grace of temperance might abound, to the temperate then, and to all mankind some hundreds of years thereafter. There is in this attitude something so repugnant to humanity, so uncharitable, so cold blooded and feelingless, That it never did nor ever can enlist the enthusiasm of a popular cause.

Happy day when—all appetites controlled, all passions subdued, all matter subjugated—mind, all-conquering mind, shall live and move, the monarch of the world. Glorious consummation! Hail, fall of fury! Reign of reason, all hail!

And when the victory shall be complete—when there shall be neither slave nor drunkard on the earth—how proud the title of that land which may truly claim to be the birthplace and the cradle of both those resolutions that shall have ended in that victory. How nobly distinguished that people who shall have planted and nurtured to maturity both the political and moral freedom of their species.



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
February 28, 2010

We opened the meeting at 10:35am with the Serenity Prayer.
Past Delegates in attendance were announced: JoAnne N., Jerry S., Charlie C., Tim C., Suzie A., Tom A., and Bruce B.
Additions to the agenda:
Past Treasury
Secretary Information

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

AREA OFFICER REPORTS

Delegate- Hope all is well in Area 35 as our commitments increase and we become more familiar with our new positions. May we do our best for Area 35 and AA as a whole in carrying the message to those with the desire to stop drinking. Always placing principals before personalities and adhering to our singleness of purpose. I would first like to go over a few items from the last general service board meeting held on February 1st, 2010 at Rye, New York. AAWS reported total book sales in 2009 at 2,212, 348 up 5% from 2008. Contributions were down 3% from budget and 2.5% from 2008. This may have been a reflection from our down economy. Resulting revenue from sales, contributions, and interest earned was \$14,542, 300 which was \$1,125, 400 greater than 2008. Grapevine Finance: Total income was \$1,830,511 and total subscription average for 2009 was 102,281 net loss for grapevine was \$128,967 which is \$38,000 better than budgeted. Grapevine paid about \$160,000 towards retirement funding. LaVina grossed \$84,076, sold 9,663 subscriptions, and suffered a \$54,475 loss after much discussion there has been around \$434,000 draw down from the reserve fund in the last 2 years to address cash flow problems and increase working capital. The grapevine has hired a consultant, with expertise in magazines, to evaluate our operations inside and out and will make recommendations to our grapevines board by March 20th. The grapevine board realizes that we cannot survive unless something drastic is done. Ken our West Central Trustee and Grapevine Board Chair will be at our service conference in Dubuque, IA. He will be answering questions and will entertain any suggestions to make the grapevine “Our meeting in print solvent.” I was asked to sit in on a West Central Regional Conference call. It was made up of delegates and our regional Trustee, Ken. One Delegate asked who determines what background is included with an agenda item. The trustee or chair of that committee determines what and what is not going to be included in the background material. Also, on this conference I was given the loving invitation to present the agenda items for CPC (this is the committee I will be serving on for the next two years) and also present agenda items for treatment/facilities/special needs-accessibilities at our service conference in Dubuque, IA. We also confirmed times for our delegates meeting held on Thursday and Friday in Rye, New York In regard to the 60th conference agenda items, I mailed all officers, chair people, DCM’s and past delegates CD’s. The cost of purchasing CD’s, carrying case, envelopes and postage came to \$154.75. I thought that getting these items out roughly 1 week earlier would give all more time to go over the items and get them out to district chairs and GSR’s. Our biggest complaint in the past was trying to get these items out in a timelier manner. I also make hard copies at the cost of \$303.75. All copies and CD’s came to a total of \$458.50. I will have extra CD’s at our February 28 Committee Meeting for those who wish. One of the hard copies will go to one of our past delegates and he will pay for the copy. At our spring assembly we will be discussing these agenda items. The chairs will handle their respective agenda items and I have split the other agenda items up between are other chairs and officers. I will not be presenting so that I can take notes and get a flavor our area concerning these items. Our area chair will also not be presenting so that he can run the meeting. I look forward to our breakout sessions so chairs can meet with their committees and bring back their conscience of their agenda items. They will give a brief statement of why or why not to establish a basis for discussion and keep meetings flowing, so that we can discuss all these items in a timely and informative manner. I hope that you are getting the emails I have been forwarding or scanning from the general service office and west central trustee. I would like to comment on one specific set of emails that contained around 78 pages. I will use a different format in the future to make these emails more streamlined. Please accept my apology. If anyone is not getting this information, please see me sometime today. It is very important that all communication is passed on so our members can make an informed decision. As you may be aware of we will be holding the west central regional service conference on March 4, 5, 6, 2011 in Area 35. It will be held at the Grandview Lodge in Nisswa. We are still working on some of the details, such as coffee, food menus, convention rental to name a few. I feel I will have all of this negotiated and the contract signed by the Spring Assembly. Our past 56 delegate, Jerry, has graciously accepted to chair this event, and our past 58 delegate, JoAnne, will serve as treasurer. I thank you both very much. Our meetings throughout the year will be held at the Grandview lodge. We will need to fill a number of positions such as secretary, coffee people, registration, greeters, flyer chair, program chair, early bird meeting chair just to name a few. Please volunteer your services and go back to your districts and get GSR’s and group members to volunteer. There is no shortage of work so we need anyone that is willing. Please contact Jerry or myself. Please join and be a part of. We will be getting as much information as we are able, to allow Ted and Bill to audit our 2008/2009 books. We will give Area 35 members the most accurate information possible. As of this rotation which began January 1, 2010, Sarah, our treasurer will have vouchers for all money spent, a record for contributions made, and bank statements to compare with the checkbook to verify all transactions. This treasury will be transparent to all our fellowship. If you have any questions since January 1st, Sarah informed me that she will answer all questions with documentation. I personally have no doubt that Sarah will do a great service for Area 35. One more note, I would like to thank Roger and Gayle for accepting to be our area 35 presenters, Scott and Butch for moderating the treatment and corrections breakout sessions, and Heidi for recording both sessions. Please remember all DCMs to start discussing with your district when you would like you report back from the General Service Conference. If you can, please try and get together with another district to hear my report back. I am looking forward to working with the officers, chairs, DCM’s, GSR’s, past delegates, and all members of area 35. This is truly an honor and privilege to serve Area 35 as your delegate. I will not take my responsibilities lightly and do the best I can to serve this fine fellowship. God Bless, Jon C., Panel 60 Delegate

Alternate Delegate- First of all I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your alternate delegate this rotation. I hope that I am able to serve the area well in this new capacity. Secondly, I want to thank all of the DCM’s and the district participants who helped facilitate our Winter Workshop in January at the Holiday Inn in Alexandria. We had 123 members attend the event and the overall comments were quite favorable. I have a written report available detailing the event, our Ask It Basket questions, and evaluations. A few areas of concern brought up were the cost of coffee, the use of a timer to limit sharing, and the length of breaks. A timer will be reinstated at the next Service Workshop and I will try to adjust the schedule to allow for 15 minute breaks and possibly a longer dinner break for GSR’s and DCM’s attending the sharing sessions. In regards to the coffee expense, this is passed on from the hotel to our individual members. We will try to negotiate lower coffee prices for the next event but this is a facility by facility circumstance. We have set up dates for this year’s Zonal Forums. Zone 1 will be the site of our first Zonal Forum. This is tentatively set for May 15th, 2010. I will be contacting DCM’s from districts 1, 2, 16, and 21 to set up a facility to host this event. We have also tentatively scheduled the second Zonal Forum for the year to be held August 21st in Zone 3. I will be contacting the DCM’s from districts 5, 6, 7, 11, 13, 17, and 18 to set up a facility to host this event in the coming 2 months. I am looking forward to diving into the background information and furthering my knowledge of this year’s agenda items. I will not be attending the WCRAASC in Iowa due to coaching commitments. I will be discussing the event with attendees of the event to insure that I have a better understanding of the background material. Thanks again for all your efforts in the Area 35 and I look forward to seeing you all at the Spring Assembly in Detroit Lakes this coming April. Yours in Service, Jim K.

Chair- Wow what away to start a year. I attended the Area 35 workshop in Alexandria and thought the presentations were excellent. It was nice to see a mixture of written materials, skits, and personal experiences. I thought there was great sharing from the floor. Bob M. did a nice job sharing his experience strength and hope with us. Over all it seemed that the participation by GSR’s was better than it has been in awhile. I was also able to attend the Cook open meeting and enjoyed visiting with old friends. In February I was privileged to attend a men’s spiritual retreat in South Dakota where my friend Les was recognized for his 50 years of sobriety. Also, I attended the District 8 Workshop, and the topics were well presented and the doughnuts were awesome. I have spent most of the last 2 months trying to figure out my responsibilities along with working with the area committee to get our financial records straightened out. We are lucky to have people with insight and great personal drive. Learning my responsibilities is a challenge, but I only quite my position twice. I have enlisted Ted and Bill as financial advisors in going over our past reports. I appreciate their willingness to continue serving. I have some names for our financial oversight committee Steve and Kathy so far. Tom has been kind enough to send me some information on an IRS form 990 to fill out. Thanks Tom. I talked with staff at Seven Clans to line up the Fall Assembly and I am in process. Thanks Art for you help. I received the disc from Jon and found out my address was wrong. Thanks to those that straightened that out. I have had several thousand e-mails to read, open, and account for my service e-mails. I have received half a dozen e-mails from our website looking for meetings. I sent out DCM names for them to call if they could not find what they were looking for on the meeting locator. I have spoken with Steve K., Area 36 Chair and will have lunch with him in Dubuque. Overall things are coming along. I will continue to do the best I can for the area. God bless and take care. Yours in Service, Michael J.

Secretary- Hi, I will appreciate any emailed reports; you can email them by following the secretary link on the area 35 website. I will also take any written reports today. I would like to get the February Committee Meeting minutes to the Northern Lights Editor by the due date of March 8th. I am asking that I get all reports by no later than March 4th. If anyone wants to get any of the minutes by email, please give me your name and email address. The minutes will also be found in the Northern Lights. I am planning to attend the West Central Regional Service Conference and take notes at several of the breakout sessions. I am looking forward to the conference and the information I will learn. Yours in Service, Heidi R.

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Treasurer- On the back table there were several reports as well as two three ring binders containing copies of all contributions received (including cash), bank statements, and receipts for everyone to review (really trying to keep this transparent).

Jay's Period 7 reports. There was a period seven report and group contributions for period seven (Period seven runs from the December committee meeting to Dec. 31) from Jay/Beth's rotation which was done by Jay and are only preliminary (unverified) numbers. I did not do period 7 reports, and I am sorry but I do not know anything about these numbers or how they were arrived at and so I really cannot answer any questions on them. The numbers and all reports from the 2008-2009 rotation are being checked by an audit/review committee, and finalized reports will be forthcoming. The preliminary total income for period seven was recorded as \$3,011.84. Total preliminary expenses for period seven were 1,970.01. Preliminary balance was recorded at \$6,946.30. Period income was listed as \$23,469.75. Period expenses were listed as \$26,266.43. (I think he meant YTD income and YTD expenses here) Funds taken were listed as \$2,043.56. Expenses paid cash were listed as \$1,244.71. Balance at end of period 7 was listed as \$3,350.78.

Summary of income and expenditures for period 1. Due to the generosity, time, and patience of several members from the central and southern parts of Area 35, one individual in particular, I was able to figure out QuickBooks and get my reports all ready for today. Thank you all so much for your help. The Profit and Loss (Contributions and expenditures) report broke down our total income and expenses by category and chair position. The total income for the period was \$15,306.57, broken down into \$8,271.12 in group contributions (yay groups!), \$676 in Birthday contributions (Yay birthdays!), special contributions totaled \$2,950, an anonymous contribution of \$1000.00, and amends contributions of \$300, as well as income from the Winter Workshop: GSR sharing session basket \$51.57, Service Workshop registration \$1,245.00, Coffee \$345.55, 7th tradition basket from Sat. pm speaker \$193.01, and share the love buckets \$19.32. There was also \$255 from a cashbox I found in the materials given to me by the previous treasury which I wasn't sure what to do with (please see my explanation of this below and request for group input.) The total expenses for period 1 were \$5,477.82. Included in the expenses this period were winter workshop expenses of \$1,590.18 (rooms, speaker expenses, coffee), expenses by the area chairs and officers for attending the winter workshop, expenses for supplies and materials needed by the area officers and chairs to perform their duties, and delegate expenses for attending the upcoming General Service Conference (\$1,200), etc. This left us with a net income for the period of \$9,828.75. I had to send \$5 of this to the savings account, and we received a total of \$3,200.00 from the old/previous treasury account leaving us with a checking balance of \$13,023.75. Minus our prudent reserve of \$6,000.00, we are left with \$7,023.75 available for service. I really want to thank the groups so much for stepping up and supporting the Area in its time of need! You are wonderful and I am proud to belong to this area. It is an amazing miracle that we were able to rebound so quickly from this tragedy. I am so grateful for the way the groups and individuals came together to help each other out.

Detailed expenditures and income reports. There also was a detailed report of budgeted and actual expenditures by each of the area officers. The total area officer and chair expenditures for period 1 was \$3,887.64. (If you would like to see the detailed report, email me and I'll send you a copy). The third report detailed the group, birthday and special contributions received to date by group number and district. Group contributions received by district were: District 1 \$350, District 2 \$200, District 3 \$360, District 4 \$905, District 5 \$446, District 6 \$475, District 7 \$415, District 8 \$1,334, District 9 \$295, District 11 \$175, District 12 \$940.97, District 13 \$1658.91, District 15 \$245, District 16 \$277.24, District 18 \$145, District 21 \$49. Way to go groups! Thank you so much. Birthday contributions by district were: District 2 with \$100, District 3 with \$168, District 4 with \$64, District 6 \$10, District 7 \$109, District 8 \$65, District 13 \$100, District 16 \$26, District 21 \$34. Thank you to those who celebrated their gratitude for their sobriety by sharing the love with the Area! Just a reminder, when sending contributions please be sure to send your group and district number with your contributions to ensure I credit your group appropriately.

Statement of Financial Responsibility (aka the budgets) The last report I composed was the statement of financial responsibility, also known as the budgeted expenses for the upcoming year. The area officers and chairs were asked to consider what service activities they wanted to engage in during the upcoming year, and create a corresponding budget of expenses. (This is also available by email if you so desire it!) The total budgeted expenses for the 2010 year were \$35,370.37. This means if we want our area servants to be able to do all the activities they think the area needs or wants them to do, we as groups and individuals will need to contribute at least \$35,370.37. This means that each month the area needs the groups of Area 35 to send approximately \$2,900, as well as birthday contributions of \$20 a month. Remember, any amount your group or you can help with is greatly appreciated.

Upcoming expenses. Some of the upcoming 2010 expenses the area chairs and officers incur and budgeted for include: the West Central Regional AA Service conference being held in Iowa where we'll discuss and share our conscience on GSC agenda items in order to become more informed on the issues so we can better lead the breakout discussions at the Spring Assembly, as well as share our Area's conscience with the other areas and help to create a more informed WCR group conscience (which is just like a larger scale version of your group or district group conscience discussions!). The predicted costs of this are \$4,289. Then there is the Spring Assembly where we will be engaging in individual breakout session discussions on the agenda items as well as general assembly discussion, and where your groups will share your concerns and questions with the area through the GSRs, and also through them become more informed. The budgeted costs for this event are \$4,202. So you can see, with upcoming budgeted expenses for March alone total over \$8,400, and we really need the groups and those birthday celebrators to keep helping in any amounts you can! If there is anything else I can do to assist you or your groups, please let me know!

COMMITTEE CHAIR AND DCM REPORTS

Archives-We had 6 in attendance and several great topics were discussed. Brad brought up having a joint workshop with Area 36 in the summer of 2011. We were all in favor of this. We also discussed getting together as a group to tour the Area 35 Archives with Brad. We had discussion about Zonal Workshop throughout the rotation. We decided to have a Zone 3 Archives workshop possibly the first weekend in August this year to be held in district 18. We also decided to add District Action Book to the format for this workshop. We discussed how important group histories are to district and area archives. We discussed a project which we all agreed upon and will work on. We will bring our reports to the fall assembly. The project is: How will the financial costs to the district in supporting their chairs financially. In support of the 7th traditions, where are we at now compared to where we were at 5, 10, 20 years ago? Yours in Service, Art A

Archivist-The inventory of the collection and the conversion of tapes is moving along. I received a bundle of newspaper clippings from the Area 36 listing meetings in various districts in the area. They are sorted, collated and filed under Public Information. I attended the Winter Workshop and I am planning on the Spring Assembly and the WCRAASC. The next full Archives display will be at the Superior roundup. I have new items contributed by Area 36 and others for the display. I am also available for District Archives workshops. My home group, SCCUM, has started a series of 12 workshops each one focusing on a various aspect of Fellowship history. We have covered Henrietta, the co-founders first meeting, and Eddie R. and Bill D. the first one to accept the message and the first one to turn it down. The interest and reception has been encouraging. Thanks to the Area and the groups for this opportunity to be of service. Brad, Area 35 Archivist

District 1-We held our district meeting on February 21, 2010 and there were 12 in attendance. There was lively discussion about what constituted an AA meeting. One of the new members of the district was very disappointed with the open meeting hosted by Glenmore Treatment Center. He was told by district members it wasn't an AA meeting that the AA members went as guests of Glenmore. If, like what occurred at that meeting someone dominated the whole hour, then the visiting member can suggest only a better way. Someone in treatment shouldn't be held responsible for that which he or she does not know. Amongst other comments the point was made that the Glenmore meeting is not an AA meeting. The district seems to be in good shape and well attended. Finances area a bit slim, however there always is just enough. The district will host its annual Spring Fling March 13, 2010 at the Fertile Community Center. There are two workshops, one on recovery and the other on sponsorship beginning at 1:00pm followed by a supper at 5:00pm and open speaker meeting at 6:00pm. All for the admission price if \$12.00. Everyone is welcome. Yours in Service, Rick W.

District 2- Well I've only had this privilege for a little while now. District 2 held its first meeting January 10th. We had 12 in attendance 5 were GSR's, since then I've learned 2 more have been elected by their groups. GSR's reported their meetings have been well attended. District 2 is working on a new meeting list. I have had the privilege to work with the new meeting that is in Karlstad. I helped them with some idea's to let the still suffering alcoholic know there is a meeting. I invited them to attend our next district meeting. We held our district round-up February 19-20 attendance was down but the fellowship was excellent. Preliminary results show we will have another next year. I would like to give a big thank you to our speakers and all the people who participated. We as a district have a lot of enthusiasm, which makes my job (or should I say privilege) real fun and easy. I thank my district for their support. In service, Rodney P.

Literature-We had a total of 12 at the committee meeting this morning. Mike delivered over \$4900 of literature in early January. We sold \$700 at the January workshop. Since then I have ordered \$1600 more and sold \$400+ today. When I think that I have everything needed someone requests more than what I have or something that I don't have. I have some 2008 edition of the service manuals that we will sell for \$1.50 and large print for \$3.50. At the meeting we talked some on the agenda items and will know more about them at the Spring Assembly. District 13 is stocking the district with pamphlets. District 16 is building their inventory. District 8 is restocking there damaged inventory. District 7 is selling a lot of literature to the different groups that he visits. I have a case of 2009 final reports –starting on page 11. There are some short reports or talks by some of the delegates on different topics that make a wonderful topic for a meeting. Help yourself!!!! Yours in service, Bob K.

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District 3- We are alive and well and active. All corrections and treatment commitments are being met. We are putting together a new PI/CPC committee. The current chair persons are unable to meet commitments, but want to help with projects. I have visited several other meetings in the district and have invited them to participate. We are very excited about the upcoming Spring Assembly in Detroit Lakes. Yours in Service, Jeff

District 4-Jim T. No one present to give a report or report submitted.

Treatment-We met with 8 Districts and 11 Members were present. Each District shared about what they are doing and the goals for this rotation. They have been quite busy. Our Goal as a Committee is to update the Temporary Contact and Temporary Sponsor and to clear up some of the miss interpretation as some think that they are committing themselves to Sponsorship. We also had good sharing about our own experiences in these areas and many good ideas were shared. I am looking forward to the upcoming Correction and Treatment Workshop that Kelly and I have set up prior to the Spring Assembly. We will do this again at the Fall Assembly. Hope to see some of you at the WCRAASC this coming weekend. In Service, Butch R.

District 5-I am happy to report that we are alive and well and off to a great start this rotation. We meet at 7 p.m. the 3rd Monday each month at St. John's Lutheran Church in Zimmerman. We have seven members of District 5 here today-a huge thanks to all of them for their dedication to Alcoholics Anonymous! As of our last District meeting, we had all positions filled with Jake as Secretary/Treasurer, Lloyd as Corrections Chair, and Paul as our Treatment Chair. God always provides!! I did get bad news Friday evening-our Archives Chair stepped down due to personal reasons. This is our only position to be filled. We have opened a new bank account at TCF with Jake and myself as signers and access to the on-line banking. Skip and I each plan to visit four groups a month and plan on repeating this process every six months as I feel it's important to be visible as much as possible to our groups. As of today several groups have been visited. Thanks Skip for all your help! Great news with our Sherburne County jail program-the women are and will be continuing to go in. We need approximately 16 men-4 men each week. The requirements have been changed to two years of sobriety, not on probation, and haven't been in jail in the last 5 years. As long as the County receives applications no deadlines will be imposed. Lloyd is brand new to service and on top of his responsibilities--Thank you! A committee has been formed to do a 12 Step/Service Workshop and hopefully flyers will be available at the Spring Assembly. The AA Orientation meeting that was scheduled to start in February has been postponed until April as they didn't have enough participants. We will be going over the Agenda items at our March 15th District meeting and if need be we will schedule another meeting to finish them. This year we feel better prepared as GSR's have the info to bring to their groups and District Chairs will be getting theirs this afternoon. With these few changes we hope to be better prepared and ready for the meeting. I would like to thank Jon for getting the disc of Agenda items out in a very timely matter! I will be attending West Central Regional Conference and a huge thanks to the District for their support!! Very Grateful to be of Service, Rita D.

District 6-Our district is growing with 3 new meetings since December 2009 at our last district meeting there were 14 in attendance. In February our district held a CPC luncheon. There was good participation and comments from the professionals. Thanks to everyone for a job well done and to Tim C. our guest speaker and also Doug N. I am planning on attending the conference in Dubuque, IA March 5-7. I am looking forward to attending the Spring Assembly in Detroit Lakes at the end of March. Yours in Service, Kathie G.

Public Information-We had 11 in attendance at our meeting this morning. District 13 is working on a new beginners meeting, updating the electronic meeting databases, and obtained the St. Cloud Times meetings listing. District 5 is distributing AA pamphlets and meeting schedules to the local media and churches and planning a probation orientation for Sherburne County. District 8 is planning a PI/CPC luncheon, has updated the meeting listings with local newspapers, distributed meeting schedules to probation, and feels their beginners meeting is doing well. District 6 hosted a successful CPC luncheon. District 16 is updating meeting directories, planning to do an Intro to AA workshop on April 24th, and conducting a research on professionals to learn the needs for AA information. District 7 is conducting a meeting in a treatments center every other month and sending post cards to groups about the district meeting. I presented sample district PI goals from the PI workbook. I attended the Area 35 service workshop on January 16-17 in Alexandria, MN. I enjoyed the district presentations on service topics. I'm looking forward to attending the WCRAASC in Dubuque, Iowa, March 5-7, and presenting and presenting with the DCM from district 13 for Area 35 at the conference. Yours in service, Roger R.

District 7-We are enjoying good turnout at the meeting with 20 or more in attendance. We have plenty of returning as well as a few new faces in the bunch. The treasury is doing fine under the direction of our new and precise treasurer. The district is in good shape financially. Secretary Dan is also great although the Work's program is not an automatic open on my computer. I think I can work it out if you know what I mean. The GSR's all reported good group attendance for the 15 or more groups represented out of the 60 plus in our district. It's a good indication of the interest in the success of AA in Central Minnesota. Our literature chair Gary is hard at it going through his large stock if literary supplies. The post card invites are finished and ready for use. Our new business will be working on putting together a brief description of the open chairs and what the job entails for anyone interested in these chairs. This will be in conjunction with forming small committees of corrections, treatment, grapevine, public information/CPC, and archives. Anyone interested in this filling line of service work please talk to your GSR or come to the next district meeting and talk to Mark. We have a special meeting slated for March 4th at our regular meeting place. We will devote the entire meeting to the 2010 General Service Conference Agenda. We will do our best to get through the subject matter quickly yet thoroughly enough for you to be good informers to you groups so we will have good group decision making. Dan has the phone for the next go around. I will be going to Dubuque, Iowa for the West Central Regional Conference March 5-7, I have a room booked with an extra bed if anyone is thinking of going. I would also like to ride along with anyone who has room. Mark N.

District 8-Our district meeting was held on February 11th at Palo. We had 16 groups represented with 32 in attendance and 1 new GSR. Our literature chair has done and inventory on our material, and has also replaced a tote to carry inventory that was damaged or lost from our last rotation. The district voted to sell the books for 50% off the cover price for the damaged books. We are also having a district meeting on March 13th to go over the conference agenda items. The meeting will be centrally located and will be hosted by the Virginia Friday Night Open Group in Virginia, Minnesota. The committee chair will each do a presentation on assigned topics and background materials; in addition, the district also has supported me to attend the West Central Regional Conference in Dubuque, Iowa. I am looking forward to attending and will give a report back to the district. We held our annual district workshop/open meeting on February 20th at our new location in Virginia, Minnesota. We had about 40 in attendance at our workshop and around 55 at our open meeting. The alternate DCM, Sally, did an excellent job chairing the meeting and the participation was well received. There was excellent comments/participation and great skits. There were 3 past delegated, one past alternate delegate and our current delegate Jon C. in attendance. We also had an archives display set up by our past delegate Scott J., and alternate archives chair Jerome A. They are commended for doing an excellent job in helping out the district by setting up their display. Our next district meeting will be on March 12th in Biwabik, Minnesota. Randy A.

Group Records-Hi everyone. I want to apologize for the fact that my report was not very good. I have learned my lesson and I will always have a written report to read from. I want to give a big thanks to Audrey for all the help she has given me as I learn the ropes with this position. Two things I want to mention, one is that it is very important that I have correct and up to date information for all the groups in our Area. I need this so that the information on the Area 35 Website and AA Meeting Locator is correct and that people can find what they are looking for. Also we need to have correct information for group GSR's and contacts so that GSO is sending information to the right people and so that I can add them to the Northern Lights mailing list. At the Spring Assembly, I will have printouts to hand out to each DCM on the groups to take back to their District. Then they can get back to me with anything that needs to be updated. If anybody has fliers that need to be inserted to the Northern Lights, give me a call and we will get that taken care. Thank you for allowing me to serve. Yours in Service, Laurie R.

Northern Lights-I got the first issue for this rotation out to printing and anonymity protected version online on the Area web site Northern Lights page. Thank you to Heidi, Ed, JoAnne and others who checked it for accuracy and Laurie with help from Audrey for taking over and getting it from the printer and mailing it out. I was able to add the Area Committee Agenda and the GSR sharing session after the Area Workshop to the Northern Lights online. I kept the page count to a minimum of 20 pages to keep cost low not knowing how much money we would have for expenses before printing. The NL prints out in multiples of 4 pages, 20 being our minimum! I added two articles and inserted a copy of the letter "To Whom it may concern" by Dr. William D. Silkworth. I would like to see everyone here submit a service related article to add to my pool of 2 "that's a pun, but true" including our past Delegates. If I don't have articles I will have to fill the space with things I find - I would rather have Area submitted content! The Action Committee meeting this morning was good with NL, Group Records and Webmaster in attendance - Thanks DCM Gayle from District 13 and DCM Rodney from District 2 for attending. We appreciate your input! Our Delegate Jon C. asked me to moderate the breakout session on the Trustee Committee Agenda Items at the Spring Assembly and I am looking forward to that. Not much to discuss that I can see so far but am honored serve! Dan R.

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District 11-Our District meeting is the 1st Tuesday of the month. All of our jail and prison commitments are being handled. I have a CPC Chair, PI chair, Treasurer, and Secretary. Yours in service, Gary H.

Corrections-We had a great turnout with 16 in attendance at our first Corrections breakout session. Representation from Districts 9, 5, 13, 8, 3, 6, 18, 21, 3, and 12 were present. I want to thank everyone for their commitment to serve this rotation; it was great to see so many Districts involved! As we continue to meet we will look at ways that we can continue to carry the message into our correctional facilities. We went around and each person shared what was going on in their Districts. Duties and responsibilities are being fulfilled within many of the Districts but lack of volunteers in some of those Districts continues to be an issue. In Districts 5 they are working on getting several male volunteers to go back into Sherburne County, and District 12 is looking for volunteers to go into the prison there. We had discussion around having one AA contact person for each correctional facility due to the complications that sometimes arises with each new rotation. Some of the District's are already doing this. We talked about and I passed out copies of the Correctional Facilities Contact Program. I gave several names to some of the Districts Chairs of inmates that are due to be released to Area 35 soon. This information was passed on to me by James N. the Correctional Facilities contact person in Area 36. I also have been corresponding with Fran O. from Area 36 on getting male volunteers to go in the Moose Lake facility. Currently, Southern Minnesota is doing this and they would like help from our Area. I believe that this is and should be something we must do because Moose Lake is in our Area. Stan, Corrections Chair for District 12 has taken the information and will be looking at trying to get some groups in his District to take on this responsibility since it is one of the closes Districts. If there are any groups that are willing to make this commitment in other Districts one Saturday a month at 12:30 please contact me. It is so important they we carry the message into all our Correctional Facilities! I would like to thank Stan for his help. I attended the Area 35 January Workshop in Alexandria and would like to thank all the Districts that presented on service. You all did a great job! Butch our Treatment Chair and I have set up our first Area 35 Corrections/Treatment Workshop on Friday, March 26th at 7:00 pm at the Detroit Lakes Alano Club. I would like to thank Jeff DCM for District 3 for his help in finding space to hold this event. I will be attending a Transition Fair on March 31st at the Correctional Facility in Rush City with Larry F. who is the Area 36 Corrections Chair. I will also be attending the WCRAASC this weekend in Dubuque, Iowa. Thank you for allowing me to serve. Kelly D.

District 12- I want to start out by thanking our delegate Jon for mailing the conference agenda items and also for all the informative emails. It would have been quite a scramble getting the agenda items today. The January workshop in Alexandria was good for our district. The topic we had to present on, Unity through inventory this we owe to AA's future, got us thinking about our own past inventory. We decide to take a question each time we meet and discuss how we are following through with the solutions we had come up with. At our January meeting our new committee chairs were appointed- Corrections: Stan H., PI/CPC: Patty S., Treatment: Ross H., Archives: Autumn C. I am looking forward to the spring assembly. Yours in Service, Jana M., District 12 DCM

District 13-Hello from district 13, this rotation is starting well. We have all but one committee chair filled and I hope we have a CPC chair filled within a month or so. PI committee chair, Tim, is very busy preparing schedules to be ready for printing about May along with working with area group records to make sure our meetings in the databases are correct. PI and Treatment are working together on a Beginners Meeting with hopes of having it starting in May. District 13 has voted to be responsible for the literature at the Alano Clubs. Corrections, Phone line, Literature/GVR, and Archives are doing well in the district. We are also looking into the need of Spanish speaking and LGBT meetings. We are having a GSR workshop from 1 to 4pm on March 20th at the St. Cloud Public Library with our speakers teaching on the GSR's roles and responsibilities, GSR's at the Area, and the Service Manual. All are welcome. I look forward to attend WCRAASC next weekend and I thank District 13 for sending me. I want to thank Jon for asking me to present and for Roger for writing our presentation. Thank you for allowing me to serve Gayle S.

Cooperation with Professional Community-After deciding to accept the CPC position I met up with Dee K. to see what information I could get from her on CPC. She must have had about 30 pounds of pamphlets, a display case, and a small blue CPC workbook. I started reading the stuff I had in my personal archives on CPC. I got invited to attend a CPC luncheon in District 6. District 6 has been having a CPC luncheon semi-annually for 20 years. The information presented during the luncheon was well done by District 6 DCM and CPC chair and the story done by past delegate Tim C. They had a good literature display and a delicious lunch. They sent out invitations 1 month in advance. I would like to thank the PI/CPC people for attending today's meeting. I'd like to go to other district CPC Luncheons and learn from them and then hopefully with the PI chairs help get other districts involved. Doug N.

District 15- We only have our literature chair filled. I did not attend the February district meeting and have been extremely busy, because of my husband's health issues, and I have not yet received a report so I am just winging it today! I do apologize for not being totally informed. I had to work so; Marlene L. went to the Jan. workshop in Alexandria. She planned to stay for 1 hour and ended up there till 5pm. At district 15, we have been busy getting everything together for the Stearns County Roundup, March 27, 2009. I actually have flyer and tickets this time. Progress not perfection! Our literature chair Scott P. has made up new corner packets and has sent a package of 10 to each of the groups in District 15. Cold Spring Alano Society is having their 26th Annual Buffet Night at The Blue Heron in Cold Spring on April 17th 2010. I will have flyers on this for by the Spring Assembly. We updating our meeting cards, and by the time we got them they were outdated. Even though at times I get frustrated from the lack of participation, at least there are some GSR's in attendance. So this is showing me even if only one other person shows up it worth my time. Yours in service, Sandy H.

District 16-We have changed our district meeting date and time to the first Wednesday of the month at 5:30pm and we meet at United Methodist Church in Grand Rapids. We have filled the Grapevine/Literature and CPC/PI. We're reviewing our meeting directories so they are more accurate and after we review them we will get new ones printed. We made hard copies of the General Service Agenda Items and back ground to review and hand out various sections at the next district meeting. I am hoping to fill corrections and treatment chair at the next district meeting. District 16 is holding a workshop on April 24th from noon to 5:30pm at the Harris Township Hall. Thank you for the opportunity to serve, Mary S.

Grapevine-We had 12 in attendance at our meeting this morning. Seven districts were represented. The Districts seem to be busy getting organized and on track with committee chairs.

I did bring up a note that I had received regarding questions posed by Ken B. or West Central Region Trustee. This is what was written: "The Grapevine has been our meeting in print since 1944. Are you a Grapevine Reader?" "The Grapevine is financially struggling to survive but have been receiving a record number of stories for submission. Stories are the only contribution the Grapevine receives and financially survives only on your subscriptions. Our West Central Regional Trustee, Ken B. Serves on the Grapevine Board and will rotate next year into the Chairman of the Grapevine Board. The Grapevine Board has implemented a plan to revitalize the Grapevine and hopefully, keep it from becoming something we used to do. Two questions have been posed to you by Ken: 1. Of what value is it to AA? 2. At what cost, if there is a break point, do we maintain the publication? I am hopeful that we have some good discussion around these questions. If you have any thoughts on this, you can share them directly with Ken by e-mailing him at wctrustee@aa-montana.org." I did take a brief look at the Agenda Items that will be brought up at the WSRAASC and of course the Conference in NEW YORK. We need to be prepared to give our delegate a real feel on what Area 35 wants done so he can vote as our representative at the Conference in New York. Sales for Grapevine Materials: \$ 45.00 – January, \$99.00 – February, \$ 70.00 – Area Committee Meeting, and a Total -\$214.00 - This will go to restock the inventory. Yours in Service, Dee K., Area 35 Grapevine Chair

District 18-(Jason was not present, but an AA member for District 18 was present and shared the following) District 18 currently has 9 towns that have at least on AA meeting at least once a week, with a few towns having more than one meeting a week. Our newest and most exciting chair position is archives, which has been taken by Mike. Mike is taking this commitment with both feet and is excited to have the commitment. Spencer has taken the role of treatment and literature chair and is looking forward to getting things going. He also has been looking into getting literature to the meetings in our district. The corrections chair has been taken over by David and he has been working on getting volunteers to go into the jail. He says he's done a lot of work but has even more work to do for the jails. Yours in Service, Dave

District 21- (Carl was not present, but an AA member for District 21 was present and shared the following) District 21 is alive and well, most committee and officer positions are filled in the new rotation. We are meeting our obligations regarding CPC/PI, and Corrections in our communities. Respectfully submitted, Brent T.

Webmaster-I'll start out with the Website Stats: In January the website had 51,480 hits with 1,463 unique visitors; In February 43,329 hits with 1,316 unique visitors. I attended the workshop in Alexandria and thoroughly enjoyed all of the presentations. I have been updating meetings and the calendar on the Area 35

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Website, and I am sending out confirmations that your requests have been done. Thanks to districts 4, 7, 11, 13 and 15 for sending me their meeting updates and corrections. I have revised the group change form and it will be available on the website shortly. Also I'm working on an online form(s) to be used to update, change, or add group info. This should also be available soon. Laurie, Group Records Chair, and myself will be meeting within the next few weeks to insure that we both have the same meeting information. Big thanks to Ed A., former Northern Lights Chair and former Webmaster, for making a change to the map look-up on the meetings page. This change will bring you directly to the Google map site showing your meeting location. This will be available as soon as Dan R. (thanks Dan!) and myself complete updating the individual meeting maps. I also would like to thank DCM's for sending their minutes to me. I do so enjoy reading them. I appreciate you all giving me this opportunity to serve and look forward to the next two years!!! Love and Peace, Ione B., Area 35 Webmaster

OLD BUSINESS

Treasurer Budget approval (Sarah K.): First, there needed to be a correction to the Profit Loss (Contribution Expenditures) to the Northern Lights section under Annual Budget. The total was not \$1,457, but was \$1,142 which gives us a difference of \$315. The total other expenses, at the bottom of the page, under the section Annual Budget should be \$30,645.37. The statement of Financial Responsibility is used as a goal setting tool to determine how we are going to be fully self-supporting. This budget is a plan of what the Area Officers and Area Chairs want to do over the next year. On the statement of Financial Responsibility, we have a budget of what we are going to spend on service workshops, committee meetings, and assemblies (conference rooms). The total for the upcoming yearly expenses is \$35,370.37. We need in contributions each month, from groups, a total of \$2,825 and \$20 in birthday contributions. The Area can use this budget as a tool to look at upcoming expenses the Area is going to have and if we will have enough money to cover the expenses.

Discussion: One person brought up the fact that if the Area approves this budget, they are saying that they are going to support the Area to reach this budget by encouraging groups to contribute. Another question was how much do we take in each month in group contributions? The Area takes in around \$2,500 to \$3,000 each month. One person wanted to know why no one from the Area was attending the special regional forum in South Dakota this fall. The Treasurer explained that this was a special forum for that area. This means that we do not need to include everyone from our area. We do need to have representation at the special forum, so that is why the Treasurer kept the Delegate's budgeted amount for the special forum. The Treasurer asked if any feels we should have other people attending this forum and there was no response. **Motion was made to approve the 2010 Budget, 2nd, unanimously in favor of the 2010 Budget.**

Treasury oversight committee and review: We are in the process of getting this going and will present the information as soon as it is available.

2011 West Central Regional Service Conference: The conference will be held at the Grandview Lodge in Nisswa, Minnesota. We are going to need volunteers to help in various areas. If you would like to volunteer, see our Delegate, Jon.

Policy regarding meetings on area website

A question was brought up as to why it seems we have two Area Group Records Secretaries. It was explained that the Webmaster takes care of updating meetings on the Area 35 website. The Group Records Secretary takes care of the FNV database and updating the meeting locator website. When either the Webmaster or the group records secretary gets a group change form, they give the information to the other person. The Group Records Secretary is the only one who can make changes to aameetinglocator.org, and the Webmaster is the only one who can make changes to the Area 35 website. The Webmaster and the Group Records Secretary are planning to meet and compare information to make sure they have the same information on AA meetings. **It was felt by member that the Group Records Secretary should get all group change forms first and then they should be sent to the Webmaster.** A question was asked that can we make a link on Area 35 website to go to aameetinglocator.org. It was explained that there is a link to the locator. The problem some people are having is that the link is not easily located since it is at the bottom of the page. One AA member asked if we could have a separate tab at the top of the website that goes to meetinglocator.org which makes it more visible. A Past Delegate has talked with GSO about FNV and they have run multiple tests with the database. The reason we are not getting all of the information (smoking, nonsmoking, multiple meetings) on the locator website is because our Area has not filled in the information on the database. Once we get that information on FNV, we should not have these issues. It was requested that the Group Records Secretary and Webmaster get together with Area 36 to discuss the issues we are having with the meeting locator, so we can make the locator the way we want it. It was asked that the Webmaster and Group Records Secretary talk with two past delegates who, in the past, have sat in on these meetings with Area 36. We should give feed back to the Webmaster and Group Records Secretary so they can work on the problems. This item was sent to groups and districts to be brought back for discussion at the Spring Assembly (old business).

Fall Assembly-Thief River Falls: The flyer will be out by the Spring Assembly and everything is ready except for signing the contract. The Fall Assembly will be at Seven Clans Casino in Thief River Fall on October 2-3rd. It was brought to the attention of the Area that the Fall Assembly should have been in Zone III instead of Zone I. Since it was not discovered in the previous rotation it is too late to make the change. We all ready have the location reserved and would be unable to find a new location in the short amount of time we have. We will keep the Fall Assembly in Zone I. Starting in the fall of 2011 we should be on the correct schedule where the meetings are evenly distributed. The schedule has been figured out until 2031, so we should not have to worry about this problem again.

Past Treasury (Sarah K.):

Reconciled 2008-2009 reports. The last financial reports presented were composed by Jay for his attempted reconciliation of the books from Beth's rotation. These are preliminary numbers only, and have not been checked for accuracy by our audit/review committee yet. These were only summary reports based on checks written and deposits made; no details of expenditures or group contributions were included. We hope the audit committee will be able to construct more detailed reports using the expense vouchers and copies of checks deposited. There was also an estimated and preliminary figure of monies taken by the previous treasury which totaled \$2,043.55. Subtracted from this amount were expenses paid in cash, which were cash amounts she claimed to have paid from her own money for certain area expenses to defray the theft. Last, there was a contribution received by Jay from an individual who earmarked it for the expressed purpose of helping the treasurer to make amends.

As a result of these reports, there were a couple things the groups need to consider and we will discuss at the Spring Assembly:

What should we do with the contribution from the individual earmarked for amends, should it be returned or accepted, keeping in mind the area does not typically accept earmarked contributions.

In the items turned over to me by the previous treasurer, I found \$255 in a cash box. When I inquired about it the previous treasurer said she put it in there out of her own money. Her initial reason for putting the money in there was that the cash box (petty cash) may have been full when she got it so she should replace what she thought should have been in it, but in hindsight she acknowledged that it probably had not had any money in it when she got it as the area doesn't typically keep a petty cash account, and so she requested we instead attribute that amount to her amends. I did not feel it was my right to make this decision, so I am asking the groups to discuss what you think ought to be done with that money and report your conscience at the Spring Assembly

Sarah discussed that she has received the information for the past two years (2008-2009) from the past Area Chair. He has been working on recreating the information since December to a week ago. The financial information from Jay is not a final version. The Area needs to remember that this is only a preliminary version. These are passed out to DCM's, Area Chairs, and Area Officers. The final report will come after the audit committee review the past two years. The Past Area Chair did not have all of the materials needed to for the audit, so that is why these are not the final version. Our audit committee will have all of the information when they review the 2008/2009 finances. We are asking DCM's to not go back to their districts and give them an exact amount of money that was taken from the treasury. One problem we are having is that the Area was given funds that were requested to go specifically to the amends of the past Area Treasurer. As a policy the Area does not accept marked funds, so the Area needs to decide what they want to do with these funds. The two options are give the money back to the person who gave the money, or to add the money as Area contributions. We are asking DCM's to bring this back to your GSR's so they can decide at their groups as to what they want to do with this money. We also have money (\$255.00) that was still in the cash box from the previous rotation. The past Treasurer is saying that she thought there was money in the cash box so she filled it back up. Then the past Area Treasurer realized it was probably no full of cash, so she would like us to credit the money towards her amends. The Area needs to decide what they would like the current Area Treasurer to do with the money in the cash box. The DCM's need to bring this item back to their GSR's for discussion at the Spring Assembly.

Discussion- We should ask the person who gave the money for the amends and see if they are all right with using this as a contribution. If they are not all right with this, then we need to give the money back. One member felt that the money should not go towards the past Area Treasurer's amends, since we do not know if there was money in the cash box. Also the past Area Chair did not report this as a part of her amends. One member suggested that we go to past Area Chairs and Officer to see if they were given any cash for expenditure from the past Area Treasurer. Also the money in the cash box could have been from the

(Continued from page 16)

measures to make sure this does not happen again. This was asked to be sent to groups and districts to be brought back for discussion at the Spring Assembly (old business).

NEW BUSINESS

Area Finances, Commitments, and Expenditures: It was brought up that we as an Area should discuss who we are sending to the WCRAASC. One member brought up the issue of if the Area events we are having cost effective (workshops, assembly, WCRAASC). Are we spending the Area's money in best way or are we spending money just to spend money. Currently, from the budget we are sending 13 people to Iowa. Are we still in financial trouble, and if so should we send these people to the conference. The area should be getting something back from the members who are attending the conference that is why we are sending them. The Area Chairs and Officers are also going to the conference so that we can influence the General Service Conference, and that we can be knowledgeable at the Spring Assembly when we go over the agenda items. The area should be getting a written report from everyone attending the conference. One AA member wanted us to remember that the budget is just a budget and if we do not have the money to send people, we do not send them. Right now if we send the 13 people to the WCRAASC, we will not hit our prudent reserve and should have the money for future expenses. It was mentioned that the Area needs to start doing more bargaining for the workshops and assembly. It was felt that we should not take the first place we find. Part of responsibility for finding a place for the workshops and assemblies rest on the DCM's doing research in their districts. From the discussion, no one felt that we should not send all committee chairs and officers to the WCRAASC that were budgeted to attend. This item will be brought up again at the Spring Assembly for further discussion.

State fair Booth: Currently, Area 36 is looking to move the AA booth to the Health and Education Building from the Grandstands. We will know more by the Spring Assembly and we will be voting on whether we want to participate with Area 36 for the 2010 State Fair.

Secretary Committee and Actions Booklet: It was brought up that we should start a committee to review and make corrections to the Area Actions Booklet. The secretary asked that DCM's to bring this back to their districts to see who would like to be a part of the committee with the Secretary. The item will be brought up under old business at the Spring Assembly. Also, the Secretary wanted to know if all Area Officer and Area Chairs should have two reports in the Northern Lights since there is only one week in between each report. From the discussion it was felt that we should have two reports in the Northern Lights. The groups are paying for Area Officers and Chairs to attend these functions, like the WCRAASC, so we should give them a report of what we have learned. Also, in these reports the officers and chairs can show the Area what they are planning to do with the money we have budgeted for the next year.

Calendar of Events:

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

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

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

Fall Assembly 2010: October 2-3, at the Seven Clans Casino in Thief River Falls, MN

Superior Roundup: April 16-18, at Superior Fair Grounds Curling Club, Superior, WI

Iron Range Get-Together: April 30th to May 2nd Wendigo Lodge, Grand Rapids, MN

Spring Celebration of Recovery: May 15th at the Moose Lodge, Waite Park, MN

Adjourn at 3:07pm

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 over site 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 than 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

Northern Light Article

Selfish Program?

You hear it at A.A. meetings. “A.A. is a selfish program.” Is that a true statement? Our co-founder, Bill W. addressed this issue in "**The A.A. Way of Life.**” Bill said, in part, “If we cannot or will not achieve sobriety, then we become truly lost, right in the here and now. We are of no value to anyone, including ourselves, until we find salvation from alcohol. Therefore, our own recovery and spiritual growth have to come first - a right and necessary kind of self-concern.”

What does the Big Book have to say about selfishness?

- * Selfishness - self-centeredness! That, we think, is the root of our troubles. [Alcoholics Anonymous - Page 62]
- *Above everything, we alcoholics must be rid of the selfishness. We must, or it kills us! [Alcoholics Anonymous - Page 62]
- *Where had we been selfish, dishonest, self-seeking and frightened? [Alcoholics Anonymous - Page 67]
- *Where had we been selfish, dishonest, or inconsiderate? [Alcoholics Anonymous - Page 69]
- *Selfish and inconsiderate habits have kept the home in turmoil. [Alcoholics Anonymous - Page 82]
- *We will lose interest in selfish things and gain interest in our fellows. [Alcoholics Anonymous - Page 84]
- *Continue to watch for selfishness, dishonesty, resentment, and fear. [Alcoholics Anonymous - Page 84]
- *We are careful never to pray for our own selfish ends. [Alcoholics Anonymous - Page 87]

Does that sound selfish to you? Nowhere in the examples given above does the Big Book indicate that selfishness is a character virtue; but rather a character defect. A.A. is not a selfish program. Even our twelve steps are designed to lead us away from selfishness and turn us toward selfless things.

As I work and live the twelve steps of this program and continue to practice these principles in all of my affairs, I have become less self-centered. When I find myself working a selfish program; it is usually “my program” — not the program as described in the first 164 pages of the Big Book.

Ed A.
Deer Creek

This Article is from the first Grapevine - Vol. I, No. 1, June, 1944. When yearly subscription was \$1.50 single copies were 15 cents

TWO YALE SAVANTS STRESS ALCOHOLISM AS TRUE DISEASE

At the launching of The Grapevine, we wish to express our heartiest congratulations and best wishes for the success of this new publication. The invitation to contribute a note on the Yale Plan Clinics to the first issue of your Journal, confirms our belief in the close relation between the broad studies we have undertaken on all aspects of alcoholism. The first Yale Plan Clinics, which are at New Haven and Hartford, were established by the Laboratory of Applied Physiology of Yale University in cooperation with the Connecticut Prison Association. This most recent venture does not stand by itself, but is closely integrated with the researches and educational activities of the Laboratory. These three activities represent a broad scheme in which rehabilitation of the alcoholic and the prevention of inebriety are equal goals. The Clinics serve several purposes and it is hard to say which purpose ranks first. As long as the general public is not aware of the fact that alcoholism is a disease, the most important object of the Clinics is to spread this idea until it is fully accepted. For the time being, this object may be placed ahead of the guidance of alcoholics. Another object is to further the development of community resources which could be utilized in the re-habilitation of alcoholics. At present, in many cases therapy must be undertaken at the Clinics because of the scarcity of other resources. But when those facilities shall have been developed, based, perhaps, on recommendations coming from the experience of the Clinics, the latter will limit their activity solely to the guiding of alcoholics to those facilities which according to diagnosis seem to be the most promising in the individual case. Such guidance is being practiced at present at the Clinics in bringing suitable cases into contact with the local groups of Alcoholics Anonymous. It goes without saying that one of our objectives is to further interest and confidence in Alcoholics Anonymous among those who have not heard of it or who are inadequately informed. The contacts of the Clinics with the courts, with various departments of State government and with civic agencies will contribute greatly to bring about adequate understanding of the nature of alcoholism, of the utilization of the existing, and the development of needed, facilities. The Clinics in giving physical examinations to all alcoholics who come for advice bring to their attention physical ailments which all too frequently are neglected. The treatment of such ailments does not lie within the activities of the Clinics, but the Clinics facilitate contacts with hospitals or private practitioners. The Clinics have been in operation only two months and thus a report on “results” is not justified. It is, however, worth reporting that out of 70 alcoholics who up to date have availed themselves of the Clinics, 22 have come without being “referred,” but solely from their own desire for help. The remainder have been sent by their relatives, by the courts, social agencies, hospitals, and private practitioners. Local groups of Alcoholics Anonymous have sent four men either for diagnosis of nervous complications or for physical examination. Numerous inquiries have been received from court officers and municipal administrators throughout the country concerning the feasibility of establishing clinics in other cities. The indications are that there is a wide interest in the re-habilitation of alcoholics and that only direction is needed to give it full display. The problem of the alcoholic is too great to be solved by any one person or even by any one organization. The cooperation of all individuals and all organizations, based on mutual respect and understanding of each other’s aims, is needed to bring success to the efforts of all those who are interested in bringing back the alcoholic into the life of the community.

New Haven, Connecticut
Howard W. Haggard E. M. Jellinek

Ham On Wry from the Grapevine!

TACKED UP ON A CORKBOARD in an AA meeting room: "For sale: Wedding dress, size 8. Worn once by mistake." Anonymous

FROM OLD LYME, CONN., G. G. sent the following anecdote: The owner of a local tavern was used to turning away patrons who were already three sheets to the wind when they arrived. One day, a tipsy fellow tried to gain admittance at the front door, only to be told by the owner that he couldn't come in. The drunk left, and then tried to get in a side door of the same bar.

"I thought I told you to get out of here!" said the owner. The man, who was feeling no pain, only looked at him bleary-eyed and replied: "Do you own every joint in the city?"

WAY BACK WHEN, a lush was making his way homeward in the dawn's early light, and he came upon a milkman delivering from a horse-drawn wagon. As they met, the driver was about to feed his animal and was in the process of slipping the nose bag of oats over the horse's face. The drunk shook his head decisively. "It's no use," he declared. "You'll never get that big animal into that little bag."

Northern Light Article

Agenda Items

AGENDA ITEMS MOST DISCUSSED at WCRAASC “West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference” Dubuque, Iowa March 5-7:

III. Corrections

- B. Review progress report from trustee’s Committee on Corrections on signing sponsorship agreements and legally binding documents.

IV. Finance

- A. Review input from the Fellowship gathered by the trustees’ Finance Committee on the following:
 - 1. If we continue to use literature profits to partially fund services, should there be a limit?
 - 2. If there is a limit, how do we continue to pay for services if there is a shortfall in contributions?
- B. ----
- C. Discussion of additional ways to communicate with the Fellowship about self-support.

V. AA Grapevine

- C. Review AA *Grapevine* Board report submitted at the request of the 59th GSC that the AA *Grapevine* Board review history of Advisory Actions pertaining to the relationship between AA *Grapevine* Board, AA *Grapevine* office and the Conference Committee, on the decision making process of matters that affect the fellowship (i.e. pricing, redesign, name change and promotional items).

VI. Literature

- C. Consider developing Conference-approved literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous.
- I. Consider request to develop a book on the history of “early pioneer women in AA.”

VII. Policy/Admissions

- D. Discuss report forwarded by the General Service Board regarding the General Service Conference undertaking a comprehensive inventory of itself.

VIII. Public Information

B. Public Service Announcements (PSAs)

- 1. Consider approving the proposed 2010 television PSA “My World” developed by the trustees’ Committee on Public Information.

F. Consider development of a policy on the practice of showing full faces of actors who are portraying AA members or potential AA members in Conference-approved visual media.

IX. Report and Charter

A. *The AA Service Manual, 2010-2011 Edition*

- 5. Consider request to a) publish and distribute *The AA Service Manual* every other year and in years not produced, distribute a supplement of changes, and b) published the AA directories (Canada, eastern US and western US) in alternate years when the Service Manual is not published.

B. 2. Discuss AA directories (Canada, Western US and Eastern US)

X. Treatment Facilities

- C. Consider two locally created forms – one for treatment clients and one for AA members willing to serve as temporary contacts.

From an address on Unity at the Delegates' Luncheon, Hotel Doral, Saturday, July 4, Year ?:

UNITY seems to me to express very well that quality which sets our Fellowship apart. For society at large has so many problems which either spring from or are aggravated by lack of unity.

Yet I think that this Unity concept is frequently misunderstood, both in and out of AA.

One thing I'm sure it doesn't mean is that you must agree with me! I believe that we all have a moral obligation to speak our minds and stand up for our convictions. Any so-called unity which attempts to stifle dissent is no unity at all, in my opinion.

I think we must not only listen to other views, we must actively solicit and encourage them. Only so, I believe, can an informed group conscience speak.

Once it has spoken, then all of us must go along on truly basic issues. Consider, for example, our Traditions of anonymity and self-support. Few subjects in AA have been discussed so thoroughly over the years. Many members have questioned or disagreed with these concepts--and have voiced their views vigorously.

Yet when the overwhelming majority of us supported these Traditions, almost all of the dissenters went along. This is the meaning of Unity, as I understand it.

May it always be so! Bob H.



What an Alcoholic might say when ordering on a diner date!

- 1. Winner: "Actually, I would like a drink, but I have to be somewhere by July."— *Jess L.*
- 2. "... and I'll have the beef burgundy, but hold the burgundy."— *Mike M., Watertown, NY*
- 3. "Diet cola. And keep them coming!"— *Mary O., Women's Ninth Step Promises Group, San Francisco, CA*
- 4. "I'll have a half-double virgin Shirley Temple, please!"— *Patrick M., Dalton, NE*
- 5. "What an order! I can't go through with it."— *Denny C., Atoka Out-of-Towners, Atoka, TN*
- 6. "I'll have the forced feeding of humble pie, please."— *Gus P., Eugene, OR*
- 7. "Don't drink, go to meetings, help another drunk. Got that?"— *T.J., Monday Grapevine Meeting, Edina, MN*
- 8. "My sponsor claims I can't drink just one. Nonsense—bring me ONE double!"— *Ken B., Waterford, CT*
- 9. "We'll have the twelve course, but can we get it in less than 15 minutes?"— *Shannon, North Olmsted, OH*
- 10. "I'll pass on the cocktail—It causes me to break out in handcuffs!"— *Ken B., Bethel, CT*
- 11. "Can you give me a couple minutes, please? I need to call my sponsor."— *Michael B., Benicia, CA*
- 12. "Yes, waiter. My wife will have a glass of Cabernet Sauvignon, and I'll have 28 vodka and tonics, please."— *Mike B., Marlborough New Life Group, Marlborough, MA*
- 13. "I'll have a diet cola--neat."— *Bill L.*
- 14. "I'll have willingness as an appetizer and honesty for the entree, along with a side order of open-mindedness."— *David B., Sherwood Park Group, Alberta, Ontario*
- 15. "I'm sure your Cabernet is an amusing vintage with an insouciant nose, but I don't think I could appreciate it in a blackout. I'll have some decaf, please."— *Fred F., SadBadGlad Group, Albany, NY*

The 12 Steps to Total and Complete Insanity

- 1. We admitted we were powerless over nothing. We could manage our lives perfectly and we could manage those of anyone else that would allow it.
- 2. Came to believe that there was no power greater than ourselves, and the rest of the world was insane.
- 3. Made a decision to have our loved ones and friends turn their wills and their lives over to our care.
- 4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of everyone we knew.
- 5. Admitted to the whole world at large the exact nature of their wrongs.
- 6. Were entirely ready to make others straighten up and do right.
- 7. Demanded others to either "shape up or ship out".
- 8. Made a list of anyone who had ever harmed us and became willing to go to any lengths to get even with them all.
- 9. Got direct revenge on such people whenever possible except when to do so would cost us our own lives, or at the very least, a jail sentence.
- 10. Continued to take inventory of others, and when they were wrong promptly and repeatedly told them about it.
- 11. Sought through nagging to improve our relations with others as we couldn't understand them at all, asking only that they knuckle under and do things our way.
- 12. Having had a complete physical, emotional and spiritual breakdown as a result of these steps, we tried to blame it on others and to get sympathy and pity in all our affairs.

From The ACA Communicator - March 1990 - Omaha, Council Bluffs Area Intergroup

Time and place to be announced!

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 SPRING ASSEMBLY
March 27-28 2010, Detroit Lakes, MN
AGENDA

<p>___ 9:00A.M. Registration</p> <p>___ 10:00 A.M. GSR ORIENTATION &</p> <p>COMMITTEE MEETINGS</p> <p>11:30A.M. LUNCH (ON YOUR OWN)</p> <p>1:00 Assembly Convene</p> <p>___ Call to Order Open with the Serenity Prayer</p> <p>___ Why we need a Conference</p> <p>___ Recognize past delegates</p> <p>___ Approval Fall Assembly Minutes</p> <p>___ Add To Agenda</p> <p>___ OFFICER REPORTS</p> <p>___ Delegate-Jon Curphy</p> <p>___ Alternate Delegate –Jim K.</p> <p>___ Chair- Michael J.</p> <p>___ Secretary-Heidi R.</p> <p>___ Treasure-Sarah K.</p> <p>COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS</p> <p>___ ARCHIVES-Art A./Brad I.</p> <p>___ District 5-Rita D.</p> <p>___ District 6-Kathie G.</p> <p>___ LITERATURE-Bob K.</p> <p>___ District 8-Randy A.</p> <p>___ District 12 Jana M.</p> <p>___ TREATMENT-Robert (Butch) R.</p> <p>___ District 15-Sandy H.</p> <p>___ District 9-Chuck R.</p> <p>___ PUBLIC INFORMATION-Roger R.</p> <p>___ District 7- Mark N.</p> <p>___ District 11-Gary H.</p> <p>___ GROUP RECORDS-Laurie R.</p> <p>___ NORTHERN LIGHTS-Daniel R.</p> <p>___ District 2-Rodney P.</p> <p>___ District 16-Mary S.</p> <p>___ CORRECTIONS-Kelly D.</p> <p>___ District 3-Jeff C.</p> <p>___ District 4-Jim T.</p> <p>___ C.P.C.-Doug N.</p> <p>___ District 13- Gayle S.</p> <p>___ District 1-Richard W.</p> <p>___ GRAPEVINE-Dee K.</p> <p>___ District 18-Jason A.</p> <p>___ District 21-Carl B.</p> <p>___ WEBMASTER –Ione B.</p> <p>2:20 P.M. BREAK</p> <p>2:30 P.M. BREAKOUT SESSIONS</p> <p>___ LITERATURE-</p> <p>___ ARCHIVES-</p> <p>___ REPORT and CHARTER</p> <p>___ FINANCE-</p>	<p>3:30 P.M. BREAK</p> <p>3:40 P.M. BREAKOUT SESSIONS</p> <p>___ TREATMENT-</p> <p>___ PUBLIC INFORMATION/CPC-</p> <p>___ CORRECTIONS-</p> <p>___ GRAPEVINE-</p> <p>4:45 P.M.</p> <p>___ GSR SHARING SESSION</p> <p>___ DCM SHARING SESSION</p> <p>6:00P.M. DINNER (On your own)</p> <p>7:15 P.M. DELEGATE SHARING AND BREAKOUT</p> <p>SESSIONS REPORTS</p> <p>___ LITERATURE –</p> <p>___ ARCHIVES-</p> <p>___ C.P.C.-</p> <p>___ GRAPEVINE-</p> <p>___ TREATMENT-</p> <p>___ CORRECTIONS -</p> <p>___ PUBLIC INFORMATION-</p> <p>___ FINANCE-</p> <p>___ AGENDA-</p> <p>___ TRUSTEES-</p> <p>___ REPORT & CHARTER-</p> <p>___ POLICY/ADMISSIONS-</p> <p>___ INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS/REGIONAL FORUMS</p> <p>SUNDAY APRIL 15, 2007</p> <p>7:30 A.M.-8:45A.M Big Book Meeting</p> <p>9:00 A.M. ASSEMBLY RECONVENES</p> <p>___ Business not completed Saturday</p> <p>___ GSR Sharing Session Report</p> <p>___ DCM Sharing Session Report</p> <p>OLD BUSINESS</p> <p>___ WCRAASC 2011</p> <p>___ Policies regarding area website</p> <p>___ State Fair</p> <p>___ Secretaries Committee on updating Action Booklet</p> <p>___ Area Financial review committee</p> <p>___ Area Financial Over-site committee___</p> <p>NEW BUSINESS</p> <p>___ Area Finances, Commitments and Expenditures</p> <p>___</p> <p>___</p> <p>___</p> <p>___</p> <p>___ Calendar of Events</p> <p>___ TBA</p> <p>___ Ask It Basket (Past Delegates)</p> <p>___ Adjourn</p>
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