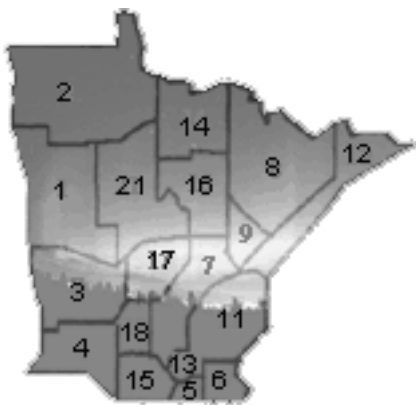


NONPROFIT
ORG
U. S. Postage
Paid
St. Cloud, MN
56301



Deadline for the next
Northern Light is
January 14th, 2011

This is YOUR Newsletter.

Please send your questions or comments for publication to
Daniel R. at NorthernLight@area35.org

Please bring extra copies to share with your group!

Don't forget to visit and bookmark your Area 35 web site! - <http://area35.org>
Event Calendar - Meeting Directory - NL Online - Download Pamphlets - District Pages

AREA 35 COMMITTEE 2010

AREA OFFICERS

DELEGATE
JON C.
delegate@area35.org

ALTERNATE DELEGATE
JIM K.
alt_delegate@area35.org

AREA CHAIR
MICHAEL “JAKE” J.
areachair@area35.org

TREASURER
SARAH K.
treasurer@area35.org

SECRETARY
HEIDI R.
secretary@area35.org

AREA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

PUBLIC INFORMATION
ROGER R.
pi@area35.org

ARCHIVES
ART HUR J. A.
archives@area35.org

ARCHIVIST
BRAD I.
archivist@area35.org

CORRECTIONS
KELLY D.
corrections@area35.org

LITERATURE
BOB K.
liturature@area35.org

GRAPEVINE
DOLORES D. K.
grapevine@area35.org

COOPERATION WITH THE
PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (C.P.C.)
DOUG N.
cpc@area35.org

TREATMENT
ROBERT (BUTCH) R.
treatment@area35.org

WEBMASTER
STEVEN L.
webmaster@area35.org

GROUP RECORDS
LAURIE R.
grouprecords@area35.org

NORTHERN LIGHT
DANIEL R.
northernlight@area35.org

DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

(D.C.M.s)

DISTRICT 1
LON G.
dcm1@area35.org

DISTRICT 2
RODNEY P.
dcm2@area35.org

DISTRICT 3
JIM S.
dcm3@area35.org

DISTRICT 4
DEE DEE B.
dcm4@area35.org

DISTRICT 5
RITA D.
dcm5@area35.org

DISTRICT 6
KATHIE G.
dcm6@area35.org

DISTRICT 7
MARK N.
dcm7@area35.org

DISTRICT 8
RANDY A.
dcm8@area35.org

DISTRICT 9
CHUCK R.
dcm9@area35.org

DISTRICT 11
GARY H.
dcm11@area35.org

DISTRICT 12
JANA M.
dcm12@area35.org

DISTRICT 13
GAYLE S.
dcm13@area35.org

DISTRICT 15
SANDY H.
dcm15@area35.org

DISTRICT 16
MARY S.
dcm16@area35.org

DISTRICT 18
MIKE D.
dcm18@area35.org >>

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

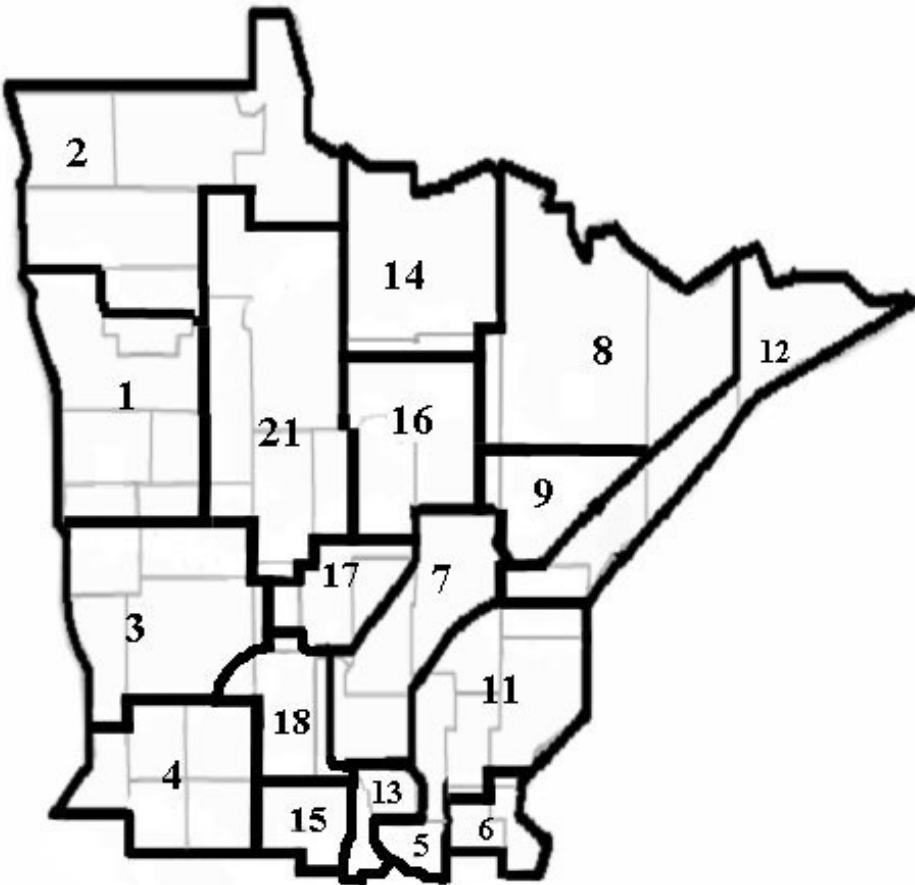
Thank you!

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 of the A.A. directory and helping carry out the triennial membership surveys.
 - Visit groups and districts in the area whenever possible.
 - Work closely with committee members and officers, sharing experience throughout the year. After G.S.R.s and committee members have reported on the Conference, learn from these A.A.s how groups and members have reacted.
 - Assume added responsibility if the area chair and alternate chair are unable to serve. Or, if an area committee is not functioning effectively, the delegate may take an active role in remedying the situation.
 - Keep the alternate delegate fully informed and active, so that the alternate can replace the delegate in an emergency.
 - Late in the second term, work with newly elected delegates to pass along a basic knowledge of Conference proceedings and problems.
- (from The A.A. Service Manual, pages S44-S45)



Area 35

Northern Minnesota

Zone I

- District 1** - Ada, Crookston, Erskine, Fertile, Fosston, Mahnomen, Naytahwaush, Red Lake Falls, Twin Valley, Waubun,
- District 2** - Badger, Baudette, Grygla, Hallock, Halma, Middle River, Rainy River (Ontario, Canada), Roseau, Stephen, Thief River Falls, Warren, Warroad, Williams
- District 16** - Bowstring, Boy River, Cohasset, Deer River, Grand Rapids, Hill City, Lawrence Lake*, Longville
- District 21** - Akeley, Bagley, Bemidji, Blackduck, Cass Lake, Debs, Menahga, Onigum, Park Rapids, Red Lake, Shevlin, Solway,Squaw Lake, Walker

Zone II

- District 3** - Audubon, Barnesville, Battle Lake, Cormorant, Deer Creek, Detroit Lakes, Dilworth, Elizabeth, Erhard, Fergus Falls, Frazee, Hawley, Henning, Lake Park, Moorhead, Osage, Ottertail, Pelican Rapids, Perham, Underwood, Wadena
- District 4** - Alexandria, Browns Valley, Carlos, Elbow Lake, Evansville, Glenwood, Herman, Kensington, Morris, Osakis
- District 15** - Albany, Avon, Cold Spring, Holdingford, Lake Henry, Melrose, Paynesville, Richmond, Sartell, St. Joseph, St. Stephen, Sauk Centre, Watkins

Zone III

- District 5** - Becker, Big Lake, Elk River, Milaca, Otsego, Princeton, Zimmerman
- District 6** - Braham, 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** - 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, Foley
- 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, Knife River, Lawrence Lake*, Lutsen, Mah-towa, Pike Lake, Proctor, Sawyer, Silver Bay, Foxborro (Wisconsin), Side Lake, Superior (Wisconsin), Toivola, Two Harbors
- District 14** - Effie, International Falls, Nett Lake

** In cities marked with an asterisk, some meetings consider themselves to be in one District, and some meetings consider themselves to be in another District.*

District Meeting Location Information

<p>District 1</p> <p>2nd Sunday of even months, 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>Fertile Community Center</p> <p>101 S. Mill St., Fertile, MN 56540</p>	<p>District 6</p> <p>3rd Thursday of Month, 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Spring Lake Lutheran Church</p> <p>8440 Erickson Rd. N.E.</p> <p>North Branch, MN 55056</p>	<p>District 13</p> <p>1st Monday of Month, 7:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.</p> <p>Salem Lutheran Church</p> <p>90 Riverside Drive S.E.</p> <p>Saint Cloud, MN 56301</p>
<p>District 2</p> <p>2nd Sunday of Odd Months, 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>First Lutheran Church</p> <p>210 Park Ave. N.</p> <p>Middle River, MN 56737</p>	<p>District 7</p> <p>3rd Thursday of Month, 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>First Congregational United Church</p> <p>415 Juniper Street</p> <p>Brainerd, MN 56401</p>	<p>District 15</p> <p>1st Monday of Month, 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>Albany Community Center</p> <p>741 Lake Ave.</p> <p>Albany, MN 56307</p>
<p>District 3</p> <p>3rd Sunday of Month, 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Perham Alano Club</p> <p>Hwy 34</p> <p>Perham, MN 56573</p>	<p>District 8</p> <p>Committee Meetings at 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>General District Meeting at 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Call Randy for location “It Rotates”</p> <p>218-225-8833 - Palo, MN</p>	<p>District 16</p> <p>1st Wednesday of Month, 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>United Methodist Church</p> <p>1701 S.E. 8th Ave.</p> <p>Grand Rapids, MN 55744</p> <p>Handicap Accessible, Non-Smoking</p>
<p>District 4</p> <p>2nd Saturday of Month, 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Call DCM Dee Dee (320) 491-7230</p> <p>for location (It Rotates)</p> <p>Potluck at 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Round Robin at 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>District 9</p> <p>Last Sunday of Month, 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Hibbing Alano Club</p> <p>3725 1st Avenue</p> <p>Hibbing, MN 55746</p>	<p>District 18</p> <p>1st Tuesday of Month, 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Long Prairie Alano Club</p> <p>21 2nd Ave.</p> <p>Long Prairie, MN 56347</p>
<p>District 5</p> <p>3rd Monday of Month, 7 p.m.</p> <p>St. John Lutheran Church</p> <p>13045 Fremont Ave</p> <p>Zimmerman, MN 55398</p>	<p>District 11</p> <p>1st Tuesday of Month, 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Peace Lutheran</p> <p>2177 Hwy 18</p> <p>Finlayson, MN 55735</p>	<p>District 21</p> <p>2nd Monday, 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Bemidji Alano Club</p> <p>1225 Anne St.</p>
	<p>District 12</p> <p>3rd Thursday 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Email DCM Jana at dcm12@area35.org</p> <p>for rotating location!</p>	<p>Districts 10, 14, 17, 19 and 20</p> <p>Not currently active or unknown!</p>

Delegate's Report

I hope all is well in Area 35. I hope that we all are extending our hands to anyone, anywhere with a desire to stop drinking. Those of us in service are providing resources, suggestions and ideas to those willing to help. Everyone in our program has something to offer, from 24 hours to many years of sobriety. It is a very humble and gratifying experience to help someone become sober and possibly save their life. In my opinion, there is nothing more satisfying or rewarding.

I believe we had a very productive Fall Assembly. The time we spend reading reports from officers, chairs, and DCM's is necessary to gain experience, knowledge, and sharing to take back home to the groups and members. Assemblies are one of the main communication links between all of our entities in Alcoholics Anonymous.

I was very pleased with our Area Inventory. Members were straightforward and honest. We all have improvements to make and have a committee to implement these improvements. This was not done after our last Area Inventory. I believe all the input and actions taken will make Area 35 better to serve our members.

We had discussion on some agenda that came from the districts. I encourage any DCM with support from their groups to bring any agenda. Questions and suggestions may be brought forward by any member in Area 35. In all honesty, it is best to bring individual suggestions to a group and then to the district. We in Area 35 are and will always be open to make our area better.

Before I turn to what's happening at the G.S.O., I want to thank all of the districts that send me their minutes, as well as Dan for the reminders.

First, Publications. Total distribution of all books for the nine-month period was down 29% from the total distribution of units in the same period during 2009. Non-A.A. orders accounted for 18% of units distributed. Big Book sales, as of September 2010, we sold 672,524 units compared to 1,040,063 units during the same period in 2009. Take into account that intergroups, central offices, non-A.A. accounts purchase large inventories prior to July 2009, when the price of the Big Book increased. Gross sales for all publications were 11.82% under budget.

There were two personnel changes at the G.S.O., effective November 1st. Doug R. will be the Director of Staff Services and Rick W. will be Staff Coordinator. He will act as a liaison for both the IOWC and G.S.O. E. Tech. Team. Also, April H. will become our Associate Archivist.

Contributions to the G.S.O. were 2.3% above budget and \$140,200 or 3.2% more than last year. In Area 35, we had about 2% of the groups participate. Thank you on behalf of the G.S.O. for your contributions. We must try harder to encourage groups to contribute. We have a challenge, so let us all encourage group participation by getting out to the groups and attending local events and workshops.

The Grapevine, for the first nine months, had a net loss. There was \$274,246 in total expenses, which were \$2,779 over budget. The La Vina had a net loss of \$47,320 and is better than last year and ahead of 2010 projected budget. The Trustees Finance Committee made a decision to draw down from the reserve fund \$300,000 to cover the deficits. The Grapevine Board is moving forward with digital editions of the Grapevine and La Vina, as well as E-book editions, which will be offered at the same price as the actual book. We now have a new executive editor/publisher, who is Ami B.

Our two proposals are progressing and will be sent to the Conference Coordinator by the end of November. Thank you to all who made recommendations.

Remember that we will be holding the WCRAASC at the Grandview Lodge in Nisswa, MN on March 4-6, 2011. This would be a great opportunity for anyone interested in AA or service work to attend.

I will be attending the local forum in Rapid City, SD. I look forward to expanding our services to areas that have not participated in the past.

I would like to thank each and every one in Area 35 for your support and opportunity to serve.

God Bless,
Jon C.

Alternate Delegate's Report

Greetings Fellow Area 35 Members,

I hope you all enjoyed a beautiful fall and are getting ready for our upcoming exciting winter season. I am constantly reminded that no matter the season, there is plenty of work to be done in Alcoholics Anonymous and I need to be doing what I can to help reach the alcoholic who still suffers. The past couples of months have provided lots of different opportunities to be involved with carrying the message in Area 35. These have included completing our second Zonal Forum for the year, attending the Fall Assembly, continued work on our Annual Area 35 Service Workshop, and participating in a district inventory.

We completed our 2nd zonal forum, held in Zone 3, on September 18th, 2010. District 6 hosted the event which was held in the Foundation Room the Cambridge Hospital. The event was well attended and received. All current feedback from this year's zonal forums has been quite positive and encouraging in continuing to hold them. This has been an issue that has been raised for the past several rotations and one that we are always looking for further feedback on.

I want to thank the Area for supporting me to attend our Annual Fall Assembly in Thief River Falls in October. This was a well attended event which allowed us to discuss a number of topics. I am hopeful that the work done on the inventory will be put to good use as we look at how we can better carry the message in Area 35. This feedback from the inventory has been added to the agenda for our Area 35 Service Workshop.

And speaking of our 35th Annual Area 35 Service workshop, it is scheduled for January 15th and 16th, 2010 at the Coates Plaza Hotel in Virginia, MN. We agreed at the Fall Assembly to change the format for this year's event. Our hope is to increase both information presented as well as participation from those attending. Our guest for the weekend will be Conley B., current Southwest Regional Trustee. He will be presenting on the Concepts as well as answering any questions at our open sharing session. You may reserve a room by calling 218-749-1000 under the block for NMAA.

I was able to attend and participate in a District 13 Inventory on November 1, 2010 in St. Cloud. This was the first opportunity I have had to proctor a district inventory and found the experience to be fact finding and fact facing experience. I want to thank District 13 for inviting me to participate in the process with them and hope that the information that came out is useful in the future. The members of that district did a great job of identifying what areas they were making progress in but also, and more importantly, did an excellent job of identifying areas where changes and improvements can be made.

Thanks for this continued opportunity to be of serve Area 35.
Yours in Service,
Jim K.

Chair's Report

Hope everyone is doing well. Its already coming to the end of my first year and still feel like I'm new at this. I enjoyed the Fall assembly but it was a little hectic. Really appreciate all who take part in the discussions and your participation. Some may not realize how important your opinions and experiences are to making our area as strong as it is. It has been a busy time of the year....when isn't...but always helps me grow and most of the time pushes me to use the tools given to us in the program. It seems like the longer you are sober the harder you have to work to keep spiritual growth. It sure is worth it though. A great man once inferred that It would not be easy but worth it. So true. I have been privileged to keep my commitment speaking at our local treatment center and was able to go to our correctional facility with a sponsee and share our stories. Have some new people God has brought forth into my life and that is so much of an honor to work with them...I get way more than they do. I attended the District 8 Concepts workshop, thanks Randy and District 8, I learned a lot from the presenters and also in having to present. It was done well. My topics were Concepts 9, 10 and 11. I hope I did them the same justice that everyone else did. The beautiful weather has kept life busy with all the things sobriety brings to life..Helping our kids move, watching grandchildren, deer hunting and all the rest of life. May you also be blessed with full and useful lives as that is what we strive for. Have not had many calls on problems to work on, that's either a blessing or people just aren't speaking up. If there is anyway I can be of service let me know. I will not be attending the extra Conference in Rapid City but we will be well represented. I keep praying for Jon and his health.

May you all be blessed with lives full of Promises and the gratitude of service.

Thanks for all you do.

Michael "Jake" J.

Secretary's Report

Greetings Area 35,

Well, what a busy month it has been for me. I was not able to start working on the Fall Assembly Minutes and Area Inventory right away which caused me to work some long nights to get it done on time. When you review the Fall Assembly Minutes and Area Inventory, please let me know if you find any corrections that need to be made. We went over a lot of business at the Fall Assembly and I tried to get everything in the minutes that was discussed and also make it sound the way it was explained. When I went back through what we discussed at the Fall Assembly, it amazed me how dedicated and passionate people are in A.A. I am grateful to be a part of an Area that works so hard to better A.A. as a whole and try to help the still suffering alcoholic. Besides typing the minutes and the inventory, I have also typed the WCRAASC committee meeting minutes from 10/3/10. If you would like the WCRAASC Committee Meeting Minutes, Assembly/Committee Meeting Minutes, flyers, and/or the Area 35 Inventory sent to you by email, please let me know and I will add you to the list. I also have to apologize to the Area because I was supposed to be sending the Assembly and Committee Meeting Minutes to GSO and the West Central Regional Trustee and I have not. I did not realize I was supposed to do this until it dawned on me during the Fall Assembly. I have now added both emails to my distribution list. From the Inventory, I got many ideas for ways we can make Alcoholics Anonymous better in Area 35. I am looking forward to seeing how well the new agenda works for the January Workshop and am eager to learn.

Yours in Service,
Heidi R.

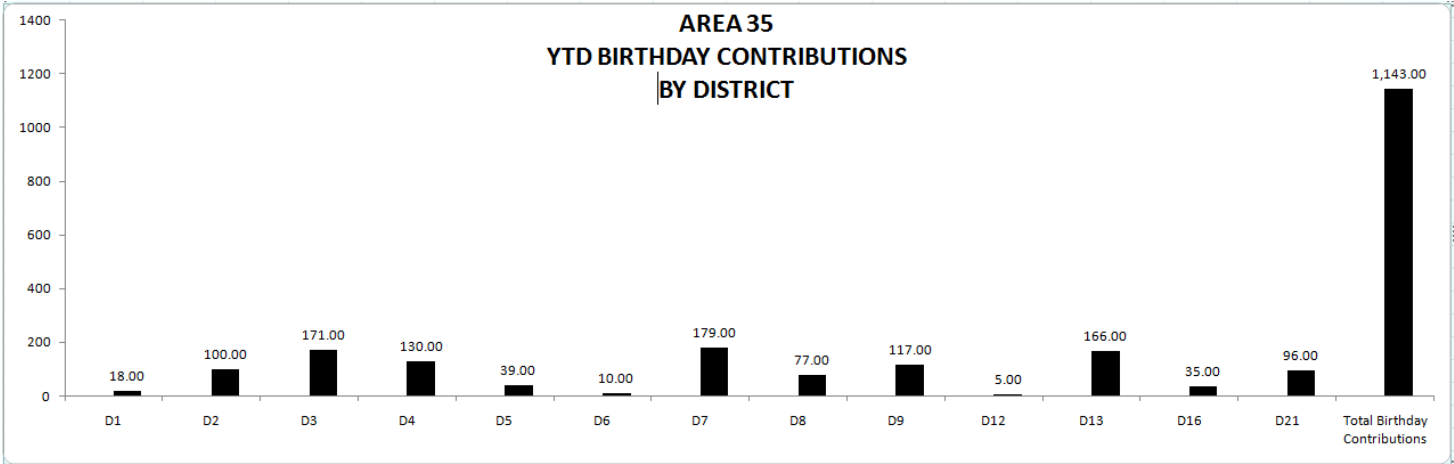
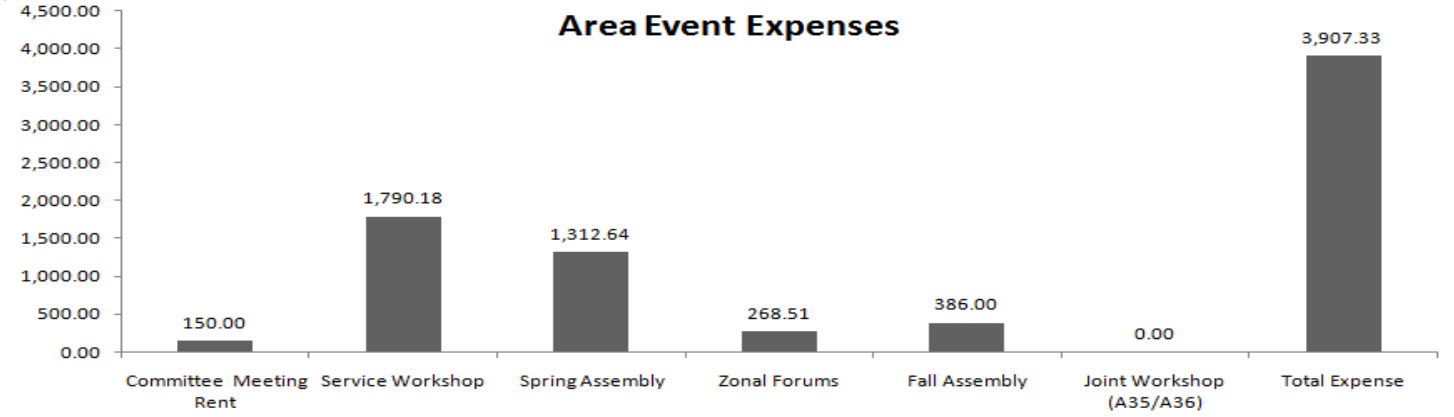
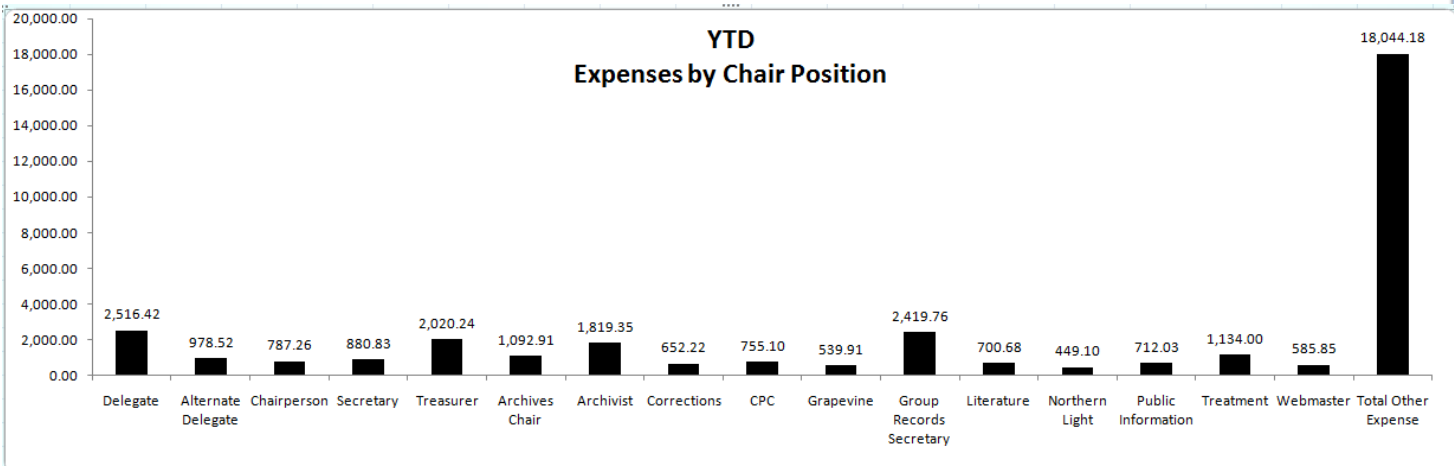
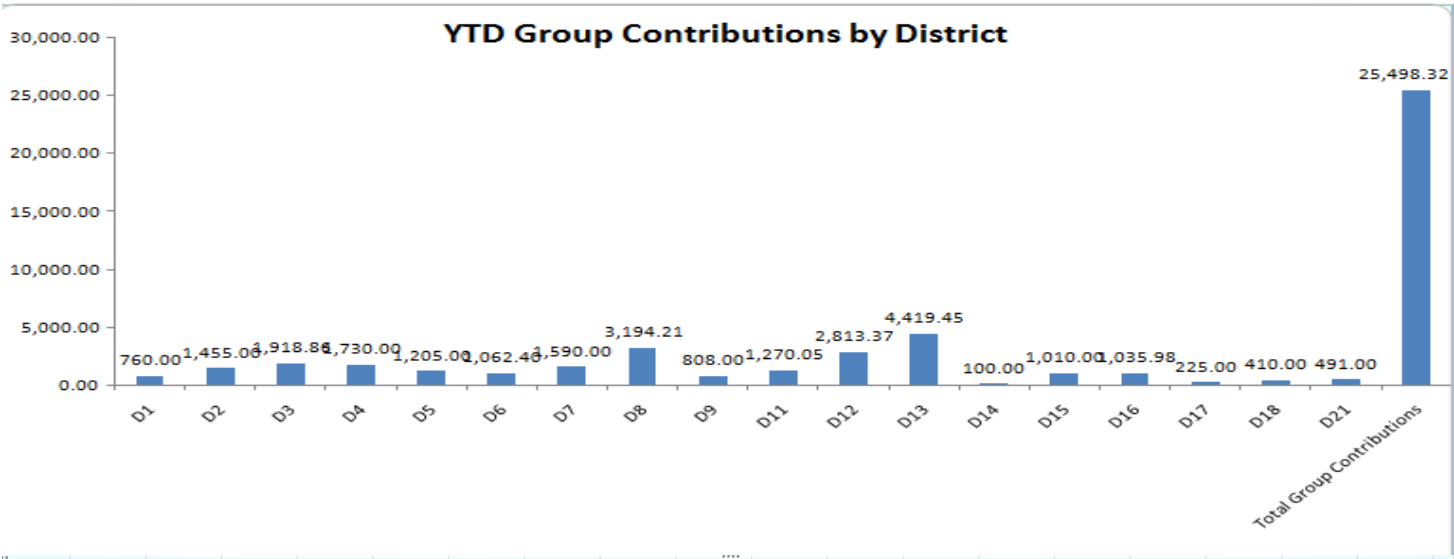
Treasurer's Report

Greetings Area 35! I am excited to share with you the latest financial figures for our Area in the form of several charts. I am pleased to announce that thanks to the hard work and dedication of the groups and individual members, **our total assets equal \$17,624.45!** Please check out the charts and graphs detailing our expenses and income for Jan. 1, 2010 to Nov. 11, 2010 and share the images with your group! **So far we have received over \$1,140 in birthday contributions.** That is wonderful! But I think it would be really amazing to see how much total sobriety we have in this Area. I bet it's more than 1,140 years. Talk to your group members about sending in a **birthday contribution** each year on their AA sobriety birthday as a way to celebrate their sobriety and show their gratitude to AA. As you know, the Area relies solely on the financial contributions from groups and individuals in order to continue providing services to the groups of Northern MN. These services include arranging for meeting places so the groups can share their conscience and become informed on issues pertaining to AA as a whole, as well as taking care of all the little details that these meetings require: a **treasurer** to keep accurate record of income and expenses, who is also responsible for printing the financial reports; a **secretary** to keep accurate minutes of our meeting discussions for future reference, and compile a booklet of actions taken by the Area; an **area chair** to run the meeting and set up the facilities; a **delegate** to carry the groups' conscience to the General Service Office; an **Alternate Delegate** to assist the delegate and area chair in planning, and to keep informed of everything the delegate knows in case the delegate becomes unable to continue his/her service; and finally, all **the area action committee chairs** who facilitate sharing sessions and assist groups in their various service activities.

Treasurer's Report Continued on next page >>>

Treasurer's Report Continued from page 6

Most importantly though, we expect our Area committee members to be well informed on past area actions, the service manual, the traditions, and ultimately help assist the groups by facilitating an informed group conscience. Without all these vital pieces, the groups of Area 35 would become isolated from AA as a whole, a very scary situation we surely want to avoid! So please continue talking to your groups about the importance of sending money to the three entities: District, Area, and GSO. If you have any questions about the Area’s expenses or income, please feel free to contact me at treasurer@area35.org.
Peace and Harmony! Sarah



STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC INFORMATION

As we approach the end of the first year of this rotation I would encourage all PI Chairs to reflect on what we have done and what we would like to accomplish in terms of carrying our message. I enjoyed attending the Fall Assembly from Oct. 2-3 in Thief River Falls. For me one of the highlights of the assembly was engaging in our area inventory. Many people participated in assessing different dimensions of our area from communications to how we conduct our assemblies to how we are all performing in our roles as trusted servants. The fact that we conducted

an inventory was very positive. As we all strive for progress it would be a good idea to predetermine how the area is going to use the inventory data to make recommendations on how we can more effectively function as an area and carry our message. I enjoyed presenting at my first PI Breakfast in Grand Rapids MN on October 29. I would like to thank District 16 for giving me an opportunity to present to a group of about 20 professionals. My presentation covered some of my recovery story and how professionals played a key role in my journey. I also covered what AA is and is not, some AA history and why professional's re-

ferrals are critical to AA's continued success. If your district does not currently host PI or CPC breakfasts/luncheons maybe this is a good time to plan one for net year. Please feel free to contact me on planning a PI event. I will not be attending the additional regional forum in Rapid City due to a prior commitment to speak at a meeting in Grand Rapids, MN on Saturday November 13, 2010. I look forward to seeing you all at the December Committee Meeting and/or January Workshop.

In service,
Roger R.

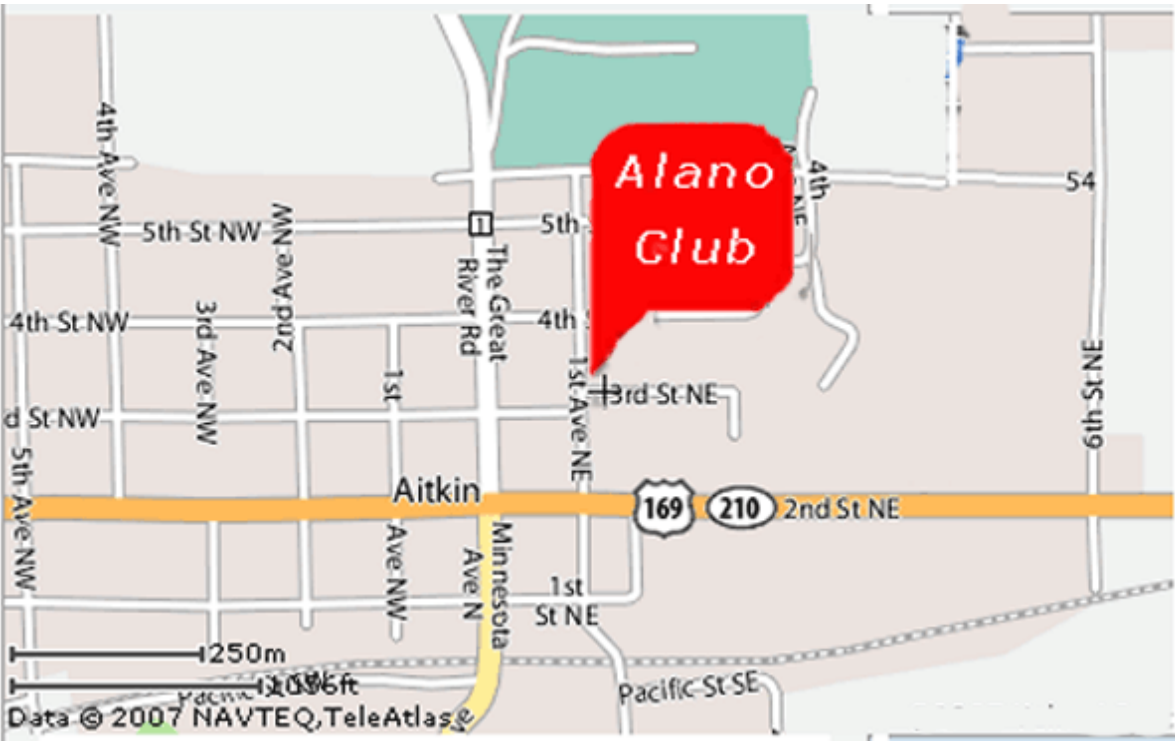
Inclement Weather Procedure For Area 35 Events

- 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

It is hard to believe that we are close to the end of the first year of this rotation. What a busy year it has been for us in Area 35 working together to carry the message! As I look back I remind myself how important it is to have an “attitude of gratitude” for the new life I have been given through the program of Alcoholics Anonymous and the opportunity I have to be of service to learn and grow with all of you.

Butch and I held our Zone 1 Treatment/Corrections Workshop in Thief River Falls and had 40 in attendance. Thank you to everyone that was a part of making this a successful workshop. I also attended the Fall Assembly and was a part of the Area 35 inventory that was done. As we all know this is an opportunity to take a look at what we can do to be of better service. My thoughts on what came out of this inventory are not so important, what is important I feel is that “we” as an area work together and focus on what changes can be done to better serve. I would like to thank everyone that will be on the committee and look forward to seeing the positive results that this inventory will bring to our area. We met in our Area Action Committee at the Fall Assembly and had representation from 6 Districts.

The Corrections Chairs continue to work hard at making sure they are fulfilling their commitments going into the correctional facilities in their areas. Discussion on what can we do to get more individuals involved in service remains an issue. There has been a turn over with District Corrections Chairs and we still have several Districts that do not have representation. Numbers attending our committee meetings have been low. I do want to say however that the DCM's from those Districts have worked with me to make sure that we are fulfilling our commitments. A special thank you to all of them for their help and commitment to be of service so that we can continue to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic in our correction facilities.

Our three legacies are recovery, unity and service. If you feel that you would like to give back what was freely given to you why not consider getting involved in some area of service work? I had the opportunity to present on Corrections at District 5's Workshop on November 6th along with Brad and Art our Area 35 Archivists. Thank you to District 5 for inviting us to be a part of it and all that attended. I want to say also that I am more than willing to visit any of your Districts and be of service and help in anyway I can. Please feel free to contact me anytime. As the holiday season is once again upon us I would like to wish you all a joyous and free holiday season.

Thank you allowing me to be of service and be a part of this wonderful fellowship that will forever keep me grateful.

In love and service,
Kelly D.

COOPERATION WITH THE
PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (C.P.C.)
No Report Given

GROUP RECORDS

Hi everyone, its been a busy month for me since the assembly. I keep working on updates for FNV and passing them on to Steve our Area Webmaster so that he can update the website. I also continue updating aameetinglocator.org (the joint meeting website for areas 35 &36). I also continue to answer emails and phone calls that I receive about meeting information. I am also realizing that I am not perfect and occasionally make a mistake that needs to be fixed. I am learning from those so that I do not repeat them again.

Yours in Service Laurie R.

ARCHIVIST

Greetings from the archives. I had the full display set up at the ST. Cloud Round Up and was very well received. There was a lot of interest in the “Your Faith” magazine photocopies and the corrected copy of the pre publication multi- lith of the Big Book. I will be doing a joint display with Area 36 for “Founders Day” in St Louis Park Thanksgiving weekend.

I was grateful to be able to participate in the Area Inventory. As for the Archives Inventory it is progressing. A full inventory had not been done for almost 20 years and it is slow work. And the collection grows while I inventory what we already have.

Recent contributions to the Archives include “ The Liquid Cross of Skid Row”, a fascinating book of the work being done to bring the shivering denizens of Chicago’s Skid Row a message of hope and Recovery. This book was published in 1966. A really fun contribution was a 1948 “World Astrology” magazine with A.A.’s horoscope using the 10th of June 1935 as AA’s birthday.

I have a history challenge for all of you. In the Chapter “To Wives” find the part of a sentence that could not have been in the First Edition. I will have the answer in the next issue.

Yours in service,
Brad I.

ARCHIVE CHAIR

District 9 will be having a long-timers panel from 1pm-3pm at the Hibbing Alano Club. District 7 will be having an Archives Workshop on December 16th in Brainerd - Their Archivist is putting together and organizing their Archival material and will be storing their Archives at the Crow Wing County historical society in a bank box. District 6 is looking into recording Long Timers and collecting all Archival material fro them. District 8 will be recording their past and present District Officers and Committee Chairs to Archive their service history. The committee all thought this was an awesome idea and other districts may want the same thing. District 2 and the groups in it are starting to realize the importance of archiving. Hazelton has been given the rights to publish the original manuscript of the Big Book called “The book that started it all” which were given to them by an AA member who purchased it at an auction for a million dollars. In Service Art A.

GRAPEVINE

Fall Assembly was very interesting as we worked through our Area 35 Inventory. It will be interesting to see how we put it into action. Grapevine report to GS Board was not a good picture of the financial report.

Approved moving forward with a Digital Edition of Grapevine and LaVina.

Approved moving forward with E-Book editions of Grapevine and LaVina books in downloadable PDF format at the same price as the book, fulfilled through a third party vendor. approved the proposal to publish a Step by Step (working title) book in September 2011. Approved revised subscription bundle pricing to \$10, \$15, and \$29 discounts for a limited time only. Changes are definitely in the works.

Price list update:
Grapevine Printed \$26.97 annual subscription
Grapevine digital \$19.97
Grapevine Audio \$19.97
Limited price when bundled \$10.00 of the price of two
LaVina Printed Version \$11.95 annual subscription
digital version \$9.95 annual subscription
Purchase both and get \$5.00 off
Looking forward to seeing everyone at the December Committee meeting.
Yours in Service
Dee K.

WEBMASTER

Howdy Everybody,
I would like to thank everybody that has sent in updates for the Web Site meeting directory. Laurie and I have been working diligently to keep abreast of all the meeting changes that are constantly being brought to our attention in our area updating both the Web Site and the official records with the Area and GSO.

I have tried to be prompt in posting flyers to the Web Site and there have been a many. Some have had to be touched up a little bit. So please, when sending flyers by snail mail print the information on white paper. It scans in a lot better and it is easier to touch up. In uploading PDF or Word format flyers color or designs do not matter. Just remember to give Date, Time, Complete Location (not everyone knows where the old rock church next to the field that caught on fire in the tornado in 72 is) speakers or event.

I REPEAT

In order to provide the best service possible, current and correct meeting information is an absolute requirement in today's high tech world . Here is my challenge to you. Have someone in your District do a master check between what meetings are listed on the Area35.org Web site and what is listed in your current meeting directory (plus any updates). Ask your PI committee or enlist someone specific to do this task there is more to a district than having the DCM to do all the work. Have them check meeting days, meeting locations, starting times, Group names, meeting type (BB, 12x12, discussion, etc.) open/closed and handicap accessible.

It's easier to find where to make the changes in the web site when you list and label both the old information and new change in information. If there are any changes to be made list them like this as an example:

(write in the correct data for the italicized name)

Group name - same
Meeting day - same
Starting time - old time 8:00pm new time 7::00pm
Meeting type - old discussion new Big Book
Old open new Closed
Handicap accessible - Old no New yes

Then e-mail me using the webmaster e-mail so I can make the changes in the Web site and pass the information on to our records secretary Laurie R. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have about this.

Dan has also been a great help. He found a form generator on gmail that bares some looking into so that online group update changes can be added to the web site.

Now a little about the Web site in the month Sept on we had 3503 total visits with per day 119 from 53 different countries, 2520 hits looking at the calendar, 933 hits looking for meetings, 388 hits looking for contact information. In the month Oct on we had 3261 total visits with per day 105 from 32 different countries, 2489 hits looking at the calendar, 828 hits looking for meetings, 328 hits looking for contact information.

Of the hits looking for meetings 113 were search strings looking for meetings in the Duluth area, 26 for St Cloud all the rest generic search strings like 198 hits looking up area35. So the site is being used.

Thank You for your help and cooperation in this endeavor.
Yours in Service
Steven L.

LITERATURE

After the Fall Assembly and the ask it basket question for a large print AA Comes Of Age I sent request to the Literature coordinator asking if this would be considered as a agenda item; the request was forwarded to the Publications Director that it will go to committee for consideration. That meeting is Dec 17. If you are in need of a catalog you can call the literature ordering department at 1-212-870-3312 and they will send you one. The total book sales for AAWS is down about 1/3 from last year and big books were down by not quite 50%. Our sales at the fall assembly were down also. Below is from an email I got in response to my query about the AA COA book.

Dear Bob,
Many thanks for your thoughtful email of October 4th which represents several requests for A.A. Comes of Age in large print format. Your email will be forwarded to the A.A. World Services Publishing Committee for consideration at their December 17, 2010 meeting. I will report back to you as soon as possible after this meeting with the results of their deliberations. With very best regards,
Valerie O.
Publications Director
A.A. World Services, Inc.

Yours in service Bob K.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

Northern Light

This issue was for me about getting it done on time. I was asked to do what I need to do to get the Northern Light to the printer and mailed out well before the next area meeting. I hope this happens but we'll have to see, the deadline for reports was November 10th as posted on the cover of the last issue.

Jim K. our Alt-Delegate asked me what would I need to do to accomplish this and here's what we came up with. After I get all the reports and the last Area meetings minutes I give myself four to seven days to complete it. Then I send it to a few people that will check it for mistakes. Then once I am satisfied it is the best I can get it, I send it off to Mike at the Cold Spring Record for printing. Here was always a mystery because we were never sure and can't know for sure how long it will take for printing. Laurie our Group Records Secretary has recently contacted Mike and he gave her a ballpark for about a week for printing. Then I figured it wouldn't be fair to ask Laurie to do with less than a week to pick it up from Mike and get them all mailed out. The way I figure it this issue may be a couple of days early if thing go as planned. The next issue I will asking for reports and articles four days earlier so we can get it out in what we hope is plenty of time.

Before I could even think about moving up this deadline I had to ask our Area Secretary Heidi about how much time she would need to get her minutes in. She said she could get them in earlier, seeing the need. Thanks to Heidi, I can't even imagine what it takes to put all that together into a format that is legible for the Northern Light. I do have to apologize about not getting some of the format-ting correct in the Area Inventory part of the minutes - Some of the bullets and numbers just would not transfer from Heidi's docu-ment and it was taking me too long to recreate them. I was able to get her graphic in to the minutes - I had to make a picture file and insert it as an object between the text. I don't have too much problem with Sarah's graphics anymore as I have a system now "I thought about leaving them out, but they do explain nicely our financials". Enough geek talk, you get the idea.

I did not want to add another four pages to this issue so with the added length because of the Area Inventory I did not include any articles. I was however able to add Jim's Area Workshop flier to the last page so it would be available before the workshop!

Hoping this Northern Light helps light your way In Service!
Daniel R.

Treatment

Greetings once again. Not much to report other than the Districts are active in the Treatment world and I have had several requests for Temporary Contacts. I also E-Mail copies of the forms I came up with. I hope you all find them favorable .They ask basic infor-mation and actually are quite simple. The feedback I have gotten has been good in the fact that ones Anonymity is protected. I am looking forward to Rapid City this weekend. Hopefully no snow. I will also be taking part in the upcoming Area35 Workshop this coming January. Our local Treatment Center in Virginia has been quite busy and it is a great privilege to be able to speak there on a regular basis. It has blessed me with a new sponsee and gives me the opportunity to carry the message of Hope.

In Service
Robert (Butch) R.



2010 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

The 2010 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous was held July 1-4 in San Antonio, Texas with the theme "A Vision for You." A.A. members and guests from around the world celebrated A.A.'s 75th year at this event.

Our Area 35 web site at area35.org has a page with all the registered meetings in the area!
Area 35 and Area 36 have joined together to create meeting locator for the whole state!
Try the state wide meeting locator at **aameetinglocator.org/**

Area 35 Northern Minnesota
October 2-3, 2010 Spring Assembly
Seven Clans Casino, Thief River Falls, MN

Call to Order Open with the Serenity Prayer

Recognize Past Delegates- Past Delegate- Charlie C. (Panel 54), Tim C. (Panel 52), Tom A. (Panel 50), Suzie A. (Panel 48), Bruce B. (Panel 44), Bob J (Panel 40) and Scott J. (Panel 38)

Why we need a Conference – Diane J.

Approve 2010 Spring Assembly Minutes: ***Motion made to approve the 2010 Spring Assembly Minutes. All in favor, passed unanimously.***

Add To Agenda: January Workshop Format and AA Electronic Delivery Survey

OFFICER REPORTS

Delegate- Jon C. I hope all is well with everyone in Area 35. I will be seeing my cardiologist on October 4th, day after the Assembly, to see if I will require surgery on a bypass graft. This surgery would be open-heart surgery. I will pass on any information to all in service as we go forward. Jim, keep your head up and don't get too comfortable! I have received the 60th General Service Conference report and will be passing them out to Officers, Chairs, DCM's, past delegates and other members interested. There is a wealth of information in this report. It includes information on the conference advisory actions, presentations, reports, and financials. It would be worth reading if you are in service, thinking about service, or have an interest in Alcoholics Anonymous. If you read this report, you will know if I was blowing smoke when giving the delegate reports. Read it and think about it. My delegate reports have been enlightening. I have distributed information and gained information at the same time. Many questions were asked, as well as concerns and suggestions shared. We officers held a forum at Cambridge a couple of weeks ago. We had new GSR's and interested members attend. Informally, we presented information about service and briefly how we each became involved. I feel we left the impressing that we as your officers are not above anyone but that we have been given the gift of sobriety and are willing to serve to show our gratitude. At the general service office level, I would like to report on our finances. Net literature sales were 13% less than budget and almost 2.2 million less than the first six months of the year. This figure reflects the price increase on July 1, 2009, and the fact that many purchasers were stocking prior to the increase. Contributions for the first six months were almost 3 million dollars, which is \$80,900 more than last year. In summary, we had a profit for the period of \$679,000. At the area level, each DCM will get a printout of their group's contributions to the General Service Office. The percentage of groups contributing in our Area for the first six months was 30.53%. Our total area contribution was \$11,320.66. We have a total of 486 active, which means that 159 groups actually contributed. We can do better than this. DCM's please visit the groups and stress the seventh tradition at all levels of service. I believe that our biggest problem is lack of knowledge and information among groups in Area 35. Our challenge for the next six months is to improve that area percentage and get more groups participating. Another area of concern is the Grapevine. The Grapevine Board has asked delegates to distribute a survey to individual members and have them complete it. With the suggestions of past delegates, as well as our Area Chair, we will be discussing this survey as an Area and forming an Area Group Conscience on questions asked. I will bring these concerns to our West Central Regional Trustee, who is also the Chairperson of the Grapevine Board, who will then express our group conscience to the Grapevine Board committee and staff. There is a survey on the back table for everyone, so please complete and express your concerns. Our General Manager has asked for our input to help determine how best to serve those interested in accessing A.A. literature or information electronically. Please complete the questionnaire on the table in the back and then place it in the box at the back. Remember that our WCRAASC in 2011 will be held on March 4-6 in Area 35 at Grandview Lodge in Nisswa, MN. This only happens in Area 35 once every eight years. Please try to attend. I can assure you it will be a great experience. Flyers are on the back table. I would like to report that there have been two staff changes at the G.S.O. Doug R. will serve in a temporary position entitled "Director of Staff Services." Rick W. will now become Staff Coordinator/Web Services. Doug was Staff Coordinator and Rick was Coordinator of 2010 International Convention. Thank you for allowing me to serve Area 35 as your delegate. It is truly an honor and a privilege.

Alternate Delegate – Jim K. First of all I wish to thank the Area for financially supporting me to attend this weekend's event. I am looking forward to a great weekend and hope that our Area 35 Inventory proves to be a useful endeavor which guides us to better carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic. I wish to stress that this process is by no means a "witch hunt" but that we need to not let fear prevent us from bringing up issues that affect our Area's effectiveness in carrying AA's life saving message. If there are areas, which there always are, in which we can be doing a better job of serving the Area, we need to be encouraged to bring them up so that we can grow as a fellowship. I also thank the Area for agreeing to have me attend the Special West Central Regional Forum in Rapid City, South Dakota in November. I hope that this proves to be an effective use of our Area's and Region's resources. I will be in contact with Jon to ensure that we are prudent and use our Area's resources prudently. We held our 2nd zonal forum in Zone 3 on September 18th, 2010 in Cambridge. Thank you so much to all the individuals that attended the event and a special thank you to Kathy for helping coordinate the event. The evaluations indicated that the forum was well received and appeared to be an effective use of our Area's resources. We will be holding two more forums in 2011 in Zones 2 and 4. I will be contacting DCM's from those districts which fall in the two zones for possible meeting locations this winter. The 35th Annual Area 35 Service workshop will be held January 15th and 16th, 2011 at the Coates Plaza Hotel in Virginia, MN. Our guest for the weekend will be Conley B., current Southwest Regional Trustee. Conley will be presenting on the Concepts and the weekend should be a great educational weekend. I am proposing that this year's service workshop follow a slightly different design that more closely follows a workshop format. Proposed topics include the role of the GSR, the DCM, and the Area Committee with an in depth look at how the concepts guide each of their roles. I need to speak with the DCM's from districts 1, 3, 4, **5**, 8, **13**, 15, 16, and 18 to assign presentation topics. If the Area wishes to follow the same format that we have used for the last few years we can certainly do that as well. I wish to thank District 5 for inviting me to their monthly district meeting. It was a very helpful experience for me and I hope that it was useful to the district as well. I encourage any other districts who wish to have an Area 35 Officer attend their district meeting to invite them. We are here to be useful in whatever way we can and serve you. Finally, I want to thank all of the districts who continue to send me their monthly business meeting notes. It is always inspirational to hear what is going on in individual districts and see what activities they are doing to carry the message to those who still suffer. Thanks again for this opportunity to serve Area 35.

Chair- Michael J. Greetings everyone. I hope that we are all getting ready for winter. I am busy trying to keep up with regular life stuff and keeping my AA commitments. So it has been very busy. This assembly was a learning experience with many difficulties getting in touch with staff and the changes going on with them. Not unusual nowadays I am finding out. I enjoyed the Zonal Forum in Cambridge especially riding down with Job and spending time with him. I think the people that showed up got to know us better as Area officers and as people serving AA. I met with Randy and went to Fortune Bay to check out facilities. They seem to be very accommodating and willing to work with us for the Spring Assembly. I have spent some time on the phone with Steve from Area 36 getting input on our combined workshop and discussing his experience as an Area Chair. I am finding that most things are out of our control and in God's hands...thank God. Thank you for your district reports. I appreciate knowing what is happening and if I can be of service please let me know. I am still a work in progress but willing to learn. I have been invited to take part in a concepts workshop that District 8 is putting on, should be interesting to hear what I have to say. I was sorry to lose lone as our Webmaster but am glad that Steve L. was willing to fill in. I hope for your approval at this assembly. I believe he will do a fine job. It was a quick decision but I felt we could not let this position go unfilled and he had time to see lone and get set-up. We have another full agenda this weekend. I hope that you all will take time to enjoy the fellowship and be active in our discussions. We are willing to work at solutions and move forward as an Area so our future will be insured. Thank you all for your concerns and help. May God bless you and keep you content in your journey.

Secretary- Heidi R. First DCMs, Area Officers, and Area Committee Chairs please have your reports to me by October 18th. You can give me a hand written report today or send me an email at secretary@area35.org. The August Committee Meeting Minutes are out and in the Northern Light. Please take some time to read the minutes and let me know if there are any corrections that need to be made. Also, please review the minutes before we get to Old Business on Sunday. This can help inform you on what Area 35 has all ready discussed under each items of old business. If you would like an email version or a paper version of the minutes mailed to you, please give me you information and I will add you to the list. Duane, District 18 Secretary, found that my address in the Northern Lights was incorrect so I would like to thank him for bringing that to my attention. The Northern Light Editor has already made the correction to my address for the September/October Issue. I wanted to say that I had a great time at the Zonal Forum and thanks to District 6 for setting everything up and having some great food to eat. The WCRAASC Committee met on September 1st at the Grandview Lodge. If you would like a copy of the minutes from the meeting, please let me know. Part of my job as Area Secretary is sending welcome letters to new registered groups in Area 35. Since the beginning of 2010, I have sent 10 to 12 welcome letters to new groups. The Action Booklet Committee met this morning with some great discussion from Diane, Carl, and me. During the meeting, we all felt that we need to inform people about the Area 35 Actions Booklet and why it is important. We also discussed finding the missing Area 35 minutes, adding the Area 35 AA Guidelines for all Area positions, reformatting the information, adding an index to the back of the booklet, adding all policies for Area 35, and asking past area secretaries or delegates to review the Action Booklet and offer suggestions. Our goal is to have a new version of the Action Booklet ready to be reviewed by the end of my rotation. Yours in Service.

Treasure- Sarah K. The three financial reports: Profit and Loss Income statement, Group Contributions Listing, and the Detailed Expenditures and Budgets report are provided on the back table for your review. There are also Area and GSO contribution envelopes, self-support packets, and a self-support handout which explains what the Area does with the money. Please help your selves to these items. Finally, there are binders containing scanned copies of contribution checks and cash, bank statements, expense vouchers, and past financial reports available for your review. For period 5: July 29-Sept. 28, 2010, we received \$3,361.10 in group contributions, bringing our YTD group contributions to \$23,634.45! (Amazing!) A huge thank you to the groups who are contributing! We also received \$89 in **BIRTHDAY CONTRIBUTIONS** from July 29-Sept. 28, 2010, which brings our YTD total Birthday Contributions to \$980. (Again, amazing!) Amends: \$300, YTD \$1,700. Interest on deposits: \$21.79, YTD 64.88. We had one returned check and fee for -\$34. This brings our total period 5 income to \$4,007.89. Our period 5 expenses totaled \$2,002.93. The expenses were mostly for the area officers and chairs to attend the Aitkin Area Committee meeting, the area officers to attend the Zone III Zonal Forum in Cambridge, the Group records secretary had a \$318 expense for printing the Northern Light, and the Alternate Delegate had \$572.80 added expenses for the Winter Workshop speaker. Our net period income (income after period expenses were deducted) was \$2,004.96, and our YTD net income was \$15,534.62. Our current Area checking account balance is \$12,875.40, add to that the \$5 in our savings account and our \$6,000 prudent reserve -which is in a dual signature protected savings account, and we have a total of \$18,880.40 in the Area Accounts. During this period I had the privilege of attending the Zone III Zonal Forum with approximately 22 people in attendance. Jim has reported on the feedback, but I just wanted to say that it was well received and the facility and participation was wonderful. I have to mention that after the GSR Orientation this weekend a couple of people new to service were talking about how overwhelming all the information at the orientation was. I agree. There is a ton of information for GSRs to know and figure out, and I really think that is why

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

we have these Zonal Forums-to allow people new to service additional opportunities to learn about the area and its functions in a more informal setting with much more time for questions. Please take advantage of these! They are at no cost to your groups, the Area foots the bill for the area officers to attend, and it gives GSRs and local AA members a chance to see the faces of their area officers. Per a request by a GSR at the August Committee Meeting, I also did some re-search on accepting online contributions on our Area website and I have prepared a report regarding that which I will present later. Per your request, the finance committee (thanks to Jeff E., Tom A. Mike J. and Randy A.) prepared a proposed revised Area 35 financial policy. There are copies of the new financial policy available for your review. Please review these as we will be requesting your approval/disapproval/input on the new policy this weekend. We completed our first review of the area finances last night, and our chair will give a report on that review this weekend.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS

LITERATURE- Bob K. We opened with the Serenity Prayer there was 12 at our meeting this morning. I have 1 case (20) of *AA Comes of Age* the International Convention edition selling for \$7.50 each. I got 7 round trip totes and 1/4 in plywood for dividers total cost \$168.37 to replace old ones that the lids are broke or won't stay on anymore. District 5 and 12 are making their own GSR packets because it takes so long for GSO to send them. Dist 18 has a new literature chair and is going to host a literature workshop with details coming soon. District 8 had some damaged literature which is almost gone, and they have their Literature Display at some workshops. District 13 is stocking the St Cloud Alano and will have their Literature Display at the St Cloud Round-up.

DISTRICT 8- Randy A. Hello from District 8. It's been a very busy month with lots of activity going on. Our last district meeting was held on September 13th in Cook with 11 groups present and 24 people in attendance. In Archives: Committee Chair Rich J. and Jerome A. are discussing making a recording of past DCM's, Alternate DCM's, district officers, and committee chairs including their service experience. In Corrections: Jerry B. has a sign-up sheet for commitments to NERCC and Mesabi Academy. In Grapevine/Literature: Robin and Sally have been collecting old grapevines and distributing them to treatment and correctional facilities. In CPC/PI: Charles reports that the beginner's meeting is doing great and the budget is \$337.70. Under old business: There was a group conscience taken on items for the area assembly and under new business we voted to financially support the district treasurer to attend the area assembly. There was also discussion on checks/balances and were able to come to a conclusion on checkbook discrepancies. Finally, we lost one group in the district due to lack of participation and communication. The Virginia Monday Night Recovery Group will no longer be in existence. In closing, we will be having our District 8 Concept Workshop on October 16th from 12:00-5:00pm at the Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Virginia, Minnesota. We will also have our district literature, grapevine, and archives on display. Yours in service.

DISTRICT 12- Jana M. Greetings from District 12. We have a few things in works. Our CPC Chair, Charlee and our PI Chair, Kimberly are working together to put on a PI luncheon with Loretta from UMD health services. Loretta is getting a list together of the surrounding colleges. UMD is very receptive to us and is even directing students to the young people's meeting. They are also going to be putting literature in the free clinic, WICC office, and want to get our business cards out to the bail bondsmen in the area. Our Corrections Chair Stan and his Alternate Joe attended the Bridging the Gap workshop and got a lot out of it. Rodney, GSR from Serenity Club, reported that they now have a meeting in the Douglas County Jail. Two AA members representing the groups that are putting on a Big Book Study Weekend in Colquet requested financial support from the district to help cover the expenses of the two presenters from the Twin Cities. We approved the funding but no to exceed \$525. Our last committee meeting was up the shore in Silver Bay. We explained the process of checking meeting information on the website and to contact Servando our Alternate DCM with nay meeting changes. Our next 3 district meetings will be at the Serenity Club in Superior, Wisconsin. Yours in Service.

TREATMENT- Robert (Butch) R. Once again it's good to be here with those who make AA work in Area 35. We held our Corrections and Treatment Workshop last night and had a very good turnout. I would like to thank Rod for making this possible and also Kelly, Corrections Chair. We had very good discussion on many topics and this is what we look for is ideas and suggestions. I passed around some of the Forms I came up with for those willing to be a Contact and those getting out of Treatment. These are only suggestions, if you have something that works in your District by all means use it. We also met as a Committee which was well represented also and Districts are taking Meetings in and speaking at Treatment Centers. I know this works because I have been blessed with a new Sponsee by doing this very thing. Carry the message on and will be seeing some of you in Rapid City and if not at the Area Workshop in Virginia.

DISTRICT 9- Chuck R. It has been a quiet summer in District 9. We are still having good luck with speakers for the area treatment centers. Fred, Treatment Chair, has been doing a good job with keeping the speaking position filled and we are getting good reports back. John, Alternate DCM and Corrections Chair, has been taking meetings to NERC and we are working with District 8 to take meetings to the Mesabi Academy, with fair results. We are having a Long Timers Panel again on October 9th, all are welcome. We have just printed new meeting schedules and are on the table here.

DISTRICT 15- Sandy H. Cold Spring Wednesday Night Group went to the treatment center in Willmar and spoke for the 2nd time. Mike (Jake), spoke at the Cold Spring Hog Roast in August and did an excellent job, thank you Jake. Sue (District 15 Secretary) and I worked the 1st shift at the AA booth at the State Fair on August 29th. Many people were asking about meeting schedules for not only the metro area, but also outside areas. Yours in service.

PUBLIC INFORMATION- Roger R. At our meeting the following Districts were represented: 8, 9, 11, 13, and 16. District 16 is hosting a PI breakfast on October 29th with Roger R. as the speaker. Right now, they have 10 confirmed attendees. In District 8 they are passing out a lot of brochures, having a phone line with 2-3 month slots for volunteers, working on updating meetings in FNB, and canceling the PI luncheon due to lack of interest. In District 13 their Beginner's Meeting and phone line are doing well. They are making sure Big Books are in the libraries and schools, trying to get PSAs into local radio stations, and doing ongoing work with the AAmeetinglocator.org. The committee discussed the State Fair AA Booth that we staffed August 28th and 29th. We felt the booth was well attended. The committee also discussed two issues one was the District 7 proposal to simply scan district meeting schedules and display them on the Area 35 website. The other issue was on how to handle negative member's impact on groups. Thank you for the opportunity to serve Area 35 this weekend.

DISTRICT 7- Mark N. Hello to All. Well here it is fall and the leaves have turned and are falling. It's a great time to be out in the woods and enjoying the outdoors. It's been busy here in District 7, with round-ups, Assemblies and Luncheons. District 7 made a good showing at the Fall Assembly in Thief River Falls this month with 4 of the District's chairs and a handful of GSR's and group members; it is good to see the interest and participation. District 7 put forth a proposal to improve the Area 35 Website Meeting Lists and was met with some stiff critics, but that's all right, everything happens on God's time not ours and if it's meant to happen, it will happen. I have sent it out to all the DCM's in Area 35 and maybe we'll get group conscience on it, and the matter will be resolved, at least that's the way it is supposed to work. We go with the group's conscience we do not govern. I can abide by that. District 7 held its annual CPC luncheon and we had a good turn-out a little less than last year but we'll work a little harder next year and get a few more. There were about 20 people in all with half dozen or so professionals. The meeting went well and we had good discussion at the end. The food was good; the Sawmill is a good venue for this activity. Thank you to Lorna our CPC Chair, Bob H. our Treasurer, Bob B. and Bobby Sue for helping out. A special thanks to Lee Ann for being our key note speaker she did a great job. It was nice to see Rick as well. I have also been to a concepts workshop in Virginia MN; there were 3 past delegates as well as our acting delegate and Area Chair. They presented the concepts 2 or 3 at a time and we would discuss them as we went. It was a 5-hour workshop and interesting, definitely worth the trip. Emily-Outing, 4:00pm, Sunday Meeting at the Wesleyan Church in Emily has a new GSR and is become official. Please get up there if you have a Sunday afternoon free and enjoy good fellowship. Crosby had their first round robin this past weekend, congratulations to them. Coming up we have our District meeting the 21st of October, we'll be discussing the Archives workshop in December and meeting lists, our own and the Area's it should be fun. Recommended reading, General Service Conference 2010 Final Report, I have plenty of copies and it's free.

DISTRICT 11- Gary H. We are still alive. All of our commitments are being covered. Yours in service.

GROUP RECORDS- Laurie R. Hi everyone, it has been a busy fall with me getting used to being a college student and all the work that goes along with it. I continue to answer requests for information on meetings that I receive from aameetinglocator.org. I also continue to update information in the GSO database and passing that information on to Steve when the website needs to be updated. I also continue to do updates to the aameetinglocator.org. Just a reminder to everyone, that to be on the area 35 website and aameetinglocator.org your group must be registered with GSO and be active. To be active your group must have either a contact person or GSR and they need to have at least one meeting day and time. That is the policy of the area. Also you need to get that information to me first and then I will pass it on to Steve L. our Area Webmaster.

NORTHERN LIGHTS- Daniel R. The September/October issue is dedicated to the International Convention and contains five articles from members who attended the event in San Antonio this July. The first on the next page 11 before the Committee Meeting minutes is written by our own past Delegate Panel 48 Susie A. The second is by B.J. L. from Superior, WI is after the Area Committee Meeting minutes on page 17. There are two more articles on page 18, one by our Archivist Brad I. and another submitted by Iven O. from International Falls. The last article was on page 19 by John D. from St. Cloud. There is one more article page 20 that our Archivist, Brad, will probably be talking about in his report later. At our last Area meeting in Aitkin on August 1st DCM Mary S. from District 16 ask a question of the group on what to do if a deaf person wants to join your group - She answers that question on page 19! If this is your first Area Assembly I hope you will take advantage of every opportunity to learn all you can here to take back to your groups and district. I know that after the last Area inventory many took what was learned here to do their own local inventories. I believe I speak for all of us when I say don't hesitate to approach myself or any of the Past Delegates, Area officers or Committee Chairs with questions on the inventory process or anything else you may need help with. Yours in Service

DISTRICT 2- Rodney P. Welcome from District 2, happy to see you here. We held our last district meeting Sept. 16th where we had 9 in attendance. Mark L. CPC-PI chair reported he had only 5 of the Posters Who's the Alcoholic left out of 40 we ordered. Schools, hospitals, law enforcement and half-way houses were very happy to receive them. GSRs reported meeting are doing well, attendance is up, and fellowship is great. Alt. DCM position was discussed and had to be vacated. This was due to lack of commitment and absenteeism. As DCM, I have just 4 more meeting to visit. Like any good alcoholic I left the farthest and hardest to get to for last. Hopefully, I have all the meetings brought up to date for Laurie in Group Records. Art A. and the Round-up committee are doing the final touches on our Feb. round-up.

DISTRICT 16- Mary S. Alcoholics Anonymous will be represented at Community Connect on Thursday, October 7th from 12-6pm. On October 29th, we are having a brunch public information meeting at the Sawmill Inn with Roger R., from St. Cloud, as our AA speaker. November 3rd, at our district meeting, we will have District 16 Inventory with Jerry S. being the moderator. Tuesday Night Solutions Group will have an Open AA Meeting at United Methodist Church on Saturday, November 13th. Roger R. from St. Cloud will be the AA speaker. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

CORRECTIONS- Kelly D. Butch and I held our Zonal 1 Corrections/Treatment Workshop here last night with 40 in attendance. Thank you to everyone that attended, asked questions and showed interest in how to continue to help carry the message into our facilities in northern Minnesota through our programs. I would like to thank Rodney, DCM for District 2 for hosting this workshop. We met this morning as a group in our Area Action Committee Meeting and there were 7 in attendance with representation from Districts 9, 6, 5, 8, 13 and 4. These Districts are working hard at carrying the message into our correctional facilities. Volunteers from Districts 8 and 9 are working together and are now bringing meetings into the Mesabi Academy Juvenile Center again and District 5 now has 8 volunteers that Sherburne County Jail will be interviewing so that meetings for the men will start again there soon. As always the biggest challenge we face is lack of volunteers to go into our facilities. We discussed the importance of holding District Corrections Workshops in order to get individuals interested in doing this form of 12 step work. I have let everyone know that I am available anytime to help in any way I can with holding their workshops. I attended the Area 35 Aitkin Com-

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

mittee Meeting August 1st and also attended our second WCRAASC committee meeting in Nisswa at Grand View Lodge. My responsibilities on this committee are to do the fliers, programs and directories for this event. With all honesty I thought I would volunteer for one of the easiest jobs on this committee but have since learned a lesson. You have to be careful for what you ask for! With the many emails back and forth along with Grand Views policies I finally managed to get the flier done and to Jon our Delegate for printing. I attended the Bridging the Gap Workshop on September 11th in Bloomington along with Jeff from District 13 and Stan and Joe from District 12. This workshop had AA individuals from many states along with Gayle S-R from GSO that is assigned to Treatment. There was also a panel of speakers present from the Minnesota Department of Corrections, A Corrections Program Therapist from Minnesota Corrections in Faribault and the Medical Director from Hazelden. There were many good things said by all of them about Alcoholics Anonymous and the work we do to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic. Two areas discussed that are of importance are that although they understand our spirit of rotation, it is important that we have a contact for them at all times. The second is if we say we are going to come into their facilities we need to be there. The workshop proved to provide a lot of information on how other areas bridge the gap and a CD of forms on how they carry the message was made available. Jeff from District 13 has a CD of that information if anyone is interested he will gladly get you a copy. I attended the Area 35 Zonal Workshop in Cambridge on September 18th and I would like to thank all the Area 35 Officers for presenting. As always you all did a great job and thank you for your commitment to be of service!

DISTRICT 3- Jim S. I'm sad to say Ed A. resigned as DCM. We currently have Alt DCM, Secretary and Literature Positions available. We are having a CPC luncheon Wednesday Oct 13th in Perham, MN. This luncheon is targeting Educators and treatment facilities. We will have another luncheon in the beginning of next year focusing on lawyers, judges and police. Our district website is getting anywhere from 200 - 300 hits a month and our hotline although not as busy as website is constantly manned ready for anyone who does call. I had the privilege of helping a group register with GSO, consequently a young lady showed up as GSR for the group and also volunteered to hot the hotline.

DISTRICT 4- Dee Dee B. District meetings are the second Saturday of each month at 5:30pm in various locations throughout District 4. The district meetings are growing in attendance and we have many new groups that are contributing financially. At our last district meeting on September 11th in Evansville we had 13 people in attendance. We have voted to continue to discuss a concept each month. We will be doing a district inventory with the help of Tim C. on December 11th in Elbow Lake. For outreach we are looking at having a district page on the Area 35 website. Dee Dee will put together a flyer similar to what is used by District 3 along with pamphlets and self-addressed envelopes for groups that aren't attending the district meetings. This will be reviewed at our next district meeting on October 9th in Morris. On September 25th several of us attended a 7-hour training so we could continue to bring meetings to the new Alexandria Douglas County Jail. Currently, there are meetings Saturday and the main jail and Mondays at the Annex at 8:00pm. We lost one meeting on Friday nights in Morris but the good news is we picked up a new young people's group on Tuesday at 5:30pm. They have asked for the forms to get registered with GSO. Our meeting lists have been updated and we added the Lakes Area Alano Meeting Line and the Minnesota Statewide Meeting Locator link. New Vision Treatment people are attending meetings in Alexandria and looking for sponsors. Thank you to everyone for all your help and allowing me to serve.

C.P.C. - Doug N. I sat in the breakout meeting in the morning of October 2nd, 2010. District 7 is having a CPC luncheon in October of 2010. Minnesota Juvenile Corrections Officers are meeting in Duluth at the Holiday Inn on January 26, 27, and 28, 2010. Districts 8, 9, and 12 will be watching a table of AA literature and answering questions from the officers at the meeting. I will be giving a presentation at the Perham CPC luncheon on the 13th of October at 5:30pm in beautiful downtown Perham, Minnesota. On a personal note I asked my Doctor what I could bring him from AA. He said he needed up-to-date meeting lists for districts in our area. When patients come to him, the doctor directs them to go to meetings. If they do not want to go to a meeting, he suggests they get a different doctor. I encourage each of you to ask your doctor what you could bring to them from AA. Tell me what the doctor's say so we can start collecting that information.

DISTRICT 13- Gayle S. Hello from District 13, District 13 monthly meetings are held at Salem Lutheran Church (90 Riverside Dr, St. Cloud) on the first Monday of every month at 7:30pm, please join us. District 13 is currently looking for an Alternate DCM and District Secretary. PI committee had a booth at the Benton County Fair with 114 visitors, first time we have been there in a few years. The committee got some good suggestions for next year. The Treatment committee is busy taking in meetings to Children's Home, Our House, Clara's House, Mental Health Center, Effective Living Center, Dextox, VA Medical Center, and Passages. They are actively working on getting meetings into River Crest. CPC committee, has had to cancel the 12 Step Spirituality Workshop at St. Johns, looking for a minimum of six participants, we will try again in the future. Corrections is still asking groups to help donate Big Books to the St. Cloud Prison, groups are stepping up to help with this. Literature Chair just conducted a district literature inventory and is working on getting a more than one person committee formed. Archives is working on a district actions workbook and typing up a new group history questionnaire. We have asked Jim K., Area 35 Alternate Delegate to facilitate District 13 Inventory on November 1st at 6:30pm. WE are also having some great discussions at the district for example, the three proposals brought forth to Area 35. We are also discussing a district office, perhaps moving the district meeting from its current location to where a majority of the groups are. Both of these ideas are to help visually enhance the districts to the groups.

DISTRICT 1- Lon G. I am serving as the new DCM for District 1. I am taking over for Rick and intend to serve our district with the same commitment and dedication as he did. Our district as a whole is struggling some with meeting attendance numbers but improvements are being seen and our contributions continue to improve as well. We recently held our 9th annual fall (end of summer) celebration and although the number of attendees was down the enthusiasm was "very high" and we are already planning some changes for next year to improve this event. We have had some changes in chairs as well and one vacancy which we hope to fill soon. It is a privilege to serve our area and my district and I am looking forward to it. Thank you.

GRAPEVINE- Dee K. We had about 12 people from the committee meeting this morning that is a combination of Grapevine and Literature. We have some new items from the Grapevine one is a book called *Spiritual Awakenings II: More Journeys of the Spirit*. The other items from the Grapevine are CD's called "The Home Group: Heart Beat of AA, Volume I and Volume II." Jana reported that District 12 is putting together packets for their GSRs and possibly having a Grapevine and Literature workshop. Robin from District 8 is delivering Grapevines to treatment centers. Carla from District 9 is a new Grapevine and Literature Chair. She is looking for suggestions and ideas on her position. I did get Carla some samples of Grapevines to take with her. Jake from District 5 is bringing old Grapevines to the meetings which are exchanged with members and/or passed on to other groups. Thanks for giving me the opportunity to serve.

DISTRICT 21- Carl B. Greetings from District 21. All is as well as we can make it, most of our positions are filled, our 800 line is manned at all times, all of the jails in the district have meetings in them. Our CPC/PI chair is working with Beltrami County DWI court to let them know how AA can help. We will once again have our annual Gratitude Potluck on November 27th, at the Bemidji Alano Club. All are welcome to come, please bring a dish and join us, we eat at 7 pm.

DISTRICT 18- Mike D. There was an Archives Workshop held in Motley on August 7th. The CPC/PI Luncheon is on hold until the spring of 2011. The new meeting cards have been printed and are being distributed to GSRs. The Long Prairie Group had a Round Robin on September 25th. There is a literature workshop being planned but no details as of yet. Will probably be Zonal.

WEBMASTER – Steve L. Ione B. had some personal issues to deal with and stated to Jake she wanted to step down from this service position. I was asked if I'd be willing to step in and fill the webmaster position. I'm looking forward to filling this duty and doing the best I can. I hope I can meet this challenge with the help and support of the past Webmasters and all of you. I've been busy learning what it takes to be your web master. Updating meeting information, Adding events to the calendar, uploading the Northern Lights and backing up the web site with still lots more to be learned and implemented into the site. Looking forward to working with Dan and Laurie in keeping our web site up to date. At our action committee meeting this morning there were six people in attendance. Topics of discussion were:

The importance of current and correct meeting information.

In order to provide the best service possible, current and correct meeting information is an absolute requirement in today's high tech world. Hold up iPhone tell two stories. Have someone in your District do a master check between what meetings are listed on the Area35.org Web site and what is listed in your current meeting directory (plus any updates). Ask your PI committee or enlist someone specific to do this task there is more to a district than having the DCM to do all the work. Have them check meeting days, meeting locations, starting times, Group names, meeting type (BB, 12x12, discussion, etc.) open/closed and handicap accessible. Then e-mail me using the webmaster e-mail so I can make the changes in the Web site and pass the information on to our records secretary Laurie R. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have about this.

The Area 35 calendar of events: More about what should be posted. Looking into making guidelines always remembering this is for our membership to use.

Please only upload PDF or Word documents for fliers. When up loading fliers remember the 4 W's Who is the event for, What kind of event, Where is the event going to happen street address and/or building name, When dates of event. Block in dates for future area events even when no flier is available (workshop Akin Assemblies). Look into asking for more information from the flier uploading page. What entity, contact person)

Meeting Locations and times: Looking into making a more printer friendly way to print meetings off the web site. Continue looking into making a web based meeting change form which has been started.

District pages: There is a place on the web site for Districts to post information on our web site which is currently limited to one page of information. We decided to give District 7 a pilot test of using more than one page.

AA meeting locator dot org: Had a conference call meeting September 25th with twelve people from both area 35 and area 36 about how to improve the web page. Things discussed improving the search. If you conduct the initial search, default radius is 10mi. if you go back to the previous page – all of the search criteria are lost and you have to reenter the information. Answer (there is an edit search criteria link on the top of the page – we should make this more apparent as a link option). Could we add a couple short lines of verbiage to provide directions on how the locator works and how to get the best usage out of the website? Is it possible to Area 35/36 AA hotline phone numbers to the website for people can make a call for help, especially if they are new and cannot find a meeting in their area when brand new. We discussed if the duplication between our area and the locator was necessary. Still looking for the best answer.

Now, a little summation about the Website usage for the month on September. We had 51,295 hits from 1,567 unique sites like Google 1092, Yahoo 95, AOL 7 and others. Coming from over 25 different countries, Such as Canada 1129 hits, Spain 58 hits, Japan 15 hits, Israel 4 hits, Singapore 3 hits to name a few. The busiest day was Sept 13, busiest weekday was Thursdays.

ARCHIVES- Art A. We opened with the Serenity Prayer. We had a total of 9 in attendance representing Districts 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. District 5 is having a workshop on November 6th from 1pm to 5pm in Otsego at the Elk River Alano Club. District 9 will be having a Long Timers Panel from 1pm to 3pm at the Hibbing Alano Club. District 7 will be having an Archives Workshop on December 16th in Brainerd. There Archivist is putting together and organizing their Archival material and will be storing their Archives at the Crow Wing County Historical Society in a bank box. District 6 is looking into recording long timers and collecting all archival materials from them. District 8 will be recording their past and present District Officers and Committee Chairs to Archive their service History. We all

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

thought this was an awesome idea and other districts may do the same thing. District 2 is starting to realize the importance of archives and certain groups are starting to archive along with the district itself. Brad talked about where Area 35 Archives are stored and says he now has a better chair to sit in! Hazelden has been given the rights to publish the original manuscript of the Big Book called "The Book that Started it All" which were given to them by an AA member who purchased it at an auction for a million dollars. I would like to get the names of volunteers for WCRAAC to help with greeting. Please get the names to me as soon as possible. Thank you.

ARCHIVIST- Brad I. Since August I have been extremely busy. I did a joint display with Area 36 in Mankato and last week I was at the Duluth round-up. I have made several copies of the "Your Faith" magazine and there has been a resounding interest in this historical find. The original document resides in the loving hands of the G.S.O. Archives and was the feature of Michele's 15 minutes at board weekend. I received a very nice thank you letter from G.S.O. and sent them a deed of gift. I have several copies of the magazine available this weekend and I also could burn a CD of the scan if you want a color copy. After even more re-search this is still the only known copy as of now. I submitted 2 articles to the Northern Light and typed out the text of the "Your Faith" magazine article. The next archives display is at the St. Cloud Round-up. We have an Archives workshop scheduled for Elk River on November 6th. I am going to Rapid City for the Forum. I am doing a joint display at "Founders Day" in St. Louis Park with Area 36.

DISTRICT 5- Rita D. Greetings from District 5! We are alive and well with our Committee Chairs busy fulfilling their commitments. We have 7 members in attendance this weekend. We are still in need of an Archives & Corrections Chair. Skip continues to fill in for Corrections and we have eight members allowed to go into Sherburne County Jail-we need 16 men total, so we are half way there. Mille Lacs County Jail currently has two members bringing in a meeting weekly. Area 36 and District 13 are helping to get members willing to serve-we appreciate their help and say THANK YOU! GSR's, groups, Jake and I continue to fill in for our CPC/PI Chair Neil while he is gone. Our Treatment Chair continues to bring meetings into New Beginnings at Sherburne County Jail and Riverplace Treatment Center in Elk River. A group from the Princeton Alano Club is bringing a meeting into Rum River Health Services. Our Probation Orientation meeting is currently on hold due to lack participants from Sherburne County Probation Department. I would like to thank Jim K. & Heidi R. for coming to our District meeting on August 16th to address concerns from GSR's and District members regarding the past Area 35 Treasury. I also want to thank all of our Area Officers for a job well done at the Zonal Forum on September 18th. We as a District went over the Area Inventory questions as a District on September 20th. Skip and I are starting to visit groups again for our second round. On Saturday November 6th there will be an Area 35/District 5 Archives, Corrections and Treatment Workshop-come join us!! Our District meets the 3rd Monday each month at St. John's Lutheran Church in Zimmerman, so if you're in the Area stop in and visit! I want to thank District 5 Committee Chairs. Thank you GSR's and Groups for allowing me the privilege to serve.

DISTRICT 6- Kathie G. Since our last assembly, District 6 has been busy with the State and County Fairs, Zone Three Forum, and Delegates Report. September 18th, we hosted the Zonal Forum at the Cambridge Hospital Foundation Room. Since the forum, I have heard comments on how much good information was presented. Thank you, Area Officers for that presentation. September 25th, Jon presented his Delegate's report at the Isanti Alano Club. After the report, one of our long time members told me that he has decided to get back into service work. I want to thank you Jon for an excellent report. Our PI and CPC chair has been working out of town this summer but all obligations are being met. The literature chair continues to contact school and libraries and provide them with literature. The corrections chair has been very busy working with the Isanti County Jail to facilitate AA meetings. All the obligations are being met. Grapevine has been getting the survey out to meetings, and I hope we are able to have great input from everyone. District 6 has 2 new meetings with one in Rush City on Thursday at 7:00pm at St. John's Lutheran Church and the other in Isanti on Tuesday at 7:00pm at the Old Long Lake Church. I continue to visit meetings and find it a very rewarding experience. Thanks to everyone for all their support and for the opportunity to serve.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS AND MAIN SESSION FOR THE AREA 35 INVENTORY

At 2:15pm the Area 35 Assembly broke into four breakout session which discussed five different inventory questions. Each breakout session had a moderator (Rita, Gayle, Randy, and Mark) and secretary. At 7:15pm the Area reassembled for the Area Inventory Main Session that was moderated by Bruce B., Panel 44 Past Delegate for Area 35. Bruce asked the moderator or secretary for each breakout session to give a report on the discussion. After all the reports were done, the entire assembly went over each inventory question.

Is the Area passing down and collecting information effectively for General Service Representatives, Districts, and Action Committees?

Breakout Session:

Most members in our breakout session felt that yes, the GSR's and Districts are informed and information is being passed down effectively. Some of the GSR's say that information is being passed to DCM's in Aitkin who pass it down to them. Those who do not get the information are not participating.

Floor Discussion: No Discussion

Do all Districts feel a part of the Area and receive equal attention and service?

Breakout Session:

A strong response is that the Districts who suit up, show up, and feel a part of and receive attention and service. Some AA members feel that the service work offered by the area gets filled too fast and doesn't allow groups to participate; e.g. State Fair Booth

Yes, for those Districts at Area functions. But, is there anything the Area can do to reach out to "Dead Districts".

Floor Discussion: No Discussion

How well is information regarding agenda items, financial reports, archives items, and Grapevine materials being relayed to the districts and groups?

Agenda Items

Breakout Session:

Not enough explanation of what the Agenda Items are about from the Area Chairs and Officers to GSR's. Some AA members would like to see Workshops on Agenda Items. Could we possibly upload the Agenda Items to the Area 35 website with a password? Would like to see a better explanation of what to vote on (ex. consider, discuss, and review).

The Area does as well as they can with the time lines they have been given.

Have buddy system for new GSR's so they don't feel so overwhelmed.

Financial Reports

Breakout Session:

Very transparent program and feel treasury is on good track. The reports are broke down well, concise, and understandable. The reports come out in the Northern Light and are also sent via email.

Some AA members like that the Area 35 Treasurer sends personal thank you notes and updates Group contributions in a timely manner.

Archives Items

Breakout Session:

Always available at Area Functions with displays, and the Archivist seems very knowledgeable.

Would like to see a history blurb in Archive's and/or Archivist's reports. Would like to see Archive Items, Area 35 has, mentioned in the Northern Light (could stir more interest). Would like to see an inventory of our Archives.

Grapevine Materials

Breakout Session:

Would like to see the Area Grapevine Chair have all District Grapevine Chairs' email addresses.

Would like more explanation of what Grapevine items (besides magazine) are available and what they are for. Would like to see us find ways to inform AA members on the Grapevine items available.

Floor Discussion: No Discussion

How well are district and group concerns, ideas, and needs being addressed by the Delegate, Treasurer, Archivist, and Grapevine chairs?

Delegate

Breakout Session:

All felt that our Delegate is doing a wonderful job in reporting and answering questions.

Treasurer

Breakout Session:

All felt that the Treasurer takes time to listen, is knowledgeable, and always has references available.

Archivist

Breakout Session:

Is available to do Workshops in the Districts and Zone's and is very knowledgeable.

Include archive's pieces in reports and Northern Lights

Grapevine Chair

Breakout Session:

Would like to see more awareness, information, and Workshops about what is available.

Floor Discussion: No Discussion

Are the Action Committees doing enough to assist districts in committee work?

Breakout Session:

Not a lot of participation with district chairs at the Area. People are bringing items back, as long as district people are attending.

Some area members want workshops moved so they are not on assembly weekends (Friday Night).

Friday evening workshops convenient for others and inconvenient for some. Area Committee Chairs are willing to do workshop if you ask.

District 13 (4 members in attendance) has greatly improved their communication which has been very helpful to the district. District 11 has had trouble forming communication. District 15 feels they could work on it more but cannot do it alone. They have 26 groups with only 4 to 5 people coming. They do not have enough people coming to form committees. Participation is up and DCM does not feel alone. If area is willing to ask for help, people are willing. Some district committee members have not been good at attending Area functions (only one committee chair here this weekend) with too much work left for the DCM. District 8 feels they are very involved at the assemblies and bringing back reports. District 16 (7 people here for weekend). Area committee members need to take responsibility to call with questions.

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

- Area Alternate Delegate and Area Treasurer came to district meeting to inform GSR's on how the Area Treasury was being handled, so the support is there. Good attendance at business meetings but just not at these functions. DCM is expected to bring back all information.
- Overall: the consensus was yes, they are willing to help when we are willing to ask.
- Floor Discussion:
- One member would like to see Action Committee Chairs reaching out to more districts and not just relying on Assemblies to have their workshops.
- A suggestion was that Area Committee Chairs and Officers attend more district meetings. The Committee Chairs and Officers do have primary responsibilities (they are well documented); however there are 2nd responsibilities which are hitting district meetings and events within 50-75 miles from their home. Maybe we need to start reminding Area Chairs and Officer of this responsibility.
- One woman felt Area Committee Chairs and Officers have always been willing to come to districts if they are asked; however, she has some concerns with only having workshops (ex. corrections/treatment) on the Friday of an Assembly weekends. She felt this makes it hard for people to attend because of the distance. Also some AA members, not in service, do not attend Assemblies and keeps them away from the workshops. Another concern brought up was that some Committee Chairs have said that they are only going to attend district meeting if they are asked and not do workshop. This particular district's meeting tends to be a long process and if this is the only time given, it limits them. She would like to see Area Committee Chairs still willing to do workshops if they are asked. When Area Committee Chairs and Officers give their reports, they should refrain from telling AA members that they are going to attend district meetings and not have workshops.
- Are we spending money prudently as an Area? Consider the following: Expenses, Committee work, Communications (Northern Light, mailing), and Accommodations (coffee, room rates at Assemblies, Workshops, Area Committee Meetings)
- Breakout Session
- One woman was concerned with the money we are spending, and that not enough is used to reach the still suffering alcoholic. Only 10% of the total income is spent on our primary purpose.
- Service structure is meant to be for communication between the Area and Districts. The Area is not responsible for making 12 step calls but to help groups serve the still suffering alcoholic.
- The website is really to serve district, the district to meeting, and the meeting to serve still suffering alcoholic.
- If the Area body is not supporting the still suffering alcoholic, then they are not doing what I think they should be doing.
- There was an issue with the Area finances and if we are or aren't spending enough money to get information to other alcoholics.
- One concern was sending 8 Area Chairs/Officers to the Special Forum because the Delegate needed someone to go with him due to his medical problems. It feels like the money could be spent on other things.
- Mostly members felt that yes we are being prudent with spending money on accommodations by comparing rates. In the past, we have held events at schools/colleges and maybe we could revisit this.
- Need to be watchful of arguing over money. AA members need to look at the reports, see if they are well done, and accounted for.
- We tried very hard to set budget, and come in under budget.
- Maybe we should have more assemblies, but make them only one day.
- Floor Discussion:
- Under the accommodations section, one member felt that we should think about not having Area events at casinos because of the smoke circulating around the entire building.
- One suggestion was to have the Area 35 Chair and Alternate Delegate set-up the locations for the next two years for the following rotation. Then when the new Area 35 Chair and Alternate Delegate get into their positions, they only have to confirm the reservations and take care of some small details.
- How well is information regarding area workshops, group records, literature availability, and public information materials being relayed to the districts and groups?
- Breakout Session:
- Doing a wonderful job and I have tons of stuff to take back to district. One district meeting wants a report from Aitkin as soon as the DCM gets back.
- GSRs should send flyers to Assembly and bring flyers from the Assemblies to their groups.
- One AA member felt it took a long time to get their meeting on the website because of being from a small town with no address of the meeting location to give to the Area.
- One person felt the website was wonderful because people can download their own information. She would like to see more people doing this.
- Floor Discussion: No Discussion
- How well are districts and group concerns, ideas, and needs being addressed by the Alternate Delegate, Group Records Chair, Literature Chair, and PI Chair?
- Breakout Session:
- Good experience with Alternate DCM and Group Records Secretary attending meeting. The PI chair is working with the Group Records Secretary and the Alternate Delegate is doing the District 13 Inventory.
- We are here to get information and districts can inform the Area of their ideas and/or concerns.
- One member felt like they were getting the run around on questions she needed answered for her group. She did not feel like her questions were answered.
- Floor Discussion: No Discussion
- When Area decisions are made, is there the correct balance between group conscience and the tradition "Right of Decision?" (Concept III)
- Breakout Session:
- Members have usually discussed issues with their group, but many hear new information at an Area event and therefore change their vote. If there is no new information given at an Area event, a GSR cannot change their vote.
- Do GSR's hold a majority of the votes or are there more committee members? There needs to be a balance. If all the GSR's attended Area events, there would be 486 GSRs in attendance.
- There needs to be a balance between GSR's having the opportunity to get a group conscience and having to use their right of decision to vote on a new issue.
- At assemblies there is opportunity for group conscience but maybe not so at Area Committee Meetings. There are new topics brought up and voted on without group input, for example, the Area 35 treasury. Also, GSR's do not get to vote at Area Committee Meetings, but DCM's do vote with the group conscience of their district. What business is being voted on at Area Committee Meetings?
- Need to get the Northern Light out earlier which allows the fellowship to have the agenda before events and get a group conscience.
- Even a majority can make a bad decision.
- There were 22 Area members who voted "Yes" to this questions and 1 Area member voted "No."
- Floor Discussion:
- One DCM felt that there is not a correct balance between group conscience and "right of decision" at all the time at Area events.
- Many times GSRs are not informed or did not get the information ahead of time for some reason which is making them use the "Right of Decision" instead of the group conscience.
- One member felt the Area Assemblies should be more up to date on the quarterly reports from GSO. We should have more communication and discussion on the quarterly reports from GSO, so we can start to know ahead of time what we may have to vote on such as with Agenda Items.
- One suggestion was to start having pros and cons discussions on certain items before we vote. This is where one person takes each side of a topic, collects information on that side (pro/con) of the topic, and then present at Assemblies/Committee Meetings.
- Are Assemblies conducted expediently and effectively? Consider the following: Length of reports, Saturday Night Open Meeting or conducting business, and taking a lunch break on Sunday or ending at noon?
- Breakout Session:
- When there are topics and people are going to the microphone there is time wasted by people repeating what has all ready been said. We need to keep comments short and not repeat statements. There are guidelines for sharing meetings/discussions. Take time at district meetings to go over procedures. We need to set timers for reports. It is up to the Chairperson to cut off people as needed.
- Many people are leaving early on Sunday, which does not give us a true group conscience when votes are taken. If the area or your group is paying for you to be here, then you need to attend the entire assembly. People leaving early Sunday need to be willing to go to any lengths to stay sober. If things went faster people wouldn't want to leave early.
- One concern is that Sunday morning votes seem to go very fast.
- Consider doing business before reports (Many people agreed with this). For groups that cannot afford to send GSR's, getting to business first could allow more GSR's to come and not need a hotel. They could leave before the DCM reports. The DCM reports are published in the Northern Lights so we could do without the DCM reports.
- At times, there is a lot of repetition between DCM reports and Area Committee Chair Reports.
- Could we start on Friday nights or are there possibly not enough people here? DCM's need to share concerns/issues and important/new information instead of same standard reports all the time.
- Groups enjoy the Saturday Night Meeting.
- At the Spring Assembly, the Agenda Items could have been moved through faster. There should be a coaching session for Area Chairs and Officers before the Spring Assembly.

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

A vote was taken and 4 members said “Yes” to this question and a majority said “No” to question number ten.

A straw vote was taken to see how many felt we should put business first and then do the Committee Chair reports and DCM reports. There were 20 Area members who votes “Yes” and 4 Area members who voted “No.” Majority Opinion - too many people would leave if you put reports on Sunday morning.

Floor Discussion:

One suggestion was to make sure DCMs are sticking to their two minutes on reports and keeping the focus to service work in their district. The DCMs are going to discuss this topic during the next DCM sharing session.

One district feels that the open speaker meeting on Saturday Night is good because it is a time to relax after a long day of business. An idea to save money would be to have our Past Area 35 Delegates share their story instead of flying in a speaker.

One district was in complete agreement about not breaking for lunch on Sunday. They felt we should keep going because people need to get back home, and we only have the facilities for a determined amount of time.

One DCM felt that the 2 minutes for DCM reports is not long enough and that 3 to 4 minutes would be acceptable. Some districts have a lot of information to report, and to get through all of this in 2 minutes is difficult. These reports are important and can help people make an informed group conscience and also for the communication between districts.

The Area Chairs and Officers should not leave and have longer dinners during the DCM and GSR sharing sessions; they should stay to answer questions.

How well is information regarding area assemblies/committee meetings, Northern Lights distribution, CPC materials, and treatment facility needs being relayed to the districts and groups?

Breakout Session:

The Area is doing this very well. The problem is with the groups not sending a GSR to district meetings or a group not having a GSR. DCM's need to make sure to get the Northern Light to all groups in their district. The Northern Lights needs to get out earlier.

A majority of Area members voted “Yes” to this question, except with getting the Northern Lights out early enough before Assemblies and Committee Meetings.

Floor Discussion:

One concern brought up a lot was the Northern Light not getting out in time. The reason for this is because the deadline gets extended due to people not getting their reports in on time. We need to make sure we are not blaming one person, but AA members who are late with their reports.

The Area Northern Light Editor stated that he was sorry for the last issue not getting out in time. With the current issue of the Northern Light, he did have it to the Group Records Secretary 4 to 5 days ahead of time. The problem is they do now know how long it is going to take the printer to make the copies of the Northern Light. Sometimes, it can take only a few days and other times, if they are busy, it can take up to a week and a half.

Is there any way we can condense the agenda items and background information so it is not so cumbersome? This AA member feels we could make an informed group conscience without some of the information in the background materials.

How well area districts and group concerns, ideas, and needs being addressed by the Area Chair, Northern Lights Chair, CPC Chair, and Treatment Chair?

Breakout Session:

This is going very well. This question breaks down to the group level. Some would like to get the Agenda Items from GSO sooner. Jon did a great job this year.

A vote was taken and everyone was unanimously “Yes” for this question.

Floor Discussion: No Discussion

Is adequate opportunity given to all to speak and participate in Area Assemblies, Workshops, and activities?

Breakout Session:

Both yes and no were answered.

No: There are concerns in the process of the Area Chair choosing his or her Action Committee Chairs. Why do we not elect every position?

How do we keep from “Clicks?” Is there rotation? Some Area members are concerned that people are going from one position in the Area to another. Should they sit out a rotation?

Responses to “Why not elect every position?”

Elections for every chair would make for an extremely long assembly which can take away from other activities during the Assembly. Also past elected people, show up less consistently then appointed.

Responses to “How to we keep away from Clicks?”

Formally ask the outgoing chairs to have a couple suggestions for their replacement. Ask people to inform the Area Chair at the Fall Assembly that they are willing to serve in positions. If your asked and have sat on a committee previously, make sure they have asked others first.

Responses to “Should Committee Chairs sit out a rotation after they have served?”

Sitting out a rotation is difficult because there are not enough people to serve right now. If a person stays out a term, they may miss out on some pertinent information.

Floor Discussion:

One AA member felt that yes we are given adequate opportunities to participate, and no we are not given opportunities to speak adequately. Supposedly the area inventory questions were out since August and this weekend was the first time the AA member had seen them. Also, the items on the agenda were not seen until this weekend, so this person was not informed and able to speak on the information.

Are we going to trust our trusted servants in picking the best candidates for the positions? We do vote on all committee chairs that are asked by the Area 35 Chair to serve at the December Committee Meeting. Anyone can speak up at the Committee Meeting if they do not feel someone is the best candidate for a position.

One AA member felt we should make sure that the DCMs have the opportunity to serve as a Committee Chair in the position they were assigned during the beginning of their rotation. When a DCM begins their rotation, they are appointed to serve on one of the Area 35 Action Committees. The DCM that is a part of that Action Committee would be a good person for the Area position since they are aware of the responsibilities.

Are Area Workshops worthwhile? How about the format?

Breakout Session:

Yes, they felt they were worthwhile, but the format needed to be changed. They wanted more instructional and guided workshops. District 7 had great success with this type of format for its GSRs and getting participation.

Floor Discussion:

Several Area members felt we should have topics at a workshop that focus on the Agenda items, the concept of what you are doing with the agenda items, the background information, and what is most important.

For many years at the January Workshop, we have set our agenda by using the topics picked for the General Service Conference. At the January Workshop, it seems to be more like a Round-up with AA members’ stories rather than on service work. A suggestion is that the Alternate Delegate changes the agenda for the workshop to focus more on service work so we can do a better job in our service position to reach the still suffering alcoholics. The AA groups decide what the Area should do. If groups have questions and ideas, they could bring them up to the Alternate Delegate as topics for the January Workshop such as the agenda items.

One person would like us to get away from the topics we usually have at the January Workshop and see more discussion between groups.

How well is information regarding area minutes, web page updates, correctional facility needs, and Archives information being relayed to the districts and groups?

Breakout Session:

We could improve the process. We need to get information to these people faster which will intern allow them to get items out faster. Northern Lights should be emailed to all DCM's which then they can forward to AA members in their district. This does not happen all the time.

Floor Discussion: No Discussion

How well are the district and group concerns, ideas, and needs being addressed by the Secretary, Webmaster, Corrections Chair, and Archives Chair?

Breakout Session:

Secretary, Corrections, and Archives were not discussed so assumed things are good.

There was a concern with the Webmaster, specifically, that his/her job isn't to track groups. That job belongs to the Group Records Secretary. We, the Assembly, need to better define the Webmaster's duties.

Floor Discussion:

One suggestion was instead of just having a workshop presented by one or two Area Action Committee Chairs, we have more Action Committee Chairs present at one workshop so people can get information and learn about many different Committees at one time.

What other concerns do you have that are not addressed in this inventory?

Breakout Session #1:

Would like to see the Area 35 Inventory questions more readily available for everyone to have prior to the Fall Assembly. Some did not get this information. A suggestion would be to pass them out at the Spring Assembly of the Inventory year.

There have been several instances of Area Officers and/or Committee Chairs who do not respond to emails....this should be a timely response.

The Area could stress to DCM's the importance of having GSR's.

When and how are we as an Area going over the inventory and implementing changes.

Breakout Session #2:

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 16)

One Area member had questions with the election process. If you get nominated and are #3, you should withdraw your name from the election. Why do we need the same battles every two years? Why all the politics? This person would like to see names thrown into the hat right away. People need to talk into the microphone.

Breakout Session #3:

Groups are not being accurately represented in the two online meeting directories. The DCM's need to make a push to update information from all their groups.

When looking at elections, are we really looking for the best person for the job? Are people doing their jobs? The Area Actions Booklet Committee is going to publish the guidelines for each position. Are we really looking at people to see who the best candidate is? We should not accept positions we can't do.

Where is our focus at the Area level? What message are we carrying? What is our primary purpose?

Could we do without verbal DCM reports? They serve a purpose for DCM's to prepare them for other service. Other people can give feedback to the DCM's if they bring up concerns/issues in their report. We need to hear the experiences of other districts to learn from them.

Could DCM's have a break-out session where they share their reports with one another instead of whole body to save time?

We need to be more efficient and stop beating a dead horse. This comes back to the Chairperson cutting people off when time is up.

Starting on time.

Setting a timer to end reports.

Videos/pamphlets/literature cannot replace interactions of one alcoholic working with another alcoholic.

Breakout Session #4:

How to we accept and move on harmoniously with the "Amends" by the former Treasurer while working a good program? Do we need to vote on accepting the amends amount?

How are we making the groups aware that they need to be active at the group level (Page S-27 of Service Manual)? The groups can't pass the problems down the triangle, for example, having corrections problems that goes to the districts, then can go to the Area, and then to GSOs if needed.

How do we get more people active in service? Sponsorship and leading by example.

What is our action plan to follow-up on the issues discovered in the Area Inventory?

Floor Discussion:

One concern that came out of the DCM sharing session was what we are going to do with this inventory after it is complete. The DCMs at the sharing session want to make sure this does not get pushed aside and forgotten about with no action taken. They would like to see something good come out of the inventory.

How do we strengthen the leadership inside of our Area? How do we bring the people together? The only people who can make sure the Area is doing what they are suppose to do, is the GSRs which can be a hard thing to bring up to someone as a new GSR. A concern was brought up about the communication and leadership with the Area Officers. Back before email and cell phones, it seemed like we were communicating with each other more than we are doing today. When we are selecting committee chairs and making decisions, we should try to have a more collaborative effort and not one person making decisions. In the past few rotations it seems a collaborative approach and having a group conscience were not used when finding and selecting the Committee Chairs. The Delegate for this rotation did not even know who was being asked to serve on the Area Action Committee Chairs until a few days before the December Committee Meeting. An example was having the Webmaster position almost vacant for 6 months. If there would have been more communication between the Area Officers, this could have been taken care of sooner. If the Area Officers would start communicating more it would make their work load easier, since they would not have to do everything on their own.

A suggestion for the future was to present the breakout session information and have the floor discussion on each agenda item together. When presenting all the information from the breakout sessions and then doing floor discussion, it made hard to remember what was talked about in that breakout session.

One suggestion, that a group does, is after the inventory is done they go through and make an agenda and action items they can talk about and implement. This inventory is only getting started and we still have a lot more to do in finding the solutions.

We need to make sure that the Area Chairs and Officers are passing there information on to the incoming Chairs and Officers so they can be prepared and informed.

Since we have a lot of suggestions with many from individual people and districts, which the entire Area may not agree with, we should create a committee to go through the inventory. The committee could make an action plan of what changes we should make in Area 35.

The Area Chairperson plans to get this information out to everyone, and will start forming a committee to go through the inventory. The Area Chairperson is looking for a couple of GSRs, DCMs, and Area Chairs to volunteer for the committee. If anyone is interested, speak with the Area 35 Chairperson.

GSR SHARING SESSION REPORT

We opened at 4:50pm with Serenity Prayer. There were 38 GSRs present and 5 Alt were 10 new GSRs. Introductions were made. Secretary minutes were read and approved. An end time of 6:00pm was decided. Tim read page S40 from the service manual. The hat was passed and for copies of minutes and questions. \$62.00 was collected. Made 50 copies at \$.10 each = \$5.00 for beginning of the meeting. Irene donated ink, paper and her printer so we could make copies from this Sharing Session. THANK YOU IRENE!!! The remaining \$57.00 was donated to the Area. Questions were answered from Spring Assembly. (Answers below) and new questions were formed for the Fall Assembly (Questions below). Tim closed the GSR Sharing Session with the Lord's Prayer at 6:00pm.

Answers from Fall Assembly

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

Spend time with them, don't leave them alone. Bring newcomer to fellowship, buy them coffee, dinner. Have a newcomer meeting and each member shares their story. Introduce them to service work, like greeting. Give them a tour of the meeting facility; introduce them to other group members. Have a Gratitude meeting. Send them home with the Big Book. Make an announcement about phone lists and newcomer packets, "20 – 20 Minute Rule" (20 minutes before and 20 minutes after). Chorale them, don't let them go.

How do we as groups ensure spirit of rotation?

Avoid cliques. Better to leave a position vacant so it will encourage people to step up. Encourage participate through sponsorship. Rotate Chairperson and coffee maker every month. Encourage using Alternate as positions. Bring your sponsees and others along to District meeting. Bring sponsees along to the Area meeting and workshops. Make sure that we are accepting Service positions when asked. Find your own replacement. Keep rotating out of committees and positions. Alternate GSR automatically rotates in as GSR and attends all Area functions with GSR. Actively look for people outside business meetings to get involved in Service work.

How do we encourage strong/effective sponsorship?

Willing to sponsor people in treatment regardless of the amount of time it may require. Suggest check in calls daily; get them involved in service work. Explain to them why you are willing to work with them, let them know that you are always there for them. Explained to them how you were sponsored and how it worked for you. Hand out phone lists that have the members names starred that are willing to sponsor and then ask them to raise their hand. Personally practice the Principles in ALL our AFFAIRS. Assign a sponsor. Offer to be their temporary sponsor. Continue asking if they have a sponsor.

What do you do for service AFTER being a GSR?

Look at doing service at the District level. Get involved in Treatment meetings.

The difference between a meeting and a group?

Groups contribute to all three entities, are registered with GSO, and are always ready to provide 12 Step work. Meetings are where 2 or 3 people meet. There is a pamphlet THE AA Group.

Are we doing enough 12 step work/family intervention?

We can always do more 12 Step work. We don't offer counseling services; we carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic. We need to visit hospitals and treatment centers more. Direct family's of the alcoholic to Alanon, Alateen, etc. Go into detox center and grab them in their Jammies J. Are we relying on the Treatment centers to have the first contact with the newcomer? PI puts on great luncheon. Districts are bringing meetings into jails and treatment centers weekly, getting involved in the phone line. AM I sharing my Experience Strength & Hope?

Questions for the Spring Assembly

What is the etiquette of using the microphone?

Can we implement a GSR mentoring program and how do we go about doing so?

How do we encourage groups to send GSRs to area and district meetings?

How can we involve our children in Alcoholics Anonymous and show them how we live?

How do we get AA to work more effectively with Treatment Centers?

Can we have the GSR Workshop come our Districts so we can get better informed before assemblies and workshops?

DCM SHARING SESSION REPORT

First off I need to thank Mark for his wonderful note taking, I really appreciate it! We had 14 DCM's and 2 Alternate DCM's in attendance. We came up with 3 topics for discussion and we had great participation from all in attendance. Our first topic question was: Is it the DCM's responsibility to guide new GSR's at District meetings and Area functions? Responses were; a few no's as far as we should help them at the beginning; one DCM states they put them on a committee right away-hook them up with the chairperson and keep in contact with them; use guidelines for the DCM, introduce them into service work, ask ourselves what can I do to help?; help them at District meetings and Area functions; make sure GSR's are informed; guide them at Assemblies but don't overpower or coddle them' set them up with an experienced GSR for Sharing sessions, etc.; it is our responsibility and also sponsorship; and finally read page S32 of the Service Manual-4 of the 13 duties listed are about our responsibility to the GSR's. The second topic question was: What is the next step for the Area Inventory and is there a time frame to address concerns and ideas? Responses were: When the process is complete there should be a group conscience and be sure to follow through with recommendations; some things you can't change overnight, but a process should be put in place to address all concerns/ideas that come out of the Inventory and should be done as a body inclusive of GSR's; no time line should be set as some changes are a process of time; and we as DCM's, GSR's, Groups and Districts need to keep vigilant on this and stay focused and help where we can. The 3rd topic question was: How do we get Committee Chairs to

(Continued on page 18)

(Continued from page 17)

follow through with their commitments or release them from their position if they are not committed: Responses were; If they don't show up or call their position will be opened up for nominations after a period of 2 or 3 missed District meetings; we need to communicate with them; call or email a reminder of the District meeting; it's better to have the position vacant then to fill with a person who doesn't fulfill their duties; some Districts with open positions have the other members fill in when empty; explain their duties and responsibilities and be sure they are fulfilling them. We also discussed DCM reports at the Assemblies and the importance of them as there appears to be a concern that came out of the Inventory-we decided that at our next Sharing Session we will discuss our reports and look at ways to possibly improve and be more expedient. I want to thank all DCM's that attended and for all of the great sharing. This is very important for us as we all learn from each other.

OLD BUSINESS

DISTRICT 13 PROPOSAL- GRAPEVINE

Gayle, the DCM from District 13, explained the proposal that was brought up at the August Committee Meeting. One of the groups from District 13 brought forth a proposal for the daily reflections. The proposal was to incorporate in the Grapevine a layout for a daily reflection for each day of the month. The District 13 DCM believed the group's idea was a reflection added at the bottom of the Grapevine for each day of the month. They felt this would be a way to increase sales and to start working on a 2nd copy of the Daily Reflections Book. One member of District 13 wanted another Daily Reflections Book instead of having 12 Grapevines with Daily Reflections. District 13 voted to take the word "daily" out from the proposal and just have them be reflections with no dates. The proposal that was brought to the August Committee Meeting was, "A reflection component, submitted by A.A. members, to be put into the Grapevine." At the August Committee Meeting it was decided that the District 13 DCM would go back and ask the AA group, who made the proposal, to create examples of the reflections and bring them to the Fall Assembly (3 Examples were shared to the Area Assembly). The cost of adding the reflections to the Grapevine would be minimal.

Discussion: One AA member from District 13 was concerned that this was not the proposal the district voted on. The AA member was at the district meeting when they voted on this proposal and she felt this was not the same proposal being present here. The DCM from District 8 brought this back and asked the GSR's to bring this back to their groups. A group conscience was taken and the district was opposed to this proposal. The district was opposed partly due to not having an actual cost estimate for adding the reflection component, and also because it could lead to a proposal to create another Daily Reflections. District 8 felt that the Daily Reflection book we currently have is enough. The DCM from District 5 was concerned about having a reflection component added to each page because it could take away from the stories in the Grapevine. She felt it would be all right if it was a reflection for the month that is added to the front of the Grapevine. The DCM from District 13 clarified that this proposal was not a daily reflection. District 13 was strongly against adding a date or having daily in the proposal. Also, nowhere in the proposal does it state that there would be a reflection on each page.

The Past Delegate who brought up this proposal let the Area know he had discussed it with the Director of the Grapevine Board. The Grapevine Board thought it was a great idea but wanted it to come through the fellowship. After talking with Area 35 Delegate, the Past Delegate wrote up his proposal and brought it to his home group. At that time, it was to be a daily reflection for each day of the month. The cost for the proposal as it was originally written up would have been nothing since we were just adding a section to what was all ready printed. The motivation behind this proposal was that there was an Agenda Item in the past to create a second Daily Reflections to be written by AA members. By adding this to the Grapevine, we are getting new reflections for and by AA members. Instead of people buying another Daily Reflections, they would buy a Grapevine subscription which would help them since they are struggling with subscriptions. Also, this proposal keeps GSO from making a profit on literature sales for another Daily Reflection. The Grapevine, on the other hand, survives solely on the profits from subscriptions to the Grapevine. Having AA members submit reflections to the Grapevine also gets us involved. If you submit a story and they do not accept it, they may take a quote from your story and use it as a reflection. If the reflection component was to be added to each page, the editorial staff for the Grapevine would make sure it does not take away from the stories.

One AA member attended the 2010 International Convention where they talked about the Grapevine and how important it is to Alcoholics in other countries. In some countries, such as Africa, the Grapevine was available to Alcoholics before the Big Book. One AA member wanted to know if this was going to be for everyday of the month. It was clarified that the proposal did not want dates for the reflections, a daily reflections, or a specific number of reflections for each month of the Grapevine. One AA member felt that our motives should not be bailing out the Grapevine but on spiritual content. One person wondered if we are not trying to over manage this proposal. The Grapevine has an editorial staff to work on what this could look like. They are our trusted servant and are more knowledgeable about this type of work. I think we as a fellowship should focus on getting the proposal to the Conference to start being discussed and worked on. It can take us along time to get things going in AA. Another AA member brought up that this proposal would be brought to GSO where a committee would decide if the proposal is added to the agenda for the General Service Conference. If this does get on the agenda, GSO would get more background information and have suggestions/examples for what the reflection component would look like. Once we get the background information, we review their suggestions/examples and vote on if we approve or disapprove. The editorial staff members at the Grapevines are professionals in this field and could come up some neat ideas. One member felt that the proposal was very general and needed more specifics.

A motion was made that a reflections component submitted by members is added to the Grapevine and was 2nd. The Area 35 Assembly was reminded that since the proposal is for the General Service Conference, you need to have a 2/3 majority for this to pass. Vote: 56 voting members of the Area were in favor of the proposal and 15 were against. The motion passed.

AREA FINANCIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE:

We met as a committee on Friday, October 1st, 2010 at 8:30pm at Seven Clans Casino in Thief River Falls, Minnesota. There were five committee members present to do the review (Past Delegate: Tom A., Area Chair: Mike J., Area Treasurer: Sarah K., Typist: Jeff E., and Committee Chair: Randy A.). Our main objective was to review the financial records of the Area 35 Treasurer to ensure the accurate of the Area 35 records. Bank statements were reviewed from period 1 thru period 5 from January 1st to September 28th as were matching check register balances from January 1st to September 28th. We did an in-depth review process using an examination and verification guidelines sheet using: I. Beginning balance, II. Bank statement balance, III. Period to date (PTD) and year to date (YTD) total income, IV. Detailed review. We also verified the reconciliation report for that period. We also concurred the ending balance from period 5 July 29th, 2010 to September 28th, 2010 and verified the income year to date (YTD) balance of \$33,064.80 to the ending balance of \$18,893.40. We also reviewed checks, returned check, vouchers, and deposits made. WE the committee members concluded that all the records for the Area 35 Treasury are current and up-to-date with no discrepancies and that everything is accurate and match accordingly in the account. The Area 35 Treasurer is to be commended on job well done for the accuracy, prudence, and safety of our Area 35 Treasury. In addition, the members of the committee are also to be commended for the sacrifice of their time, energy, an enthusiasm for Area 35 and Alcoholics Anonymous. For future reference, there will be further discussion and review at our next upcoming meeting in Aitkin and at the Area 35 January Workshop. In closing, the suggested financial policy statement for Area 35 will be contingent on approval and/or rejection by the Area 35 Assembly.

Discussion: The Area 35 Chair felt that this proposal should be brought back to the groups for their approval so we do not move too quickly. One GSR felt that her group would be very happy with the policy. If we do vote and accept this policy, we can always make changes in the future. One concern was if we do not vote on this policy today, we would have to wait until the Spring Assembly. If we wait to do anything with the treasury and the policy until April 2011, some people in the area may not be happy since we were asked to make this committee. Some felt we should wait and bring this policy back to the groups; however if the policy does pass, GSR's can still bring this back to their groups, then to their DCMs, and then to the December Committee Meeting.

A motion was made to accept the Financial Policy Statement and the motion was 2nd. The motion passed with majority in favor.

WCRAASC 2011:

The flyer is out for everyone. It was mentioned that there is a 30 day cancelation policy. If you do not cancel before the 30 days, you will lose the money for one night's stay. When you make your reservations and give Grandview Lodge your credit card, they will take the cost for one night. Also, each person staying at the Grandview Lodge has to fill out a registration form even if you are sharing a room. Grandview does this to make sure we are being honest, contact you if there is an emergency, and know how many are staying in the rooms. There were lots of negotiations over the coffee prices. The coffee will cost \$15 per person for the entire weekend, but we are still in the negotiations for the cost of a single cup of coffee. The greeter chair has no volunteers at this time for the WCRAASC and needs lots of greeter, so please help. You cannot register with Grandview by phone; you can only register by fax, mail, or email.

AREA 35/36 JOINT WORKSHOP

The Area 35 Chair has been in contact with the Area 36 Chair and the only date available would be November 20th. Both places that were suggested for the location of the workshop, did not worked out. One suggestion was to look at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Cloud. One concern is that it is so late and close to the date to get this information out to Area 35. The Area Secretary, Literature Chair, and Grapevine Chair will not be able to make it to the workshop if it is held on November 20th. We need to make sure that we are getting the workshop put in place ahead of time since Area 35 has voted to have the Joint Workshop. A suggestion for the future is to set up a location, place, and time to have the workshop even if Area 36 is unsure if they want to participate. A suggestion was that we talk with the Area 36 Chair right now and set up the workshop for next year. If we do this Joint Workshop in November, we only have a month to get this information out to everyone. Will we get enough people to participate?

Motion was made to cancel the Joint 35/36 workshop for 2010 and set-up the workshop for July of 2011 and it was 2nd. Motion passed with a majority in favor.

EVENT/FLYER PROTOCOL FOR WEBSITE

This was brought up at the August Committee Meeting because a flyer, from outside entity, was on the Area 35 website. One suggestion is to make sure the Area Webmaster is contacting the action committee to review flyers for appropriateness if it is questionable. This same person feels that we should not need a policy, but that a flyer and questions should be brought to the Action Committee. One member felt that the committee should go to the Area Chair with questionable flyers since this person is the one who will be responsible. We need to get the Area Webmaster the "Northern Minnesota Area 35 Guidelines." If there are no guidelines for the Webmaster, then we need to develop these guidelines. A suggestion was to put a disclaimer (AA related events) on the website under the section where AA members can upload flyers.

PAST AREA TREASURY DISCUSSION

District 5 DCM brought up concerns from her district about the past Area 35 Treasury. From the reviews of the Area 35 treasury in 2008/2009 the total reported for the amends was \$2020.16. The concern was that the Area was told they would have a report on the past treasury by the February Committee Meeting, then we were told at the Spring Assembly, and then finally at the June Committee Meeting the report and amount were presented to Area 35. After the Past Treasury Report was presented, there was little discussion. They were told that this is the amount, the amends are being made, and we needed to accept this amount and move on. The concern is that there was no action taken.

(Continued on page 19)

(Continued from page 18)

Discussion: It was clarified that after the report was given by the past trustee, the Area never said you had to accept this and move on. The statement came from the past trustee not the Area. One GSR stated that his group was not concerned with but on the process. When the information came back from the June Committee Meeting, it was felt that action was taken without approval or input from the groups. Another group in District 8 was also concerned with the recommendation from the Past Treasury Review Committee and wanted clear facts and numbers from the Area.

A motion was made that Area 35 accepts the amount of \$2020.16 as the amends amount and it was 2nd. 58 were in favor of the motion and 3 opposed. The motion passed.

Minority: One member felt this was not an accurate amount for the amends since some of the contributions were cash and unable to be accounted for.

ELECTRONIC DONATIONS TO AREA 35

Treasurers report on accepting online contributions: I emailed GSO contributions coordinator asking for their advice and experience with this (9/19/10). I have not heard back yet (10/13/10). I did an internet search of payment processing services and a more specific search of payment processing services for nonprofits. In some cases we would have to set up our own form on our website to record the group name and number for each contribution; other sites offered to set up a form for us for a one-time fee. Possible payment options included accepting echeck and credit card payments. What we need: ability to set up our own contribution form which links the contribution with the group by name and number, and the ability to access this information in order to send thank you's.

Here is a summary of what I found:

All online payment/donation service providers charge a transaction processing fee. This ranges from 2%-4.75% of the contribution amount per transaction to cover credit card processing fees. Others charged the % fee and an additional .30 fee per transaction. (For example, if a group contributed \$5.00, the 2.2% transaction fee would be .11)

- Most processing providers will automatically email a receipt to the group. This may limit the cost of the treasurer mailing out confirmation receipts for the contributions.
- Some providers charged a one-time account set-up fee of approximately \$199 to have a customized form which would allow us to request more than the basic name and address information.
- Some providers charged a monthly fee of \$4-\$35
- Some allow you to set up reoccurring monthly payments. But this option costs an additional \$10 a month.
- Some mail a check to you at the end of the month; others automatically deposit it into your bank account.

The following is the list of payment processing providers I checked out:

Provider	Set-up fee	Monthly fee	Transaction fee	Customizable form	Emailed receipts	Echecks	Access to transaction reports	Reoccurring payments	Contributions processed
Paypal	No	No	2.2%+\$0.30	?	Can view and print receipts	?	Yes	Different button	2-3 days to bank account
Aceptiva	\$199	\$34.95	Visa: \$10 per month + 2.63% Echeck: \$15 + 1%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (\$10 fee)	?
Just Give-Donate-Now button	No	No	3%	No	Yes	?	Yes	?	Monthly Check
Network for Good-DonateNow	No	\$49.95	3%	Yes-\$199	Yes	?	Yes	?	Wired to bank monthly
The Click & Pledge Payment System	No	\$5	4.5%+.35	?	?	Yes	Yes	?	48-hour direct deposit
Set up a Cause on Facebook	No	No	4.5%	Yes	Publically viewable record	No	Yes	Yes	Monthly
Changing the Present.org	No	No	3%+\$0.30	?	?	?	Yes	?	?

Please ask AA members in your groups who might know about this, to help me find the cheapest online payment service. One thing to considerations when discussing this in your group is that we do pay for stamps for group and receipt costs .44 cents.

GRAPEVINE SURVEY

What is the value of the Grapevine magazine to you? **Response:** The Area is unanimously in favor of the Grapevine being valuable.

How do you use the Grapevine magazine? **Response:** A majority uses the Grapevine with 5 members feeling they do not use the Grapevine.

What would you like to change about the Grapevine magazine? **Response:** One person would like to see only stories in the Grapevine and not the other stuff. Some would like the gray pages taken out, add information about the 12 concepts, make stories easier to follow and read, and add more international stories to the Grapevine. An AA member felt that the fellowship should have voted on whether or not the Grapevine should be in color or stay gray.

What do you think the purpose of the Grapevine magazine should be? - **Response:** It is an AA meeting in print – the entire Assembly was in favor of this unanimously.

Please answer one of the following questions about the Grapevine magazine:

If you currently have a print subscription: If the GV offers digital delivery (eg. email) in addition to the print version, will you opt out of the print version? **Response:** No

If you currently do not have a print subscription: If the GV offers digital delivery (eg. email) in addition to the print version, will you begin subscribing? **Response:** Yes = 5 and the rest answered “No.”

If Yes, and the digital and print area a bundled subscription, would you opt out of the print version? **Response:** All 5 answered “No.”

Important questions about you:

How old are you? **Response:** Age- 0-20 = 0, 21-30 = 4, 31-40 = 12, 41-50 = 32, 51-60 = 32, and Over 60 = 14.

How long have you been sober? **Response:** Years- 0-10 = 51, 11-20 = 16, 21-30 = 19, 31-40 = 8, and over 40 years sober = 0

Are you a GSR? **Response:** 35 area members are GSRs.

Do you currently subscribe to the Grapevine Magazine? **Response:** 29 area members answered “No” and the rest of the area (majority) answered “Yes.”

If you do not currently subscribe, have you previously? **Response:** 22 of the 29 area members who answered “No” to question #7.

How long ago? **Response:** Years- 0-10 = 8, 11-20 = 1, 21-30 = 1, and over 30 = 0.

Why did you discontinue your subscription? **Response:** Content- 10, Price Increase – 0, No longer read magazine – 3, No longer use or benefit from – 0, and Other – gray pages, group purchases one that the person reads, they made it colored without bringing it up to AA members, and one person forgot to send in renewal.

If you do not currently subscribe to the Grapevine Magazine, what would need to change for you to subscribe? **Response:**- 33 area members felt there should be a price reduction and they are willing to sacrifice colored pages. One area member wants them to start making changes that are approved by the Conference.

-If you checked “Content” as a reason you do not subscribe or as an area you would like to see changed, please elaborate...what specific changes would you like to see changed? **Response:** Take out the gray pages and add a reflection component from AA members to the Grapevine.

Do you think it is important for the Grapevine Magazine to continue? **Response:** Area 35 unanimously answered “Yes” to the question.

In reference to pricing: (the Grapevine currently operates in a deficit, with shortfalls being covered by the General Service Board approved withdrawals from the Reserve Fund).

Do you think the Grapevine Magazine should be priced so that the Grapevine is self-supporting? **Response:** A majority of area members answered “Yes” with 18 members answering “No” and 4 answering “I Don’t Know.” **Comments:** The Grapevine has been in the black as long as we can remember. Treat it as a pamphlet. The grapevine is used a lot internationally and is very important. The cost of items should be brought up for approval to the conference

Do you think the Grapevine Magazine should remain priced lower than the cost of production, and that the Grapevine Board and General Service Board should generate plans to subsidize operations to bring to the fellowship for consideration? **Response:** A majority of area members answered “No” with 5 area members answering “Yes” and 7 answering “I Don’t Know.”

ELECTRONIC DELIVERY SURVEY

Are you interested in reading A.A. literature on you mobile device or computer? Response: Yes - 48, No – 28, Maybe – 5, and Don't Know – 1
Which A.A. books would you want available electronically? Response: Big Book, 12x12 (30 people), Daily Reflections (40 people), and Living Sober (11 people).
Which A.A. pamphlets would you want available electronically? Response: Frequently Asked Questions (5 people) and A Newcomer Asks (6 people)
What other services or information do you want your G.S.O. to provide electronically? Response: Ordering Literature from GSO.

PAST AREA TREASURY DISCUSSION

District 5 DCM brought up concerns from her district about the past Area 35 Treasury. From the reviews of the Area 35 treasury in 2008/2009 the total reported for the amends was \$2020.16. The concern was that the Area was told they would have a report on the past treasury by the February Committee Meeting, then we were told at the Spring Assembly, and then finally at the June Committee Meeting the report and amount were presented to Area 35. After the Past Treasury Report was presented, there was little discussion. They were told that this is the amount, the amends are being made, and we needed to accept this amount and move on. The concern is that there was no action taken.

Discussion: It was clarified that after the report was given by the past trustee, the Area never said you had to accept this and move on. The statement came from the past trustee not the Area. One GSR stated that his group was not concerned with but on the process. When the information came back from the June Committee Meeting, it was felt that action was taken without approval or input from the groups. Another group in District 8 was also concerned with the recommendation from the Past Treasury Review Committee and wanted clear facts and numbers from the Area.

A motion was made that Area 35 accepts the amount of \$2020.16 as the amends amount and it was 2nd. 58 were in favor of the motion and 3 opposed. The motion passed.

Minority: One member felt this was not an accurate amount for the amends since some of the contributions were cash and unable to be accounted for.

DISCUSSION ON UNANIMITY IN 3RD LEGACY VOTING PROCEEDURES

A member of AA was concerned about educating Area 35 about what “substantial unanimity” means when we are at an election assembly. This member was concerned that we are not educating people on parliamentary procedures and the voting process. This topic was brought from a group, to District 13, and then discussed at the August Area Committee Meeting. District 13 is looking for a policy or action that when we are at an election assembly, we inform Area Chairs, Officers, DCMs, and GSR about “substantial unanimity” before we do elections. Another idea was to have this be a topic to be presented at the January Workshop. It was clarified that this is not a change to our voting procedures but is the policy all ready in place for voting procedures. There was a lot of discussion about both sides of the issue with no clear direction as to what Area 35 want to do. There seemed to be some Area 35 members who opposed the proposal and some in favor of the proposal. No motion was made.

NEW BUSINESS

CHANGES ON WEB MEETING LISTS

District 7 requested that the Area 35 Meeting list content be left up to the individual Districts and be handled similar to Area 74 in Northern Wisconsin. Please review the web site www.area74.org. Meeting lists must reflect the most up-to-date and complete information available. The importance of accurate lists cannot be overstated, as we all know our primary purpose is to carry the message. The present contents of the Area 35 meeting lists are very inaccurate. For example, they do not contain the more than 70 meetings that we have here in District 7. Current lists already in use in each of the Districts would work well for this purpose. Each District could submit a scanned version of their most recent lists in a PDF file format to the Area Webmaster who, in turn, could post the district lists to the site. When someone wants to see the meetings available in a particular district they will see a copy of the lists that are being used daily in that district. This copy would be one or two pages, not nine that it takes now. This is a practical and sensible way to fix the problem and provide meeting seekers with accurate information.

District 7 would like this item to be on the agenda for the Fall Assembly for a vote. Alternately, if this is the preferred method, we can bring it to the floor of the Fall Assembly for a vote. We are very willing to work to see that this change is made in an effective manner.

Meeting lists are of such a critical nature that they should not be tied to the need for accurate record keeping for groups, which we also feel is important. If there is a meeting and people attend it, then it is an AA meeting regardless of whether or not there is a group number, contact person etc. We cannot be exclusive, this is in the traditions. At the group level, we have less need for the amount of information that the GSO needs because of the largeness of their lists and the infrequency of the updates. At the District level there is a closer watch on the lists and they can naturally be more dynamic, consequently they are updated more frequently. Again I cannot express the importance of meeting lists and the role they play in our service work. Alcoholics easily turn away when they look for a meeting and it is not where it is supposed to be. When they look at a list and there isn't a meeting available for them at a given time or place, there might be one that is just not on the list because of some record keeping procedure that prevents good lists from being posted. It's time to fix this problem and let the Districts post their list as is to the website. It could be a matter of life or death for the still suffering Alcoholic!

Discussion: The Area 35 Group Record Secretary stated that there are 39 active groups in District 7. The information on the website can only be accurate if we are given accurate information. This requires groups to make sure meetings are accurate. One member brought up that if you want to be on the Area website you should be a registered group and participating with the Area. At a district level, they can have unregistered groups on their meeting lists. The reason for getting registered is to have a contact for the groups so that we make sure the doors are open for the still suffering alcoholics. The majority of discussion focused on the fact that groups should be registered before being added to the Area 35 website. The current policy for Area 35 is to have only registered groups on the Area 35 website. It was also brought up that a group can be called a group if two or more people gather together. No motion was made.

APPROVAL OF NEW WEBMASTER-

Steve was asked to fill in for the Area 35 Webmaster due to the previous Webmaster stepping down for personal reasons.

A motion was made to have Steve L. become the new Webmaster for Area 35 and was 2nd. Area 35 was unanimously in favor of Steve becoming the Area 35 Webmaster. Motion passed.

PROPOSAL FROM DISTRICT 13

Due to the recent discovery of a September 1939 issue of “Your Faith” magazine, District 13 of Area 35 proposes that a foot note be added, in future printings, to the last two paragraphs of page 175 and the first two paragraphs of page 176 of the book “Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers” to correct the errors in the current form of this publication. These footnotes would need to indicate that Dr. Bob did not write the article and that his name was not used.

Motion made to add a foot note to the book Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers and it was 2nd. Area 35 was unanimously in favor. Motion passed.

JANUARY WORKSHOP FORMAT

A majority of Area 35 would like the format changed for the January Workshop. They also felt the Area 35 Secretary does not have to take minutes at the January Workshop. The Alternate Delegate will write a report for Area 35 on the January Workshop.

SPRING ASSEMBLY 2011-

The Area 35 Chair wants to check and verify the information for the Spring Assembly. He will have the details at the December Committee Meeting. The Spring Assembly will be in Zone IV.

FALL ASSMEBLY 2011-

The Fall Assembly will be in Zone 1 on October 1st and 2nd, 2011. The location will need to start being researched and reserved.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS-

St. Cloud Round-up- October 22nd and 24th at the St. Cloud Civic Center in St. Cloud, MN
December Committee Meeting- December 5th, 2010 in Aitkin, MN
January Workshop – January 15th and 16th, 2011 at the Coates Plaza Hotel in Virginia, MN
Spring Assembly- April 2nd and 3rd, 2011 at Fortune Bay Resort and Casino in Tower, MN

ASK IT BASKET (Past Delegates)-

1. Instead of the Northern Light being pushed on their deadline, why don't we move the Spring Assembly to the 2nd weekend? Response: The Northern Light Editor commented that moving the Spring Assembly would probably not help. Also, if you start moving things, you have to change everything else that is scheduled.
2. How come the Grapevine is so darn good? Response: A Past Delegate always likes to put this question in the basket ever since he was the Grapevine Chair. It seems like even though there are some problems with the Grapevine, everybody seems to want to keep it around. That was the consensus from the survey taken earlier in the day.
3. During the inventory sharing, I felt the Area Chair and Area Treasurer were personally attacked. A person's opinions are important, but how do stress to look at the job being done. We need to remember principals before personalities and not necessarily the one doing the job. Response: This was a good point and we should state the position, not the person's name (ex. Area Chair instead of Mike). When you do an inventory, and are looking at service position, it can be hard not to look at the person in the position. We do need to remember to state the position and not the person's name. We also need to remember that we are all responsible for Alcoholic Anonymous and the service positions we are given.
4. Is it correct in saying that the Area pays expenses to the G.S.C. only for the Delegate and not for others? Response: Yes, this is correct. If a person goes with the Delegate to the G.S.C, they pay for themselves. Also, only the Delegate can attend the G.S.C. The person going with the Delegate is not allowed to attend the G.S.C. meetings.
5. What is your best travel story in service? Response: One was a workshop in International Falls where they ate ice cream in their car during 30 below weather.
6. What are the 3 biggest things you see coming from this inventory process? Response: 1. The Northern Light deadline. 2. Changes in the January Workshop. 3. Communication between the districts and area are much better than they use to be with technology, but there is still more need for communication at the group, district, and area levels. 4. Another thing brought out was to keep informing each other and be kind and patient.
7. When will we be able to have a large print AA *Come of Age* for us old people? Response: This will be brought up again at the General Service Conference this year?
8. If A.A. is not affiliated with any religion organization, why do we use a Christian prayer at meetings? Many areas of the country have eliminated this at meetings. Response: This was something that began very early in AA even before the Big Book was made and it always stuck with us. The decision to use that prayer is entirely up to the group and they can choose to use a different closing. It is also extremely important to me that we remember the traditions especially, that we have no opinion on outside issues.

2010 FALL ASSEMBLY ADJOURNED

2010 – AREA 35 SCHEDULE

Area 35 Service Workshop

January 15th and 16th
Coates Plaza Hotel
502 Chestnut Street West
Virgina, MN 55792-2532
(218) 749-1000

Area Meeting - February 27, 2011 - 9:00 am

Aitkin Alano Club
322 1st. Avenue N.E.
Aitkin, MN

2011 West Central Region

Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference

"We are Responsible for A.A.'s Future — Let it Begin With Us"
MARCH 4-6, 2011
Grand View Lodge 23521 Nokomis Ave. Nisswa, MN
Check Area 35 Event Calendar flier for registration information!

Spring Assembly

April, 2-3rd 2011
Fortune Bay Resort - 1430 Bois Forte Road Tower, MN Call: 1-800-555-1714 for Reservations Blocked Rooms: “Northern MN Area 35 Workshop” ROOOM RATES: \$76.00/NIGHT (EXCLUDING TAX)
(reservations must be made by March 18TH)

Area Meeting - June 5th - 9:00 am

Aitkin Alano Club
322 1st. Avenue N.E.
Aitkin, MN

Area Meeting - August 7th - 9:00 am

Aitkin Alano Club
322 1st. Avenue N.E.
Aitkin, MN

Area 35 Northern MN Fall Assembly - Thief River Falls

October 1 - 2, 2011
Seven Clans Casino
20595 Center Street East
Thief River Falls, MN

December 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			Henukkah Begins at Sundown			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
			Winter Begins			Christmas
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Boxing Day Kwanzaa						
<<<<		www.pvofree.com		Red = Federal Holidays U.S.		>>>>

January 2011						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						New Year's Day
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
			M.L.King Jr Day			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
<<<<		www.pvofree.com		Red = Federal Holidays U.S.		>>>>

Upcoming Events in Areas 35 & 36

Note: Area 35 events take

9th Annual Wild Rice Round-up

January 21 - 23, 2011
Shooting Star Hotel & Event Center
Mahnommen, MN
Flier Area35.org

Northstar RoundUp

February, 18-19
Seven Clans Casino
20592 Central St. E
Thief River Falls, MN

7th Annual Big Ole Roundup - Alexandria

March 12-14
Meeting accommodations by:
Broadway Ballroom & Restaurant
115 30th Ave. East, Alexandria
Tel: 320-763-6565

32nd Annual Winter Rap Up

March 18 - 20,
Coates Plaza Hotel
502 Chestnut Street
Virginia, MN
Registration by February, 18th - 1-800-777-4699

Stearns County Roundup

March 26
Address - The Landing
18527 County Road 154 Avon, MN
Call Nick for Info 320-292-0090

Area 36 — Sunlight of the Spirit Weekend

April 15 - 17, 2011
Holiday Inn
Fairmont MN
Registration information: Sunlight of the Spirit Weekend
PO Box 748
Fairmont MN 56031-0748

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 position is a two-year rotation picked by the incoming Area Chair and either approved or rejected by the Area Committee at the first Area meeting after the Fall Assembly Elections.

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

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

N.L. COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

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

Twelve Concepts for World Service (Short Form)

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

35th ANNUAL AREA 35 SERVICE WORKSHOP
“We are Responsible for A.A.’s Future- Let it Begin With Us”
January 15th and 16th, 2011
Coates Plaza Hotel
Virginia, MN 56308

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 2011

8:00	Registration	
9:15	Opening and Announcements	
9:30	Meet your Area Officers and Committee Chairs	
9:40	Concepts Presentation:	Conley B.
11:05	BREAK	
11:20	The Role of the GSR: Responsibilities of the Individual and the Group	District 1
11:40	How do GSR’s Pass Information, Particularly Agenda Items	District 3
12:00	Discussion/Sharing	
12:15	LUNCH (on your own)	
1:45	The Role of the DCM: Responsibilities of the Individual and the District	District 4
2:05	How do DCM’s Pass Information, Particularly Agenda Items	District 15
2:25	Discussion/Sharing	
2:40	BREAK	
3:00	The Role of the Area Officers and Committee Chairs:	
	Responsibilities of the Individual and the Area	District 8
3:20	How do Area Officers’ Pass Information, Particularly Agenda Items	District 16
3:40	Discussion/Sharing	
3:50	BREAK	
4:00	TRUSTEE SHARING SESSION	Conley B.
5:00	Discussion/Sharing/Questions	
5:15	DINNER (on your own)	
6:30	GSR/DCM SHARING SESSION	
8:00	OPEN SPEAKER MEETING-	Conley B.
	(Ice Cream Social to Follow)	

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 2011

7:00	Big Book Closed AA Meeting	
	ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY	
8:30	Action Plan Presentation on Area Inventory #’s1-8	District 18
8:50	Action Plan Presentation on Area Inventory #’s9-17	District 5
9:10	Discussion/Sharing	
9:30	BREAK	
10:00	We Are Responsible for AA’s Future	Conley B.
10:30	ASK IT BASKET	
11:15	Adjourn	

\$10 Registration to strive toward the area action of making the service workshop self-supporting.

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