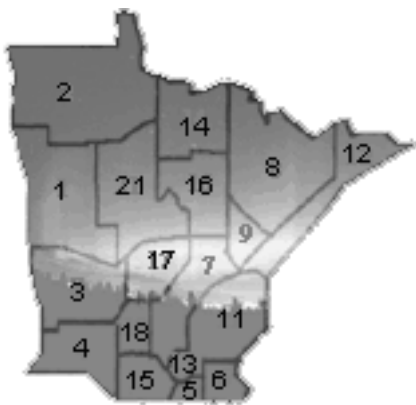


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Deadline for the next
Northern Light is
November 10th, 2010

This is YOUR Newsletter.

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

Please bring extra copies to share with your group!

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

AREA 35 COMMITTEE 2010

AREA OFFICERS

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delegate@area35.org

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SECRETARY
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cpc@area35.org

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treatment@area35.org

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webmaster@area35.org

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grouprecords@area35.org

NORTHERN LIGHT
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northernlight@area35.org

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(D.C.M.s)

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dcm1@area35.org

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dcm2@area35.org

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dcm4@area35.org

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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

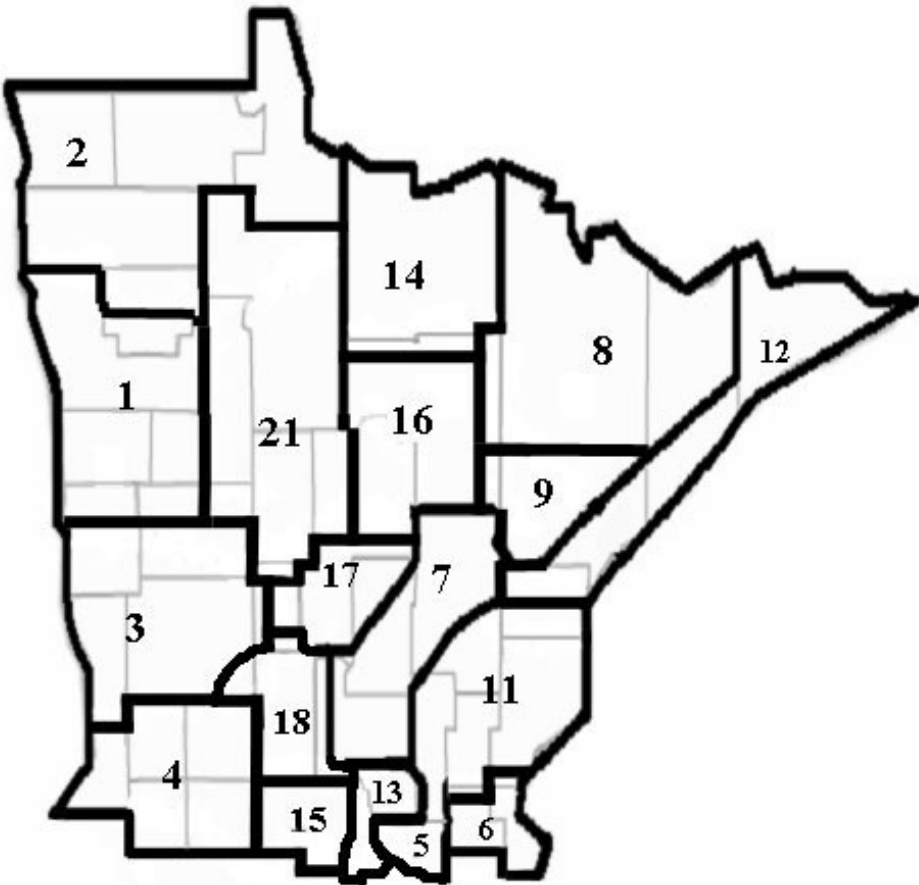
Thank you!

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 6f the A.A. directory and helping carry out the triennial membership surveys.
 - Visit groups and districts in the area whenever possible.
 - Work closely with committee members and officers, sharing experience throughout the year. After G.S.R.s and committee members have reported on the Conference, learn from these A.A.s how groups and members have reacted.
 - Assume added responsibility if the area chair and alternate chair are unable to serve. Or, if an area committee is not functioning effectively, the delegate may take an active role in remedying the situation.
 - Keep the alternate delegate fully informed and active, so that the alternate can replace the delegate in an emergency.
 - Late in the second term, work with newly elected delegates to pass along a basic knowledge of Conference proceedings and problems.
- (from The A.A. Service Manual, pages S44-S45)



Area 35

Northern Minnesota

Zone I

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

Zone II

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

Zone III

- District 5** - Becker, Big Lake, Elk River, Milaca, Otsego, Princeton, Zimmerman
- District 6** - 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
- 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

District 1
Sunday February 7th, 2:00 pm
Fertile Community Center
101 S. Mill St., Fertile, MN 56540
Email DCM. Richard "Rick" W.
dcm1@area35.org for next meeting.

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

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

District 4
2nd Saturday of Month, 5:30 p.m.
Call DCM Jim 320 585-5383
for location (it rotates)
Potluck at 6:30 p.m.
Round Robin at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

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

District 8
Committee Meetings at 6:30 p.m.
General District Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Call Randy for location “rotates”
218-225-8833
Palo, MN

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

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

District 12
Rotating 3rd Thursday 6:30 p.m.
Email DCM Jana at dcm12@area35.org for loca-
tion!

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

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

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

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

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

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

Delegate's Report

As fall approaches, our calendars are filling up with open speaker meetings, workshops, Assembly, additional Forum, and a service conference, to name a few. My delegate reports, for the most part, were well attended. Those in attendance were very interested, asked questions, and made suggestions regarding the agenda items and The Grapevine. My sponsor, a past delegate, stated that my report should take about an hour; however, most of my reports lasted about two hours due to questions prompting discussion. It was wonderful that people routinely showed a genuine interest, and we were able to have valuable discussion related to the agenda items. The feedback from those who attended was awesome, and it is very rewarding to serve Area 35 with the interest and enthusiasm shown by the members. Area 35 is genuinely concerned about Alcoholics Anonymous, and it is a privilege to serve this area.

On September 1st, we had another planning meeting for the West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference to be held at Grandview Lodge in Nisswa on March 4th, 5th, and 6th of 2011. The flyer will be available at our Fall Assembly at Seven Clans Casino in Thief River Falls on October 2nd and 3rd. We have all the chairs in place but are still negotiating on coffee. I never realized that coffee could be such a huge issue since I never drank a cup. I sure realize that now! You can register for rooms online or use the form on the back of the flyer. Please read the form, in particular the cancellation policy as well as the note that everybody needs to complete the form, even if you are sharing a room. I am sorry for the inconvenience, but this is the best we could do. The convention center is a new facility with updated electric technology. More will follow about the Service Conference in later reports.

In September I am scheduled to give a delegate report in District 6 and all officers will be holding a Zonal Forum in Zone 3. Districts 5, 6, 7, 11, 13, 17, 18 will be at the Cambridge Hospital on September 18th from 11 am to 2 pm. I hope both events are well attended and prompt more valuable discussion and sharing.

I am looking forward to our Fall Assembly and hope that many GSR's attend, along with any other interested members. Assemblies provide a great opportunity to ask questions, make suggestions, and participate in order to make Area 35 the best it can be. Please take advantage of this opportunity.

As your delegate, I serve on the CPC Committee in New York. At the 60th Conference I had proposed and additional consideration regarding formats for one-on-one contact with professionals. The Trustees Committee on CPC agreed to gather sharing from the fellowship regarding formats for one-on-one contact with professionals for inclusion in the CPC workbook. It is a wonderful feeling to be part of the process.

I want to thank all of the DCM's and their secretaries for district minutes. I do read them and if I can be of any help, please don't hesitate to ask. It is always an honor and a privilege to serve Area 35.

God Bless,
Jon C.

Alternate Delegate's Report

Greetings,

It is hard to believe how quickly time passes when one sobers up and becomes active in this life saving program. I hope everyone in our area has enjoyed the summer and looking forward to our upcoming events in Area 35.

I attended the August Committee meeting in Aitkin on August 1st. Thank you to all the District chairs and members who regularly attend these meetings. Two separate proposals were brought forth by District 13 which will be discussed at the upcoming assembly. I hope that your home Groups and Districts are getting a chance to receive feedback regarding these.

I was invited to attend the District 5 monthly meeting as well in August. Thank you very much to District 5 for inviting me. I was able to watch their district function as well as hear and share some concerns regarding area policies and past actions. It is truly a privilege to see so many individuals who are so passionate and actively participating in both district and area affairs.

We will be holding our next Zonal Forum on September 18th at the Cambridge hospital. We are looking forward to this event and hope it is well attended by the participating districts.

I am looking forward to our fast approaching Fall Assembly to be held October 2nd and 3rd in Thief River. I hope to see you all there.

Yours in Service,

Jim K.

Chair's Report

Greetings to all. Hope your summer was as productive and busy as mine was. What a great summer for Minnesota. Except for the fact that God kept watering the lawn and kept it warm enough so it won't stop growing. It seems like that has been one of the major jobs this summer. Things have been going well at least I have not heard about too many problems. Its been trying working with the folks at Seven Clans for the assembly but looks like we have it all worked out. I have been involved in some great fellowship and spending time with my sponsor and sponsee's. I had the opportunity to spend time in fellowship at a Hog roast and speaker meeting in Cold Spring. What a great group of people. We stayed at some friends from the fellowship and felt right at home. The food was great but spending time with all the people was the best. Just finished a picnic at our house had great food and fellowship. I am truly grateful that I have a wife that comes with and supports me. I really believe that for good service work to keep happening we need to spend time getting to know each other. Its great to go to meetings but if you don't spend time with each other its like sitting with strangers. God has blessed us with some great people in our lives. We recently lost a home group member Susan S. and have another going through health problems. I am just happy to be a part of their lives. I was part of a conference call set up by our past delegate Tom A. where we discussed the Financial Review Committee and our purpose. It was nice to see how each of the committee members added something towards our goals. I will be attending the Zonal Forum on Sept 18th. I am also planning on attending the Park Rapids and Duluth Roundups'. Some of you have heard that Ione B. has resigned as Webmaster. I was able to find a person that is always willing to serve, Steve L. and he was willing to start right away. I will be bring his name to the committee at the assembly for approval. I know he will do a fine job and certainly has not been afraid to offer his help anyway that he can. God has blessed us with some great people that are willing to step up and serve. I really appreciate all that you do. There are times when I feel really inadequate in serving AA but I believe that God makes it all work out. Thanks for the time we spend together trying our best to serve this fellowship. I feel privileged to be a part of rather than a part from.

Yours in Service and Gratitude
Michael J.

Secretary's Report

Greetings Area 35,

Over the past month I have been working on getting the minutes done from the August Committee Meeting. Please review the minutes and let me know if there are any correction that need to be made. I also attended the WCRAASC planning meeting in Nisswa on September 1st. I will have the notes from that meeting available for anyone in the next couple of weeks. I have added the new DCMs or GSRs to the email list for the Area 35 minutes. If you would like to receive the notes from the WCRAASC or the Area 35 minutes, please send me an email at secretary@area35.com. On September 18th we have our second Zonal Forum in Cambridge and I am looking forward to meeting new people from our Area. I hope to have the flyer for the Spring Assembly ready for distribution by the Fall Assembly.

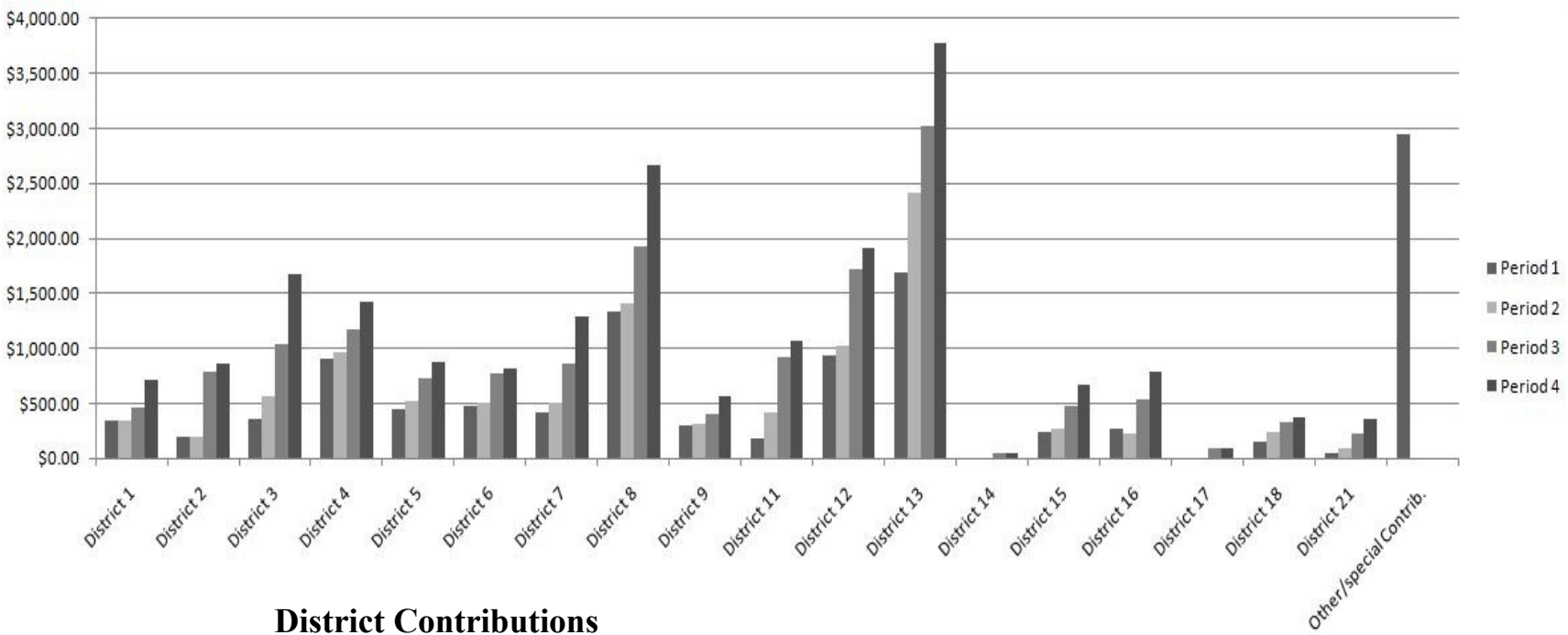
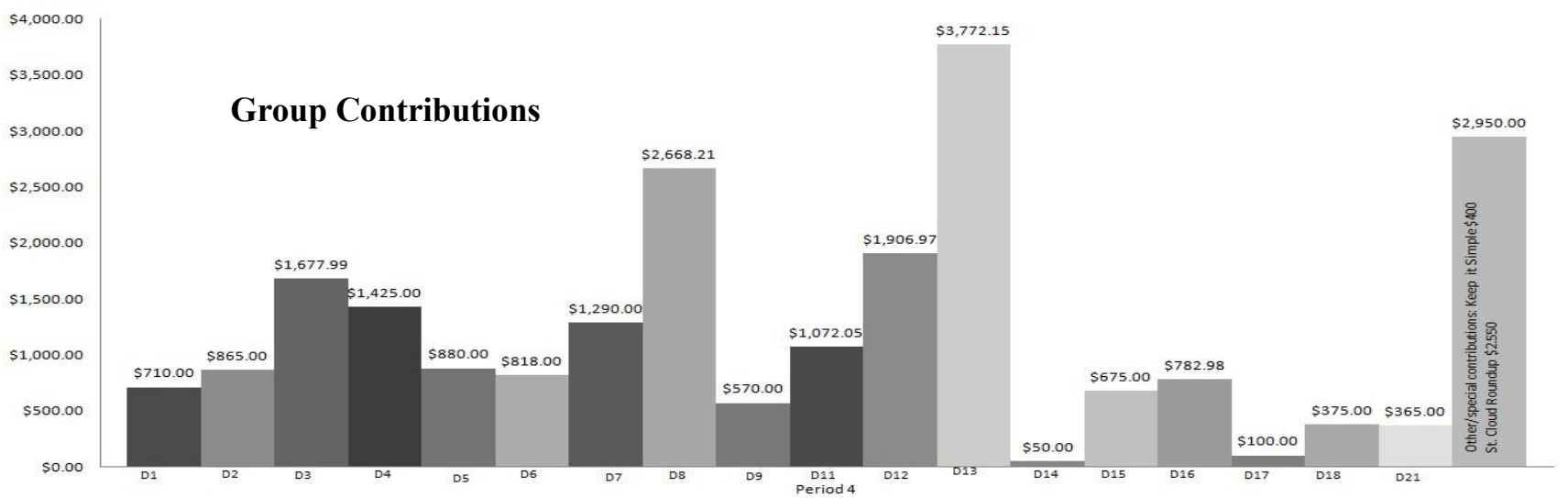
Yours in Service,
Heidi R.

Treasurer's Report

Greetings Area 35! I am very much looking forward to our upcoming Area events: Zonal 3 Forum, on September 18, 2010, from 11 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Dellwood Foundation Room in the Cambridge Hospital, 701 South Dellwood Street. Please join us! It's a great opportunity to meet your Area officers, ask us questions, and learn about what we do at the Area. Also coming up is the Fall Assembly, which we hope to see all GSRs, DCMs, and District Committee Chairs in attendance to share their group consciences and vote on matters important to the Area and AA worldwide. The upcoming expenses for these events total approximately \$3,000.00, so please also share with your groups the need for the Area to remain self-supporting through group contributions. Want to know what we do with the money, come along to the Zone 3 Zonal Forum or the Fall Assembly and see!

Grateful for your sobriety? Looking for a way to give a little back to the fellowship that saved our lives? Consider taking advantage of the BIRTHDAY PLAN! On your birthday, show your gratitude by sending a contribution in the amount of your total years of sobriety to your home group, the Area, and GSO. The Birthday Plan is a great way to be of service to AA, and ensure that we are able to continue providing the services necessary to ensure the hand of AA remains able to reach out to the still suffering alcoholic. HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Thanks for letting me be of service. Enjoy and share the graphs!
Sarah K.



STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Dear Area 35,

Thank you for the opportunity to continue to serve Area 35.

I would also like to thank all of our Area 35 State Fair Booth volunteers for their recent service on August 28-29. Rita D. served as the onsite booth captain on August 28. I was on site and worked a 6:30- 9 PM shift on Sunday, August 29.

Other volunteers included: Gayle S., Russel P., Christine, Sara, Cara, Betsey, Sue N., Sandy H., Jenna K., John S., Mark N., Dave A., Todd E., Bill S., Kelly D., Joe N., Patti and Bill D.

My preliminary observation is that it

worked well to move the AA State Fair Booth from the Grandstand location to the Education Building. I wrote a short shift survey to assess the traffic during each of our shifts. I would like to thank our volunteers for filling out this survey in their shifts.

Area 36 also encouraged their volunteers to use this survey. Some shifts reported very heavy traffic (from 4-6 thousand people per hour walking by the booth. Although most of these people did not stop by the booth they became aware of the fact that AA is still active in our state.

I will be compiling these surveys and writing a detailed report on booth visitors and literature passed out during our two day coverage of the AA State Fair Booth.

I enjoyed attending the Area 35 Committee Meeting on August 1. I also attended a WCAARSF steering committee meeting in Nisswa on September 1. I am looking forward to our Are 35 Northern MN Fall Assembly in Their River Falls on October 2-3.

I will be presenting at a PI Breakfast in Grand Rapids on October 29.

In service,
Roger R.

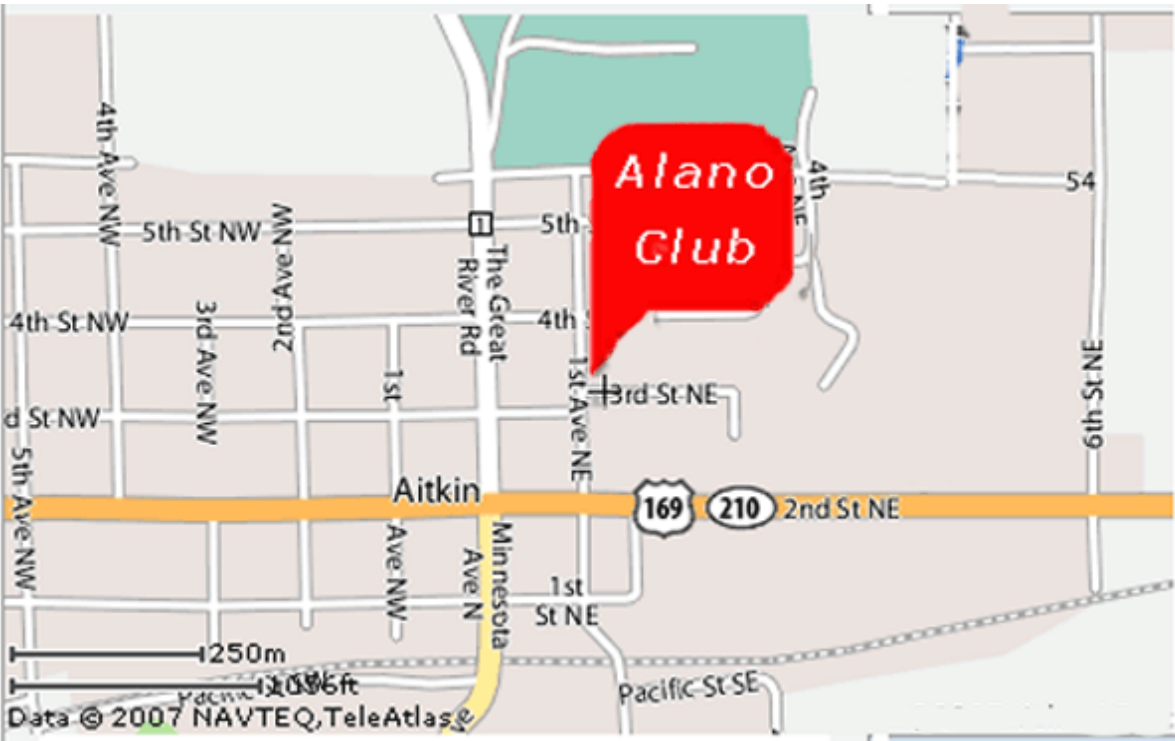
Inclement Weather Procedure For Area 35 Events

- 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

Greetings Area 35

It is hard to believe that summer is coming to an end and fall is in the air already. Is it just me or does time seem to fly by faster the older we get? I hope that you all enjoyed your summer and are looking forward to the beautiful fall colors that will be upon us here in northern Minnesota very soon.

The District Corrections Chairs have been busy complying contact lists for their areas for inmates that are do to be released from correctional facilities. I want to thank everyone that is willing to be of part of this important 12 step work. It is so important that these inmates have contact immediately with an AA member and attend a meeting upon their release. Their chances of staying sober are greatly enhanced when we are there to carry the message to them. If you are not on a contact list in your District why not consider getting on one? You can do so by contacting your District Corrections Chair or DCM and let them know you are willing to get on that list.

The Corrections Chairs are also busy making sure we are fulfilling our duties by bringing meetings into the Correctional Facilities in all of northern Minnesota. I want to take the time to thank all of them for their commitment to be of service to Area 35 and also to all the volunteers that give of their time to continue to make this possible.

I got to be a part of the “Great Minnesota Get Together” at the state fair this last weekend by volunteering in our AA booth along with Joe N. I personally liked our new location and feel we reached more individual's and gave out more literature than previous years. I believe that this is just one of the many ways that we need to continue to carry AA's message to the public. I am grateful to have been a part of this service work and if all of us together in Area 35 just helped one individual that weekend by being there to carry AA's message of hope than it makes it all worth the while don't you think?

I attended our second WCRAASC committee meeting on September 1st and we are moving right along with preparations for this event March 4-6, 2011 at the Grand View Lodge in Nisswa. I am working on the flier that will be distributed very soon. Make sure you mark your calendar and attended this great conference that is being held in Minnesota this year!

I will be attending the “Bridging the Gap” workshop this coming weekend in Bloomington and look forward to our Zonal 1 Corrections/ Treatment workshop with Butch in Thief River Falls October 1st at the Seven Clans Casino. Hope to see all of you at the Fall Assembly that weekend too!

Thank you for allowing me to be of service,

Kelly D.

ARCHIVIST

As some of you have already heard, I had the rarest, most historically valuable piece of A.A. history in many years fall into my lap in July. I found a September 1939 issue of “Your Faith” magazine with the Dr. Bob interview in it. Further research since then indicates that this is the only known copy right now. G.S.O. didn’t have a copy either. I have made a very high resolution scan of the magazine and typed out the text of the article. I will have copies available at the Fall Assembly or if you can’t wait I will e-mail them to you. Just send me a mail with DR. Bob article in the subject and I will get it right to you. The Scans are big files so if you have an older computer or a dial up connection I would suggest waiting until I can burn a CD for you.

Since this magazine is such a rare and historically valuable document and belongs to the fellowship of A.A. as a whole I sent the original magazine to the G.S.O. Archives where it can be preserved and shared. My ego wanted to keep it in the Area Archives but my heart said send it to G.S.O.

The next Archive display will be in Mankato, a joint display with Area 36, on September 10,11 and 12. I will have the display at the Duluth Round Up on the 24,25 and 26 of September.

See you all in Thief River Falls and remember to bring a box of light bulbs for your room.

Brad I.

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

No Report Given

ARCHIVES

No Report Given

GRAPEVINE

This has been an uneventful time for the Grapevine Chair. I will need to have a zone volunteer to sponsor a Grapevine Workshop. I know there is a lot of room to grow in service by taking this as a project for your district and zone. I would need a meeting location, some announcements by the districts in the about where and when the workshop will be held.. What an opportunity to grow in service by making this happen.

I look forward to Zone 1,2, 3 or 4 stepping up to this small challenge and great opportunity for growth.

Yours in Service

Dee K.

Temporary WEBMASTER

Howdy Everybody,

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.

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, ect.) 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.

Now a little about the Web site in the month on Aug we had hits from 20 different countries, 5333 hits looking at the calendar, 950 hits looking for meetings, 362 hits looking for contact information. Of the hits looking for meetings 64 were search strings looking for meetings in the Duluth area and 6 for St Cloud all the rest generic search strings. So the site is being used. Thank You for your help and cooperation in this endeavor.

Yours in Service,
Steven L.

LITERATURE

No report given!

GROUP RECORDS

Hi everyone, I hope you all had a great couple of months. It has been a busy time for me. I continue to update FNV (Fellowship New Vision) and aameetinglocator.org as well. I also am continuing to pass on information to Ione our Area 35 Webmaster, so that she can keep the website updated. I just received a flyer to be put into the Northern Light. I also continue to respond to emails and phone calls regarding group information and meetings. I just started school two weeks ago and it has been quite a learning experience. I will do my best to keep up my group records duties while going to school.

Thanks and yours in service ,
Laurie R.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

Northern Light

Hello Everyone,

I hope you have had as much fun in sobriety as I have this year. My higher power has entrusted me with many opportunities for service and growth this year! Me and Jana just this last weekend had the opportunity to bring another couple up to the 34th annual speaker meeting up in Aurora where Al and Alice M. shared there stories. Being fairly new in recovery, it was the first time they had heard an AA/Alanon recovering couple tell their stories. They are still talking about it!

This 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 entitled **Adventures in San Antonio --The International Convention meant to me** written by our own Susie A. past Delegate Panel 48. The second is by B.J. L. from Superior, WI named **An International Incident** is after the minutes on page 17. There are two more articles on page 18, one by our Archivist Brad I. by the name of **Road to San Antonio** and another submitted by Iven O. from International Falls. The last one on page 19 is entitled **San Antonio 2010** by John D. from St. Cloud.

At our last meeting in Aitkin Mary S. ask a question of the group about what to do if a deaf person wants to join your group - She answers that question on page 19!

There is one more article that you simply must read starting on page 20. It is a rare interview with Dr. Bob our Co-founder called I Saw Religion Remake a Drunkard written in 1939 by D.J. Defoe and published in Your Faith magazine.

Daniel R.

Treatment

Here we are the end of a beautiful Summer and beginning a very busy Fall. Have been working on the Forms for Bridging the Gap/ Temporary Contact and have something that should work in for Patient Requests and those willing to sign up to be contacts. Hopefully I will have something to show and tell from the way District 8 plans to handle this. Opportunities are there and all we have to do is make the connection between the Patient and Contact.

Thief River is just around the corner as well as things in my home district. Then it will be on to Rapid City and with Aitkin and the rotation will be half over. It's a pleasure and a privilege to be able to serve Alcoholics Anonymous. Kelly and I will be holding our Workshop on Friday night prior to the Fall Assembly at the casino, I hope to see many of you there. I am quite pleased with our participation at The Range Treatment Center and the Arrowhead Center here in Virginia. Many have stepped up to Speak and Share about their finding sobriety and living sober. The Journey continues!

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.

The following pages are filled with articles sent in by AA members from Area 35 that attended the International Convention this year!

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/**

Northern Light Article

Adventures in San Antonio --The International Convention meant to me

Tom and I had the distinct pleasure of attending the 75th Anniversary of Alcoholics Anonymous in San Antonio as we celebrated our 20th wedding anniversary. We were married June 30th 1990 and attended the Convention in Seattle that year. Now every 5 years we try to attend this wonderful celebration of sobriety with 50,000+ other attendees.

We flew into San Antonio on Tuesday June 29th for the Past Delegates Reunion Dinner on Wednesday evening. As we walked to baggage at the airport we were greeted by around 10 AAs welcoming us to San Antonio and the Convention. I don't know what the passengers that were not in AA felt about it but it was a very heartwarming event for us. We took pictures with all of them. The members in San Antonio did a wonderful job greeting all of the conventioners. We chatted with the cab driver on the way to the hotel. We asked about the heat and he told us it had cooled off there. The temperature of 90 degrees with the humidity being the same. It was hot and rainy. When it rains down there it doesn't cool off it just stays hot. Then you are hot and wet. So much for the weather. It stayed like that for the duration of the trip.

It was hot and our first adventure out of the hotel was the Riverwalk (The San Antonio River Walk (also known as Paseo del Río) is a network of walkways along the banks of the San Antonio River, one story beneath downtown San Antonio, Texas. Lined by bars, shops and restaurants, the River Walk is an important part of the city's urban fabric and a tourist attraction in its own right.

Today, the River Walk is an enormously successful special-case pedestrian street, one level down from the automobile street. The River Walk winds and loops under bridges as two parallel sidewalks lined with restaurants and shops, connecting the major tourist draws from the Alamo to Rivercenter mall, to the Arneson River Theatre close to La Villita, to Hemis Fair Park, to the Tower Life Building, to the San Antonio Museum of Art, and the Pearl Brewery. During the annual springtime Fiesta San Antonio, the River Parade features flowery floats that literally float.) I copied the above paragraph off the internet. They explain it better than I could. We walked it every day --sometimes twice a day. If you ever get to San Antonio you have to do the Riverwalk. We could walk from our hotel to all of the local restaurants via a path that is the Riverwalk. Actually it is quite charming and even romantic. We did find ice cream that night for all those who wondered.

On Wednesday we again did the Riverwalk. There were a lot of people there but no one knew who anyone was because we didn't get our name badges until Thursday. All in all the city was bustling as the hoards of people descended on the city. Wednesday evening we attended the delegates reunion dinner. We had the opportunity to sit by Gary K and his group from Colorado. We did get to see a few people from Southern MN that were there. Again we found ice cream for Tom.

On Thursday we could go get our registration badges and stuff. The stuff was 3 AA Comes of Ages and a bunch of commemorative Grapevine magazine. We ended up carrying that around for the rest of the day because we were too far from the hotel to go back and drop it off. You would think a few books and magazines would be heavy but by 10:00 PM they were almost dragging on the ground. It was hot. At the Convention Center we ran into a few trustees and had the privilege of chatting with Rick W. for a few minutes. He organized the convention so he was really busy. He told us as of that Monday there were 44,000 registered for the convention. We walked every place we went except on Sunday we took a cab to the Alamodome and when we were with Ken and Nikki. Thursday afternoon we checked out "Sober City". That's where all the drunk junk was. I was in awe of the jewelry, CDs, t-shirts, and a plethora of stuff that was there. Did you know they make sobriety medallions in every color know to man. It was truly unbelievable. It was also obvious to all that people were buying the stuff as fast and as much as they could. That evening we had dinner with Lisa and Rick down on the River walk. That night was "the party in the park" only it was inside the Convention hall because of the threat of a hurricane. The Convention Center was so full you could barely walk across the floor. We only stayed for a little while then squeezed our way out of there and went back to the hotel. I do believe we had ice cream bars at the Hotel that evening. They were a bit spendy but they were good.

Friday was the beginning of the presentations/discussions and marathon meetings. We were not in any hurry for anything. It was hot. You would not have believe the crowds that went to each meeting. If you didn't get there early you probably would be shut out. Most of the rooms were filled to capacity. There were lines for everything. There were coffee lines, food lines, bathroom lines, etc. The sidewalks all over were crowded. The one line that most impressed me was the registration line. I'll bet that any given time there were 100-300 people waiting to register for the convention on Friday and Saturday. Friday morning we attended the "AA Grapevine: International Journal of AA" that was chaired by our Regional Trustee Ken B. As usually the room was overflowing with people. Ken and the presenters did fine with a lively discussion of the gray pages and a few other topics following the presentation. Friday afternoon we went to the "West Central US - Meet your Neighbors". The room was full of people from the West Central Region and many, many others. Ken B. chaired this meeting and we heard from three of our delegates from the West Central Region-- Carole B.-MT, Leon A.-NE, Scott A.-S MN share a little bit about themselves. After that we couldn't get into any more sessions so we went out for dinner again on the River walk. The lines were just as long there as they were at the Convention Center and near by hotels. The sense of the town was excitement and happiness. I don't think I saw any frowning or people complaining except for the long coffee lines --even those you spent talking to the people in front of you or behind you. There were people from all over the world there. By this time you knew who was at the Convention by the name badges people wore. That evening was the big meeting at the Alamo Dome. It was hot. People were streaming into the building in droves. Everyone had to get their purses or backpacks or any kind of bag checked at the door. Finding a place to sit was a bit overwhelming. We ended up sitting on the floor of the convention center (in folding chairs of course--we weren't really sitting on the floor). The opening flag ceremony was awesome--especially when they brought in the American flag. I'm sure the people in Austin TX heard us cheering. The big meeting chaired by Conley B--SW Regional Trustee, and we had 3 speakers--Francisco A-CA, Mari G-ON, and Harold G-MD. When Conley asked for a moment of silence that entire Convention Center went silent. Talk about the power of AA. Saying the Lord's Prayer with 50,000+ people is probably for me the greatest highlight of the entire Convention. It is totally awesome. After the meeting we walked back to the hotel -- it was a very long day.

Saturday we slept in and then started the trek down to the Convention Center. It was hot. Unbeknown to us we ate at the same restaurant that the delegate/past delegate luncheon was held. We didn't register to go in time so we missed out. After lunch we headed over to the Convention Center for some meetings. We ended up at the "Pioneers in AA" that was chaired by Susan U-NY. Tommie D- FL, Mel B-OH and Lis B-NY shared a little of their stories with us. They all had 58 years+ of sobriety. It was amazing to hear them share even for the brief time that they did. I could have stayed a lot longer than the hour and a half that was the given time for the meeting. All three did an excellent job sharing with us what it was like in AA so many years ago. Mel talked about Ebby's funeral. That's one thing not many people have ever heard. It was hot and raining by the time we got out of there so we thought we would just walk through the Convention Center. We saw Carl walking and stopped and talked to him. Dinner that night was at a Mexican restaurant with Carl, Chuck, Brooke and a few others. It was getting late so we started toward the Alamodome for the Old Timers Meeting. There were about 15 people with 40 years or more that were chosen to speak approximately 5 minutes a piece. They all did a wonderful job talking for as short of time as they had. We walked back to the hotel again. It was another long day, we were both very tired and it was still hot. We had coffee and ice cream with Carl, his doctor friend and an oil rigger. That was an interesting conversation to say the least.

Sunday we got up bright and early because the closing meeting was at 9:00 am at the Alamodome. We did take a cab because if we didn't we would have been very late. It was so nice to drive right us to the facility and get dropped off. El N. -SC chaired the meeting and the speakers were Luis G- Guatemala, Amy T- OK and Steve L. -TN. The meeting lasted until 11:00 and the Convention was over. It's one of those bittersweet deals. You want it to be over and then you don't want it to be over. It was hot. As we were walking back to the Convention Center we ran into Ken and Nikki. They met us for lunch. It was the first time Ken actually sat down and didn't have to do anything. We went to the Alamo that afternoon with those two. All in all it was a nice day and the four of us celebrated the 4th of July with fireworks in San Antonio.

Monday was going home day so we pretty much packed up and left for the airport. It was wonderful to get back to Minnesota after almost a week away. As we trudged the road of happy destiny we were grateful we got to go and we were grateful to come home.

Susie A.
Waite Park, MN

Past Delegate
Panel 48 Northern MN

AREA 35 COMMITTEE MEETING

August 2, 2010

9:00 A.M. Action Chair Committee Meetings
10:30 am Area Committee Meeting
Call to Order Open with the Serenity Prayer

Past Delegates in attendance were recognized: Tim C. (Panel 52), Tom A. (Panel 50), Suzie A. (Panel 48),

Additions/Corrections to the Agenda:

- * Flyer/Event protocol for the Area 35 website
- * Donations to Area 35 electronically
- * Additional Regional Forum

Approve June 2010 Area Committee Meeting Minutes: Motion made to approve the June 2010 Area Committee Meeting Minutes. All in favor, passed unanimously.

OFFICER REPORTS

DELEGATE-Jon C.-

I want to thank you all for your “get well” wishes and prayers during my health issues. I probably will need shoulder manipulation, which requires general anesthesia and possibly arthroscopic surgery to cut adhesions that are restricting shoulder mobility. I will find out July 30th. I was also hospitalized July 5th through the 7th with right coronary artery problems. I had two angiograms where angioplasty and another stent were procedures were done. I still have artery spasms, which are being treated with medication. If the medication does not work, I may be looking at another bypass. I am not looking for sympathy but rather feel it’s important that I keep the membership of Area 35 informed. I will do everything I can to be the best delegate Area 35 has ever had. Now, let’s proceed to what is really important, and that is A.A. I have been giving my Delegate’s General Conference reports to the Districts. Unfortunately, I had to cancel some of my reports due to health issues. I plan on re-scheduling these reports today at this meeting. Again, I apologize to the Districts I had to cancel. Hopefully, we can reschedule, and I can get to these Districts. Now that my health is improving, I plan on getting to more events around the area and our Area Forum in September. Our next organizational meeting for the 2011 West Central Regional Service Conference is scheduled for 9/1/10 at 6 pm. At this point, we have all our Chairs in place. We will need more volunteers for various functions such as greeters, registration, coffee, etc. Kelly D. is working on the flyer and confirmed that it will be done by 9/1/10, if not earlier. In order to register, you will have to do it online or by mailing the registration form, which will be on the flyer. All DCM’s encourage your GSR’s and members to attend this conference. It is close and will be a valuable experience to those in service or thinking about participating in service. We will be having an additional West Central Regional Forum on 11/12/2010 through 11/14/10 at Best Western Ramkota Hotel, 2111 North Lacrosse Street, Rapid City, SD. This forum provides unique opportunities for AA members throughout the West Central Region to share their experience, strength and hope. Our speaker for this forum will be Rod B., a Regional Trustee and Native American. We will have a workshop on ways to improve A.A.’s relationship with Native Americans. Hopefully, we can share and encourage more participation. Please try to attend, if possible. The International Convention has come and gone. It was very successful, with approximately 60,000 members attending. On the financial side, our net income for the first three months of 2010 was approximately \$335,000 greater than the \$291,000 profit reported for the same period in 2009. Total distribution of all books through 5/31/10 was 740,813 units, which was down 22.7% from the same period in 2009. Gross sales for the five month period were 12.6% under budget. The AAWS has formed two new Ad Hoc committees: a copyright committee and an E-Technology committee. The GSO will be sending out a questionnaire to the fellowship for feedback on preferences for digital devices and e-delivery. We also have been given a survey to express our concerns and suggestions about the Grapevine. I have copies of those surveys located on the back table. Please fill them out and send them back to me so I can gather all the information and pass it on to the Grapevine board. The deadline is 12/31/10. Thank you again for your patience and support.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE- Jim K.-

Hello Friends in Area 35, I hope this report finds you in good spirits and health. I have been truly blessed to be given this opportunity for a new life in Alcoholics Anonymous. These past couple of months I have been able to finalize our 2nd zonal forum, complete our details and location for our annual Area 35 Service Workshop, and secure our guest for the event. We will be holding our 2nd zonal forum for Zone 3 on September 18th, 2010 in the Foundation Room the Cambridge Hospital. This event is intended for all members of districts 5, 6, 7, 11, 13, 17, and 18. The event will run from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. I want to thank Kathy from district 6 for helping find a location for the event. On a side note, I had a slip of the finger when typing the flyers and accidentally typed Zone 4 on the flier rather than Zone 3. This made it through all the way to print so you will notice that all of the 4’s are blacked out and a handwritten 3 is written next to it. It is in Zone 3J. Sorry for any confusion and sloppiness. Our 35th Annual Area 35 Service workshop will be held January 15th and 16th, 2010 at the Coates Plaza Hotel in Virginia, MN. Our guest for the weekend will be Conley B., current Southwest Regional Trustee. Conley has a vast deal of knowledge surrounding the concepts and will be presenting on them as well as answering any questions at our open sharing session. I will also need to talk with the DCM’s from districts 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 13, 15, 16, and 18 to assign presentation topics. Again we will be working hard to insure that all topics and presenters understand the importance of running the event as a service workshop to insure that the event meets its intended purpose. You may reserve a room by calling 218-749-1000 under the block for NMAA. This should be a wonderful event and I hear the Virginia is just beautiful in January. Finally I just want to thank all of the districts who continue to send me their monthly business meeting notes. Also I want to thank the groups from district 16 who assisted in hosting the Bill and Lois weekend. Sarah and I had a wonderful time and we appreciated the entire weekend. Thank you for this continued opportunity to serve Area 35.

CHAIR-Michael (Jake) J.-

Well it’s been a great experience the first 6 months of this rotation. Hopefully, I am learning more as I go thru it. I have not been as busy since June and it has given me time to take care of personal things like grandchildren, evicting and moving renters, and trying to keep the lawn up. I have had a little time for recreation but not much. I have been in contact with Chris P. from Area 37 out of Mississippi and given some help on how we set-up our area committees, and are looking for different ways areas do theirs. I have had a few requests for contacts and have either answered them or forwarded to appropriate people. I have had some communication regarding our Area 35/36 workshop and am still trying to find a date which may be October. Most of my other weekends are tied up. I would like to thank our area chairs and officers for the job they are doing and am there to help if needed. A lady from Hudson, Wisconsin emailed to ask if we had a speaker list, I told her we did not but would be willing to find some people that may be interested. So if you are let me know. Thanks for the district minutes it is nice to see what you are all doing. I know we have a few glitches to iron out, like getting the Area Committee dates in the Northern Lights but it will come together. I am glad John C. is doing better after trying to scare some of us. Guess we need to be gentle with him. Last I would ask for your prayers for Susan from my home group who is in the last stages of her cancer. Please pray for her and her husband Bob. Yours in Fellowship and Service.

SECRETARY- Heidi R.-

Well I hope everyone has been having a great summer so far. I cannot believe it is August. I have sent out the June Committee Meeting Minutes to everyone. If you are not getting the Area 35 Minutes and would like to, please see me or contact me by email at secretary@area35.org . Also, if you find any errors to the minutes please let me know. I know I can make mistakes. You can only look at the information for so long before your eyes cross. I have been trying to get into contact with the Area Actions Booklet Committee and would like to meet with the committee at the Fall Assembly. If anyone is still interested in being a part of this committee please let me know. On the back table are more flyers for the Fall Assembly in Thief River Falls for people to take to their districts. Beside the August Committee Meeting Minutes, over the next month, I am going to be working on writing an article for the Northern Lights. So you can look forward to reading that in your next addition.

TREASURER- Sarah K.-

I have a correction to make. In my report for the June edition of the NL at the start of the third paragraph I stated: “So, with the exception of the Winter Workshop which is supposed to be self-supporting through the \$10 registration fee...” It should read: “So, with the exception of the Winter Workshop which is supposed to strive to be self-supporting through the \$10 registration fee...” As usual, there are folders on the back table by the financial reports which include bank statements, deposit slips, copies of checks (contributions), receipts, past financial reports, and so on. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at any time at treasurer@area35.org I can also email you anything you want to see or share, like cute financial charts and graphs to share with your groups. There are three financial reports on the back table for you to look over, and take back to your districts and groups. Looking at the Profit & Loss report, you will see that we have taken in \$4,493.12 in period-to-date (PTD) group contributions; \$165 in BIRTHDAY CONTRIBUTIONS; \$400 in amends; and \$12.33 in interest on deposits; for a total of \$5,070.45 PTD income. Of note, our year-to-date BIRTHDAY CONTRIBUTIONS are \$891! At the Aug. CM a member said to me, “wow, \$891 – that is a lot of years of sobriety; how high can we get this number?! How much sobriety does Area 35 have?!” So, I challenge you all, tell your districts and groups to help show the Area how much sobriety there is! Our PTD expenses were \$910.16, which left us with a net income of \$4,160.29 for this period! Our bank account shows a YTD balance of \$16,875.44 taking away our prudent reserve of \$6,000 leaves \$10,875.44 available for service! Upcoming expenses include the Joint Area 35/36 workshop where we get the valuable opportunity to collaborate with Area 36 and share ideas, concerns and solutions. We also have a Zonal Forum in Zone 3 in September (approximate cost to the area: \$140), the Fall Assembly (approximate cost to the area: \$3,500 - \$4,000), the special forum in November (\$2,000-\$3,000- depending on how many Area Chairs attend), the December committee meeting (approximate cost to the area: \$450.00), and the Winter Service Workshop (approximate cost to the area: \$3,500 - \$4,000) to consider. Again, we have an annual operating budget of \$35,860, so to maintain the services to Area 35, we need contributions totaling over \$2,900.00 a month. Here’s a more detailed breakdown of what this would amount to for each group: each of the 555 groups listed with our Area would need to contribute \$5.38 per month, or \$1.20 per week. However, only 41% of the 555 groups actually contribute to the Area. So, this means that the 232 contributing groups would need to contribute \$12.88 a month or \$2.86 per week to help cover the groups who are not contributing. More importantly, as an Area, we need to work on spreading the message of the need for group participation in the Seventh Tradition. We also need to emphasize the importance of the Birthday Plan! As a way to show your gratitude for your sobriety, on your AA birthday, consider sending a contribution to your group, the Area, District, and GSO in the amount of your accumulated years of sobriety. Talk about it at your home groups! It only takes one person to talk about the birthday plan, and the message is carried! Bring some cute birthday envelopes to pass out. If I can help in any way, please let me know! Remember, only \$13 A MONTH from each contributing group will help us remain self-supporting as an Area! As for other actions, bank account statements are still being mailed to Jake J. our Area Chair to ensure another set of eyes are always on the bank account. Both our Area Chair and Area Delegate have the online banking access codes so they can log into our Area bank account at any time. Our finance committee has been tossing around some ideas and suggestions, and is scheduled to set a plan and some goals this afternoon. At the suggestion of our finance committee I checked into the possibility of putting our prudent reserve into a separate account which could only be accessed with both parties on the account being present in the bank to make the transfer. This was a do-able thing, and I brought the form for Jake to sign. As soon as I get the form back from

him, I can move our prudent reserve of \$6,000 to a secured savings account which requires two signatures for any transfers or withdrawals. Per a suggestion from Bob and Dee, I also checked on getting some sort of carbonless copy for area expense vouchers and I said I'd report the exact cost of this at the August committee meeting to see if it's something the Area would be interested in doing. The quote I got was \$144 for 1,000 5 ½ by 7 duplicate sheets, which breaks down to a cost of .14 a sheet. This supply would last us for 4-5 years. For now I just bought a larger \$12 carbonless copy book with 50 sheets, which breaks down to .24 a sheet, and hand-wrote the expenses categories. I can find a smaller receipt book for \$8.00 for 200 sheets, which breaks down to .04 a sheet, and have the area chairs write in their own expenses. I was also very privileged to attend and speak at the most lovely Round Up in Deer River at Camp Hiawatha on the 10th and 11th of July called "A Weekend with Bill and Lois." Gorgeous facilities! Sauna, beautiful bunk houses, excellent meals, and some great speakers. ;) Scotty put on a wonderful archives talk. If they have one next year, make sure you go! I am looking forward to the Zonal Forum on September 18 in Isanti. It will be from 11-2, due to a very special event taking place later that same day (congratulations again Paul M.) The forum is a great way to learn about the Area in a small venue. Please, DCMs and groups of Districts 5-Rita, 6-Kathie, 7-Mark, 11-Gary, 13-Gayle, 17-?, and 18-Mike, encourage your GSRs and others interested in meeting the area officers to attend! We should have a packed house; 26 is the number to beat so far! All DCMs: if your districts are if you would like the financial reports emailed to you as well, please send me an email requesting to be added to the email list. Thank you for letting me serve you in Area 35. Please send any contributions to Northern MN Area 35, PO Box 328, Brainerd, MN 56401, and be sure to include your Group Name, Group Service Number, and a return mailing address so I know who to send the Thank You to! Please feel free to call or email (treasurer@area35.org) if there is any treasury information I can get for you. Sarah K.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS

TREATMENT- Robert (Butch) R. –

We opened with the Serenity Prayer with 10 people present from Districts 3,6,8,9 and 15. Those reporting shared what they have been doing and things they have been working on in their home districts facilities. All are quite active. We discussed forms for treatment clients requesting temporary contact and also forms for people willing to be a temporary contact to be filled out and kept in a folder at the district. Only basic information is required and has suggestions as to what is expected of you. The forms will be sent to the DCM's for reproduction and passed out to the Groups. Hopefully, some of this will be in place and we will have some input at the Fall Assembly. Flyers are out for the Correction and Treatment Workshop this fall and hopefully we will have a good turnout. Please remember the importance of the message of Hope we can give the newcomer; a responsibility which rests in our hands.

DISTRICT 15- Sandy H. –

Hello everyone, we hope you are enjoying your summer. District 15 enjoyed Jon's report right after our June Committee Meeting, thank you Jon. This week we have an unmanned booth at Stearns County Fair. One of our Cold Spring groups went and spoke at Willmar. Right now we are in the process of updating our district meeting call list. See you all at the Fall Assembly.

DISTRICT 9- Chuck R. –

We have started to have meetings at the Blue Academy in conjunction with District 8; we do one meeting a month. The treatment chair has had a good response with getting speakers for the treatment centers in our area. In June we had Jon C. give his Delegate's Report to us and District 16; we had a good turnout for this. We did not have a District Meeting in July.

PUBLIC INFORMATION-Roger R –

Thank you to District 9 for inviting Doug and myself to present on PI and CPC at your district meeting on June 19th. We are willing and able to stimulate PI and CPC activity in your district if you invite us. I have prepared and am distributing information packets to Area 35 State Fair Volunteers. Packets include information from myself and Area 36. I also included an "Area 35 Shift Survey" so each shift of volunteers can track booth visitor traffic. At our PI Committee Meeting this morning Districts: 8, 3, 13, and 21 reported significant PI activity. Congrats to District 13 for returning to the Benton County Fair with a staffed booth (August 3-8).

DISTRICT 7- Mark N.

Greetings from Brainerd lakes area, we are enjoying good attendance at our district meetings with as many as 10 GSR's and up to 20 people volunteering for service work. We have filled all chair positions. Things we are working on are, reformatting our meeting schedules, this proved to be a less than simple undertaking, but it is generating good interest in the things we do. We are also looking for storage and or a new meeting place with storage, a little better facility to allow us to be a more affective organization. We have an accumulation of materials that gets traded every 2 years and there has been little organization taking place. We as a group really don't know what the district has at its disposal. A better location with a little bit of storage and room will be worth the expense. We are planning a CPC luncheon for October 19th at the Sawmill Inn in Brainerd; this has been a yearly thing for us and has proven to be effective and interesting. We had an information booth that we manned at the Crow Wing County fair again this year with good participation from the many groups in our district. This is a worthwhile and fun endeavor that we do every year. We also had our 3rd annual picnic this month with great turn-out and good food and fun fellowship.

DISTRICT 11- Gary H. – Report given by Doug N.

All our commitments are being met. We are currently holding two meetings per week at the Willow River Prison giving around a 120 people a week the AA message. We are holding a district meeting every other month.

GROUP RECORDS-Laurie R. –

Hi everyone, I continue to update FNV (Fellowship New Vision) with new groups, group information and contact information. I also have been passing on the changes to Lone so that she can update the Area 35 Website. I also am continuing to update aameetinglocator.org with current information. Thanks to everyone for continuing to give me updated group and contact information. I just emailed the Northern Light on Friday, so if you have not received it yet, don't worry it's still coming. There was a delay in the file being sent to the printer. Thanks for allowing me to serve.

NORTHERN LIGHT-Daniel R.-

I made a point of keeping this issue down to 20 pages to lower average costs for this year. I was able to do this because the Aitkin Committee Meeting minutes are smaller than the Assembly minutes. I still was able to add an article submitted by Mary S. from Grand Rapids by the name of Old Timer's on page 12. I also added an article to page 17 from a past issue of the Northern Light originally submitted by our past Delegate Bruce B. , Panel 44 entitled Service Experience Strength, and Hope from a Past Delegate. You'll notice Sarah's Treasurer's report on pages 7 and 8 have some nifty graph's and chart's that are in b/w in the paper issue but can be seen in vivid color in the online version on our area web site. On June 15th I went to the District 12 meeting at the Alano Club in Duluth to here Jon give his report. Nice to see Bruce B. and Bob J. show up to give support. It was the first time I remember hearing discussion on the agenda items at a Delegate report meeting. There was much lively discussion on singleness-of-purpose as well. The food was great. The following Saturday I went to DCM Jana's daughter Sara's wedding who is our District 12 Literature Chair and married a Group GSR Jeff B. - Our legacy of service continues! On a sad note, my step son died at the age of 26 as a result of an overdose! I prayed every day and night for many years for him and I have to think The Father of Light finally took him home. He will be missed! Reminder to Area Officers, Chairs and DCM's - If your email address or other information changes, please inform the Area Webmaster, Group Records Secretary and myself so we can update! A quick email or phone call to all of us would do it! Please check this issue of the Northern Light to make sure your personal information is up-to-date and that your District meeting info is also correct. If it is not right today please write it down and had it to me so I can update for the next issue! Also, please do the same for the Calendar of Events. Last thing: I would like to see some articles submitted by members of Area 35 who attended the 2010 International Convention in San Antonio. If no one from Area 35 submits one I may look to add something from other sources in the next issue! Please remember reports and articles and calendar submissions should be in by September 7th.

DISTRICT 2- Rodney P.-

Greetings from District 2. We held our last meeting July 11th there we 14 in attendance. All the groups that had representation there, meetings are going fine, attendance is good and the coffee is hot. On July 24th Twin River Club hosted a root beer keg potluck gathering for families in recovery, there were over 70 adults and 15 to 20 kids that attended. The day was filled with games, live music, more food than anyone could eat, and ended with a camp fire meeting. On set-back our district was covering our county fairs, there are 5 county's in our district. Cost of booths ranged from \$60 on up, they had to be manned from opening time to closing time each day. We could not come up with the money or the man power to cover them. We did find out (of course) to late that a non-profit can get in at no cost by going in front of the county fair board. So we hope to have a plan in place for 2011. We did accomplish getting our new meeting list finalized. I couldn't bring any today because they are at the printer's.

DISTRICT 16- Mary S. –

We have been meeting the first Wednesday of each month at 5:30 at the United Methodist Church. We generally have a good turnout. The PI Chairperson has organized and planned a PI breakfast at the Sawmill Inn on October 29th at 7:00am for professionals in the Grand Rapids area. He asked Roger R. to be the AA speaker and Janet M. to be the Al Anon speaker. The Corrections Chair has been able to get into the County Jail and put on AA meetings for the women. She has been asking for volunteers as well. A couple volunteers have been doing informational meetings about AA at Northland Recovery Center. We have asked Jerry S. to assist our district with a District Inventory. I have attended most of the meetings in District 16 and still have a few to attend. It's been fun to meet people and get a feeling for how the meetings are run in the District. The further away one gets from Grand Rapids, the fewer the meetings there are to attend. Not sure how to handle the problem. Some people drive 45-50 miles to get to an AA meeting. I thought that was creative. We also have a man who needs a sign language interpreter at the meetings and the interpreter charges \$35.00 an hour. If anyone has ideas how to handle that situation I'd be interested in talking to you. The group has to pay the ASL interpreter and it gets very expensive. I've tried to hand out envelopes with the Area and Districts new Treasurer's name and address to the groups in District 16. I ask them to throw away their old envelopes and addresses so the money goes where it's supposed to go. I'm learning a lot about this type of service work and am grateful for the opportunity to help.

CORRECTIONS- Kelly D. –

We met as a committee this morning and there were 8 in attendance with representation from Districts 8, 12, 9, 6, 3, 13 and 7. Melissa from District 6 reported that they have gotten their list of volunteer's to go into the Isanti County jail down to 26 and there has been good communication with the program coordinator there. Stan from District 12 reported that the group "Out Right Mental Defectives" from Duluth will be taking one meeting a month into the MSOP in Moose Lake soon. Jerry from District 8 reported that they will now be bringing in a meeting twice a month to the Mesabi Academy for the young people there. I would like to personally thank everyone that is willing to go into these correctional facilities and carry AA's message! Jeff in district 13 reported that they are looking at getting updated Big Books (4th additions) for the prison there. Stan from District 12 and Jeff from District 13 have volunteered to do the Transitional Fair with me at the Moose Lake prison in October. The Corrections Chairs continue to work on a temporary contact list from each District because of the high volume we are receiving from inmates that want a contact when they are released. I continue to receive many names of

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inmates (about 50 so far this year) to pass on to them and some Districts are still having trouble getting individuals willing to do this. However, so far I have not heard from any of them that they have not been able to find someone to be a contact. We talked about letting people know that this is not about sponsorship. The contact is only responsible for sending a letter and their District's meeting list to the inmate at the prison before their release and then taking them to a meeting once they are out. I have the flier just about ready to go (still waiting on information from the Grand View Lodge) for the WCRAASC that will be held March 4-6, 2011 in Nisswa. We meet as a committee again on September 1st in preparation for this conference. I will be attending the "Bridging the Gap" workshop September 10-12 in Bloomington and have emailed all the Corrections Chairs the flier and also made copies and brought them here today for anyone interested in attending. Area 36 is also looking for volunteers for this workshop so if anyone is interested in helping out please let me know. I look forward to volunteering at our AA booth in my home District 5 at the Mille Lacs County Fair coming up August 12-15th and the State Fair AA booth on August 28th. I also had email Ione and asked her to post our Zone 1 Corrections/Treatment Workshop coming up on October 1st in Thief River Falls on the Area 35 calendar and brought copies today to be distributed. Hope to see you all there! Thank you for the opportunity to be of service.

DISTRICT 3- Jim S. - Alternate D.C.M. –

At the time of the Area meeting all of our positions had been filled. As of late, Ed A. has resigned from DCM due to personal matters making it impossible for him to fulfill his position. The district will address this matter at the August meeting. Our district has enough money to take care of our obligations. A 7th tradition campaign has been going on to encourage individual members to consider giving as much as the price of a drink. I have only heard one negative response to this expressed by a GSR at the June district meeting. We are currently working on a CPC luncheon. Our Treatment and Corrections commitments are being fulfilled. Our help line continues to be manned but we are looking for additional volunteers. Our district is working on getting to all meetings not registered with GSO so we can find out if the meeting exists, do they have a steering committee and if they will register with GSO. Lastly, we do have volunteers to staff the State Fair, Aug 29th from 1 – 3 pm.

DISTRICT 4- Dee Dee B.

As of our June 12th District meeting I have assumed the position of DCM. Gary L is the Alternate DCM. We want to thank Jim T for all his hard work as DCM for District 4 and his commitment to recovery and service. He is a definite asset and these will be hard shoes to fill but I will do my best. Jon C had to cancel his Delegate's Report July 18th for health reasons. Our thoughts are with you Jon. We have contacted Tim C and he will help us with a District Inventory on December 11th in Elbow Lake. District meetings are the second Saturday of each month in various locations throughout District 4. The district meetings are growing in attendance and we have many new groups that are contributing financially. At the July District meeting it was determined that for meetings within our district the DCM would not get reimbursed, but will to attend meetings, seminars, workshops, that are outside of our district. I plan to attend meetings in District 4 to introduce myself, recruit GSRS, promote contributions and service work and encourage new groups to get registered. We are bringing meetings to the Douglas County Jail. Our Co-Corrections Chairs – Sheryl/Jim T are working on a current listing of volunteers. There are meetings Saturdays at the main jail and Mondays at the Annex at 8:00 p.m. Sheryl is going to provide info about the corrections workshop. Sharon and Dee Dee are continuing to work on a list of GSRS, groups they represent, and the group number. We will get the information to Laurie and Ione. Thank you to everyone for all your help and allowing me to serve.

C.P.C-Doug N. -

There were eight people present at this morning's area meeting. New schedules were made in District 8. District 3's CPC committee is planning presentations to give to various professionals in their district. We discussed exhibit tables at a conference in Duluth. The Minnesota Juveniles Officer's Association is having a conference in January 2011. This exhibition table is \$150.00 and we will have A.A. literature on this table plus an attendant or two by the table. District 8,9,12 or anyone else for that matter will be involved with this conference. We'll discuss paying for this table with each district involved and we'll present a request to Northern Area for money if the districts cannot afford the exhibition table. District 13 put on an information session for the Stearns and Benton Counties Bar Association with 35 lawyers and two judges. They have also started a beginner's meeting, and have been cooperating with the MN National Guard by putting on presentations to soldiers who have alcohol related offenses.

DISTRICT 13- Gayle S. –

Hello from District 13, thank you Jon for your Delegate's Report with District 15. PI committee has the new schedules printed; he is also continuing to work with Area Group Records and Area Webmaster to make sure our meetings in all databases stay correct. We will have a booth at the Benton County Fair next week with PSA video playing such as the Hope Video. The Beginners Meeting that started in May is becoming self-supporting the topics that we discuss are The Disease of Alcoholism, Program of Recovery, Unity, and Other Factors for Recovery. The treatment committee is busy taking in meeting to Children's Home, Our House, Clara's House, Mental Health Center, Effective Living, Center Detox, VA Medical Center, and Passages. CPC committee has done 3 presentations at Camp Ripley with 10 soldiers and 1 civilian were presented. The next presentation will be in the Twin Cities. He is also working on a 12 Step Spirituality Workshop at St. Johns in September. Corrections, we are asking groups to help donate Big Books to the St. Cloud Prison, groups are stepping up to help with this. Phone line and Literature are doing well in the district as well. The archives committee has been working on an actions workbook. District 13 has brought forward two proposals to the Area for considerations, in efforts to continue to carry the message, whether it is right here in Area 35, or possibly sending one forward to GSO. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

DISTRICT 1- Richard W. – Not present and no report submitted.

GRAPEVINE-Dee K. –

There were around 9 people in attendance for the Grapevine and Literature Committee Meeting. The Grapevine survey was passed out at the meeting with some all ready filled out and returned to Jon. The GVR registration forms were also passed out with more on the back table in hopes of getting more Grapevine representatives. We had a lot of discussion on what is going to happen with the Grapevine. The committee felt that if we do use electronic (such as Kindle) that we still have the paper magazine to distribute. Many places and people do not have the capability to use electronics and they could not be passed out to professionals, jails, treatment centers, and/or waiting rooms. A suggestion is to have each district and group subscribed to the Grapevine in hopes that this can help keep the Grapevine going. District 12 is still learning the ropes and is ordering materials for AA members. District 13 is getting stocked up for the table they will have at the St. Cloud Round-Up and County Fair. District 8's Literature and Grapevine Chair is bringing items to the district meetings. She is also going to groups and asking them to stock up on literature and Grapevines. A couple doctor's and dentist's offices are looking for more Grapevines because they are disappearing. District 5 is putting the literature/Grapevines in plastic totes rather than cardboard boxes. They are also putting items out for the Mille Lacs County Fair.

DISTRICT 18– Mike D.- Not present and no report submitted.

DISTRICT 21- Carl B. –

Greetings from District 21. All is going O.K.; most of our positions are filled. Our meeting lists are kept up to date and passed out, and our 800 line is currently maintained at all times. At our last district meeting in July, we decided to have a potluck for our August District meeting in hopes to increase the attendance, we'll see how it goes.

WEBMASTER-Ione B –

I am very sorry I'm not able to be with you all today. My mother-in-law, who is 98, became ill and moved in with us about 6 weeks ago. Hospice became involved last week and they gave us this weekend off through respite care. I was planning on being in Aitkin, but realized this morning that I am totally drained and I need to take care of myself. I haven't had time to do anything with the meeting locator and area 36 but I have been keeping the website updated as far as the meetings, calendar, etc. go. Hopefully as things settle down some, I'll be able to get the ball rolling with Area 36. I did just receive a large packet of meeting updates from Laurie R., group records, and will start working on them this week. If any of you have brought meeting updates with you today, please give them to Laurie and she will pass them on to me. Here's the stats on the website: May - 40,445 hits with 1955 visits - 1363 unique visitors, June - 44,734 hits with 2057 visits - 1453 unique visitors, July - 49,619 hits with 2174 visits - 1489 unique visitors. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

ARCHIVES-Art A. –

We opened at 9:10 with the Serenity Prayer. We had in attendance representing Districts 5, 6, 7, and 13. There will be a Zone 3 Archives workshop on August 7th, 2010 from 1pm-3pm at the Methodist Church in Motley, Minnesota. I passed out copies of "Our AA General Service Center" "The Alcoholic Foundation Of Yesterday, Today And Tomorrow". Not a lot to report from District 6 other than Kathie is talking to the groups regarding how and what to Archive. Mark N. from District 6 says that they have an Archives Chair and had questions regarding what you Archive at the District level. We had a discussion that Archive items such as Dist: minutes, Open Meeting flyers, copies of meeting schedules, group histories, etc. Andrew from District 13 is working on a District Action book. Rita in District 5 says they are still in need of an Archives Chairperson. Also District 5 will be having an Archives Workshop Nov.6th, 2010. Would all DCM's try and get me some names of anyone who will help at the WRAASC in March 2011.

ARCHAVIST- Brad I. –

Since June I have been extremely busy. I was fortunate enough to attend the International Convention in San Antonio and even more fortunate to volunteer 2 hours in the Archives Display at the convention. I also attended 2 Archives workshops. I brought back the local newspapers with convention articles and I am going to order the Friday Night photograph to display. I also have found some interesting items to add to the display. I wish we had more room and set up time at assemblies so I could get these items out more often. I have finished digitalizing the Assembly and workshop tapes. I am missing some functions. I am now working on long timer interviews to make them more available to the fellowship. I am continuing to pull staples, collate and inventory documents. Several of us area archivists had a conversation on how to store CD's in a cohesive manner. The next display will be at the Southern Minnesota Round Up in North Mankato on September 10, 11 and 12. The next week the display will be at the Duluth Round Up. Now for the big news. For the past 15 years I have searched for a copy of "Faith" magazine referred to in "Dr. Bob and the Good Old Timers". This magazine supposedly had an article written and signed by DR. Bob. I have looked on line and through 100's of stores in 15 states. Just this last week I purchased a September 1939 "Your Faith" magazine. I purchased this magazine because it was the same publisher as Liberty magazine and had an article titled "I saw Religion Remake a Drunkard". As I read this article I realized it was an interview with Dr. Bob. This would pre-date the Liberty article. After several hours of research the preponderance of evidence points to this magazine being the "Faith" magazine referred to in "Dr. Bob and the Good Old timers". The reference in that book cited a letter from Ruth Hock that was vague as to date and nature of the article and that it may have been signed by Dr. Bob. In an interview for the book Ruth vaguely remembered the article. All the web references concerning the Dr. Bob article cite the same book as the source. One site was curious if anyone had ever seen this article. No sight has ever cited the actual text of this article. I am waiting to hear back from G.S.O. if they have a copy of this magazine. Albeit supposition, I think this is the magazine. If I am correct, I have found the "Holy Grail" of A.A. magazines and a footnote will need to be added to correct "Dr. Bob and the Good Old Timers."

DISTRICT 5-Rita D. –

Greetings from District 5! We meet the 3rd Monday each month in Zimmerman @ St. John's Lutheran Church. Our next meeting will be on August 16th at 7:00 p.m. Skip & I

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have visited all groups in our District and we are getting ready to do it again!!! Our Treatment Chair continues to bring meetings into our Riverplace in Elk River and New Beginnings in Sherburne County Jail. Our Literature Chair placed an order to the Area Literature Chair which was picked up this morning-thanks Jake and thanks Bob for having this service available. Our PI/CPC Chair is working out of town so, I have been working with GSR's and Groups getting literature and meeting schedules out. We will have a manned booth at the Mille Lacs County Fair on August 12th-15th. Skip continues to fill in our vacant Corrections Chair and we are still in need of more men willing to go into Sherburne County Jail. Our Orientation meeting at Sherburne County Probation is going well the second time around. We are hoping to have a Corrections/Treatment Workshop in the near future. We purchased 40 AA in Prison pamphlets out of some of our remaining Pink Can Plan money for Sherburne County Jail. We have updated and ordered new meeting schedules. At our last District meeting we approved a motion to start passing the 7th Tradition basket at our monthly meeting. I plan on attending the Zone 3 Forum on September 18th and also plan on attending the WSRSC committee meeting on September 1st. Last, I am in the process of writing a letter to all groups explaining the 7th Tradition and how the District spends their money. I would like to thank all GSR's and District members for their dedication and hard work!! Very Grateful to be of Service.

DISTRICT 6-Kathie G. –

Greetings Area 35. District 6 will be hosting the Zone 3 Forum September 18, 2010 from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm. The Forum will be held at the Cambridge Hospital, Cambridge MN in the Foundation Room. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the forum. Our North Branch group had a booth at the Chisago County Fair last weekend. Thank you North Branch. Isanti Alano is having a Pig Roast August 21st, food will be served at 4:00 pm and there will be a speaker at 6:00. We have a GSR from SACS on 3rd, Cambridge, MN Saturday night at 7:30 pm meeting visiting today. Thanks Brian and Carol for coming to the Area meeting. I will be contacting our delegate to reschedule his report.

LITERATURE-Bob K. –

There were 9 at the committee meeting this morning. Thanks to those that helped look for totes that we could use to store our literature but nothing the right size- but got some new leads and I will be check on them. GSO has formed a copyright committee with regards trademark and copyright use and protection. They also have an E-technology committee that is beginning to development of an e-publishing strategy, cost, and e-delivery. There will be a short survey that we will have at the Fall assembly to fill out and will put that info together and get it sent do GSO by October 15 THIS IS NOT A SCIENTIFICTC SURVEY. Dist 12 is selling a lot of literature. Dist 13 building a supply of literature for the fair and a round-up that they have coming up. Dist 8 is taking their literature to workshops. Dist 5 is having a literature display at the fair. Everyone at the committee meeting said that there literature sales are slow. Thank You for the opportunity to serve.

DISTRICT 8- Randy A. –

Our last district meeting was held on July 8th, 2010 at McDavitt town hall in Zim, Minnesota. 13 groups were presented and a total of 30 were in attendance. On June 30th, in conjunction with district 9 corrections, we had a meeting with two officials from the Mesabi Academy on rearrangements for speaker commitments and formats. It was agreed to restructure the commitments from four meetings to two per month. The first week will be a big book meeting the third week will be a speaker meeting. The groups were expressing a concern that obligations were not being met by the groups and that they were not being fulfilled for various reasons. In treatment, our groups are committed on doing sponsorship meetings at the arrowhead center in Virginia and participation in a DWI class. In PI/CPC we have ordered new meeting schedules with new necessary changes. In Grapevine/ Literature, Robin and Sally are working to collect grapevines for the treatment center. And finally, our Archives chair Rich is looking for background information from the groups to collect history information on how they got started and how long they have been around. In addition, we also were able to fulfill our district 8 treasurer vacancy. The third legacy procedure was conducted for this election and three people were nominated. After the third ballot result, Mary W. was elected by 2/3 majority. Congratulations to Mary as I know that she will do an excellent job of balancing the books and doing our treasury. It is an honor and privilege to be a part of alcoholics anonymous and to observe the 3rd legacy take place in our own district and to have so many trusted servants interested in service work. We have set our date for our 12 concept Workshop which will be held on October 16th from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00p.m. and the Holy Spirit Catholic Church Social Hall in Virginia, Minnesota. We have all the presenters lined up and most are past trusted servants of Area 35. I am hoping that there will be a lot of participation and interest from the as well as the area as it is vitally important that we learn about the 12

Concepts for Worlds Services in Alcoholics Anonymous and that they too are the vital spiritual principals needed to sustain us for a long as we live.

DISTRICT 12- Jana M. –

Greetings from District 12. First we want to thank the delegate, Jon Curphy, for his report at our last district meeting. I reported last time that we are discussion ways to increase member on our action committees. Maybe assigning GSRs to committees, or put names in a hat, but do not disturb the existing ones. That has made some of our GSR's volunteer ahead of time for help on some committees. PI and Corrections are no longer committees of one. We also voted to have a separate PI committee and a separate CPC committee. Now we are working on things we can be doing with these committees. We are continuing our mailing of the district minute's and are planning to go up the shore again this fall to have our district meeting up there again. We were well received last time. Not much more to report today.

OLD BUSINESS

WCRAASC-

Our next organizational meeting for the 2011 West Central Regional Service Conference is scheduled for 9/1/10 at 6 pm. At this point, we have all our Chairs in place. We will need more volunteers for various functions such as greeters, registration, coffee, etc. Kelly D. is working on the flyer and confirmed that it will be done by 9/1/10, if not earlier. In order to register, you will have to do it online or by mailing the registration form, which will be on the flyer.

AREA 35 INVENTORY –

The Area 35 Inventory is going to take place at the 2010 Fall Assembly in Thief River Falls. The Area Chair reported that we are going to use the same format and 17 questions from the previous Area 35 inventory. The Area 35 Chair is looking to have 4 DCM's volunteer to chair the breakout sessions and find a GSR to be their recorder for their session. If he does not find any DCM's who are willing to chair the breakout session, he will assign DCM's. The breakout sessions will take place on Saturday afternoon; we will then go over the information from the breakout session later Saturday evening. We hope that on Sunday we will come up with some actions we can take from the Area 35 Inventory. The Area Chair passed out a few copies of the inventory questions and can get more copies if anyone needs them.

FINANCIAL OVERSITE COMMITTEE -

There has not been much action taken over the past month. We will come up with a cohesive plan to begin with and let the Area know what we have come up with so far. We have been reviewing Area 36 financial policy and the review committee's responsibilities. We are very interested in their guidelines that pertain to the Area treasury. We will provide the necessary documentation and reviews that the Area needs. We will be looking at what the objective and purpose will be for the Financial Oversight Committee. There are lots of ideas we can implement. We are doing a video conference on August 22nd at 6pm and will also meet in person on October 1st during the Fall Assembly to review the financial records of the Area Treasury. We will give a final report to Area 35 during the Fall Assembly. The group did meet during lunch at the August Committee Meeting and discussed checks that have not cleared, signatures on checks, the prudent reserve, guidelines, task assignments, and outcomes expected. The committee discussed the objective for Area 35 Financial Oversight Committee and would like to use some of the suggestions from Area 36. If anyone has any questions for the Financial Oversight Committee they can talk with one of the members. There are 5 members that are a part of the committee which are a Past Delegate, the Area 35 Chair, Area 35 Treasurer, a DCM, and a GSR.

AREA 35/36 WORKSHOP –

There were no dates open for the Area 35Chair in August, so he is going to try and set something up for October.

NEW BUSINESS

SPRING ASSEMBLY ZONE 4-

We are still looking for a location for the 2011 Spring Assembly. The Area Chair is asking several DCM's in Zone 4 to look up locations that could be available for the Spring Assembly.

PROPOSAL #1 FROM DISTRICT 13

District 13 made a motion to have Area 35 submit a proposal to GSO to add a reflection component, submitted by AA members, to be put into the Grapevine. If the Area approves this proposal it would then be sent to GSO to be added to the agenda for the General Service Conference. District 13 reported that the addition to the Grapevine would allow for a flow of new meditations or reflections from AA members. It would allow more members to participate in the Grapevine and possibly create more circulation of the magazine. The cost of adding this to the Grapevine would be minimal since it would be adding only a couple of pages. A reflection component in the Grapevine would be similar to the Daily Reflections with the layout being a reflection/meditation for each day of the month. This could replace the proposal to making a Second Edition Daily Reflections Book. This proposal came from an AA group and was then sent to District 13 where it was approved. Area 35 felt this should be added to the agenda at the Fall Assembly for presentation and approval. Information will be in the Northern Lights about this item.

PROPOSAL #2 FROM DISTRICT 13

A group from Area 35 brought their concerns/suggestions on substantial unanimity to District 13 to be approved. After approval at District 13, the concerns/suggestions were brought to Area 35. To clarify, this is not a proposal for the General Service Conference. If we want this to be a procedural change, this would have to be brought up and approved by the Area. If this procedural change happens, the information on substantial unanimity would be explained at every voting assembly. Right now, we explain voting procedures, but nothing on substantial unanimity. The area felt that this should be brought back to the AA groups and then discussed at the Fall Assembly. Below is the information presented to Area 35 during the August Committee Meeting.

We have concerns regarding our Delegate and Area Officer voting procedures and what is perceived to be a lack of understanding in the “Third Legacy Voting” and “Substantial Unanimity” aspects of the process.

I had been involved in General Service for six years and this concern started at my first “voting” Assembly. I have expressed this to other members of AA and to my home misgivings. This subject was approached at our business meetings and we would like to present it to the District and Area for discussion and possible solutions.

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When I was asked to be a GSR, I was totally ignorant of what General Service entailed. There was a lot to absorb and a lot of questions. While many can be answered in the Service Manual, it is a daunting task. It is dry and a bit confusing. I felt very lucky to have a home group that was extraordinarily involved in General Service. Many were in attendance at the assemblies and I could get on-the-spot answers or references.

Here are our concerns: There appears to be a lack of understanding regarding the Third Legacy Voting procedures, of which our Area uses a modified version, and its ability to provide “substantial unanimity” and less politics.

When I heard “Third Legacy Voting” I immediately thought “Recovery, Unity, and Service”, our Three Legacies, and confused “unanimity” with “anonymity”, as others have also admitted. To clarify the process, I was given a multitude of references (see attached) that I found mind-boggling.

It was finally explained to me in “layman’s terms” and I felt good about our process, until I realized that there were others who did not have this insight. For instance a GSR gets elected mid-rotation and their first Assembly may be an election Assembly.

The explanation was that “going to the hat” is not always the desired result. This should only be used if no clear winner is indicated. For example, if there are 99 voters, 66 votes are needed for a two-thirds majority. If the voting comes out with (49 to 50) or (36 to 30 to 33), this trend suggests that the voting body believes any candidate would serve us well and then should “go to the hat”. On the other hand, if the required two-thirds is not achieved but a clear majority supports one candidate [ex: 99 voters, (63 to 36) or (56 to 22 to 21)], it strongly suggests the last ballot should be conducted and those in the minority have the opportunity to change their vote. Thus supporting the leading candidate to provide substantial unanimity and helping to ensure unity. This demonstrates a spiritual sacrifice for the good of AA as a whole and rejecting our own personal thoughts and motives. As Bill stated, “if elected a delegate ought to be chosen by a majority of two-thirds because all delegates should feel themselves servants of world AA, rather than marginal victors of troublesome political contests.” Could something like this be explained before an Election? We hope that you will consider our concerns and suggestions. Thank you for your time. Krishna Z.

“A non-controversial method has been devised for the selection of State Committees and Conference Delegates. It will be seen that this method carefully avoids political troubles. No Delegate so chosen could possibly consider himself a political victor. He will feel himself a servant, but not a senator.” [Bill Wilson November 1950]

In another place Bill wrote:

“Delegates and Alternates will be chosen by election or by lot, or by a combination of these methods. But if elected a delegate ought to be chosen by a majority of two-thirds because all delegates should feel themselves servants of world AA, rather than marginal victors of troublesome political contests.”

While in the original draft document Bill focused on communicating his full vision of reaching service areas, service committees and operating General Service Conference. In the following four years of the conferences trial period he increasingly emphasized that in the heart of the Third Legacy Procedures is the need to establish substantial unanimity both in elections and in voting procedures; Substantial unanimity at the local level as well as at the worldwide fellowship level, where a breakdown of unanimity can lead to the collapse of the fellowship.

II. Ironing Out the Flaws

In the original draft Bill did not establish a minimum desired percent for the elections. The first electoral processes prompted Bill to caution about scattering the votes or not electing a delegate through substantial unanimity. The experience of the Boston and New York Assembly meetings led Bill to a general recommendation of winning 25% in order to stay in the election process – a recommendation that was amended in later documents.

III. The Need for Unanimity

The need for unanimity was reflected in the recommendations of the chairman who conducted a Third Legacy procedure. Those cautions as early as the spring of 1951, Bill included the following observation: a document was developed by the title “Suggestions for Temporary Chairman: Conduct of the Assembly Meeting”. In this Bill gave detailed instructions in 17 points describing the mechanics of conducting Third Legacy elections.

#6 says: “If on the first ballot for a committeeman no one receives 25% of the total votes cast, a list of the several highest names in the voting should be posted on the right-hand side of the blackboard as a guide to the meeting. While this is only a guide it will cause votes to switch from impossible choices to possible ones on the next ballot.”

#15 says: Where one man has a long lead over the other the chairman may inquire whether any wish to withdraw. With this Bill made suggestions for two scenarios:

1. where there is a great disparity between the “high man” and the rest of those eligible thus which the chairman will ask those if they wish to withdraw
1. When those eligible are close in the vote thus giving the high man a necessary 2/3.

IV. Fourth and Fifth Ballots Were Established

With the 1955 “Third Legacy Manual of World Services as Proposed by Bill” further clarifications were made to the Third Legacy elections by adding the following statement under the election of delegate:

#14 “Those having less than 40% may withdraw. If none have the required 2/3 votes after 3 ballots, the chairman asks if the remaining in the running have less than 40% of the total vote, care to withdraw. Then the chairman points out that any person having 40% or more should remain in the running.

#15 “If withdrawals are made a fourth ballot is then taken.”

Bill thought it to be absolutely critical to carry out Third Legacy elections at all levels, as the above quoted documents addressed elections of new Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary Delegate. We know that when four year long debates surrounding the ratio and composition of the General Service Board that he included all office holders, that is trustees serving on the board. Bill provided a mechanism for participants to make a conscious choice to serve the principles of substantial unanimity by using the fourth and fifth ballot to achieve this goal. “About politics in AA especially in the connection with the Third Legacy: well, we’ve always had politics in AA, sometimes good, sometimes bad. ...Every time a group of people get together to transact business for the common welfare, there is bound to be politics. If people are unselfish and dedicated, the resulting politics are right and necessary. If meetings are dominated by prestige and power mongers [????] then we have bad politics. So the Third Legacy does involve more politics. But let’s make these politics good politics.... How are [we] going to do this? Won’t [we] have to do it through elected representatives or else suffer the consequences? I deeply think so. I’m sure there is no other way. So let’s accept politics as a fact of life and make politics a constructive force. “Most of us believe the Third Legacy method has elevated the conduct of AA affairs from partisan politics to statesmanship. So please give the Legacy Plan a fair trial.”

ADDITIONAL REGIONAL FORUM

The Additional Regional Forum was not originally budgeted for by Area 35, except for the Delegate. Now this forum has been changed from a special forum for Native Americans to a Informational Regional Forum. We want to know if Area 35 wants to send any other Area 35 Officers or Chairs to the Additional Regional Forum. Our delegate explained that they met as a region last year and thought we should have a regional forum to get information and ideas as to how to help members from the Native American population in AA. When it was brought up at GSO, the delegates were told they could not have a forum designed specifically for one population (Native American). They do plan to have some workshops on how to help our Native American population, but will also have general information topics about AA. The delegate felt this will not be much different from any other regional forum.

Discussion: Is it normal procedure to send Area Chairs and Officers to these forums. In the past we have sent all Area chairs and Officers to regional forums, but this is an Additional Regional Forum. It is up to Area 35 and the budget as to where we send Area 35 Chairs and Officers to the Additional Forum. The Area 35 Treasurer reported that we have \$10,000 above our prudent reserve. On average the cost for going to a similar event, was around \$300.00 per person. From a show of hand of Committee Chairs and Officers, there are 8 people planning to attend the Additional Forum. The Area 35 Delegate brought up that all of the West Central Regional Delegates thought this would be another time for our region to get together. They feel we do not communicate enough in our region and this could be another time we could get together. The Area had some discussion on who should attend the Additional Regional Forum.

Motion was made to send willing Area 35 Officers and Chairs to the Additional Regional Forum with the expectation of a written report. The motion was seconded. 25 for and 0 opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

FLYER/EVENT PROTOCOL FOR THE AREA 35 WEBSITE

One member from Area 35 was concerned with what flyers/events were being posted on the Area 35 website. There were some flyers/events that were not focused on our single-ness of purpose. The member wants to know if there is a policy for what can be added to the website and if not, should we have one. The Area Chair thought we had a policy for what can be added to the website, but would need to check. Area officers need to make sure that they are working with the webmaster to make sure the correct information is

getting on the website. The website committee and webmaster will discuss a policy and bring it to the Fall Assembly.

DONATIONS FOR AREA 35 ELECTRONICALLY

Our Area 35 Treasurer will report back to Area 35 at the Fall Assembly after doing some research. She does know there will be a cost associated with setting up electronic donations.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- * Wild Rice Round-up is August 6th in Mahnommin, MN
- * Keep it Simple Weekend is August 13-15 at Camp Chicagami on Pleasant Lake (South of Eveleth)
- * Zonal Forum (Zone 3) is Sept. 18th 2010 from 11am to 2pm, Cambridge Hospital, Cambridge, MN
- * Fall Assembly, Oct. 2-3, 2010, Seven Clans Casino in Thief River Falls, MN, rooms \$74.95. For reservations call 1-800-881-0712.
- * 12 Concepts Workshop, October 16th 2010 from 12pm to 5pm, Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Virginia, MN
- * St. Cloud Round-up in St. Cloud, MN is October 22, 23, and 24

CLOSED WITH THE LORDS PRAYER

Northern Light Article

An International Incident

A few lines to share about my AA International Convention experience in San Antonio Texas are appropriate. It was an awesome experience but certain you heard or read about those. This is an effort to share why the experience was awesome for me as an individual alcoholic. I will summarize them into four essential character defects that were significant factors.

1. Page 64 of the Big Book says “Resentment is the “number one” offender. From it stems all forms of spiritual disease,,,”. Resentment started the hour of the day of an invitation to 3 other women to join me on a road trip from Superior, WI to San Antonio Texas. Wow my resentment started within the first 100 miles. I didn’t want to drive, but had trouble trusting others to drive. I wanted to get there but was too cheap to spend money on a hotel along the way. I wanted to drive all night, but was physically unable to do so. Thank goodness for the loving support of the younger women who bore the brunt of the driving. We arrived 23 hours later without incident and amazingly I no longer resentful but grateful for their loving concern, assistance (especially when I got lost and we went to the wrong hotel, Oops), and forgiveness.
2. Page 62 of the Big Book says “Selfishness, self-centeredness! That we think is the root of our troubles. We have made decisions based on self which later placed us in a position to be hurt.,,” I don’t like to share. Arrived in San Antonio four women, and two double beds. Immediately resolved within myself to sleep on the floor or in the bathtub. The women were so gracious making numerous concessions to me as I pouted, sulked, and tried to be miserable. It was impossible to be miserable in San Antonio. Within two hours of our arrival people gave up their seats on the shuttle for me. People were polite, cooperative, and loving! By the end of the trip I enjoyed sharing even working as a 6 am volunteer Greeter at the main door to the convention center. Tradition One states “Our common welfare should come first;,,,,”. I learned to set aside my selfishness seeking the common welfare of my fellow alcoholics.
3. Page 48 of the 12X12 says “For Pride, leading to self justification,,,is the basic breeder of most human difficulties,,,”. Pride is another character defect that I have been working on for a long long time. The first night after the dance my pride was knocked out for the remainder of the trip. No it wasn’t something profound by a wizened old timer.(I approaching old timer status). No it wasn’t watching the eyes light up in the first timers to an International. (After all this was my third Int’l). It wasn’t that I could dance with the young and old on the dance floor (In the past I’ve held my own). No it was the words of newcomer “Stephanie” on the bus who shared she was 3 weeks sober. She had been to treatment and jail many many times. This was her first International. After this event she would buy her probation officer a present because she encouraged her to attend. Stephanie was praying that she could stay sober like many others on the shuttle bus that night. I was greatly humbled by Stephanie and many more like her. Alcoholics Anonymous offers hope to the hopeless. I was reminded how hopeless I was too. My pride was replaced with appreciation and gratitude for AA.
4. Tradition Three states “The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking”. I find another of my character defects is selectiveness. As my length of sobriety has increased (one day at a time) I found myself selective which meetings I attended. I found myself unwilling to extend myself to ones who might not be as serious about their sobriety. I found myself “comfortable” at certain meetings in my area. If it wasn’t “comfortable” I didn’t attend those meetings. I was becoming increasingly selective who I sponsored, who I knew, and worse. By this time I especially didn’t like “ME”. At the big meeting there was a speaker from South America. His English was broken. He has a touching AA story and as he ended with tears in his eyes he said “Why can’t we get along in AA?” This touched me deeply. I returned with a renewed commitment to Alcoholics Anonymous. I returned to attend meetings I had dropped. I returned and offered to sponsor any who ask. I found a new comfort level at meetings previously unknown. I even began to like “me”.

The International convention changed me in many areas of my life. It was another example of the miracles that I’ve only witnessed in AA and as a result of sobriety. It was an awesome convention for me as a recovering alcoholic and I’m grateful for the opportunity to share.

B. J. L.
Superior, WI

Northern Light Articles

The Road to San Antonio

This was my first sober trip to Texas. I noticed the species of critters on the shoulder changed the farther south I got on I-35. The standard Minnesota raccoon changed to opossum in Missouri and then to armadillos' in Oklahoma and Texas. The last time I had crossed the Red River in 1980 I was worried that I might have warrants for previous bits of outrageous behavior in Texas but I knew this trip I was free and clear.

The days in San Antonio were filled with activity and what I enjoyed most was just meeting friends I had not yet met. I sat down at a table with a cup of coffee and started talking to the gentleman at the table. It turns out that he was a retired history teacher, antiques dealer and steel guitar player in a western swing band. We talked through 8 dollars of convention center coffee. I met a fellow chef and we talked shop for over an hour. The first day I parked in a ramp and saw a car with Massachusetts plates SOBER1 plates.

We walked to the convention center together and then went our separate ways. On Saturday night in the queue of cars leaving downtown the car in front of me had Massachusetts plates SOBER1. The big meetings in the Alamodome were the experiences of a life time .Mere words cannot begin to describe the awe and overwhelming sense of belonging that fills you when that many people recite the Serenity Prayer. Start saving your dollars and making plans for Atlanta in 2015. I will meet you there.

Brad I.
Sartell, MN

International AA Convention – San Antonio

It was my great privilege to go to San Antonio, my third International AA Convention. My friend Michelle and two AAs from Glasgow, Scotland, Margaret and Jim, came to Minnesota and we all traveled to San Antonio via Memphis, Nashville, and New Orleans. It was a great trip and included a great AA meeting in Nashville!

I chose meetings relating to Correctional Facilities, International AA, Native Peoples, AA in Africa/ MidEast, and Grapevine Archives. I'm heading to Uganda to work in September so I made a contact with a Ugandan and found out that there are AA meetings there – I'm looking forward to them. Plus, my home group, Middle River, has paid for Big Books and literature that I'll bring to Uganda.

The International AA Conventions have helped me learn how people in different places use the AA program to get and stay sober. Plus I always get a few great new quotes, "I love open discussion meetings because I can't wait to hear what I have to say." You guessed it, I prefer Big Book meetings! I heard this one in Toronto in 2005: "I asked my elders how I could get patience. They told me I'd have to wait for it."

I encourage you to read about the convention in the AA Grapevine. Then make plans for Atlanta in 2015. I hope to see you there!

Iven O.

Thief River Falls

Northern Light Articles

San Antonio 2010

I had the privilege of attending this year's 75th Anniversary of Alcoholics Anonymous in San Antonio, TX. What a wonderful celebration of sobriety, serenity, fun and fellowship from around the world. During the Friday night opening ceremony there were no less than 94 countries represented and approximately 60,000 people in attendance. It was an amazing meeting. I went with Dave W. from the Tuesday night SCCUM group in St. Cloud. After the opening prayer he looked at me and said...

"Dude, did 60,000 people just say the Serenity prayer in unison?"

I said "dude 60,000 people just said the Serenity prayer in unison".

He gushed "man that is AWESOME!"

And awesome it truly was. To see the miracle of this program on so many faces, to hear the "language of the heart" spoken in so many different tongues, to see lives that were once lost and broken now "trudging the happy road of destiny," was nothing less than - awesome. Dave had summed it up perfectly.

The following afternoon Dave and I attend the Old Timers meeting. There we listened to members of the program who had 55-60 years of sobriety. One woman had the privilege of knowing Bill and Lois. She even attended the funeral of Ebby (the man who carried the message to Bill) with Bill and Lois. Again, I was overwhelmed with gratitude for this program and for the service work others had done that made the program of AA available to me when I was ready to hear the message.

On Sunday we attended the Sunday Morning meeting at the Alamodome with approximately 50,000 other friends. We laughed, teared, and hugged people we never met before ending every conversation with "see you in Atlanta in 2015!" As we walked out of the last meeting Dave turned to me and said...

"Dude, that was awesome!"

I smiled and said...

"Dude that was truly awesome!"

John D.
CPC Chair
District 13
St. Cloud, MN

Meeting for the deaf?

Last time the Area Committee's met in Aitkin, I asked the groups what they do if a Deaf or Hard of Hearing person wants to attend AA and how do they pay for the Interpreter. I have since found out the answer.

A group can call an organization called CSD and their phone number is 1-877-456-7589. They received a grant from the State of Minnesota and will pay an American Sign Language Interpreter to assist a Deaf individual with communication during an AA meeting.

Hopefully communication doesn't stop someone from attending AA if they want to participate in AA.

Mary S.
Grand Rapids
District 16 D.C.M.

Northern Light Article

Area 35 Archivist found something amazing while researching a passage in “Dr. Bob and the Good Old Timers” in which it was stated that Dr. Bob had written a supposed rare article. Brad located and purchased the mentioned magazine and found that it was really an interview with the co-founder! This is potentially a priceless find to the fellowship because up to this point research has not come up with any other copies of this magazine with the precious interview!

I Saw Religion Remake A Drunkard

By D.J. Defoe
September 1939 “Your Faith” Magazine

Through Liquor, this physician had lost his practice, his reputation and his self respect. Then one night in a gathering in a private home, he found the way of escape.

When a doctor starts drinking, he’s usually on the skids for keeps. His profession gives him so much privacy, so great exposure to temptation both from liquor and from drugs, and his need of a stimulant to lift him from depression becomes so extreme, that many a good doctor has dropped into oblivion for no cause other than his own thirst for drink

I could tell you about more than one doctor who came to no good end through liquor. Their stories are alike in their early furtiveness, then a brazen attitude of liquor-might-do-things-to some- men- but- I’m-different, then a broken desperation to try to keep up appearances and pretend nothing has happened, and finally exposure and failure-and disgrace. One brilliant ex-surgeon a suicide; another exile from home; two others forgotten by their friends; so runs the history.

But Dr. X handled his liquor problem differently. He came close enough to degradation to see how the jaws of hell reaching out for him. But then something interfered and saved him.

Today Dr. X-and I dare not give his name, or even the name of the city, for reasons you will soon discover—is alive and hap[y and is probably a better and more popular doctor than ever before. What save his life and reputation? What force made him into a new man?

It was simply religion, brought home to him in a way he could use it. Simply the new habit of living his religion, and the discovery that he could utilize the power of prayer.

We used to see Dr. X around a lot. He was cheery, straightforward, friendly, and successful. His field was a particularly intricate form of surgery and he did well at it.

Then for quite a while we missed him. I saw his wife now and then, and noticed—even a man can things like that—that she seemed a little shabby and not especially happy. We began to hear ugly rumors. That’s bad for any doctor. We heard he was losing his practice. When a doctor begins drinking, not many people are willing to trust their own lives to his skill with a knife.

Last year I met Dr. X for the first time in several years. He was a new Dr. X. Straight as an Indian. Clean eyes. An honest I-can-lick-the-world-look in his face. He gripped my hand in a vise and said hello in a way that gave you something to tie to.

We were at a party. Someone offered Dr. X a drink. Then I remembered what had happened to him and wondered what he would do. “I don’t drink” he said evenly. “Some men can take a drink or two drinks and stop. I can’t. I had that ability once, but not now. If I’d take as much as a swallow of alcohol now, I’d disappear-and you wouldn’t see me for three weeks”

From him and others I got his whole story, a bit here, a bit there. Here it is:

He had been drinking for longer than anyone but his wife suspected. For a while he was able to keep the matter a secret. But he missed a couple of appointments and got into some trouble. First his competitors knew it. Then his friends around the hospital got wise. Finally even his oldest patients began to leave him.

He had always been dignified and aloof, and when he was straight you hesitated to go up to him and tell him he was drinking too much. Usually he drank alone, silently, hungrily, in a sodden fashion of one who wants to forget. Just a deadly, steady sopping up of the poison. It was ghastly. In his saner moments he must have known the way he was headed. But a stubborn pride-and pride pf the sort in a wayward person is a terrible thing- held him from seeking help.

Finally a friend he trusted got him to attend a little meeting in a living room one evening. It was a simple affair. Not dress-up at all. Here was a factory foreman who looked happier than almost anybody in town. When the time came to talk he told how he had been cured of drunkenness by prayer. His wife told how unbelievably happy their life was now. They didn’t have much money-you could see that-but they had something that money alone had never brought them. They had love and self respect, and they had each other.

Dr. X was surprised to find that everyone in this little group had some sort of a fight to make and had won. He began to look at these people in a new way. They had been weak and now they were strong. Unconsciously he began to envy them.

He surprised himself by starting to say something. He admitted he had a tremendous hunger for liquor. And sometimes it got him down. He found that just merely talking about his trouble seemed to bring relief. As long as you conceal your difficulties, no one can help you. But once you bring your trouble out in the open, you can invite help and encouragement from friends. And you can benefit by the strengthening power of prayer.

Merely getting on his knees and asking for help wasn’t the whole story of Dr. X’s reformation. Many a drunk knows there’s a wide difference between promising to straight and sticking to it!

What enabled him to hold fast to his resolution was the discovery that he, who had just started to climb back to sobriety and respectability, had the ability to help other desperate and disheartened drunks to live decent lives too.

In fact, that’s a big part of the cure. When Dr. X gets an inebriate started on a new life of decency, he sees to it that the man gets on his feet now and then and talks to other people in the same predicament. Telling yourself and the world that you’re going to go straight helps you to remind your subconscious mind that you are going straight.

Northern Light Article (Continued)

I Saw Religion Remake A Drunkard

There have been a lot of ex-drunks that have come within Dr. X's influence since that fateful night he was turned back from a drunkard's grave. Forty-three of them, no less, owe their new lives to him. He'll leave a party or a dinner, almost leave an operation, to go and sit up all night with some drunk he probably never saw before but who knows he needs help.

He has worked out a little system. Usually he puts the drunk to bed in a hospital, where he can sleep off his liquor quietly but can't get any more. There the sick man-for a drunk really is a sick man- receives regular care, and hot meals, and also some measure or discipline and restraint. There he has privacy and time to think.

"But you can't do much for a man until he hits bottom and back up. Can you?" I asked. "A man doesn't have to hit bottom, but he has to come close enough to see where he is going if he doesn't stop drinking" replied Dr. X quietly. "And he's got to want to be helped before with him or for him" When a drunk in the hospital starts to sober up, Dr. X closes the door and starts to talk to him. "I know where you hide your bottles," he'll say. "I know every sneaky little thing you do to get liquor when you're not supposed to have any. I've been there myself. And I want to tell you, my fine young friend, it's getting you nowhere. You're rotten. You're ashamed of yourself. Now let's do something about it."

So there in that white, silent hospital room they read the Bible together. Then they pray. Very simply. First the Doctor, then, falteringly, the man himself. He finds his voice gain in confidence. He finds it easy to talk to God, and talk out loud. He finds a huge load is lifted off his chest. He begins to feel he could hold his head up again. He gets a fresh look at the man he might be. The whole idea becomes real and feasible to him. He becomes enthusiastic and eager about going straight. He promises to read the Bible, and Dr. X leaves him.

Then, like as not, this sick man slips up and badly. Success is not that easy. Those nerves that have been accustomed to bossing the mind and the body can't be straightened out without a last tough fight. The patient begs for just one more little last drink, and when the nurse refuses, he is angry at Dr. X and may storm about and threaten to go home. Fortunately, the foresighted Dr. X had carefully removed the patient's pants and shoes and locked them up in his own locker in the surgeons room of the hospital.

And then, because he knows the fight the sick man is going through, Dr. X comes back in time to bring new comfort and new cheer and to again call forth the searching and ever available help of prayer. And in a couple of weeks the man, rested and refreshed and with the eyes alight as a result of decent living, goes home to his friends and his family that had almost given him up for dead.

No, I don't dare let you tell about this," Dr. X said to me when I asked him for a signed interview.

"We can't publicize these cures. These men are outside the realm of every day medicine. They have tried everything and have been given up as hopeless. We don't succeed every time ourselves. We can't brag. Every case is a new battle."

"But if word got out that we can do anything at all for a drunk, then derelicts would come into this town by the TRAINLOAD. We couldn't handle them. We couldn't handle a dozen. Two is a lot. One at a time is plenty. I can't talk to one of these fellows for more than an hour or two without feeling spent and tired, unless I talk like a parrot, and talking like a parrot wouldn't do them any good".

"Do you remember when Christ turned around in the crowd and asked "Who touched me?" and some woman confessed she had touched his robe because she wanted to be cured? Christ felt some of his power pass out from that touch. It's the same way with helping people. You're giving something. It tires you.

"We fellows who are doing this sort of thing feel we have hold of something, but we don't dare use our names in connection with it. Lookup the new book Alcoholics Anonymous which we helped write. We studied around for a long while to find how we could tell our story without using our names. That book was the answer. It tells some actual stories-my own among them- but no names are given. Even the publisher doesn't know our names."

"But Dr. X," I insisted, "Why not let these drunks pay you something for what you do for them? After all, they have been a burden to their friends, You put them back where they can earn a living again and live a decent life. You deserve any kind of fee you want to charge."

"No, we can't commercialize the idea," the doctor said firmly but kindly. "That would spoil everything. We've got to keep our work as a gift to anyone we are able to help.

"Moreover, I'm not sure we could set up a sanitarium and cure people effectively in any wholesale matter. I'm convinced this idea has to grow, one cure at a time."

I tried to argue still further. "But Christ was willing to let folks invite him in for supper and the night" I suggested. "you and your wife have food to buy, and rent to pay, and overhead expenses in the way of taxes and insurance and shoes for your daughter. It's your own fault if you don't let these reformed drunks help pay their own way."

"I'm satisfied," he said with a quiet smile that permitted no debate. "My wife and I are happier than we have ever been in our lives. We can keep going very nicely as long as I get a few operations from time to time, as I am doing. I'm doing a good job of living, and am happy," he ended.

Then he handed me his final thought. "I have found that no one can be permanently be happy unless he lives in harmony with the rules set down in the Good Book," he said. "Try it some time! You don't need to wait till you're down and out before you ask for help. There's help waiting for you right now, if you just ask God to help you."

2010 – AREA 35 SCHEDULE

Regional Forum "Additional"
November 12-14, 2010
West Central – Rapid City, South Dakota
Registration: <http://www.aa.org/lang/en/subpage.cfm?page=106>

Next Area Meeting - Dec. 5th - 9:00 am
Aitkin Alano Club
322 1st. Avenue N.E.
Aitkin, MN

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 20, 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"
ROOM 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

October 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 <small>Thanksgiving Canada</small>	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31 <small>Halloween</small>	25	26	27	28	29	30
www.aaonline.com						

November 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 <small>Daylight Savings Ends Fall Back</small>	8	9	10	11 <small>Veteran's Day</small>	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 <small>Thanksgiving</small>	26	27
28	29	30				
www.aaonline.com						

Upcoming Events in Areas 35 & 36

Note: Area 35 events take precedence!

28th — St. Cloud Roundup
October 22 - 24
St. Cloud Civic Center
10 Fourth Ave. So.

32nd Annual Winter Rap Up
March 18 - 20, 2011
Coates Plaza Hotel
502 Chestnut Street
Virginia, MN
Registration by February, 18th - 1-800-777-4699

Area 36 - Founder's Day Weekend
November 26 - 28 - wwwFOUNDERSDayMN.org
Activities and Accommodations at
Doubletree Park Place Hotel, St. Louis Park, MN
1500 Park Place Blvd, St. Louis Park, MN 55416 • 800.222.8733

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.

Northern Minnesota Area Assembly Agenda
Fall 2010
October 2 and 3, 2010

<div><div><div>___ 9:00 A.M. Registration</div><div>___ 10:00 A.M. Area Action Committees and GSR Orientation</div><div>___ Noon Lunch on your Own</div><div>___ 1:00 Call to Order Open with the Serenity Prayer</div><div>___ Acknowledgment of Past Delegates</div><div>___ Why We Need a Conference</div><div>___ Approval of the Spring Assembly Minutes</div><div>___ Add To Agenda</div></div><div><div>OFFICER REPORTS</div><div>___ Delegate - John C.</div><div>___ Alternate Delegate – Jim K.</div><div>___ Chair - Michael (Jake) J.</div><div>___ Secretary - Heidi R.</div><div>___ Treasure - Sarah K.</div></div><div><div>COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS</div><div>___ Literature – Bob K.</div><div>___ District 8 - Randy A.</div><div>___ District 12 - Jana M.</div><div>___ Treatment - Robert (Butch) R.</div><div>___ District 9—Chuck R.</div><div>___ District 15—Sandy H.</div><div>___ Public Information - Roger R.</div><div>___ DISTRICT 7 - Mark N.</div><div>___ District 11 - Gary H.</div><div>___ Group Records - Laurie R.</div><div>___ Northern Light - Daniel R.</div><div>___ District 2—Rodney P.</div><div>___ District 16 - Mary S.</div><div>___ Corrections - Kelly D.</div><div>___ District 3 - Ed A.</div><div>___ District 4 - Dee Dee B.</div><div>___ CPC - Doug N.</div><div>___ District 13 - Gayle S.</div><div>___ District 1 - Richard W.</div><div>___ Grapevine - Dee K.</div><div>___ District 21 - Carl B.</div><div>___ District 18 - Mike D.</div><div>___ Webmaster - Steve L.</div><div>___ Archives - Brad I. / Art A.</div><div>___ District 5 - Rita D.</div><div>___ District 6 - Kathy G.</div></div><div><div>2:00 Break</div></div></div> <div><div><div>2:15 Breakout Sessions for Area Inventory Items</div><div>4:30 Break</div><div>4:45 GSR Sharing Session and DCM Sharing Session</div><div>6:00 Supper on your Own</div><div>7:15 Area Inventory Main Session</div><div>9:30 Adjourn</div><div>Sunday October 3rd</div><div>7:30 AM AA Meeting</div><div>9:00 Assembly Reconvenes</div><div>___ Business Not Completed Saturday</div><div>___ GSR Sharing Session Report</div><div>___ DCM Sharing Session Report</div></div><div><div>OLD BUSINESS</div><div>___ District 13 report on motion for reflection or meditation component to be put in the Grapevine</div><div>___ Discussion on unanimity in 3rd legacy voting procedure</div><div>___ Financial review committee</div><div>___ Approval of new Webmaster</div><div>___ WRAASC</div></div><div><div>NEW BUSINESS</div><div>___</div><div>___ Calendar of Events</div><div>___ Spring Assembly 2011</div><div>___ Fall Assembly 2011</div><div>___ TBA</div><div>___ Adjourn</div></div></div>
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