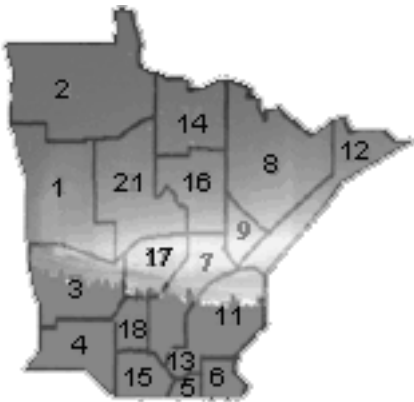


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Deadline for the next
Northern Light is
July 1, 2010

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

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delegate@area35.org

ALTERNATE DELEGATE

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SECRETARY

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ARCHIVIST

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IONE B.
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NORTHERN LIGHT

DANIEL R.
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DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

(D.C.M.s)

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DISTRICT 15

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dcm15@area35.org

DISTRICT 16

MARY S.
dcm16@area35.org

DISTRICT 18

MIKE D.
No info yet!
[>>](mailto:dcm18@area35.org)
Forwards to Area Chair

DISTRICT 21

CARL B.
dcm21@area35.org

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

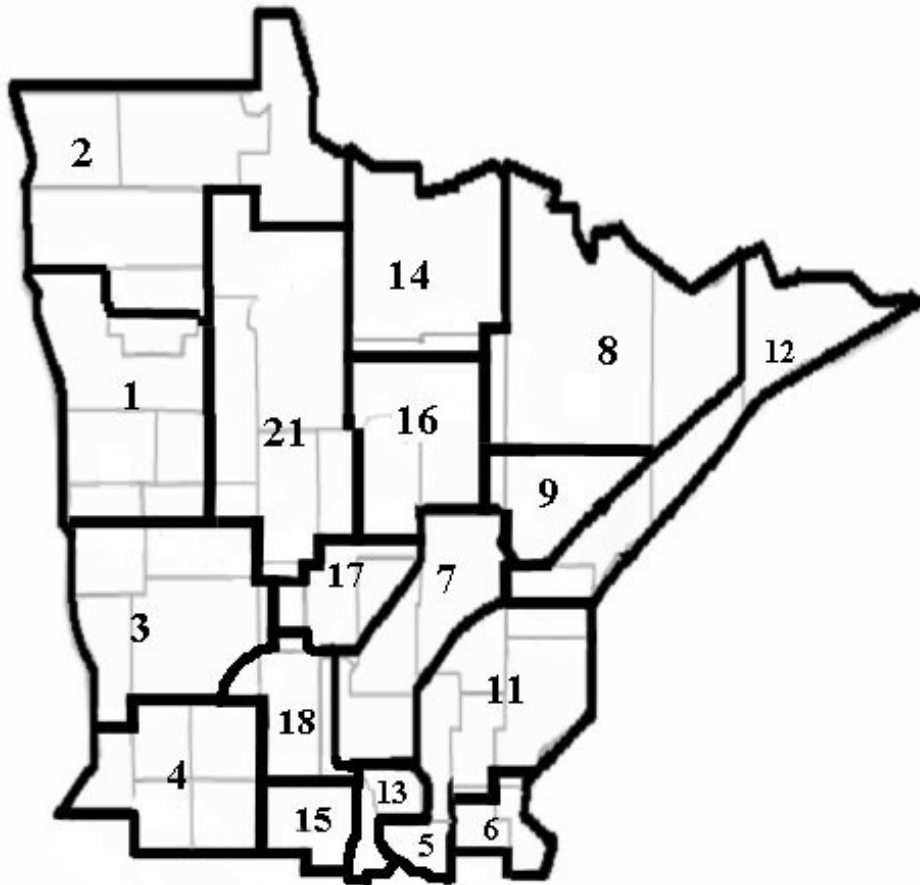
Panel 58 JoAnne M. N.	2008-2009	Panel 26 Vern R. (deceased)	1976-1977
Panel 56 Jerry S.	2006-2007	Panel 24 Gordon B. H.	1974-1975
Panel 54 Charlie C.	2004-2005	Panel 22 Frank P. J. (deceased)	1972-1973
Panel 52 Tim C.	2002-2003	Panel 20 Clarence B. (deceased)	1970-1971
Panel 50 Tom A.	2000-2001	Panel 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, Mahanomen, 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, Foxboro (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 p.m.
 Fertile Community Center
 101 S. Mill St., Fertile, MN 56540
 Call DCM. Richard "Rick" Waslaski
 218-281-6457 for next meeting.

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.
 Call DCM Jim 320 585-5383
 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.
 Call Randy for location "rotates"
 218-225-8833
 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.
 Contact DCM Jana for location!

District 13
 1st Monday of Month, 7:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.
 Salem Lutheran Church
 90 Riverside Drive S.E.
 Saint Cloud, MN 56304

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

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

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

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

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

Delegate's Report

I hope all is well in Area 35. I just got back from New York. It was very exciting and tiring. It still is hard to imagine that I represented Area 35 at the 60th General Service Conference. I want to thank all you for this privilege and honor. Your discussion and concerns expressed at our Spring Assembly regarding the agenda items gave me a group-informed conscience to carry to this Conference. I will be giving my delegate report back at our June Aitkin Committee meeting. I will have a detailed report about the Conference.

I will be giving my delegate's report to Districts 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, and 16 so far. For all others, please plan a date so I can fulfill my responsibility. I still have to hear from Districts 1, 2, 11 and 18. Thank you!

We will be holding a planning meeting for the 2011 WCRAASC on May 19, 2010 at Grandview Lodge in Nisswa (6 p.m.). This will be an organizational meeting to set up specific chairs to cover the specifics of the Conference.

In May 2010 our GSO has set up a new website service, "Contributions on Line." The GSO has been working on this project for 2 years. In the future, we hope that the AA groups and members throughout our conference structure find that "Contributions on Line" format will be a helpful and useful option. I will have an information guide at the committee meeting.

We will also be holding an additional forum in Rapid City, SC in November 2010. At this forum we are trying to line up a workshop and speaker to address concerns of the Native American. The GSO will provide us with 2 staff members to assist and present at the forum. For a speaker we are trying to line up Rod B., our newly-elected Pac infix Regional Trustee. He is a Native American. More information will follow.

For your information, our West Central Regional Trustee Ken B. is the chair for Grapevine. I personally do not envy Ken. The Grapevine has many issues to resolve. Currently we are looking for a new executive editor. Robin B. has resigned but will stay on until a replacement is found.

In closing I want you all to know how much I appreciate your support. Thank you again for the privilege of serving as your Area 35 delegate. We feel we have too many pamphlets and videos, so let us set a goal that every member in Area 35 try to make an effort to work with one newcomer to carry our message with all our new materials. It appears that what works best is one person sharing with another.

Take Care,
God Bless,

Jon

Alternate Delegate's Report

Greetings Area 35,

Thanks for this continued opportunity to serve Northern Minnesota. The spring weather and season has been a great reminder to me about the importance of growth and the opportunities that I have here in Alcoholics Anonymous.

It was wonderful to see many of you at the Spring Assembly in Detroit Lakes in April. I was also able to go over Friday and attend the Treatment/Corrections workshop put on by Butch and Kelly. They did a great job. It was truly inspiring to see the willingness of so many individuals to sit through all of our background information and to discuss those issues that arise in A.A. I want to thank Charlie C. for assisting me with our DCM orientation. And I want to offer a huge thank you to Jon for all of the work that he put into going through the background information and for his willingness to travel to New York to carry our group's conscience. I am excited to hear his report back.

We completed our first of two zonal forums for the year last weekend, May 8th, in Bemidji. The event had 26 total attendees and evaluation reports back appear to be quite positive. I will be going over them at our next committee meeting in Aitkin, June 6th. I want to thank Carl, district 21 DCM, for helping to coordinate the event. The next zonal forum will be taking place this fall and we hope to have the date and location by the June committee meeting.

I am in the process of trying to pin down the location of the 2011 January Service workshop. Once this location is secure I will be working on securing the 2012 event. It has been difficult to get locations with only a few months or year in advance. I am going to attempt to make sure that this workshop is booked at least 1 year in advance in the future. This should eliminate the need for the new alternate delegate to find a location for the first year that he or she takes over.

I thank you again for this opportunity to serve.

Yours in Service,

Jim K.

Chair's Report

Hello area 35,

Wow its finally slowed a bit and I can spend time catching up. I am currently working on getting a 990 filled out. Its a form we need to send in for our non profit status. I am still finding out how much there is to learn and do. I have spent some time in fellowship attending Zim alanon open speaker meeting, preparing for and being a part of the Iron Range Get Together that turned out great. I was able to spend time talking with Judy L. the delegate from Colorado that was our Saturday speaker. She is really enthralled by the way we try to inform our groups in area 35 and the West Central Region. She said if Colorado was not so beautiful she would move here. What a compliment to our trusted servants. The time spent sharing with old and new friends makes it all worth while.

I was blessed with my sponsor from Arizona , Spanky, visiting along with his wife Rebecca spending time with us and renewing our friendship. I was a little anxious about the Forum in Bemidji but that seemed to go well. 22 attended that were not area officers or chairs. Once again I got to renew an old friendship from the past. We did miss Jon C. but look forward to having him healed up. I was able to attend the District 16 monthly meeting and was warmly received by Mary and fellow members. They are very much working to carry the message and have some wonderful members. I wish I had more time but between work, my AA commitments and living the rest of my life I am mostly filled up.

Things are heading in the right direction in area 35 thanks to all of you. We must always remember that what we do not only insures us but provides life to newcomers. That should always be our focus carrying AA's message wherever we go. We are the glue that holds Area 35 together and unified. I always remember what my buddy Butch used to say, if your not having fun your working to hard. So enjoy the ride and God Bless.....Michael (Jake) J.

Secretary's Report

Greetings Area 35,

I hope things are going well for everyone since the Spring Assembly. I have sent out the minutes from the 2010 Spring Assembly by email. If you still have not received the minutes and you are supposed to, please email me at secretary@area35.org. You can also read the Spring Assembly minutes in the Northern Lights paper edition or online. If you have any questions or concerns about the Spring Assembly minutes, please email me.

The flyer for the 2010 Fall Assembly, which is held at Seven Clan Casino in Thief River Falls, is completed. I will bring copies to the June Committee Meeting for people to take back to their districts and groups. I have sent the information for the 2010 Fall Assembly to General Service Office to be added to Box 459.

Since the Spring Assembly, I have received two more AA members who are willing to be on the committee reviewing the Area Actions Booklet. In the past month, I have gotten all of the suggestions from the past Area Secretary and I have reviewed the Area Actions Booklet. I am planning to email the committee this week and have them start reviewing the Area Actions Booklet. Once they have reviewed the information, I hope to meet and/or communicate by email the information collected. I hope to have a report for the Area by the August Committee Meeting or the 2010 Fall Assembly.

On May 8th, 2010 I went along with two other Area Officers to Bemidji, MN for the Zonal Forum. This was my first Zonal Forum and I feel it was a great success. We had 24 people in attendance with half of the members coming all the way down from Thief River Falls. From this meeting I got a lot of great ideas as to what I can add to the next Zonal Forum. On May 19th we have our first planning meeting for the 2010 WCRAASC and I am looking forward to this opportunity. I have not had the opportunity to help plan an event for AA.

Thanks Area 35 for allowing me to serve.
Heidi R.

Treasurer's Report

Hello Area 35,

A GSR at the Spring Assembly had a great request. He wanted to know if there was one place he could go to and find a list of the services provided by the Area. My answer was, "Not that I'm aware of; you kind of have to gather this information yourself." Well, I thought more about this, and so GSR, here is a very rough sketch of what the Area does. I hope this helps. As I see it, the Area's purpose and responsibility is two-fold: one, to assist the groups in their twelfth step work, and two, to facilitate the sharing of information throughout the service structure. As such, Area 35 is responsible for providing the venue and opportunity for the GSRs to communicate their wishes, concerns, and questions through the service structure to GSO. The Area is also responsible for facilitating group and district sharing on issues related to twelfth step work. In order to do all of this, the Area Committee (Area Officers and Area Action Committee Members) was formed and area events (Winter Workshop, four Area Committee Meetings, and Two Assemblies) were set up.

The Area requires a core group of officers to manage all the Area service needs, and oversee the successful and ongoing functioning of our Area Committee. To pay bills and collect contributions a treasurer is needed, a secretary to record the minutes, an Area Chair to set up and facilitate all the events, a Delegate to carry our conscience to the General Service Conference, an Alternate Delegate who sets up the Winter Workshop and Zonal Forums as well as knowing everything the Delegate knows in case the Delegate is unable to fulfill his/her duties. There is also a group records chair to record all Area 35 group information and update GSO as well as encouraging groups to get registered; a webmaster to update and maintain the Area website which lists all the registered groups in the Area; an archivist to maintain an awesome stock of archival materials for the Area; a literature chair to order and provide literature for the area; and a Northern Lights editor to compile and edit our newsletter. In addition there are several chairs whose duties involve chairing regular meetings with participants from the districts to discuss issues related to doing Twelfth Step work: archives chair, public information chair, corrections chair, literature chair, grapevine chair, CPC chair, and treatment chair. These meetings occur at the four area committee meetings and two assemblies.

So, with the exception of the Winter Workshop which is supposed to **strive to** be self-supporting through the \$10 registration fee, the Area pays all the expenses incurred with hosting the events including meeting room rental and Area Chair and Officer costs of attending and facilitating the events. In addition, in order to ensure the Area committee members are informed and can help guide the Area's conscience, the Area typically sends a delegation to attend the West Central Regional AA Service Conference and the West Central Regional Forum which rotate throughout the 7 state region. The Area also sends the current Area Delegate to the General Service Conference in NY to share our Area's conscience and fulfill the responsibility given to us by Bill and Dr. Bob: to take charge of our world services. So, it is vitally important for our groups to stay linked to the General Service Office so we may continue to fulfill our responsibility to this wonderful program, ensuring that the General Service Office and Conference remain committed to the Traditions and serving the fellowship, while never becoming the "seat of perilous wealth or power." This is only accomplished through the sharing of our group's consciences which is only possible with the ongoing financial support received from the groups. So you see, all area chairs are there to serve the groups, but to fulfill our duties of service, funds are required. (Stay tuned for a beautiful graph demonstrating a year-to-date breakdown of Area expenses in the next Northern Light!)

Please be sure to include your group name and number (including the district number) on the contribution, and send all contributions to Northern MN Area 35 Assembly, PO Box 328, Brainerd, MN 56401

Sarah K.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC INFORMATION

I would like to thank Area 35 for sending me to the Spring Assembly from March 5-7, 2010 in Detroit Lakes. I enjoyed coordinating both of the Public Information break-out sessions. In the first session it was nice to hear about the important PI work taking place in many districts. I enjoyed the feedback that I received on the PI Agenda items in the second break out session. Later on the sentiments expressed by the entire assembly were very close to feedback from our PI break-out session.

I would also like to thank Area 35 for

deciding to participate in and contribute to the State Fair Booth with Area 36. Area 36 voted to move the fair booth from the Grandstand Building to the Education building this year. Our area expressed a desire to continue our partnership with Area 36 as the booth moves to this new location. Our Area needs to staff this booth on Saturday August 28 and Sunday August 29. I will bring the shift schedule to our June Area Committee Meeting and would like to include as many districts as possible in staffing our booth. Although the booth is moving the commitment remains the same - providing the public with

information about our program (Mary S. , Area 36).

As your Area PI Chair my plan is to form and support an active committee consisting of all of the District PI Chairs. I will be contacting all DCM's soon to ensure that I have the correct contact information for each District PI Chair. My goal is to support and work with each of the District PI Chairs.

Thank you all for the opportunity to be of service to Area 35.

Roger R.

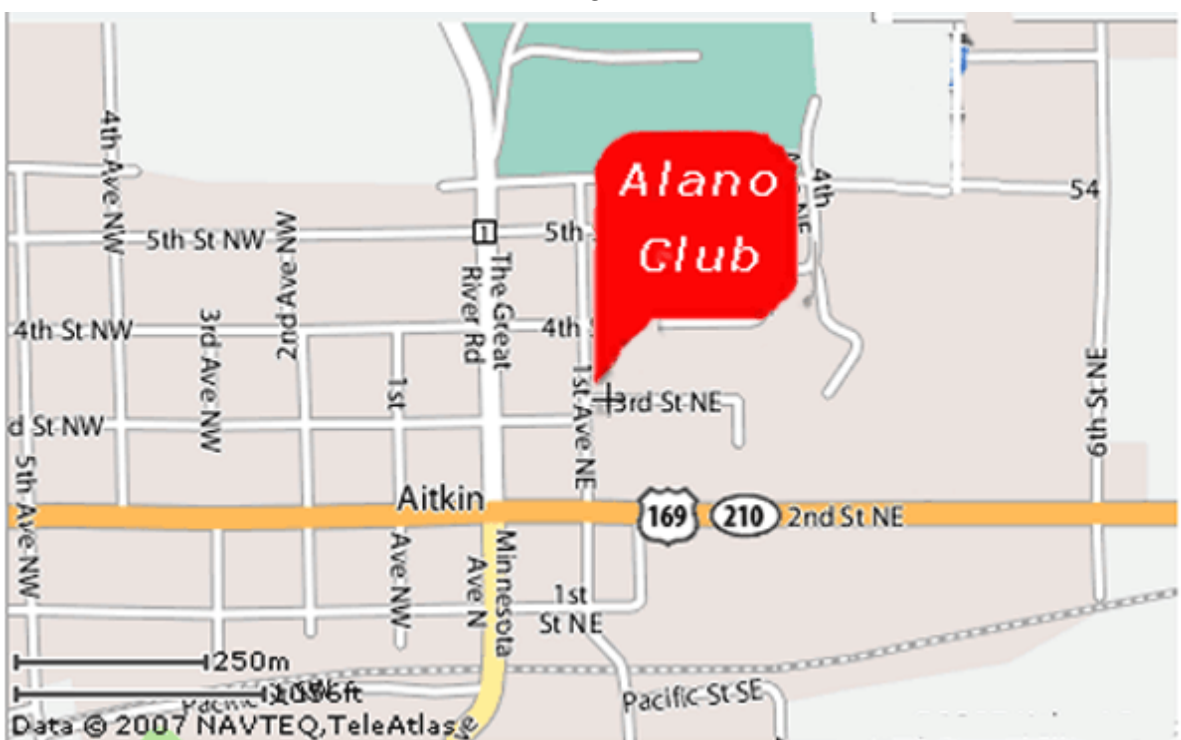
Inclement Weather Procedure For Area 35 Events

1. Area Chair calls to cancel and/or re-schedule.
2. Based on DOT report, national weather service, individual safety being paramount
3. Chair asks for weather reports from all DCM's from respective districts either by email Or phone for those that don't have computers.
- 4 Chair notifies the Alano society in Aitkin on food preparations and possible re-schedule to following Sunday.
5. Chair contacts webmaster results put on Area 35.org and reschedule date and time.
6. Districts contact their DCM in inclement weather for updates on cancellation.

Where is the Aitkin Alano Club?

Area 35 holds committee meetings in February, June, August and December at the Aitkin Alano Club
322 1st Ave. N.E.
Aitkin, MN.

Come join us!



Submissions to the Northern Light

General submissions to the *Northern Light* are very welcome! Feel free to send letters or articles that are pertinent to general service in Alcoholics Anonymous in Northern Minnesota. However, please note that if space is limited, first priority will be given to reports from Area Officers, Area Standing Committee Chairs and D.C.M.s from Area 35.

Submissions are preferred electronically using a Word 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, 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 Area 35, Well Spring has finally arrived here in Minnesota and as I sit here doing this report the sun is shining and the birds are singing. How grateful I am today to be sober and able to enjoy the beauty and the sounds around me...truly a gift from God and the program of Alcoholics Anonymous!

Butch, Treatment Chair for the Area and I held our first Corrections/Treatment Workshop on March 26th in Detroit Lakes with good attendance. I also attended the Spring Assembly that weekend and I would like to thank the Area for allowing me the opportunity. Corrections Agenda Items were discussed in our breakout session and then I presented them to the body to be voted on as a whole. I believe we formed a good group decision on all the Agenda Items and were able to give Jon C. our Area 35 Delegate our voice from Northern Minnesota to take with him as we sent him off that weekend to represent us at the 2010 Conference in New York.

I attended an all day Transition Fair at the Rush City prison on Wednesday, May 31st along with two others from Area 36. We had several inmates that visited our booth wanting information on Alcoholics Anonymous. We also had the opportunity to set up many of them up with contact information for when they are released. I want to thank every AA member that was willing to write to these men and be a contact when I passed the information on to the Corrections District Chairs and DCM'. This is such a big part of our 12 step work and carrying the message to the alcoholic that still suffers through our Corrections programs.

I am in the process of updating the list of all Correctional Facilities in Northern Minnesota and I have asked all the Districts to give me the facilities they are responsible for in their areas. We want to make sure that we are following through and are committed to carrying the message into every facility. Getting volunteers to go into some of the facilities still remains a problem. Please consider becoming a volunteer, it a wonderful way to give back what was freely given to you!

I had the opportunity to share my story in my home town of Superior on Thursday, April 15th. I would like to thank Sarah and the "Steps We Take" group for inviting me to come. It was a great evening of food and fellowship and I enjoyed the time I spent with all of you...AA is alive and well in soup city Superior!

Grateful to be of service,

Kelly D.

ARCHIVES

Enjoyed very much the Zonal Forum in Bemidji on May, 8th!

ART HUR J. A.

ARCHIVIST

No report given!

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

No report given!

GRAPEVINE

Hello to all in Area 35!

What a beautiful spring. The Grapevine Board of Directors is seeking a candidate for position of Executive Editor/Publisher of the AA Grapevine. The candidate must be an AA Member with the following abilities.

1. Five years or more in a senior leadership/management publishing position with experience in electronic and print distribution
2. Corporate Board experience
3. Service experience in AA
4. Strong communication skills both written and oral
5. Financial Acumen
6. Undergraduate degree or higher.

June 1, 2010 is the deadline. You may forward your resume to Ken B. Chairperson, Grapevine Board of Directors, 475 Riverside Dr. Suite 1040, New York, NY 10115

Or e-mail to KenB@agrapevine.org
Looking forward to seeing all at the Area Fall Assembly

Yours in Service
Dee K.

WEBMASTER

Hello Everyone,
Not much to report on this time around.
Currently I'm updating the meeting list on the website.
Please let me know if you have any changes or corrections.
Looking forward to seeing you all again at the fall Assembly October.

Love and Peace,
Ione B.

GROUP RECORDS

Hello everyone,

I hope everybody is doing well and enjoying spring. I have been busy answering emails people have been sending me in regards to group records.

I have also been busy making sure that info gets updated with GSO. I also have been passing on any changes to Ione B. our area 35 webmaster so she can make the changes necessary to our area35.org meeting pages.

Also I have been updating data to aameetinglocator.org our joint area 35/36 statewide web site. Remember if you have any questions at all about your group listings, please don't hesitate to contact me and I will do the best I can to help you. Also just an FYI for everyone, I am in the process of moving and will have a new address as of June 1st.

Thank you all for allowing me to serve.
Laurie R.

LITERATURE

Thanks to all that have ordered literature to be brought along to the committee meeting.

We have several pamphlets that are regular print and large print, at the Spring Assembly it seemed like there was more that took the large print pamphlets than the regular print and would consider ordering the large print only.

I talked to the literature ordering department and got setup to order literature online, but I can't use my personal account. Would like to have a volunteer to host a workshop. Looking forward to seeing you all at the committee meeting.

Yours in service
Bob K.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

Northern Light Editor's Report

Hello Area 35,

I should say greetings to all who read this because this newsletter is posted on our area35.org web site and it receives visitors from around the world. I also share the anonymity protected version with many other area editors that also send me theirs!

I just got off the phone with Area Chair Jake about some details that have changed for this issue. I changed the DCM information for District 18 — Mike D. has taken the position for them! Also some info concerning the Agenda for the June Committee meeting in Aitkin. I like talking with Jake and others about Area business because besides trying to get it-right it ends up being two people In-Recovery who happen to be fortunate enough to be of service to AA.

One of the things you may notice different in this issue is that I changed the email addresses of the Area Officers, Chairs and DCM's on page 2 to the ones we have set up on the area35.org web site. I did this for two reasons- One: The Forwarders set up provide a measure of spam protection the generic email programs may not! Two: In the spirit of Anonymity and Non-Affiliation using an address such as Ole&Lena&Lars@BestBankEnDaWorld.com or Me@MyFavoriteSearchPortal.com may not be in keeping with those principals.

Reminder to Area Officers, Chairs and DCM's - If your email address or other information changes, please inform the Area Webmaster, Group Records Secretary and NL Editor so we can update!

You'll notice that our delegates report is shorter for this issue than in the past. Well he usually has a lot to say but is saving it for his up and personal audience. He will be giving his report outlining his trip to the Assembly in New York at the Area Committee meeting and at District gatherings throughout the Area the rest of this Spring and Summer! DCM's will have date and time of Joncoming to your District.

Make sure to read the minutes from our Spring Assembly. Besides all of our reports it has the Agenda Items we discussed and how we wanted Jon to vote on them. Thank you Heidi for formatting the minutes so I could easily add them to this issue.

You'll notice that there are no articles by anyone from this area in this issue. Well I'm disappointed too — Maybe people don't realize that any AA member can write an article for the newsletter. All it has to be is service related — A friend of mine relates that a member two days sober can show the guy walking in the door where to leave his bike or where the coffee cups are! You don't want to hear about my home group and what we do every issue do you? "didn't think so".

One last thought or two — I've talked to many people that are grateful for their service positions and others that say some of their fondest memories or of when they were active in service. It's not all work, but it is some. Let's not forget to have some fun along the way.

Best wishes
Daniel R.



2010 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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

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

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

Northern Light Article

This article came from the February, 2009 Issue of the Triangle Newsletter of Area 40 Montana — Don't know much about the writer but I appreciate his passion D.R.

"I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that, I am responsible." From my very first service meeting (for my first home group, the West End Group in Billings, in 1995), the question I have heard most often about any service activity, current or proposed, is, "How does this help the still suffering alcoholic?" The first past delegate I met, Faye W., explained it to me this way, "If I am unable to explain how the service action I am supporting or proposing helps the still suffering alcoholic, then it is probably just ego." I don't remember what I was proposing we do, but I remember Faye's comment about it because (a) it hurt my feelings and (b) he was right. Business meetings and group conscience meetings often get heated. We are passionate about AA's primary purpose, perhaps because it saved our lives when we first arrived. But our passion is properly based upon our principles rather than any personalities involved in the debate. It is difficult to distinguish my passion for recovery from my need to be right. But I see long-time members of our Fellowship argue hotly with each other about service questions and then leave the meeting arm in arm. I want what they have. I try to remember that we are together responsible for the hand of AA being there whenever anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help with their alcoholism, even when we disagree passionately about how to be of service.

When I remember, then it is possible to rise above my need to be right and hear what you are saying. We are all in this together, and if we fail to hang together we may be left hanging separately, alone again, clinging to our own sense of how important it is to be right. I had to unlearn some of the lessons I thought I had learned in the military I got some things wrong. I hang on to one lesson I learned, which seems to me to apply to AA—we don't leave anybody behind. No matter how much I may disagree with you, we are still together on this path to freedom, upon which we can absolutely agree, even if our particular positions on a service question may differ. The responsibility statement, without unity, can be a justification for conflict and controversy. With unity, it is the heart of our Fellowship, despite any and all disagreements on particular service activities.

Terry S., Area Chair Panel 59
Area 40 Montana

A Little Humor?

In honor of our upcoming anniversary, when AA started, a toast and a joke to commemorate our beloved Dr Bob which if you think about it most of us are descended from here in the northland - I hear he liked a good pun and probably heard many like this one seeing he was a proctologist!

The Psychiatrist and the Proctologist

Two doctors, a psychiatrist and a proctologist, opened an office in a small town and put up a sign reading:

"Dr. Jones and Dr. Smith: Hysterias and Posteriors."

The town council was not happy with the sign, so the doctors changed it to read, "Schizoids and Hemorrhoids."

This was not acceptable either, so in an effort to satisfy the council, they changed the sign to "Catatonics and High Colonics."

No go.

Next, they tried "Manic Depressives and Anal Representatives." Thumbs down again.

Then came "Minds and Behinds." Still no good.

Another attempt resulted in "Lost Souls and Bum Holios."
Unacceptable again!

So they tried "Analysis and Anal Cysts." Not a chance.

"Nuts and Butts?" No way.

"Freaks and Cheeks?" Still no go.

"Loons and Moons?" Forget it.

Almost at their wit's end, the doctors finally came up with: *"Dr. Jones & Dr. Smith, Odds and Ends."*

Everyone loved it!

**Area 35 Northern Minnesota
March 27-28, 2010 Spring Assembly
Holiday Inn, Detroit Lakes, MN**

Call to Order Open with the Serenity Prayer
Why we need a Conference

Recognize Past Delegates—Past West Central Regional Trustee-Ted, Past Delegate-JoAnne N. (Panel 58), Jerry S. (Panel 56), Charlie C. (Panel 54), Tom A. (Panel 50), Suzie A. (Panel 48) Bruce B. (Panel 44) and Scott J. (Panel 38)

Approval Fall Assembly Minutes – passed unanimously

Add To Agenda: Joint Service Workshop 35/36

OFFICER REPORTS

Delegate-Jon C. It is always a pleasure and a privilege to stand in front of this assembly. It is my hope that we can address district, area and G.S.O. issues including but not limited to the following: involving more members, our area treasury issues, and the 60th General Service Conference Committee agenda item. This is your Assembly, so please participate. In my travels, I attended the Winter Wrap-Up. The Saturday night AA speaker was Mary Clare from New York. She is currently servicing as a staff member at our G.S.O. and will be serving as the PI secretary at the 2010 General Service Conference. We had a discussion about agenda items and our concerns about the background information not included. She stated that most groups and members are not interested in the background information. I informed her that in Area 35 I am responsible to make all agenda items and background information available to area officers, area chairs, DCM's, and past delegates as soon as possible. This last time, each member received either a CD or a hard copy. I explained that at our Spring Assembly we go over every agenda item, as well as some groups. In Area 35, we are very interested and concerned at all levels of service regarding these agenda items. She was surprised by our level of enthusiasm. At the Assembly, please attend the breakout sessions of your choice and participate in discussions of the agenda items. Ask questions, make suggestions, give opinions, and possibly arrive at a group conscience to bring forward to the whole Assembly. This is a wonderful process where we all can share and participate. On April 17th, I will be leaving for New York to represent you as your delegate. We have a delegates' sharing session scheduled at this session, where we can express our concerns. If there is a concern you would like me to make known, please let me know. Remember, I am your messenger. I do not represent Jon, but rather represent the members of Area 35. The Grapevine has been our meeting in print since 1994. The Grapevine is struggling to survive financially but has been receiving record number of stories for submission. Stories are the only contribution the Grapevine received and survives financially only on your subscription. Our West Central Regional Trustee, Ken B, will rotate next year into the chairperson of the Grapevine Board. Two questions have been proposed to you all by Ken: 1) Of what value is it to AA and 2) At what cost, if there is a breakpoint, do we maintain the publication. If you have any thoughts on this you can contact Ken by emailing him. Please see me sometime this week to pick a date to give my delegate report. If possible, try to combine districts to be prudent. They represent Area 35 in New York as your delegate is truly an honor and privilege. I will carry your informed group conscience to the conference. I will represent Area 35 to the best of my ability. Thank you so much for your trust, faith, and support.

Alternate Delegate—Jim K. Thank you for this opportunity to serve Area 35. I attended the February Committee meeting in Aitkin and received all background information on this year's GSC Agenda Items. I did not attend the WCRSC as I was completing my high school coaching season. I did receive and review all of our background information and was able to discuss the information with various members who were able to attend the Regional Conference. I am looking forward to chairing the Breakout session to discuss the agenda items on Policy and Admissions here at the Spring Assembly. The first of this rotation's Zonal Forums has been set for May 8th, 2010 and will be held at the Bemidji Alano Club from 12 p.m. and 4 p.m. We encourage all members from Zone 1 to attend this forum. I want to thank Carl from district 21 for assisting with finding a location to host this event. Our next Zonal Forum will take place in the fall and will be held in Zone 3. DCM's from Zone 3 please contact me as soon as possible so that we can determine a sight for this upcoming event. I am also looking for information from district's 8, 9, and 12 to give me a list of possible sights to host the 2011 Service Workshop to be held in January. Please contact me as soon as possible with possible sights so that we may begin negotiating and get a contact put together. I want to thank district 18 for asking us to come to their monthly district meeting in March. Sarah and I were able to travel there, answer various questions regarding finance and other Area Policies, and then sit in on the rest of their district meeting. It was a wonderful opportunity and so nice to see a number of group members who were actively involved in district and area. Finally, I want to thank Charlie C. for agreeing to assist me with our DCM orientation which will take place at the Spring Assembly. I look forward to spending more time with you this weekend and serving you throughout this rotation.

Chair- Michael J. Once again I am learning many new things. It is as the old-timers told me that if you stay with AA you will continue to learn and hopefully grow for the rest of your life. Area chair is just like any other position, by the time I get comfortable it will be time to rotate out. I was able to attend the WCRAASC in Dubuque, Iowa and found great fellowship and participation. The areas did a very good job on their presentation. I of course thought ours was the best. We had many people discuss the agenda items and it seems that our region has concerns for finances at G.S.O. and participation in decisions that are to be made. I attended 2 breakout sessions. One session was on Area Officers and the other was on the delegate. Discussion questions from the first were 1. Remaining a part of rather than apart from... discussion was about staying open and available, attending events, continued prayer and meditation, stay grounded in recovery, sacrifice improve life. 2. Communication... discussion take notes, use service manual, true and accurate statement, pass off information at rotation change, bring water to the horse. 3. Authority... right of decision when appropriate and when it is not. The second session had questions like 1. Does the delegate have any legal responsibilities to the area... discussion.. none... area is the one. Do any areas bond their treasurer... not in our region? 2. What would you do if the group was not an AA group... this would be the district responsibility... 3. Are the delegates satisfied with the area efforts... for the most part yes. I was involved in much discussion which that the more we get to know each other the easier it is to sacrifice time and energy to be with friends... Many people pull away from AA because they have no fellowship to make them want to participate. We have a great responsibility in AA as trusted servants to carry AA's message and keep AA alive and growing. I hope that we can learn from our mistake and bring new and continued involvement in AA. As a trusted servant I am open to any and all discussions surrounding AA. Hopefully together we can find solutions with our experience and God's help. May God bless you and carry you throughout your sobriety.

Secretary-Heidi R. Well it has been a busy month for me and I cannot believe it is almost over. I am asking that I get all Area Officers, Committee Chairs, and DCM reports from the Spring Assembly submitted to me by April 26th. I have completed the February Committee Meeting Minutes and if you find any errors please let me know. If you did not get the February Committee Meeting Minutes by email and you were supposed to, please let me know. I have had some of the emails not go through. I am hoping to have this fixed for the Spring Assembly Minutes. I have made out the Flyers for the Fall Assembly and they will be emailed to everyone. I have copies here for people to take. This weekend we will be discussing the start of a committee that will go through the Area Actions Book. I am looking for people who are interested in being a part of this committee. If you are interested or have questions please let me know. I have been reading all of the district meeting minutes I have received. I am hoping to take some time this summer and visit some of the district meetings I have read about. I want to say that starting this position I was a little nervous; however, I feel this will be a great learning opportunity for me. I know how important service work is to my sobriety and what it has done to my life. I truly believe I would not be where I am today if it were not for service work. I also know how important it is for me to complete all of my duties as Area Secretary. If I do not meet those duties I am not only letting myself down, I am letting Area 35 down. Yours in service.

Treasure-Sarah K. Greetings area 35. First, I just want to thank again, or maybe for the first time, all the people who have helped me get and stay going with this treasury stuff! I'm still working out the kinks in my reports. Thank you also to every group who has contributed to the area. Not that this is a competition, but... District 3 is currently leading the Birthday Contributions with \$168 YTD; District 7 is second with \$109 in B-Day contributions; and District 13 is a close third with \$100. In group contributions, District 13 is in the lead with \$2,415.51 YTD, District 8 is in second with \$1,409, and District 12 is third with \$1,025.97. Thanks all! Second, on a back table at the Spring assembly I displayed binders with the following information: copies of group checks, bank statements, all Area expense vouchers, and all YTD & Period to date financial statements: Profit and Loss, Balance Sheet, Detailed Expenses, Detailed Group Contributions. Also, bank account statements are being mailed to Jake J. our Area Chair to ensure another set of eyes are always on the bank account. I'm sure more changes to the treasury policies are to come pending the suggestions of the newly created finance committee.

The numbers for Period 2 (February 28-March 20, 2010): Bank account balance (including savings account) \$10,614.29, which matches/balances with the Profit and Loss report. Total group contributions for period 2: \$1,751.60. Heartfelt thanks to the groups who contributed! Beth E. also paid \$200 in amends, and we accrued \$13.06 in interest on deposits. Sadly, we had no birthday contributions for the period. Guess no one got sober in February and March. Kidding! But please share the importance of supporting Area 35 through birthday contributions as well as group contributions. (Per request, I have included a brief explanation of what the Area needs and uses the contributions for in my report to the Northern Light.) So, total period 2 income: \$1,964.66. We took in just over our budgeted amount for period 2 of \$1,923.47. Expenses this period were \$50 Feb. Area Committee Meeting rent and \$4,329.12 in area chair expenses. We had a loss this period of \$2,414.46. YTD numbers: \$17,271.23 income; \$1,640.18 in Area event expenses (winter workshop, Spring Assembly, Committee Meeting rent); Total YTD Birthday income: \$676.00 Yay birthdays!!! To meet our annual budget of \$35,860.00, the Area needs to take in \$2,900 a month. Here's a more detailed breakdown of what this would amount to for each group: each of the 555 groups listed with our Area would need to contribute \$5.38 per month, or \$1.20 per week. However, only 41% of the 555 groups actually contribute to the Area. So, this means that the 232 contributing groups would need to contribute \$12.88 a month or \$2.86 per week to help cover the groups who are not contributing. More importantly, as an Area, we need to work on spreading the message of the need for group participation in the Seventh Tradition. We also need to emphasize the importance of the Birthday Plan! If I can help in any way, please let me know! Send any contributions to N MN Area 35, PO Box 328, Brainerd, MN 56401. Please feel free to call or email (area) if there is any treasury information I can get for you. Remember, only \$13 A MONTH from each contributing group will help us remain self-supporting as an Area! Finally, I had asked the groups to discuss a few things regarding the treasury: 1) what to do with the \$255 that was found in the cashbox I received from Beth, 2) what to do with the "ear-marked" funds contributed by an individual to be applied to Beth's amends. I was notified by a member present at the assembly that issue 2 is resolved, as the individual wanted the money to be applied to the Area's treasury account, and not the amends. After the Spring Assembly I received an email from Beth stating that she thought the money from the cashbox should also be applied to the Area's treasury account and not the amends. So it shall be! Thank you Beth. (Point of clarification: the money in both cases was already in the Area's bank account, the question was whether it should be attributed to Beth's amends on the financial reports, or to the Area as income. It will be the latter.)

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COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS

ARCHIVES-Art A. We opened at 10:00am with the serenity prayer. There were 5 in attendance. Since Art was unable to attend WCRAASC in Dubuque Iowa we discussed how the service conference went. We discussed the fact that GSO is requesting 60 volunteers to work on Archives at the international convention in San Antonio. Rita and Kathie are going to get together and work on setting a date to have an Archives workshop this fall to be held at the Elk River Alano. We all are still working on collecting data regarding the historical time line on the 7th Tradition. Area 36 found a box of newspaper clippings and found several articles related to Area 35 which Brad received and has now archived. Work is still in the process to hold an Archives Workshop in Little Falls in summer. We discussed the service structure of Alcoholics Anonymous as we had a newcomer in attendance. God does not choose the qualified, he qualifies the chosen. Last and absolutely not least we discussed item B under the Archives Agenda. We all agreed that YES this should be more than just "review the report" let's "Get-R-Done!!" We would love to see a self guided tour of GSO's AA archives. I am grateful to be of service.

ARCHIVIST-Brad I. I have been very busy with service since the Committee meeting. This is my fourth weekend in a hotel in a row. As I type this I am converting an old timer tape to CD and burning 9 copies of the 2010 District 8 P.I. /C.P.C. lunch per request of the Area P.I. committee. I am also recording the Spring Assembly. I have not had a meltdown or locked up my laptop yet. I forgot my original report at home so I am re doing it. I am continuing to catalog the Archives collection while removing staples from the original documents. I also received, from the Area 36 Archivist, a box of newspaper clippings with P.I. information concerning our Area. One clipping stood out so I will read this clipping as my report at the Assembly. I attended the WCRAASC in Dubuque and participated in the Archives breakout session. I shared what Area 35 was doing to foster interest in our history and how we are preserving our history. I have a small Archives display here due to lack of space. I will have the full display along with several new items at the Superior Round up on April 16, 17, 18. I am also chairing a monthly history meeting at my home group, the Saint Cloud Call Up Meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:00 P.M. I am choosing such topics as Henrietta S., Eddie R. the man who could have been AA#3 and Bill D. the man who became AA#3 and The 3/1/41 Jack Alexander Article in the Saturday Evening Post. These workshops have had great participation and enthusiasm. I am available for any district wanting to do an archives or history workshop. We just need to mesh schedules. Thanks so much for this chance to be of service to the fellowship that gave me my life.

District 5-Rita D. Greetings from District 5. All is well within our District with all our current commitments being fulfilled. We meet the 3rd Monday each month. All positions are filled except the Archives Chair. Our District met twice this month for our meeting and to go over the Agenda Items. Skip & I have visited 16 groups so far....THANKS Skip for your willingness to help! Our Corrections Chair is still looking for men willing to go into Sherburne County Jail-we need 16 men before they will let us back in. The treatment Chair brings a meeting into River Place Treatment Center the 3rd Thursday monthly and into New Beginnings at Sherburne County Jail the 4th Monday monthly. I'm happy to report that our AA Orientation meeting will begin on April 1st going weekly through May 20th to be held at the Sherburne County Courthouse for their Probation Department. We are having a Step 12/Service Workshop on May 22nd. I want to thank the committee for all their hard work on this. I want to thank the District for sending me to WCRSC in Dubuque March 5th-7th. This was an awesome time and a great learning tool on the Agenda Items. Last but absolutely not the least I need to thank ALL District 5 Committee chairs and GSR's for their commitment to service and their hard work for Alcoholics Anonymous!! We have 11 members of District 5 in attendance this weekend. A quick little story regarding service....4 + years ago our DCM Paul roped me into service as the Treatment Chair and now what goes around comes around...Myself as DCM roped Paul back into service as our Treatment Chair!!

District 6-Kathie G. Greetings from District 6. Well March was a very busy month with the conference in Dubuque and the Spring Assembly. During the trip to Dubuque, I learned about the agenda items--thanks Rita for all the good information. By the time I got back to the GSR's with the agenda items there wasn't enough time to get the information to the groups. I apologize for not understanding what to do with the agenda items. Thanks to Jim K and Charlie C for the DCM orientation at the assembly I have a better understanding of the DCM duties. Hopefully, by next year our district will be better prepared. Yours in service.

LITERATURE-Bob K. I would like to thank the young men that helped bring in the boxes and totes of literature. It was greatly appreciated. I attended the service conferences in Dubuque Iowa, thanks to the area for allowing me to go. There was a lot of passionate discussion on the agenda items. Area 35 has a Brail version of the Big Book, 44 questions, and Is AA for You. There are 2 things that I learned about them. 1. We are storing them wrong- it should be stored with the spine down. 2. There are different types of Brail-a regular print and a shorthand version. Thanks to Mary and Ed for their input We were wondering if there is someone or someplace that could use it. We are in need of some new totes for the pamphlets and the display racks. The totes we are looking at are not cheap but will last a long time. Dist.12 Jana-DCM and Sarah the new dist. literature chair is learning the new job. Dist 8 Randy and the literature chair Robin had their display at the WinterRap Up. Dist 13 Gary they are stocking the St Cloud Alano. Dist 16 Mary is stocking racks and keeping displays current. Thanks for allowing me to be of service

District 8-Randy A. We had our last District Meeting on March 12th in Biwabik with 16 GSR's present and 25 in attendance. Our District Treasurer's report was \$2,062.00 with \$500.00 prudent reserve, which left us with a current balance of \$1562.48. There was a motion on the floor to support 8 District Committee Chairs for \$170.00 and after further discussion the motion was withdrawn after we concluded that we would be dipping into our prudent reserve. We finally decided to support for \$150.00 per person which left us with a positive balance. We also voted to have our PI/CPC Chair give a monthly financial report on our beginners meeting to the District for transparency and to track our financial status. We will also have an election at our next District Meeting in April for our Alternate Treatment Chair position. The position was filled at the start of the rotation but the person elected to that position never attended any District Meeting and was voted to be removed by the District for unexcused excessive absence. In addition, on March 13th we had our District Conference Agenda Items Meeting in Virginia with 14 members present in which our District Committee Chairs did a presentation on their selected topics followed by discussion on the floor regarding the selected items. There were many useful and informative comments from the floor, which was very beneficial. And finally, I was supported by the District to attend the WCRAASC in Dubuque, Iowa and was able attend the DCM sharing session as well as the Corrections workshop and was also able to participate in discussion on the floor regarding the conference Agenda Items. It was an awesome experience to be part of Alcoholics Anonymous for this prestigious event and to be able to meet other trusted servants from the West Central Region.

District 12 Jana M. We are all adjusting and learning how to do our new positions. Our alternate DCM Servando has been visiting 4 meetings a week to get them registered and invite them to join us. That is also proving to be helpful in addressing the problem with a disconnection between the groups and District. We are learning of groups already going to jails and doing active service and we would like to make ourselves available to assist them. We have a meeting at NERS, St. Louis County Jail, Duluth Bethel, and the Lester Park Monday night group just got 10 people approved to go into the Federal Prison to do a meeting in there. When we went up the shore to Silver Bay to have our district meeting, they were glad to hear from us. They have a meeting in Two Harbors Jail and the Safe Harbor Board and Care. And now that they have heard from us they have started to contribute again to the district. Our finances are looking better this year. So we approved \$50.00 for each committee chairs to use for incidental expenses without prior approval. Our literature chair will be placing an order for the literature each committee will need for service and also for what we need to make more GSR packets so new GSR's get one handed to them right away. Our PI chair and past PI Chair manned a booth at the Mariner Mall Health Fair and it was successful. At our last District meeting she was able to get 2 people to be on her committee. The January workshop topic we were assigned, Unity through Inventory, got us thinking about our own past inventory. We decided to take one question each time we meet and discuss how we are coming along with the solutions. Since we have new people in the district now, we are benefiting from new input and on those questions.

TREATMENT-Robert (Butch) R. We met as a Committee with 9 Districts being represented. Each shared what they have been doing and their upcoming plans are in their respective Districts. Many ideas were shared. Also discussed were Singleness of Purpose and getting invited into these facilities by attraction not promotion. All we can do is make our presence welcome and we can offer what we can provide through Informational Meeting set up in conjunction with our P.I. and C.P.C. committees. My hope is that we can update our contact lists so we can better welcome the newcomer fresh out of a treatment facility into AA. Patience and perseverance is essential in making contact and forming a working relationship with the various facilities out there.

District 15-Sandy H. At District 15 we have been busy getting ready for our Stearns County Roundup, which is this evening at the Landing Supper Club in St. Anna. So we will be leaving this afternoon to attend this event. Everyone is welcome! The Willmar CARE Treatment Facility called Nick and is looking for speakers; this was sent out in the March Secretary's report. District 15 also has another event coming up in April, this is in the Northern Lights and online, please come and enjoy sometime in District 15. Thank so much for your time, everyone enjoy the rest of the Assembly and I look forward to seeing you all in June, have a great spring!

District 9-Chuck R. There have been some changes in District 9; I am the new DCM (Chuck R.). We have had changes to all of our chairs except for the Treasurer. We still have some chairs that have not been filled, I am working on encouraging the chairs and GSR's to go out to their home groups and inviting members to come to the District Meetings. On March 13th, we had a Long Timers Panel, where members with over 30 years of sobriety in the program, told a group what it was like back than in District 9. There were 6 members on the panel. The panel was recorded, "audio only" for our archives. If anyone is interested I can make copies. I want to thank Robert S. our former DCM, for the good work he did with our district. He helped me to see the value of doing service work in AA.

PUBLIC INFORMATION-Roger R. I want to thank Area 35 for sending me to the West Central Service Conference in Dubuque, Iowa. During the PI Committee meeting we had 12 in attendance. The PI chair from District 13 is updating the district meeting schedules, starting a beginner meeting, going into Benton County Fair, manning the 24/7 phone line, and distributing meeting schedules. In District 8 they are continuing the beginner's meeting, they had a PI/CPC luncheon with 47-53 in attendance, and have member to run the phone line for the next 2 months. In District 12 they are trying to update 130 meetings and are trying to get groups motivated to cover the phone line when intergroup isn't there. District 7 now has a PI Chair. District 16 has just printed 1,000 meeting schedules, is planning a PI/CPC luncheon for fall, and a district workshop in April. District 5 is starting an AA orientation meeting for the people in probation in April. During the Committee Meeting we had discussion about the State Fair Booth, conducting a PI/CPC workshop, and having meetings/ presenting to professionals on their turf. Thank you for the opportunity to be of service.

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District 7-Mark N. We have had 2 good meetings discussing the agenda items. District 7 is well informed and shows definite interest in the workings of General Service. We have been enjoying good turn out with 20 or so in attendance and a little more than half GSR's. Participation is up. We'll work to keep things interesting at this time I have over half of our chairs filled with two people in line to pick up 2 more seats. We have been picking up groups from District 17. These are groups that want to be a part of general service. For the new term we will be working on picking up the slack on the vacant chairs, delegating and creating team effort, planning our spring/early summer workshop, checking up on meetings/groups (over 60 in the district), planning the fair booth, and keeping things fun, vital, and interesting. Also I was allowed to go to the West Central Regional, and I enjoyed listening, participating, and fellowshiping. It was a great experience.

District 11-Gary H. All commitments are being made. We are alive and well. The district meetings are the 1st Tuesday of the Month in Lutheran Church at Finlayson.

GROUP RECORDS-Laurie R. Hi everyone. Thank you so much for your patience as I continue to learn the ropes. I continue to update FNV and enter new groups as I receive the information. I also am continuing to email GSO with the changes that I am not allowed to make so that we get everything up to date and correct. Out on the registration table are new group and group change forms for you to grab, if you need to get your group registered or change information. Just a reminder if you want your meeting to be listed on AAmeetinglocator.org or the Area 35 website, you need to be registered with GSO and need to be active. This means that your meeting needs to have at least a primary contact. I mailed the latest issue of the Northern Light on Wednesday. So if you don't have yours yet, it is coming. There are also extras on the registration table for you to take. Thanks to everyone who has been bringing group change forms to me, I really appreciate it. Thanks for allowing me to serve.

NORTHERN LIGHTS-Daniel R.

First I want to thank Mary S. DCM from District 16 and Rodney P. DCM from District 2 and our past Northern Light editor Ed for attending our joint Northern Light, Group Records and Webmaster Committee meeting this yesterday. They were very helpful! I made the decision not to attend the West Central Regional Service Conference in Iowa because of our recent money problems but I wish I had. I attended the one in St. Cloud last year and in Fargo 2 years previous and learned a lot. I especially regret missing out on the News Letter breakout there but hopefully will receive minutes from that session soon! This northern light was a hectic one for me to get out because the deadline was Monday March 8th and most of our area officers and chairs were at the WCRAAC in Dubuque Iowa and didn't get back home until Sunday. I extended the deadline for reports by a couple of days. 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, 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! This issue includes some special service related articles from past Grapevines and an article entitled Selfish Program? This was submitted by our past NL Editor Ed A. from Deer Creek. Also included are the GSR and DCM sharing session minutes from the January Area Workshop in Alexandria and the Agenda Items that are being discussed and will be voted on here. One more note: If haven't noticed it, Roger's report from the previous Northern Light is still a good report. I somehow missed that one! I've seen that after I sent it to the printer so it was not in the online version.

District 2-Rodney P. Our last District meeting was held March 14, 2010. We had 13 in attendance, 6 were GSRs. In the GSRs' reports, meetings are well attended, with no big problems. Some of the things we discussed are not enough women sponsor's, Birthday contributions, speaker list, and agenda items. We as a district are still trying to get all the committee chairs filled. The enthusiasm is still great for service work. We have three new GSRs at the assembly today. I hope more members will step into to service as I visit the groups that are not active during my rotation, and thank you to the groups that are.

District 16-Mary S. Hello from district 16. There were 5 of us representing our District this weekend. We continue to meet the first Wednesday of the month at 5:30pm at United Methodist Church in Grand Rapids. We average approximately 15 people attending our district meeting representing about 40% of our district. Our DCM's goal is to visit all 22 groups by the end of June, to introduce herself and ask each group what they need from the district. On April 24th our district will be hosting a workshop at Harris Township Hall. The title is "Into to Alcoholics Anonymous: What AA is and is not." We have flyers on the table in the hallway. We recently updated and printed new Meeting Directories. Our Grapevine/Literature Chair is purchasing literature for our groups and the upcoming workshop. Our committee chairs are filled, except for Treatment. We are waiting to hear if a person is willing to fill that chair, if so, we will have an election at the next meeting. Thank you for the opportunity to be of service.

CORRECTIONS-Kelly D. I attended our first Area 35 Committee Meeting February 28th in Aitkin of this new rotation and had a good turnout in the Corrections breakout session. We had 16 in attendance with representation from all District's but 4 of them. I also attended the WCRAAC in Dubuque, Iowa March 6th and 7th. I would like to thank Area 35 again and the groups for the opportunity I was given to attend this conference. Our Agenda items are a big part of this fellowship and it is important that we are educated and informed so that we as a body from Area 35 can give our Delegate Jon C. our voice to bring to the conference in New York. This conference gives us the opportunity to do just that. We held our first Corrections/Treatment Workshop Friday night at the Detroit Lakes Alano Club here and had 33 in attendance. I would like to thank everyone that attended and special thanks to my co-chair Butch, Area 35 Treatment Chair, Melissa, Corrections Chair from District 6 and Jerry S. from District 8 for presenting and again to Jeff C. DCM from District 3 for finding us space to hold the Workshop. We are scheduled to have our next Corrections/Treatment Workshop October 1st the weekend of the Fall Assembly in Thief River Falls. We had 13 in attendance yesterday in the Corrections breakout session. We had discussion around how to get more individuals to volunteer to go into our Correctional Facilities, holding District Workshops on Corrections and what literature is available at little cost to bring into our Correctional Facilities. We talked about the importance of reading the Correctional Workbook and using it as the guide to fulfill our commitment to serve. Jeff, DCM for District 3 had a handy list of duties all Corrections Chairs should be doing and we made copies and distributed it to everyone present. I distributed copies of the Corrections Correspondence Program asking for individuals to sign up and to also take back to their groups for volunteers. Right now GSO has a waiting list of 100 males waiting for individuals to write to them in Correctional Facilities. I also brought over 30 copies of this program to the workshop and they all went. This is a wonderful opportunity to carry the message and thanks to everyone that is willing to write to an inmate! If you are interested and would like more information please let me know. I also passed on several names of inmates that are releasing from Correctional Facilities in Area 35 soon through our Corrections Contact Program to the District Chairs and DCM's. We have had many already this year and I want to thank all of you that are willing to be a contact for these individuals! Stan, Correction Chair from District 12 announced that he has a group that is willing to go into the Moose Lake Facility. We are still however in need of more individuals to volunteer because it is three Saturday's a month. If you are willing to be of service please contact him or myself. I cannot express the importance of the message to our inmates so please consider being a volunteer! With the help of the District Corrections Chairs and DCM's I am in the process of updating the list of our Correctional Facilities in Area 35 to make sure we are meeting our commitments. I had emailed these earlier and then distributed the list I currently have of each District during our breakout session and asked them to give me updated information on the names of their Correctional Facilities. I hope to have this completed soon. There were several that attended the Corrections Agenda Items breakout session yesterday and I want to thank everyone that was there and participated Most of the Agenda Items and discussion were around signing legally binding documents to go into Correctional Facilities. The bottom line is this; Alcoholics Anonymous must follow *all* the rules of *all* Correctional Facilities in order to be able to carry the message to inmates in their facilities. Even though there is controversy around signing some of these documents we need to be aware of what we are signing and agreeing to. As you know we were in 100% agreement when voting on these Agenda Items in our breakout session and also when the body came together as a whole and voted to add all information needed to the pamphlets explaining this. I look forward to attending an all day Transitional Fair on May 31st at the Rush City prison along with Area 36. This is a great opportunity to reach out and help the still suffering alcoholic with outside AA contacts, literature and meetings available to them as they are preparing to leave the facility. I would like to thank Jon C. our Area Delegate for his commitment to be of service and carry the voice of Area 35 to the conference in New York coming up on all the Agenda Items discussed this weekend. He will serve our area well!!! Thank you all for the opportunity to be of service as your Area 35 Corrections Chair.

District 3-Jeff C. Greetings from District 3. We have been busy getting up to speed with the new positions. To facilitate distribution of agenda items to groups we put our February District Meeting off until March 7th. At our regular district meeting (third Sunday of the month 10:00am Perham Alano Club) we discussed the agenda items and background materials. We also elected a new PI/CPC Chair and Alternate Chair at our last district meeting. Several of our district members have been out visiting groups and meetings. As a result we have 2 new GSR's and PI/CPC chair. I have also seen that other groups we have visited are showing up on the contribution list. I have begun sending updated group information to the Area 35 Group Records Secretary. I have several more updates to make. We have made a beginning, but there is lots of work yet to do. Thanks for the opportunity to serve.

District 4-Jim T. Well, getting accustomed to new responsibilities is not easy especially for those of us closer to the sunset in life than sunrise. I was not present for the February Committee meeting in Aitkin due to CRS Disease. Our new slate of officers took the reins in January and we've had successful District Meetings in our Round Robin format, where we move the meeting to the various communities within the district on a monthly basis. Our attendance has been quite constant from the majority of communities, but many groups remain unrepresented by a GSR. We will be working to change that during the year as the DCM and committee members make personal visits to groups without a GSR. At the March committee meeting we discussed, and placed on next month's agenda, the need for District Inventory as it has been several years since the last inventory. This is one suggestion brought back from the West Central Regional Conference held in Dubuque where fellow DCM's reported positive results for participation rates in the committee activities as well as in getting more alcoholics to understand that we are organized in spite of how some people interpret Tradition 9. This year at our district meeting we have followed the pattern established by Bruce W. wherein we read a Concept at each meeting before attending to business. We are asking each district member to examine the Concept prior to the meeting and provide the rest of us with the "Reader's Digest" version. Again, this is part of a good learning process about the larger world of Alcoholics Anonymous. We are fiscally solvent with a sufficient prudent reserve. It is good to report that a number of groups from the District individually responded to the call for financial support for the Area. The District Committee concluded that it is not the District's role to send additional dollars.

C.P.C.-Doug N. I want to thank the groups in the Northern Area for their contributions so all of the Northern Committee Chairs could go to the West Central Regional AA Service Conference in Dubuque, Iowa. I attended a breakout session of PI/CPC at Dubuque. I heard CPC chairs talked about what is going on and

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methods of informing professionals. Some groups found out where the sheriffs have their meetings and tried to get in on their meeting to inform them of our program.

District 13-Gayle S. Hello from District 13, we meet the first Monday of every month at Salem Lutheran Church (90 Riverside Dr. St Cloud.) at 7:30 pm. Most of our commitments are being filled. Over the last month we have been very busy, getting out to group to discuss the agenda items, I am just in awe in how this process works. How every group member has a say if they choose. District 13 held a second district meeting just for the agenda items and the discussions went well. On April 5, we will be nominating John D. from the SCCUM group for CPC Committee Chair; I hear nothing but great things about his commitment to AA. District 13 is so fortunate to have such responsible committee chairs. Tim (& Dick) PI and Phone Line, Jeff corrections, Andrew archives, Gary Literature/ Grapevine, Cara treatment and soon John for CPC really makes my job look as easy as it was described. PI and Treatment are working together on the Beginners meeting it will start in May, District 13 has voted to financially support this meeting for the remainder of the year. A Big Thank you to Tim, Susie and Tom for being the speakers at District 13's GSR Workshop that was on March 20th at the St Cloud Public Library, they spoke on the GSR's roles & responsibilities, GSR's at the Area and the Service Manual, there was about 22 in attendance. I attended my first WCRAASC March 5-7 in Dubuque, thank you District 13 for sending me; I attended two breakout sessions, DCM and Grapevine/Literature. Thanks, Jon for asking me to participate and represent Area 35, I was a bit nervous. Also, thank you Roger for writing our presentation, you did a wonderful job. Today we have 9 representing us from district 13. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

District 1-Richard W. Greetings from District #1. The District is in good financial shape and the meetings have been well attended. The Wild Rice Roundup was hosted last January in Mahanomen with many in attendance. The District held its 28th annual Spring Fling March 13. Attendance was down but enthusiasm was abundant. The Al-Anon and AA speaker did a wonderful job. I am delighted to say the District has filled all of our officer and Committee Chair positions. It is my pleasure to be aboard in service.

GRAPEVINE-Dee K. I want to thank the area for sending me to the WCRAASC in Dubuque, Iowa. My report on the conference was in the last Northern Lights. We had eleven in attendance at the committee meeting. Grapevine and literature committee chairs are being held by one member in a lot of the districts. Jake reported that he has been taking Grapevines into the VA in St. Cloud and they disappear as soon as he puts them in an area. Jana Dist 12 reports that they will be bringing the idea of a Grapevine chair back to the District for discussion. Nolan, District 3, is bringing Grapevines to FO's offices and treatment centers and local jails. We did have a minimal discussion on the Agenda items and then got back on track. Grapevine has a lot of good items and topics on CD's for your listening pleasure and education. There are great for sponsees as gifts, discussion items, and even laughs. I would like to thank the young men that came and helped get the literature and grapevine items unloaded from the truck. The help was very much appreciated. Thank you for letting me be of service.

District 18-Doreen L. Greetings Area 35 my name is Doreen and I am currently serving as Alternate DCM and I am humbled and honored to be here today. District 18 has had a few changes so for this year we currently are without a DCM and I will fill in until another willing member steps forward. We also have an opening for our Grapevine Chair however all other chairs are filled. We would like to give a special thank you to the wonderful Jim and Sarah for coming to our district meeting to answer the many questions about the area finances your willingness and commitment was very much appreciated. We have our district meeting schedules all updated and they are currently at the printer and I should have them back by our next district meeting with is April 6th at 6:30pm at the Long Prairie Alano Club. Sobriety in motion has a new location which is 120 East Broadway and is held Sunday Night at 7:30pm and that is a Big Book Study Group. So if you're in the area stop in at the meeting. The Motley Group held there (which I attended) Round Robin in February and they had a wonderful turnout for attendance, food, and fellowship. In the next couple of months I'm going to be visiting the groups in our district to update contact information and see what we can do as a district to help get more participation from the groups. Hopefully we will have a new DCM next month that can help assist with those duties. I started a newsletter for our district which seems to be well accepted. District 18 is working on having a public information luncheon and we are planning to have that in the Staples area and we will keep you posted when we have a date. Thank you to everyone for giving me the opportunity to serve.

District 21-Carl B. We are hosting the Zonal Forums on May 8th. We have gotten a new treatment chair, but are still in need of an Alternate DCM. All of the other positions are filled. We have three people who are taking care of the phone line. Our meetings are well attended and we have meetings taking place in all of the jail within our district. Thanks for allowing me to serve.

WEBMASTER -Ione B. I meet with the Group Records Secretary and Northern Lights Editor yesterday morning. I received a current list of groups from the Groups Record Secretary which I will be using to update the meeting list on the website. The Groups Records Secretary and I will continue to work on this. So far this month the website has had 1,323 unique visitors. Thanks for letting me serve.

DELEGATE SHARING AND BREAKOUT SESSION REPORTS

Literature

- Review the revised draft pamphlet "The AA Member-Medication and Other Drugs."
Breakout Session: No consensus on this item since they could not see the information.
- Review the revised draft pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship."
Breakout Session: No consensus since they could not see the information.
Floor: Several Area 35 members felt it was not fair that we cannot see the information. The area 35 delegate understood the concern and will bring the information up during the General Service Conference.
- Consider developing Conference-approved literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous.
Breakout Session- They felt the literature was not needed since we have literature all ready that has stories for atheists and agnostics.
Floor- One DCM reported that an atheist in their district felt a pamphlet was not needed for him to stay sober. A vote was taken and a substantial majority does not want the literature.
- Consider request to change a sentence regarding closed meetings in the pamphlet "Frequently Asked Questions About A.A."
Breakout Session- They felt they were in favor of making the changes to this pamphlet once the old pamphlets are gone.
Floor Discussion- One member felt the wording was not inclusive to anyone with a desire to stop drinking. The same thing was brought up at the Conference that this is not inclusive. One member of Area 35 felt that we all ready have a blue card that has this information. One member wanted to know why we do not just keep it simple and the third tradition. The way the wording is put they feel they may exclude new member and make them think closed are only for people who are in AA. Why can we not have the same statement for all of our literature on closed meetings like the one we have on the blue card? They would like the Area 35 delegate to bring this information to the General Service Conference. There was substantial unanimity against the changes to the pamphlet.
- Consider request to update the pamphlet "A.A. and the Armed Services" with new stories reflecting more recent experiences.
Breakout: They felt they could not make a decision since they could not see the changes to the pamphlet.
Floor- One member felt that the stories in the pamphlet still hold relevance since alcoholism is unchanging. A vote was taken and 42 in favor and 16 opposed.
- Consider request to review the booklet *Living Sober*.
Floor Action: One member felt that this is our history and should not be changed. A suggestion was made to make *Living Sober* Volume II. If we have outsiders who are not in A.A. making changes to this booklet, how can they tell us how to stay sober? One member felt we would have to have someone in AA do the revisions. The first 164 pages of the Big Book are still the same so why do we need to make changes in our literature. One member felt we should make the changes so that new comers can understand what we are talking about. The culture has changed so how do we keep the past and accommodate the future. A question was asked as to if this book still carries the AA message and is this a need for AA? A vote was taken and 25 were in favor and 37 were opposed.
- Consider request to define the editorial responsibility of G.S.O.'s Publication Department.
Floor Action: They want to make editorial changes. We should support this since the editorial changes can get blurred and they could make changes that AA does not want. This will get it understood as to what editorial changes are and what are not editorial changes. Conference approved literature has to be approved by the conference it is in our history and was passed. One feels this will give GSO more clarity as to what they can do and what they cannot do to our literature. A vote was taken and Area 35 was unanimously in favor of this agenda item.
- Consider the request that the video "Your General Service Office, the Grapevine and the General Service Structure" be revised and updated.
Breakout Session: The cost will be up to \$64,000.
Floor: What will it be revised and update to what? (They do not tell us). This should up to the DCM to inform their GSR's. That amount of money does not seem to be a lot so if the changes need to be made they should be made. Will this open a can of worms to updating other videos? One person does not remember every seeing this video. The video may show some changes but does that really matter for us to pay \$64,000. We have concerns about the funding at GSO and we should be being more cautious with the money they are spending like we are at groups. One member let us know that the video was not in good shape and prices are not going to get any cheaper. Most were opposed to making this change.
- Consider request to develop a book on the history of "early pioneer women in A.A."
Floor: One member of AA stated that women pioneers are all ready talked about in our literature, and if we were better financially this would be a good idea but we are not. One member of Area 35 brought up the point that at one point we are talking about updating pamphlets and now we are talking about pioneer's in AA. One member suggested that women should go to the Grapevine and get stories of pioneer's in AA. One idea was to have some women in AA make the book so we do not have the cost? A vote was taken and a majority is opposed to the agenda item.

Archives

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Review Workbook:

Breakout: No Report

Review report from the trustees' Committee on the feasibility of developing a format (e.g. PowerPoint presentation) for self-guided tour of G.S.O.'s A.A. Archives to convey the experience of visiting G.S.O. and the Archives, for those who have not yet visited the General Service Office in New York.

Breakout Session: The vote was 14 in favor and 4 opposed to the agenda item.

Floor: One member wants to know the cost and the cost will be \$4,500. The vote was 31 in favor and 23 opposed to the agenda item.

C.P.C

A. Review contents of C.P.C. Kit and Workbook.

a. Breakout Session: There was no discussion on this.

Grapevine

Review contents of A.A. Grapevine Workbook.

Breakout Session: They felt this would be all right.

Floor: A vote was taken and a majority was in favor of the agenda item.

Consider collection of Grapevine stories for possible publication in the year 2011 or later.

Breakout Session:

Floor: Are these pieces available online (only if you wanted to make them and find them). The grapevine is having financial problems and books are all ready not selling. Is this really appropriate? A vote was taken and a majority of members were opposed to this agenda item.

Review A.A. Grapevine Board report submitted at the request of the 59th GSC that the A.A. Grapevine Board review history of Advisory Actions pertaining to the relationship between A.A. Grapevine Board, A.A. 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).

Breakout: Passed this unless they do not define their duties, then they do not want to pass it.

Floor: This is just to review the report that was developed. One member felt that a lot of changes have been made to the Grapevine without the conference approval and we should have some approval over what they are doing. One member asked if the Grapevine Board should get to make decisions without our approval. Some people are frustrated with the current Grapevine. Their needs to be accountability for the people of the Grapevine. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Consider the request that: in order for *La Vina* to be published on an equal basis with A.A. Grapevine: 1. The *La Vina* be published in color; 2. The binding be changed to a perfect binding or a sewn binding so that it may be taken into correctional facilities; and 3. More stories be included in each edition of *La Vina*.

Breakout: A majority were opposed to this agenda item.

Floor: One GSR felt we need to make the changes to the binding so they can get the information in the jails. He also felt that if we have this in our English Grapevine, the *La Vina* should also have it. One idea was to put the Grapevine and the *La Vina* together. One DCM felt the Spanish speaking community needs this just as much as the English speaking community. One member felt the more we work on the magazines the more unattractive it becomes. A vote was taken and a majority of members were opposed to this agenda item.

Treatment

Review progress report from trustees' Committee regarding the proposed Special Needs recovery pamphlets.

Breakout Session: A vote was taken and they were unanimously against. The breakout session had some questions about the pamphlet such as who would these stories be for and if they are really necessary since they are a small number of people in special needs in A.A.

Floor: No discussion

Consider a suggestion to change "Treatment Facilities" to "Treatment" in the conference Committee Name and in related A.A. literature where appropriate.

Breakout Session: A vote was taken and 13 were in favor and 3 were opposed to the agenda item.

Floor: A questions was asked as to how much this would cost. The changes would not be made until the old literature was gone. A vote was taken and a majority of AA members were in favor.

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

Breakout Session: A vote was taken and 11 members were in favor and 5 were opposed.

Floor: A DCM stated that a form does not need this form and that this should be done at the district level. One Area member felt we do not need to vote on this since they are just considering looking at these forms not to have them. One member we felt we should keep this at the group level and we do not need this form. Some felt we should have a form so that alcoholics can meet A.A. members in their home town and get to meetings. One Area member felt we need to vote on this since they could approve the forms and then make them. This same member felt A.A. should look at other temporary contact forms from other areas. One member felt the forms in the back ground are not easily understood and if we make them we should make sure they are easily understood. A vote was taken and 3 were in favor and a majority of members were against.

Review contents of Treatment Facilities Kit and Workbook.

Review contents of Special Needs Kit and Workbook.

Corrections

Review progress report from trustees' Committee on Corrections on revising the pamphlet "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell."

Breakout Session: The majority wanted the picture of the man smoking changed to the picture of the Big Book.

Review progress report from trustees' Committee on Corrections on signing sponsorship agreements and legally binding documents.

Breakout Session: The discussion was that if this is what the correctional facilities want, we have to fill it out or we cannot go into the correctional facilities. We have to follow the correctional facilities guidelines.

Consider request to add two sentences to the pamphlets "Carrying the Message into Correctional Facilities" regarding prior review of regulations and paperwork related to Twelve Step corrections work.

Breakout Session: The vote was unanimously in favor of this agenda item. We have to follow the correctional facilities guidelines.

Floor: The vote was taken and we were unanimously in favor.

Consider request to add a phrase to the pamphlet "A.A. in Correctional Facilities" regarding the signing of volunteer agreements.

Breakout Session: They were unanimously in favor of the agenda item.

Floor: A vote was taken and they were unanimously in favor.

Consider request to add two sentences to the pamphlet "A Message to Corrections Professionals" regarding communication between A.A. members and prison administrators about the specific regulations of individual facilities.

Breakout Session: A vote was taken and they were unanimously in favor.

Floor: A vote was taken and Area 35 was unanimously in favor.

Review content of Corrections Kit and Workbook.

Public Information

Consider 2009 Annual Web site Report from the trustees' Committee on Public Information.

Breakout Session: A vote was taken and was unanimously in favor of the agenda item.

Floor: A vote was taken and a majority of members were in favor with one opposed.

Public Service Announcements (P.S.A.s):

Consider approving the proposed 2010 television P.S.A. – "MyWorld" – developed by the trustees' Committee on Public Information.

Breakout Session: The vote was taken and was unanimously in favor of the agenda item.

Floor: A vote was taken and 37 members are in favor and 1 opposed

Consider that the 2010 A.A. TV P.S.A. "My World" be centrally distributed, tracked and evaluated at a cost not to exceed \$35,000, in addition to the work of local Public Information committees.

Breakout Session: The vote was 15 in favor and 9 opposed

Floor: One member wanted to know how G.S.O is spending this money. A member felt we should not pay someone to do this, but should instead have our P.I Committees do this since we are in need of money. One member mentioned that we have not seen decisions made as a result of the tracking. During the vote a majority of members were opposed and 5 were in favor.

Review current television P.S.A.s for relevance and usefulness.

Breakout Session: The vote was 18 in favor and 14 opposed.

Assess the need for a new television P.S.A.

Breakout Session: The vote was 5 in favor and 19 opposed. The 19 were opposed felt we did not need a new P.S.A.

Floor: One member wanted to know how the P.S.A's are assessed. Majority felt we should not assess new television P.S.As

Consider adding a statement to the pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity" to clarify the importance of not breaking the anonymity of living A.A. members in memorial announcements when one of our Fellowships dies.

Breakout Session: The vote was 20 in favor and 1 opposed.

Floor: A majority of members were in favor and 8 opposed.

A.A. Videos for Young People Project

Considering approving the video with the working title "Animation" as part of the A.A. Videos for Young People Project.

Breakout Session: The vote was unanimously in favor of the agenda item.

Floor: A majority were in favor and 2 opposed.

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Consider the trustees' Public Information Committee Report on the A.A. Videos for Young People Project.

Breakout Session: The vote was unanimously in favor of the agenda item.

Floor: A majority of members were in favor and 4 opposed

"A.A. at a Glance"

Consider replacing the term "drying out" with "detox" in the "What A.A. Does Not Do" section of the "A.A. at a Glance" flyers so that the phrase "provide drying-out or nursing services or sanitariums" is changed to "provide detox or nursing services or sanitariums."

Breakout session: The vote was unanimously in favor of the agenda item.

Floor: One member wanted to know the cost of the project. It was reported that there would be minimal costs. A majority of members were in favor and 3 opposed.

Consider placing the full text of the "What A.A. Does Not Do" section of the service piece "Information of A.A." into the "What A.A. Does Not Do" section of the "A.A. at a Glance" flyer.

Breakout Session: The vote was unanimously in favor of the agenda item.

Floor: A majority were in favor and 1 opposed.

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

Breakout Session: A vote was taken and 18 were in favor and 7 opposed. The seven were opposed because they felt we should not need a policy on this since we have the traditions.

Floor: One member felt the agenda item does not say what the policy is going to say. One member was concerned with what we would do if the actors become members of A.A. One Area member felt that we have done these things in our "Hope" video even though we have traditions so we need a policy. A majority were in favor and 5 opposed.

Consider submitting a request to the trustees' Committee on the Conference to hold a future General Service Conference on the theme of "Anonymity in a Digital Age."

Breakout Session: The vote was unanimously in favor of the agenda item.

Floor: The vote was unanimously in favor of the agenda item.

Review the P.I. Kit and Workbook.

Finance

Review input from the Fellowship gathered by the trustees' Finance Committee on the following:

If we continue to use the literature profits to partially fund services, should there be a limit?

Breakout Session: The group felt the goal should be to become self-supporting through group contributions. Since this is not being done we cannot just take away literature sales. If there is a limit, it should be a gradual movement towards being self-support through group contributions alone. A plan would need to be in place to work towards this goal, we should look at how we can do this better, look at how to get money from the groups to be self-supporting, and we should look closely at the budgets.

If there is a limit how do we continue to pay for services if there is a shortfall in contributions?

Breakout Session: During the session the members did not like the wording of this question because it only leaves one option which is to increase revenue. They felt there was another option which is to decrease spending. If we do not have the money we should look at cutting costs, and we should look at the pension plans. You do not just make raises in prices, you can also cut costs.

"Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix"

Consider request to replace the "pie charts" on page 12 with text such as:

Breakout Session: We felt the pamphlet should add both of the items into the pamphlet.

Floor: A majority were opposed to the change in the pamphlet. A majority would like to have both items in the pamphlet and 2 were opposed.

Discuss request to include information about A.A. Grapevine.

Breakout Session: A majority of members were in favor of this agenda item.

Floor: A majority were in favor and 4 opposed.

Consider request to add Seventh Tradition stories.

Breakout Session: During the breakout session, they did not come up with a consensus. The group had more questions by the time they left the breakout session. The agenda does not specifically tell us what literature this would go into, does this serve a purpose, and what would be the cost.

Floor: One area member felt that we have the 7th tradition in our 12x12 so will this become bragging rights. A vote was taken and we were unanimously opposed to the agenda item.

Discussion of additional ways to communicate with the Fellowship about self-support.

Breakout Session: This focused was on getting the groups to contribute more. We felt that GSO should also focus on what they could do to be more prudent with their funds. They also talked about ideas we all ready have that GSO could use such as The Challenge of the 7th Tradition. A vote was taken and a majority of members were in favor and 1 opposed.

Agenda

Review suggestions for the theme of the 2011 General Service Conference.

No Discussion

Discuss presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2011 General Service Conference.

No Discussion

Discuss workshop topics ideas for the 2011 General Service Conference.

No Discussion

Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form.

No Discussion however it was brought up as to why the Agenda Committee does not make the agenda for the General Service Conference.

Trustees

Review the resumes of candidate for:

Pacific Regional Trustee

Eastern Canada Regional Trustee

No Discussion on Either Item

Review slates of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.

No Discussion

Review slate of directors of A.A. World Service, Inc.

No discussion

Review slate of directors of A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

No Discussion

Discuss a suggestion to clarify the language on page S65 in The A.A. Service Manual under the heading "Regional Trustee" regarding nominating a regional trustee candidate in the same year when nominating a trustee-at-large candidate.

No Discussion

Reports and Charter

The A.A. Service Manual, 2010-2011 Edition:

Review revisions from the A.A. Grapevine Board.

Sent to Committee Members Only

Review revisions from the A.A.W.S. Board

Sent to Committee Members Only

Review Revisions from the General Service Board.

Sent to Committee Members Only

Review list of editorial updates.

Consider request to (a) publish and distribute the A.A. Service Manual every other year and in years not produced, distribute a supplement of changes, and (b) publish the A.A. directories (Canada, Eastern U.S. and Western U.S.) in alternate years when the Service Manual is not published.

Breakout Session: A vote was taken and 10 were opposed and 4 abstained

Floor: A vote was taken and 28 were in favor and 27 opposed. Discussion- One member felt that if we do this we are not going to be saving any money and that this is going to be a problem with loose leaf paper. If we are voting yes just because of the directories that is not the way to go about this. Revote was taken and a majority of members were opposed.

Consider request that *The A.A. Service Manual* be reprinted only as necessary and consider publishing every three to five years with changes being sent as inserts to existing manuals.

Breakout Session: A vote was taken and was unanimously opposed.

Floor: One member felt this was not a better alternative to the problem or was the other agenda item. The problem is the fact that large changes are being made all the time to the manual. If we wait 3-5 years, would get more input on the changes

(Continued on page 18)

that are being made with the manual. We should know what we want our manual to be before we make changes to the printing of the manual. A majority were opposed and 3 in favor.

Consider request to gather sharing from the Fellowship concerning the general nature of The A.A. *Service Manual*.

Breakout Session: The general consensus is yes we need to gather this information.

Floor: A majority were in favor and 1 opposed.

On page S23, consider adding "(see Chapter Eleven)" in the paragraph under the heading *Tools Available from G.S.O.* so that the last sentence reads: "They are designed to show groups the kind of help that is offered to groups everywhere by G.S.O., and thus get more people interested in service activity (see Chapter Eleven)."

Breakout Session: The breakout session did not get to this agenda item.

Floor: A vote was taken and 16 were in favor and 21 opposed.

A.A. Directories (Canada, Western U.S., and Eastern U.S.):

Consider request that areas may choose to opt-out of the 30-day pending period to complete processing of new groups.

Breakout Session: The vote was 1 in favor and 12 opposed.

Floor: The vote was 12 in favor and 31 opposed.

Discussion A.A. Directories (Canada, Western U.S., and Eastern U.S.)

Breakout Session: The session did not get to this agenda item.

Floor: One area member felt we should get directories our area needs them.

General Service Conference Final Report

Consider placing *Additional Committee Considerations, Recommendations That Did Not Result in Advisory Actions* and *Floor Action That Did Not Result in Advisory Actions* following the Advisory Actions.

Breakout Session: Did not get to this agenda item.

Floor: The vote was 18 in favor and 24 opposed

Discuss General Service Conference *Final Report*.

Breakout Session: Did not get to this agenda item.

Floor: No discussion

Policy/Admissions

Consider approving admission to the 2010 General Service Conference of Donna Gibson, alternate delegate, Area 33, Southeast Michigan, in place of Derek Daniel, the Panel 59 delegate for Area 33, who resigned.

Yes

Approve invitations for two observers from the General Service Board of Venezuela.

Yes

Review dates for the 2013 General Service Conference.

No discussion

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

Floor: One member felt the conference needs to make sure they have follow-up to the inventory so changes are made. A question was will important information be taken out of the GSC? Another question was will the Delegates be a part of the inventory? If they are not, this would not be a good inventory. Discussion that there would have to be another committee to go over how the inventory would take place. The agenda committee at the GSC should be involved with making this agenda for the GSC. Majority felt that having an inventory at the GSC would be a good idea.

Discuss report forwarded by the General Service Board regarding the development of procedures for the submission of Concept Vminority appeals to the General Service Conference.

One person felt 30 days was not enough time to get a minority opinion into GSO. One person assumed that this was a given and now it is not.

Why is this on the agenda? The consensus was that we should have this since it was not being followed.

International Conventions/Regional Forums

Discuss the upcoming 2010 International Convention.

No Discussion

Review report from trustees' Committee on the site-selection process for International Conventions.

No Discussion

Discuss ways to encourage interest in Forums and attract first-time attendees.

No Discussion

GSR Sharing Session Report

Opened at 4:46pm with Serenity prayer. There were 38 GSRs present and 12 were new GSRs. Introductions were made. Secretary minutes were read and approved. An end time of 5:45pm was decided. Scott read page S40 from the service manual. The hat was passed and for copies of minutes and questions. \$58.00 was collected. Made 75 copies at \$.10 each = \$7.50. The remainder of \$50.50 was donated to the Area. Why do we pass the hat to defer costs versus the Area just paying for the copies? (Scott will find the answer) Questions were answered from Spring Assembly. (Answers below) New questions were formed for the Fall Assembly. (Questions below) Scott closed the GSR Sharing Session with the Lord's Prayer at 5:45pm. **Answers from Spring Assembly-What functions should GSRs attend?** Area Assemblies, workshops (if strongly suggested and paid for), all district meetings, home group business meetings. **Why do we have to have sharing sessions and questions?** To bring out the minority opinion and answer questions that GSRs may have, allow input from other groups and bring the information to share, a nice place to get your feet wet before going in front of the large group, brings fresh ideas back to the group. **Are we greeting newcomers?** Keep greeting even though you have been around awhile so they can see the smiling faces, we are all representatives of Alcoholic Anonymous and it is our duty to welcome newcomers at our home groups and other meetings we attend, we are setting the example for the newcomer, include introduction in the meeting format, give medallion to recognize 24 HOUR sobriety, encourage through sponsorship by getting numbers fellowship, visit the question at EVERY business meeting, greet from the heart, give newcomer cards with important numbers, more open meetings to include family, make sure that the newcomer leaves with a number. **What has changed in AA today?** There is better communication between Groups and Area and District, more information available and found on the web, participation seems to have declined (need to sponsor), **Singleness of Purpose** has been lost (people need to be better informed), Sponsorship seems to be going by the way side, attendance is declining due to treatment center possibly not referring to meetings, coming to meeting because of court requirements not really willing, too much sugar coating need to be more direct with sponsees. **How does the group make the treasury accountable?** Two people count the money, Treasures books are made visible, double signed checks, and chair is responsible for the envelope. **How does the group approach spirituality in AA?** Promote reading about spirituality and sharing own experience, choose a topic and read conference approved literature at meeting. New questions for the Fall Assembly

More discussion on how we greet the Newcomer and being more direct versus soft coating?

How do we as groups ensure spirit of rotation?

How do we encourage strong/effective sponsorship?

What do you do for service AFTER being a GSR?

Difference between a meeting and a group?

Are we doing enough 12 step work/family intervention?

DCM Sharing Session Report

DCM Sharing Session Report: First of all we all would like to thank Jim Kath and Charlie Craven for the DCM Orientation. They were AWESOME and did a great job presenting on what our duties as DCMs are!! We are very grateful for the orientation session and are now well informed as to what to do! Once the Orientation was over we had approximately 25 minutes for our sharing session. There was a total of 16 members' attendance. The first topic of discussion was, "How to go over the Agenda Items with the District Chairs and GSRs". There was a lot of great sharing on this topic including; Hold a separate District meeting in March specifically for Agenda, give Agenda Items to corresponding District Chairs, invite a past Delegate for their help, be informed ourselves on the Agenda, get Agenda Items to District Chairs and GSRs immediately following the February Aitkin Committee Meeting, go to WCRSC-a wealth of information can be gathered there to share, explain the Agenda process to GSRs and District members!! The second topic of discussion was "How to deal with competition, etc. within the District". Lots of great sharing on this also including; If Districts are having issues invite Area Officers to the District meeting, practice Tradition 12, as we are taught..."Don't be afraid to run a meeting"-we are the DCM and this is our duty, speak directly to individuals, have qualified/responsible people in the positions, hold a District inventory. Lastly we did discuss the need of a DCM Orientation to be held every other year in even numbered years at the January Workshop. Huge thanks to Mark for taking such wonderful notes!!

OLD BUSINESS

WCRAASC 2011: This is going to be held at the Grandview Lodge in Nisswa, Minnesota. The Area 35 Delegate has asked Jerry a past delegate to chair the WCRAASC. They have booked the place and have talked with the Delegate from Dubuque, Iowa. JoAnne (Past Delegate) will be the Treasurer and Heidi (Area 35 Secretary) will be the Secretary. The committee has not met and is waiting to get the money for the conference. There are many chairs that need to be filled such as greeter chair, flyer chair, and registration chair for the conference so we are looking for people to volunteer. The committee is planning to get going after the General Service Conference and will meet at the Grandview Lodge in Nisswa.

POLICIES REGARD THE AREA WEBSITE: No new information was given so this will continue to stay under old business. The Webmaster is planning to do some research and get back to Area 35

AREA INVENTORY: The area inventory needs to be discussed to see if we want one at the Fall Assembly. The area chair is going to bring information back in formation to the area at the June Committee Meeting. DCMs were asked to see if their district wants the Area to complete another inventory. One Area member felt that if we are going to complete an Area 35 inventory that we do something with the results.

STATE FAIR: Area 36 has voted and approved moving the State Fair Booth from the grandstand to the healthcare building at the State Fair. If this cannot happen this year it will happen next year. If Area 35 votes to continue to support Area 36 at the State Fair, we would need to pay \$500.00 to Area 36. Area 35 would cover the State Fair booth for the first weekend of the fair. Discussion: Have we talked about and voted on this in the past? We need to vote on this each year and currently we have not voted. One GSR stated that his group was very much in favor of working and contributing to the state fair. One Area member who has worked the State Fair Booth feels this has been a huge success; however she is concerned with how many drunks will come to the booth if it is in the Health-

Care Building. **Motion was made to continue supporting the State Fair Booth in partnering with Area 36 contributing a cost of \$500.00. This was Seconded. Vote: 54 in favor and 4 opposed. Minority did not wish to speak. Motions Passed.**

SECRETARIES COMMITTEE ON UPDATING ACTION BOOKLET: The Area 35 Secretary has one person who is willing to be a part of the committee. She is asking more people to volunteer.

AREA FINANCIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE: Ted a Past West Central Regional Trustee came to the Spring Assembly to give a brief report to Area 35 as to the financial review committee that is looking over the 2008/2009 finances. Ted and Bill have received more information during the Spring Assembly and are going to talk with the past treasurer from the 2008/2009 rotation. Ted and Bill are planning to have a report for the Area by the June Committee Meeting. An Area member asked if the review committee needs anything else from us to do a thorough review. Ted feels they have enough information at this time. An Area member wanted to know what type of reports is Area 35 going to get from the financial review committee. The review committee wants to give us the most accurate report they can and after talking to members of Area 35 this weekend, they feel they cannot give us that report. A member of Area 35 wanted to know what we are going to get from the financial review committee. They are planning to talk with the past Treasurer and past Area Chair to discuss the 2008/2009 financial statements. Right now they are planning to recreate the financial statements. A member wanted to know if we will be getting a detail report from the financial review committee. The committee feels they are going to try and recreate as much as they can. They want to come up with a report that Area 35 will feel comfortable with the results.

AREA FINANCIAL OVER-SITE COMMITTEE

We have three people who are willing to be a part of this committee with the Area Chair. The committee includes Tom a Past Delegate, Randy a DCM, and Jeff a GSR from the Little Falls Area. They will be going over the financial statement of responsibility. At this time they do not know what the responsibilities of the committee will be. They plan to give a report to the area by the June Committee Meeting. The committee also plans to go over the financial statement of responsibilities and other ideas that Area 35 suggests. One suggestion for the Over-Site Committee was to have duplicate copies of the Area 35 Expense Vouchers so that the Treasurer and Committee Chairs/Officers have a copy. Another suggestion was that the entire committee does not need to come to an area function and give a report. Someone who is coming to the Area function could give the report. If we follow this suggestion there will be no cost to the Area for the committee.

NEW BUSINESS

AREA FINANCES, COMMITMENTS AND EXPENDITURES: The Area Chair apologized about not discussing this at the February Committee meeting and that the Area did not decide who they want to send to the WCRAASC. Letters were given to the Area Chair from concerned groups in regards to this issue of sending 13 people to the WCRAASC and if Area 35 is being prudent with funds. One GSR felt that sending the Area chairs and officers to the conference would there be enough people in the breakout sessions and the WCRAASC and get our ideas to the region. Would we be able to get the information back if we did not have enough people present? One person brought up that we should not be so tight with our money. We need to have some trust in our trusted servants and believe they are going to be prudent with our money. What can we do to help GSRs who are new so they can ask questions (Buddy System)? These events are important and since we have 500 meetings in our area we should have 500 people in this room. One GSR feels these conferences are important to our area and that we should send Area members. A GSR would like Area 35 to look at what they can do to be more prudent with money. In our area we have stated that these people need to go to these events and should be supported. If we do not want to send them, the area needs to make a motion and vote on who they would like to attend. Area 35 has the right to decide who goes to these events, but unless we make a motion they are going to follow their guidelines. Next year the WCRAASC will be in our Area so everyone will get the chance to see what the event is all about and decide for them self if this is a worthwhile event. One concern is having the Zonal Forums for people to meet Area officers and do we need them. Another concern is shall the January workshop continue and are they worthwhile for us. Do we get enough out of the January Workshop and Zonal Forums? The WCRAASC will be voted on at the February Committee and also the budgets will be voted on during this time. A suggested that each event could be put on the agenda as a new item and then discuss this at the next assembly so that GSR can bring this back to their groups. **This will be tabled and discussed at the Fall Assembly.**

35/36 JOINT WORKSHOP: Area 36 will be hosting this workshop and we will get the information as soon as it is available.

DCM ORIENTATION: Motion was made to hold a DCM orientation every other year at the start of the new rotation (even years) during the January Service Workshop. The motion was seconded. Discussion: Past DCMs asked past delegate to run the DCM orientation and right now they want to make an official motion so that it is in the actions booklet. The reason for the confusion was that it was thought that the previous delegate would hold the DCM orientation. It was brought up that if we use the new past delegate, then we are going to have to pay for their expenses. The suggest was made and agreed by the person making the motion to have one past delegate who is planning to attend the January Workshop do the orientation so there would be no cost to the Area. This means that the new past delegate does not have to do the orientation. **Motion was made to hold a DCM orientation every other year at the start of a new rotation (even years) during the January Service Workshop put on by a past delegate. The motion was seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

CASH BOX: There was money in a cash box and Area 35 needs to decide if we should credit this money to the past treasurer's amends. One member felt we should wait until we get the information back from the past audit so we can see if they find anything else. Neither the Past Treasurer nor the Past Area Chair knows if the cash box was full and of money. The treasurer is going to discuss this with the past chair. **This will be tabled until the June committee meeting.** As for the air marked fund that were to be placed towards the past treasurer's amends. The person who sent this money decided that the money should just be a donation to the Area from the sleepy hollow group and not air marked funds.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Superior Round-up: April 16-18, at Superior Fair Grounds Curling Club, Superior, WI
Iron Range Get-Together: April 30th to May 2nd at Wendigo Lodge, Grand Rapids, MN
Spring Celebration of Recovery: May 15th at the Moose Lodge, Waite Park, MN
2010 Fall Assembly: October 2-3, at the Seven Clans Casino, Thief River Falls, MN
District 5 12 Step Workshop: May 22nd from 11am -3pm in Zimmerman, MN
Wild Rice Round-up: August 6TH
Keep It Simple Weekend: August 13-15 at Camp Chicagami on Pleasant Lake (South of Eveleth)

ASK IT BASKET (Past Delegates)

Is it possible that we trim down the agenda so we do not run so late on the night?

This would need to be discussed with the Area Chair.

How do you vote on something only committee member get to see (for your eyes only)?

The reason agenda items became "for your eyes only" this came about because a story got leaked out to the public before it was approved. If this gets discussed at the Conference our delegate can discuss our concerns.

At the WCRAASC why did they not talk about the agenda items during the breakout sessions?

The agenda items are discussed as a body so everyone gets to hear about them and others opinions. During the breakout sessions, they just talk about items or concerns under that topic.

How beneficial are Zonal Forums? Do you feel these are beneficial?

This was started so that we can have the Area officers meet people in different Zones since some areas do not have money to send everyone to Area events. The costs of Zonal Forums are not that much (about \$100) for what the districts get out of the forum. We need to hold the Area Officers and DCM responsible for showing up and getting the word out about the zonal forums. The past delegate feels these are beneficial if they are properly done.

When will we have a large print AA Comes of Age?

They have seen them at the WCRAASC and they should be for sale soon.

Could we save the district reports until after we vote?

Generally organizational meetings are set-up where you do the reports before the voting. If the voting was done before the reports many people would leave and not listen to the reports. In the AA service manual they do suggest putting the reports before the voting.

There are many additions and changes to the agenda, what could we cut or take out in the agenda so we are not making any charges?

I do not know.

Why do we pass the basket during the GSR sharing session?

The area has nothing to do with the GSR or DCM sharing session. All the Area is responsible for is providing a room for the sharing sessions.

Could the FNV information be feed into one database at GSO and then be available as an online directory?

Talk with the Webmaster and the Group Records Secretary? This could be an Agenda item for the GSC. We need to get the Area Records Secretary and Webmaster together with Area 36 and finish some of the final details for the AA meeting locator.org.

Maybe as a fellowship we need to look at what Unity is with having event falling on the same weekend as other events.

We have area policies as to when the assemblies are held, and that these are not going to change. The Area need to make sure we are conducting our event on the days we have voted to have the events. The Area Officers should be getting places to stay up to 4 years in advanced and making sure that AA members in Area 35 know the typical dates for Area functions.

I gave the district my email so that I can get the minutes and now I am getting emails that have nothing to do with the district or AA.

You should only be getting AA stuff when you are giving your email address to your district or Area. You should talk with the district about this.

Could we have pro/con presentations on the agenda items?

They have done these in the past and had two people research the information being presented. Each person would take sides on the issue and present their information.

Area we obligated to buy coffee from the facility.

No, but if we do not get coffee from the facility we will not have coffee at the area event.

ADJOURN

We wished our delegate off to the General Service Conference and he said a few words. We closed at 1:00pm with the Responsibility Statement

Ok, Just One More...**12 things NOT to say to a cop!**

1. I can't reach my license unless you hold my beer.
2. Sorry, Officer, I didn't realize my radar detector wasn't plugged in.
3. Aren't you the guy from the Village People?
4. Hey, you must've been doing' about 125 mph to keep up with me!
5. Are you Andy or Barney?
6. I thought you had to be in relatively good physical condition to be a police officer.
7. You're not gonna check the trunk are you?
8. I pay your salary!
9. Gee, Officer! That's terrific. The last officer only gave me a warning too!
10. Do you know why you pulled me over? Okay, just so one of us does.
11. I was trying to keep up with traffic. Yes, I know there are no other cars around. That's how far ahead of me they are.
12. When the Officer says "Son, Your eyes look red, have you been drinking?"
You probably shouldn't respond with, "Officer, your eyes looked glazed, have you been eating donuts?"

Bring Yer mind..The Rest will Follow

Top Ten Reasons To Go To a Meeting Naked...

1. Your Sponsor is always yelling, "I wanna see your butt in the meeting by 8:00!"
2. Can take advantage of Beach meetings to work on your tan.
3. "I can't put a dollar in the basket I left my wallet in my pants."
4. To stop those creepy addicts from looking down your blouse.
5. You no longer need to share "intellectually" to be noticed
6. So that with a little help you can add "Exotic Dancer" to your exaggerated story.
7. People stop asking to borrow your pens after they've seen where you keep them.
8. Diverts attention from the fact that you also came to the meeting high.
9. Gives "bad hair day" a whole new meaning.
10. No one steals your chair.

THERE WAS EXACTLY \$17.04 left of her paycheck when she got home late that night. Her husband read her the riot act, and when he'd finished, the drunk wife said, "Well, at least I bought something for the house."

The husband brightened. "What was it?" he asked.

"A round of drinks," she said.

An Alternative Meeting Preamble

This is the text of a preamble that is purported to have been used in prior years at AA Meetings

We are gathered here because we are faced with the fact that we are powerless over alcohol and unable to do anything about it without the help of a Power greater than ourselves. We feel that each person's religious views, if any, are his own affair. The simple purpose of the program of Alcoholics Anonymous is to show what may be done to enlist the aid of a Power greater than ourselves regardless of what our individual conception of that Power may be.

In order to form a habit of depending upon and referring all we do to that Power, we must at first apply ourselves with some diligence. By often repeating these acts, they become habitual and the help rendered becomes natural to us.

We have all come to know that as alcoholics we are suffering from a serious illness for which medicine has no cure. Our condition may be the result of an allergy which makes us different from other people. It has never been by any treatment with which we are familiar, permanently cured. The only relief we have to offer is absolute abstinence, the second meaning of A.A.

There are no dues or fees. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. Each member squares his debt by helping others to recover. An Alcoholics Anonymous is an alcoholic who through application and adherence to the A.A. program has forsworn the use of any and all alcoholic beverage in any form. The moment he takes so much as one drop of beer, wine, spirits or any other alcoholic beverage he automatically loses all status as a member of Alcoholics Anonymous. A.A. is not interested in sobering up drunks who are not sincere in their desire to remain sober for all time. Not being reformers, we offer our experience only to those who want it.

We have a way out on which we can absolutely agree and on which we can join in harmonious action. Rarely have we seen a person fail who has thoroughly followed our program. Those who do not recover are people who will not or simply cannot give themselves to this simple program. Now you may like this program or you may not, but the fact remains, it works. It is our only chance to recover.

There is a vast amount of fun in the A.A. fellowship. Some people might be shocked at our seeming worldliness and levity but just underneath there lies a deadly earnestness and a full realization that we must put first things first and with each of us the first thing is our alcoholic problem. To drink is to die. Faith must work twenty-four hours a day in and through us or we perish.

In order to set our tone for this meeting I ask that we bow our heads in a few moments of silent prayer and meditation.

I wish to remind you that whatever is said at this meeting expresses our own individual opinion as of today and as of up to this moment. We do not speak for A.A. as a whole and you are free to agree or disagree as you see fit, in fact, it is suggested that you pay no attention to anything which might not be reconciled with what is in the A.A. Big Book.

If you don't have a Big Book, it's time you bought you one. Read it, study it, live with it, loan it, scatter it, and then learn from it what it means to be an A.A.

"WOE IS ME!" sighs Dick R., a director of the San Francisco Alano Club.

"Here I am--seven years sober--and I just had my second AA birthday."

It is a fact. Dick got sober and came into AA on February 29, 1952--Leap Year. His first birthday came February 29, 1956. He just had his second birthday on February 29, 1960.

Good News

California

Once Over Lightly

TO WRAP up this month's roaming through alcoholism, we are indebted to John B. of The Bronx for this description of not making AA at the first try: "When I first came around AA, I was in and out like a fiddler's elbow."

2010 – AREA 35 SCHEDULE

Summer Splash Campout - Call Spencer (320) 533-3005
June 25 - 27
Dower Lake, Staples MN

WEEKEND WITH BILL AND LOIS—Call 218-244-2111
July 9-11
Camp Hiawatha
Deer River, MN

Wild Rice Round-up
August 6TH
Mahnomn, MN

Keep It Simple Weekend 31st Annual
August 13-15 Call Gwen or Jerry 218-744-1585
Camp Chicagami on Pleasant Lake
(South of Eveleth)

**1st ANNUAL STAPLES AA
ROUND-UP RENDEZVOUS**
AUGUST 27-29
Old Wadena Campground, Staples

65th Annual Duluth Roundup
September 24-26
Postal Contact: Duluth Roundup Committee, PO Box
16771, Duluth, MN 55816-0771
Website: duluthroundup.org
Email: duluthroundup@gmail.com

Fall Assembly 2010
October 2-3
Seven Clans Casino
Thief River Falls, MN

June 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

July 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Upcoming Events in Areas 35 & 36

 ** Area 35/36 Workshop
 ** 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 tradition and the A.A. purpose for final effectiveness.
- VIII. The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.
- IX. Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.
- X. Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.
- XI. The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.
- XII. The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

AREA 35 COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA

June 6, 2010

<p>___ 9:00 A.M. Action Chair Committee Meetings</p> <p>___ 10:30 am Area Committee Meeting</p> <p>___ Call to Order Open with the Serenity Prayer</p> <p>___ Recognize Past Delegates</p> <p>___ Add To Agenda</p> <p>___ Approve past meeting minutes</p> <p>OFFICER REPORTS</p> <p>___ Delegate- Jon C.</p> <p>___ Alternate Delegate –Jim K.</p> <p>___ Chair-Michael (Jake) J.</p> <p>___ Secretary-Heidi R.</p> <p>___ Treasurer-Sarah K.</p> <p>COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS</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 LIGHT-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– Mike D.</p>	<p>___ District 21- Carl B.</p> <p>___ WEBMASTER-Ione B</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>___ Lunch</p> <p>OLD BUSINESS</p> <p>___ Spring Assembly Feedback-</p> <p>___ Area 35 Inventory</p> <p>___ Final financial audit</p> <p>___ Financial Oversight Committee</p> <p>___ Area 35/36 Workshop</p> <p>NEW BUSINESS</p> <p>___ General Service Conference Report</p> <p>___</p> <p>___ Calendar of Events</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>___ TBA</p> <p>___ Adjourn</p>
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