

Deadline for the next  
*Northern Light* is  
**August 29th, 2011**

This is YOUR Newsletter.

Please send your questions or comments for publication to  
Daniel R. at [NorthernLight@area35.org](mailto: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 2011

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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

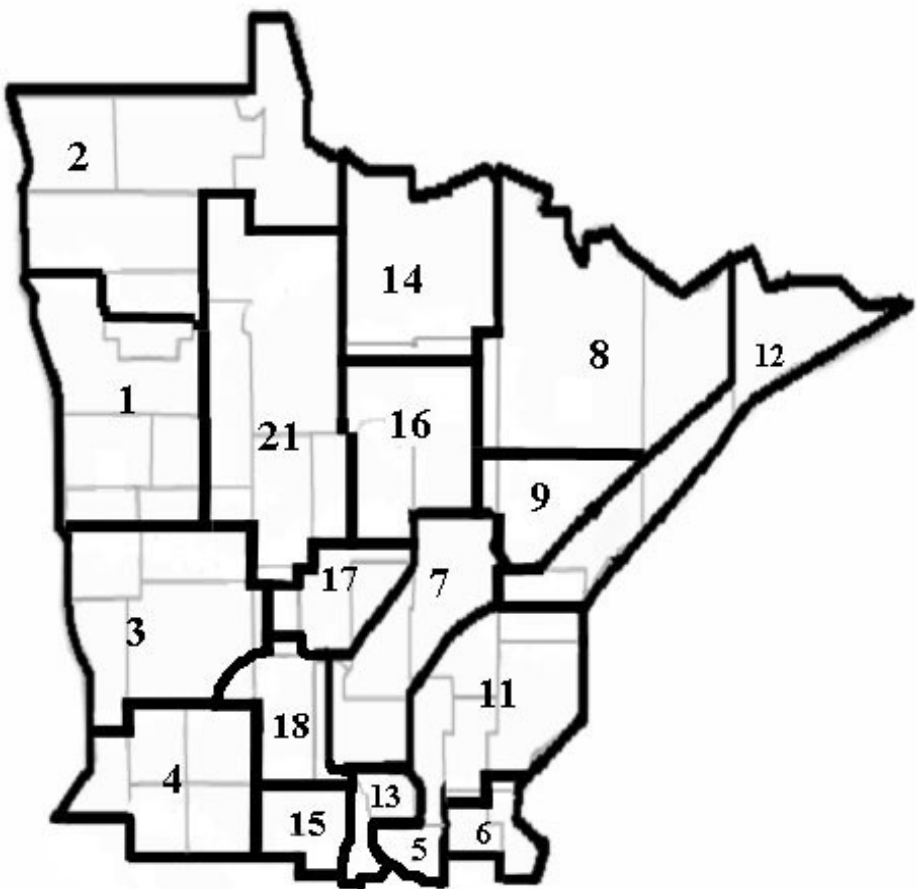
Thank you!

# Our Past Delegates

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

## The Delegate’s Duties

- Though the high point is the Conference meeting, the delegate’s job goes on year-round and involves all aspects of the Conference structure. The delegate should:
- Attend the Conference meeting in April, fully prepared. Immediately upon election, every delegate is put on the G.S.O. mailing list to receive Conference materials.
  - Communicate the actions of the Conference to area committee members and encourage them to pass on this information, and the delegate’s enthusiasm, to groups and to intergroups/central offices. If an area is too large for the delegate to cover in person, he or she will ask area officers and committee members to share the load.
  - Be prepared to attend all area, state/provincial, and regional service meetings and assemblies. From these meetings, delegates come to better understand their own areas and can make suggestions for the Conference agenda. Here, too, they come in contact with A.A. members who might not be reached otherwise.
  - Help area committees obtain financial support for the area and G.S.O.
  - Provide leadership in solving local problems involving the A.A. Traditions.
  - Remind G.S.R.s to inform groups and individuals about the A.A. Grapevine and Conference-approved literature.
  - Cooperate with G.S.O. in obtaining information—for example, making sure that up-to-date information reaches G.S.O. in time to meet the deadline for each Issue of the A.A. directory and helping carry out the triennial membership surveys.
  - Visit groups and districts in the area whenever possible.
  - Work closely with committee members and officers, sharing experience throughout the year. After G.S.R.s and committee members have reported on the Conference, learn from these A.A.s how groups and members have reacted.
  - Assume added responsibility if the area chair and alternate chair are unable to serve. Or, if an area committee is not functioning effectively, the delegate may take an active role in remedying the situation.
  - Keep the alternate delegate fully informed and active, so that the alternate can replace the delegate in an emergency.
  - Late in the second term, work with newly elected delegates to pass along a basic knowledge of Conference proceedings and problems.
- (from The A.A. Service Manual, pages S44-S45)



Area 35  
Northern Minnesota

Zone I

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

Zone II

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

Zone III

- District 5** - Becker, Big Lake, Elk River, Milaca, Otsego, Princeton, Zimmerman
- District 6** - Braham, Bethel, Cambridge, Forest Lake, Harris, Isanti, Lindstrom, North Branch, Rock Creek, Stacy, St. Francis
- District 7** - Aitkin, Baxter, Brainerd, Fort Ripley, Garrison, Ironton, Little Falls\*, McGregor\*, Palisade, Pierz, Pillager\*
- District 11** - Finlayson\*, Grasston, Henriette, Hinckley\*, Isle, Lake Lena, Malmo, Moose Lake\*, Mora, Ogilvie, Pine City, Quamba, Sandstone, Wahkon, Willow River
- District 13** - Kimball, Rice, St. Cloud, Sauk Rapids, Waite Park, Foley
- District 17** - Backus, Cross Lake, Nisswa, Pequot Lakes, Pillager\*, Pine River
- District 18** - Browerville, Cushing, Eagle Bend, Little Falls\*, Long Prairie, Motley, Parkers Prairie, Staples, Verndale

Zone IV

- District 8** - Alango, Aurora, Babbitt, Biwabik, Cook, Cotton, Ely, Eveleth, Gilbert, Hoyt Lakes, Mountain Iron, Orr, Palo, Pike, Tower, Virginia, Zim\*
- District 9** - Chisholm, Floodwood, Goodland, Hibbing\*, Keewatin, Kelly Lake, Lawrence Lake\*, Nashwauk\*
- District 12** - Beaver Bay, Silver Bay, Brimson, Brookston, Cloquet, Duluth, Esko, Finland, Fredenberg, Grand Marais, Grand Portage, Hermantown, Knife River, Lawrence Lake\*, Lutsen, Mahtowa, 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**  
2nd Sunday of even months, 2:00 p.m.  
Fertile Community Center  
101 S. Mill St., Fertile, MN 56540
- District 2**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Odd Months, 2:00 p.m.  
First Lutheran Church  
210 Park Ave. N.  
Middle River, MN 56737
- District 3**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Month, 10:00 a.m.  
Perham Alano Club  
Hwy 34  
Perham, MN 56573
- District 4**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of Month, 5:30 p.m.  
Call DCM Dee Dee (320) 491-7230 for location (It Rotates)  
Potluck at 6:30 p.m.  
Round Robin at 7:00 p.m.
- District 5**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of Month, 7 p.m.  
St. John Lutheran Church  
13045 Fremont Ave  
Zimmerman, MN 55398

- District 6**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of Month, 7:30 p.m.  
Spring Lake Lutheran Church  
8440 Erickson Rd. N.E.  
North Branch, MN 55056
- District 7**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of Month, 7:00 p.m.  
First Congregational United Church  
415 Juniper Street  
Brainerd, MN 56401
- District 8**  
Committee Meetings at 6:30 p.m.  
General District Meeting at 7:00 p.m.  
Call Randy for location “It Rotates”  
218-225-8833 - Palo, MN
- District 9**  
Last Sunday of Month, 6:00 p.m.  
Hibbing Alano Club  
3725 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Hibbing, MN 55746
- District 11**  
1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of Month, 7:00 p.m.  
Peace Lutheran  
2177 Hwy 18  
Finlayson, MN 55735

- District 12**  
3rd Thursday 6:30 p.m. - Email DCM at dcm12@area35.org for rotating location!

- District 13**  
1st Monday of Month,  
7:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.  
St. cloud Alano Club  
127 7th Ave. NE  
Saint Cloud, MN 56304
- District 15**  
1<sup>st</sup> 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. 8<sup>th</sup> 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**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 7:00 p.m.  
Bemidji Alano Club  
1225 Anne St.
- Districts 10, 14, 17, 19 and 20**  
Not currently active or unknown!.

### **Delegate's Report**

I suffered a stroke on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. I have been in the hospital and then transferred to a short term wing of the nursing home for physical rehab. The stroke left my lefts side weak, but the biggest problem I face now is my memory. Unfortunately, I only remember about ten people. I do not remember extended family, where I grew up, age, etc.

I must say that through the whole episode, I knew I couldn't drink and did not want to. In my mind, at that time, I did not know why I just knew I shouldn't. At this time, the only prayer I know without a book is the serenity prayer. I can only pray one day at a time that I may become useful to Alcoholics Anonymous and my family again.

I would like to report that this year we will be gathering information for the 2011 A.A. membership survey. We should be receiving them by July 10<sup>th</sup>. We need these survey questionnaires completed at one regularly scheduled meeting between 8/1-8/14. It is for A.A. members attending the meeting who do the survey. Further instructions will follow. Please do your best to make this survey worthwhile.

At the conference, I was privileged to have two assignments. I was asked to close the Wednesday evening session and served as moderator for our workshop. I was sent two "Thank You" letters from the G.S.O. for participating.

At our August Committee Meeting, if all goes well, I will be bringing reports from our 61<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference.

Thank you for your patience. I am very sorry to all of you that I couldn't have done a better job. I will do whatever I can serving members, groups, districts, and fellow area committee members serving out my rotation.

God Bless,

Jon C.

### **Alternate Delegate's Report**

Hello Area 35. I hope you are all enjoying the warm summer weather. I am looking forward to our upcoming events in our area and hope to see many of you there.

We held our 3<sup>rd</sup> Zonal Forum in Duluth on May 14<sup>th</sup>. I want to give a special thanks to Jana and all of District 12 who helped coordinate the event and for supplying so many treats. The event was well attended and appeared to be received quite well based on the evaluations. We will be setting up and holding our final forum for the year this fall. I will provide a full report on feedback received from all forums so that we can continue to work on making them effective and helpful for all who attend.

I want to thank district 7 for asking me to stand for Delegate for the upcoming rotation. It is quite humbling to have a group who feels that I am qualified to stand for such a position. I also want to thank all of the others who are willing to stand for this position and who have submitted their names. We are blessed to be in an area that has members who are willing to give of their time for the good of our fellowship.

I am in the process of getting a contract finalized for our upcoming Area 35 Workshop in January. Information and fliers will be available at our upcoming August committee meeting.

Thanks for the continued opportunity to serve.

Yours in Service,

Jim K.

### **Chair's Report**

Hi everyone. Hope your finally enjoying our beautiful weather. It sure beats winter. Things have been slow and busy at the same time. I have had some more physical problems and am dealing with the healing.

I have been in touch with Lisa from Area 36 and am working out details hopefully for our joint workshop. Have spent time enjoying family and friends at weddings, birthdays and funerals. Unfortunately we lost another long time AA member Neil H. and I have known him most of my life. As a result of this great fellowship I had my 3 grandchildren for a week. Challenging but worthwhile.

I have answered a few e-mails for contacts and had some new referrals myself. I am looking forward to the Fall Assembly in Bemidji and hope all goes well. Still praying for Jon and his family as he is dealing with his health. Enjoy the summer and enjoy sobriety.

God bless, Yours in Fellowship  
Michael (Jake) J.

### **Secretary's Report**

Greeting everyone in Area 35,

Since the June 2011 Committee Meeting in Aitkin, I have completed the minutes and should be available in the Northern Light. Please look through the June Committee Meeting Minutes and let me know if you have questions or find corrections. If you would like to receive the minutes from all Area Committee Meetings and Assemblies or flyers for Area 35 events, please email me at [secretary@area35.org](mailto:secretary@area35.org). I have also receive many new registered groups to Area 35 from our Group Records Secretary and will be sending the welcome letters out as soon as I return from vacation.

I have started working on the new Action Booklet for the next rotation, including the new changes/format. I plan to have copies of the action booklet by the August Committee Meeting or the Fall Assembly for approval. Finally, I have taken the Area 35 Alcoholics Anonymous Guidelines for Area Officers and Committee Chair and made updates and digital copies. I have passed them along to the Area Chair for approval. The plan is to put the guidelines into the Northern Light and Area 35 website. Groups and districts should review the guidelines before asking or accepting a position as an Area Officer or Committee Chair for the 2011/2012 term. I did not receive changes to guidelines from several Area Officer/Chair so if you see changes or errors, please inform me or the Area Chair.

Yours in Service

Heidi R.

## Treasurer's Report

Greetings Area 35,

Greetings Area 35! Well, in the last month I have mostly been doing baby stuff! However, I did send Steve L., our webmaster, some information about setting up a PayPal “donate” button for accepting online contributions. Hopefully we will have it up and running soon! In the last article, I suggested you encourage your groups to take advantage of the birth month of AA (JUNE) to encourage Birthday Contributions. In July, consider the fact that on July 3, 1955, AA officially “Came of Age.” For further information, you can see Chapter 1 of *AA Comes of Age*, which describes how Bill humbly turned over the directorship of AA to the guardianship of AA as a whole, thus claiming that AA had finally come of age. I will quote a brief section here:

*At the invitation of Bernard S., chairman, Bill made a few minutes' introductory remarks and presented his resolution, the heart of which were the words:*  
***BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: That the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous should become, as of this date, July 3, 1955, the guardian of the Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous, the perpetuator of the World Services of our Society, the voice of the group conscience of our entire Fellowship, and the sole successors to its co-founders, Dr. Bob and Bill.***

*The resolution ended with the provision that "neither the Twelve Traditions nor the Warrantees of Article XII of the Conference Charter shall ever be changed or amended" except by consent of three-fourths of the groups in the world - and the Warrantees themselves were included in the resolution, as well.*

*As Bill sat down, the roar of approval went up from the assembled throng. As it died away, Bern S. turned to the members of the Conference, seated on the stage, and said, "Members of the Conference . . . I will now ask for a motion that the resolution as read by Bill and as approved by this Convention, be adopted by this Conference." The motion was made and seconded and carried unanimously by a show of hands.*

So, during the month of July, I'd ask you to take some time during meetings to share this information in your groups. Perhaps read parts of this section as a meeting topic. Consider what might have happened to AA had Bill not had the foresight to turn it over to our guardianship! Consider what might happen if we as a fellowship were to fail to fulfill this great responsibility by failing to be involved in general service. Consider the great blessings we have been given as a result of AA. To this great fellowship, we owe a debt of gratitude that is immeasurable. A simple way to demonstrate this gratitude is through group and individual contributions to Area 35. Your contributions ensure that we may remain, as Bill hoped, responsible and active guardians of our fellowship. Encourage groups and members to send contributions to AA to show their gratitude and support, and encourage them to take up their part in our general service structure.

Grateful to be of service  
Sarah K.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Correction Chair's Report**

Greetings Area 35,

Hope this finds you all enjoying your summer! Since my last report I attended our Area 35 Committee Meeting in Aitkin. Our District Corrections Chairs are busy making sure our commitments are being fulfilled in our correctional facilities although several Districts are still in need of volunteers to go in. If you have never done so please consider doing this form of 12 step work. Some of the best meetings I have been apart of have been in a correctional facility. There are many suffering alcoholics that need to hear our message of hope and what better way to do this by volunteering of your time to go in. I reported that I had attended a transitional fair at the St. Cloud prison in May. I received 17 more inmates requesting AA contacts at that time and since then received 18 more from southern Minnesota on transitional fairs they attended and also from the contact program we have in place with them. This brings the total so far to 148 inmates requesting an AA contact upon their release since the beginning of my rotation. I have been busy sending out emails to our Corrections Chairs and DCM's in our Districts to find contacts for them. I plan to attend the next Transitional Fair in northern Minnesota at the Moose Lake Correctional Facility being held at the end of September and am sure we will have many more inmates requesting contacts from there also. I am proud to say that I am a part of a great group of alcoholics in Northern Minnesota that are carrying AA's message to the alcoholic that still suffers by being a contact for these individuals! Thank you all!

I will not be able to attend the Area 35/Area 36 Joint Workshop on August 27th due to a prior work commitment to do a fundraiser that day but will be volunteering in the State Fair AA booth later on that evening. I do plan to attend the West Central Regional Forum in Iowa September 9-11. Enjoy the rest of your summer and thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your Area 35 Corrections Chair.

In love and service,  
Kelly D.

### **Group Records**

Hi everyone, I hope everyone is having a great summer. Not much has changed with group records. I talked Steve our Area Webmaster and he is going to tweak our new group information form to include a spot for mailing address and whether or not a person wishes to be listed in the Meeting Directory that GSO puts out. Just a reminder, that if you find meeting information that is wrong on either the Area 35 website or [aameetinglocator.org](http://aameetinglocator.org) to let me know then I will fix them and then I will pass them on to Steve so that he can fix our website. I continue to update FNV and entering new groups, as I receive the information. I also continue to pass that information on to Steve our area webmaster so that he can make updates to the website as well. I also continue updating [aameetinglocator.org](http://aameetinglocator.org) (the joint Area 35/36 meeting website) as well. Remember that if you want your groups meeting to be on the websites, your group must be registered with GSO and active. To be active, you have to have at least one meeting time, and either a primary contact or GSR. If you have questions about anything related to group records and getting a group or individual registered please ask and I will be happy to answer them for you. Also if your roundup has a flier that they want inserted in the Northern Light the cost is \$75 and I would need six hundred fliers, you could either send them to me or I can get them from you at one of our Area events. That is all for now.

As always thanks for allowing me to serve,  
Laurie R.



## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS Continued!**

### **Public Information**

I am again looking forward to our area's participation in the AA booth at the Minnesota State Fair on Saturday August 27 and Sunday August 28. At the time of this writing I have several open shifts that need to be covered. On Saturday August 27 the open shifts are: 8:45 -11:00 ( AM) and 11 AM - 1PM. On Sunday August 28 the open shifts are : 1-3 PM, 3-5 PM and 5-7 PM. Working as a volunteer in the AA booth at the MN State Fair is a great service opportunity for individuals, groups and districts.

Please reach me as soon as possible if you are interested in this service opportunity.

I have been working with basic PI steps for districts in Are 35. Last June at our Area Committee Meeting we refined these steps to include the following.

### **Public Information Steps**

Elect a District PI Chair and form a district PI Committee to accomplish the following.

1. Validate accuracy of hard copy of district meeting schedule.  
Designate open/-closed meetings ; handicap accessible  
Ensure accuracy of listed meetings and times
2. Distribute Meeting Schedules.  
Treatment Centers, Jails, Motels/Hotels,  
Medical Clinics, High Schools, Colleges/Universities, Police Stations, Laundromats,  
Ask local newspapers, radio stations, and TV outlets to publish/announce open meeting times/locations and local AA Hotline numbers.
3. Validate district-meeting listings on online directories:  
Area 35.org and AA Meeting Locator.org  
Check/ensure registration of all district Meetings. Submit changes to Area Group Records Secretary. ( All AA Group Meetings require a zip code.
4. Launch a district Beginners Meeting. Print and widely distribute flyers announcing beginners meeting.
5. Commence a district AA Assistance Line
6. Distribute Radio and TV PSA's to local stations. Supply local tags for national radio and TV PSA's.
7. Annually update local public libraries inventories of AA books: Big Book, 12 and 12 and AA Comes of Age.
8. Work with local colleges/universities and high schools to increase AA presence on campuses through AA informational meetings, beginners meetings and AA meetings.

Thank you for the opportunity to continue to be of service to Area 35.  
Roger R.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS Continued!

Webmaster Chair’s Report

It's only been through the grace of God and the program and fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous that I haven't found it necessary to take a drink. I was in attendance at our Area 35 Zone 4 Service Workshop at the Duluth Alano Club.

It’s great that DCM’s are listening and taking me up on adding District pages to the web site. Since my last report at the Spring Assembly I’ve updated Two District Web pages with help from Dan. Updated Dist 7’s map and added a meeting list link. I added a new web page for District 4, still a little tweak-

ing to do. Laurie and I are constantly updating meeting changes and I’m adding new fliers to the calendar expeditiously. There were a couple of questionable fliers and the committees vote was not to post.

If you have an event that you would like on the website please email them to me or upload through the website.

I reworked and added new links to the websites downloads page. Added a new group change form in a word doc to replace GSO’s form. Also added forms for the Treatment Committee. One is a Temporary

Treatment Contact form for AA Members also a Temporary Treatment Contact form for Patient getting out.

We are looking at (recoding) being able to be more printer friendly in the meeting list pages. We have run into a small snag. Dan and I had an internet meeting to review code that has been done and look at the coding problems .

Please start looking for people to fill the area chairs and action committees for the next rotation.  
Humbly in service  
Steven L.

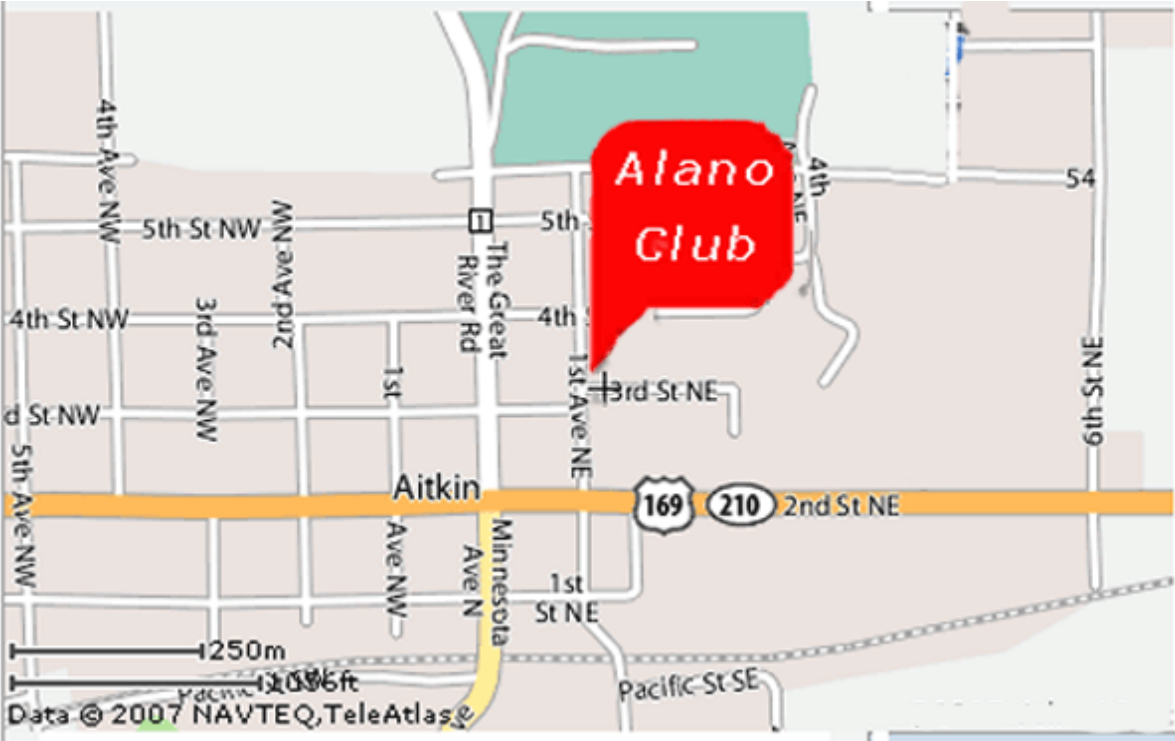
Inclement Weather Procedure For Area 35 Events

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](mailto: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)**

**ARCHIVIST**

Hello Everyone. The Answer to last month’s question is Burt Lancaster in “Come Back Little Sheba”. It is turning out to be a very busy summer. I am having to turn down invitations because of previous commitments.

My next commitment is the Zonal Archives Workshop in Thief River Falls on August 20<sup>th</sup>. I am going to Dubuque for the Regional Forum and to Helena for the National Archives workshop both in September.

The next full display is set for the ST. Cloud Round-up in October.

**This issues history question: What future Presidential candidate attended the Rockefeller Dinner In February 1940?**

Brad I.

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

No report submitted!

**ARCHIVE CHAIR**

We had a great meeting at the Area meeting in Aitkin last month. There were five in attendance. It was Brad, Andrew, Kathy, Jack and myself.

Andrew has been talking with long timers and working on their action workbook and hope it will be done in September. Kathy is trying to set up workshops this fall but doesn’t know what will happen yet.

Brad and myself will be holding Area Archives workshop with district 1 and possibly 21 at the Seven Clans Casino on August 20, 2011.

I have talked with a long timer who will be giving a ten to fifteen minute talk on the changes he has seen in AA over the years.

I would like to thank the Area for sending me to the spring assembly.

Art A.

**LITERATURE**

No report submitted!

**TREATMENT**

Greetings from Northern Minnesota. Summer finally showed up. Not much lately in the AA world other than the usual contact requests from Inter-groups Call Desk which I forward. Hope the outcome is good.

Not much else the Keep It Simple Weekend is coming up and I hope to see

some of you there.

In Service, Butch R.

**GRAPEVINE**

No report submitted!

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS** (continued)

### **Northern Light Editor**

Hello fellow servants,

I am sorry to say I will be missing my first Area Meeting for this and last rotation. I have a family event I can not miss. I will be sending a report to be read!

This exciting issue has our Delegate Nominee's resumes that have been randomly inserted through pages 14-16. Please read each one to see who you will vote for during the upcoming Fall Assembly. I believe each nominee has great qualities that will qualify them to be a fine representative as Delegate for Area 35.

In this issue you will want to check closely in Archivist Brad's report on the previous page - he asks a History challenge question you may know the answer to. I will be trying to look it up tonight!

I was able to add only two articles to this issue for lack of space. One on **page 13** entitled, **AA and the Armed Forces** written by John D. - Thursday Night Young People's Group - St. Cloud, MN where he discusses how groups are getting together to support our armed forces by sending them AA literature and other things to help them out. And one short one on the bottom of **page 16** by Panel 58 Delegate JoAnne N. in commemoration of a fellow servants' passing called **A Friend of Ours!**

The next issue will have information about the upcoming Fall Assembly, the voting process and other items related to the Assembly. Stay tuned!

Remember, you can always check current and back issues of the Northern Light online at [area35.org/NL.html](http://area35.org/NL.html) — with no last names or addresses of course!

With Love and Service  
Daniel R.



### **2010 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

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

Our Area 35 web site at [area35.org](http://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/](http://aameetinglocator.org/)**

## Northern Light Article

### AA and the Armed Forces

Dear Northern Light and Area 35,

Thank you for asking me to share some of my experiences with carrying the message to members of the Minnesota National Guard. I am happy to do so.

However, before I begin I would like to share some of my thoughts on the long tradition of cooperation that the US Armed Forces have enjoyed with Alcoholics Anonymous. As you well know, the program of AA was founded by a former Field Artillery officer of the US Army (LT Bill W). Moreover, AA in Europe took root due in large part to GIs who were members of AA. These GIs, after hostilities in Europe ended, started AA meetings all over Germany, France, Italy, Austria and elsewhere. Many of these English speaking AA meetings are still in existence today. Other AA meetings started by GIs invited local nationals to attend. Today these meetings are conducted entirely by local nationals in their host nation tongues.

I recently returned from my second tour to Iraq. I am proud to write that I and a few other AA members started the first ever AA meeting in the city of Basra, Iraq. I do not know if that meeting is still going on today, but it was active when I left Iraq one year ago. Additionally, I have had the honor of attending AA meetings in Tallil, Iraq and Balad, Iraq. All of these meetings were started by soldiers who were sober members of Alcoholics Anonymous. Isn't it ironic that not very long ago many soldiers would have thought *"I don't want to go through a war without getting drunk"*. Now I and hundreds of others like me think *"I don't want to go through a war without attending an AA meeting."*

It is also interesting to note that the Army Regulation (AR) that governs the treatment of alcoholism and substance abuse, AR 600-85, mentions Alcoholics Anonymous no less than four times. Each time AA is mentioned, it is done so in a highly favorable and complimentary manner.

After my last deployment to Iraq, I quickly got involved in the business of AA in my home community. I attended a meeting of District 13, in Area 35 of Northern Minnesota. I learned that the Cooperating with the Professional Community Chair was not filled. I volunteered to serve in that position and I was voted in by the GSRs. Thus, I went in search of professional agencies that might want to learn more about AA.

My first thought was to see if there was any interest in the AA message by leaders in our local National Guard unit. I contacted a senior non-commissioned officer (NCO) who worked in the National Guard's drug and alcohol program. I explained who I was and what I was trying to accomplish. She was delighted by the contact and immediately invited me to address a group of soldiers who were going through a mandatory class on substance abuse.

Thus, in March of 2010 I presented to my first class of soldiers. I explained who I was and what I was hoping to accomplish; mainly to carry the message of hope and recovery that is possible through the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. I was careful to point out that no one was saying that they were alcoholics. Rather, that the information presented was to inform them about the AA program and how they might get in touch with AA if they should ever come across a soldier who had a drinking problem.

The agenda for the session looked like this:

- A. Introduction
- B. Hope an AA DVD
- C. Short personal sharing
- D. Questions and Answers

The presentation lasted for approximately sixty minutes and was very well received. The NCO in charge of the program asked me if I would be willing to come back again. I said I would. Since March of 2010, I have done almost a dozen classes with soldiers of the Minnesota National Guard. The classes have ranged in size from three soldiers to ten. Many of the soldiers have completed tours to Iraq and Afghanistan, or are preparing to go.

Since the soldiers in the Minnesota National Guard come from all sections of the state, the class location has bounced back and forth between Area 35 and Area 36. When the classes are held in Area 36 the CPC Chair for District 8, Area 36 takes over the presentation.

As a result of the success of this program, we have recently been asked to present the AA message to all the Chaplains who serve in the Minnesota National Guard. This group will number 25. They are Chaplains from all denominations and many of them have served multiple combat tours. Since the session will take place in the Minneapolis area, I will be conducting it in cooperation with the CPC Chair for District 8, Area 36.

You have probably heard recently that 2,400 men and women will be leaving for Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn this summer. If any of them are from your group or district, please consider sponsoring their meeting once they get to their new location. Letters, literature, and old Grapevines can make for a great AA "care-package" when they land "over-there". Speaking from my own experiences, the St. Cloud Call Up Meeting (aka SCCUM) did exactly that, for me, on my last tour. Their generosity allowed me the opportunity to give away literature to new AA members who otherwise would have had to wait for weeks to receive literature via snail-mail.

Thank you for the opportunity to share, and for the opportunity to sever the fellowship.  
Yours in Sobriety,  
John D. - Thursday Night Young People's Group - St. Cloud, MN

**Nominated Delegate Resumes submitted by the Area chair to be posted in the Northern Light. Please take note that these are digital copies and the originals have signatures!**

Area 35  
Northern Minnesota Assembly  
Alcoholics Anonymous  
Delegate Resume  
**Panel 62**

**Nominee Robert J.(Butch) R.**

If nominated, I agree to stand for the office of Delegate and if elected, to trustfully serve members of Area 35 as outlined in the AA Service Manual

Full Name    Robert J.(Butch) R.  
Address       .  
City, St., Zip Code    Virginia, Mn 55792  
Telephone       .

My Home Group    Virginia Friday Night Open

My AA experience has included

My service work began as coffee maker, Greeter, Open, Chair and Close for my Home Group, served as Alt GSR, GSR, District Corrections Committee, Alt DCM, DCM, 4 years on the Area Treatment Committee and am currently the Area 35 Treatment Chair. I currently Speak monthly at the Range Treatment Center and speak elsewhere when asked. I also am active in the Saturday Night Big Book Group at the Range Detox Center. Past member of the Winter Rap-Up Committee and currently serve on the Keep It Simple Weekend Committee. Planning Committee for the 2010 WCRAASC. I speak regularly at NERCC in Saginaw and the Buhl Academy. I also take part when my Home Group hosts the District 8 Beginners Meeting. I am Sponsored and currently Sponsor.

I now have 12 years 5 months sobriety

**Nominee James K.**

If nominated, I agree to stand for the office of DELEGATE and if elected, to trustfully serve the members of Area 35 as outlined in the AA Service Manual.

Full Name:    James K.  
Address:       .  
City, State, Zip Code:    Brainerd, MN 56401  
Telephone:       .  
My Home Group:    Our Common Welfare Group

My AA experience has included:

2000: Intergroup Rep., Variety Group, Kissimmee, FL

2002-2003: GSR, Common Welfare Group, Brainerd, MN

2004: Alt. DCM, District 7, Area 35, Northern MN

2005-2007: DCM, District 7, Area 35, Northern MN

2008-2009: Treatment Chair, Area 35, Northern MN

2010-Present: Alt. Delegate, Area 35, Northern MN

I now have 11 continuous years of sobriety

Nominated for Delegate Resumes Continued!

Nominee Roger R.

If nominated, I agree to stand for the office of DELEGATE, and if elected, to trustfully serve the members of Area 35 as outlined in the AA Service Manual.

Full Name Roger R.  
Address .  
City, State, Zip Code St. Cloud, MN, 56301  
Telephone .  
  
My Home Group Primary Purpose Group  
Wednesday 8 PM St. Cloud Alano

My AA experience has included:

Group Level  
Jail Meeting Volunteer, Stearns County Jail 2002-Present  
Corrections Chair, St. Cloud Call-Up Meeting 2003-2004  
District Level  
Public Information Chair, District 13 2006-2007  
District Committee Member, (DCM) District 13 2008-2009  
Area Level  
Public Information Chair, Area 35 2010-Present  
Area Committees: Chair of WCRAASF Host Committee 2009;  
WCRAASC Host Committee 2011; Area 35 Inventory Committee 2011  
Other St. Cloud Round-Up Committee  
Sponsorship I sponsor and am sponsored  
I now have 5 continuous years of sobriety.

Nominee Steven D. L.

I agree to stand for the office of DELEGATE and if elected, to trustfully serve the members of Area 35 as outlined in the AA Service Manual.

Full Name: Steven D. L.  
Address: .  
City, State, Zip Code: Biwabik, MN 55708  
Telephone: .  
My Home Group: Biwabik Sunday Night Group

My AA experience has included:

1981 to Present Day: I’ve had the same home group (*Biwabik Sunday Night*) since 1988 and have always had a home group since my first two weeks sober. I have a sponsor and I sponsor others. I speak at treatment and correction centers. I have been on the Winter Rap-up Committee and the guardian for the Local AA phone contact. I was involved with creating two Beginners Meetings for our District and recently scripted a new four week Beginners Meeting format that is now used around the Area. I make the best coffee in our area. Most important is I try to implement the Principals of the AA Program into my life.

Group: Greeter, Treasurer, Coffee Maker, Cleanup, Chairman and GSR.

District 8: Correction/Institution Chair 1984-85  
DCM 1986-87  
PI/CPC Chair 2006-07

Area 35: Web Master 2010- Current Position  
Grateful member of AA for the past 30 years of continuous sobriety.



**Nominated for Delegate Resumes Continued!**

**Nominee Michael F. J.**

**If nominated, I agree to stand for the office of DELEGATE, and if elected, to trustfully serve the members of Area 35 as outlined in the AA Service Manual.**

**Full Name:** Michael F. J.  
**Address:** .  
**City, State, Zip Code :** Hibbing MN, 55746  
**Telephone:** .

**My Home Group: Sunday Night 12x12**

**My AA Experience has included:**

**I have had a home group since my first day of sobriety March 28, 1989 and have had a sponsor since that day. I have sponsored and continue to sponsor when asked. In my home group I have held all positions from coffee maker, chair, greeter, treasurer, GSR and continue to serve where needed. At the District level I have served District 9 as DCM, Alt DCM, treasurer, PI Chair. I have served on IRGT Committee for 21 years in all positions. I also served in the KISS committee meetings. I helped with a beginners meeting in my early sobriety and participated in many PI talks in our District. I believe in our Traditions and Principals and am not afraid to serve when needed.**

**I now have 22 continuous years of sobriety**

**Northern Light Article**

**A FRIEND OF OURS!**

**NEIL H. WAS A FRIEND OF MINE WHO RECENTLY PASSED AWAY. I MET NEIL AT AN AREA COMMITTEE MEETING YEARS AGO AND AT THAT TIME I WAS SERVING AS AREA 35 TREASURER. IN MY REPORT I TALKED ABOUT SAVING PENNIES FOR A.A. AND EVERY CENT WAS IMPORTANT FOR CARRYING THE MESSAGE TO THE STILL SUFFERING ALCOHOLIC.**

**AT THE NEXT AREA MEETING, NEIL APPROACHED ME AND HE HAD SAVED ALL HIS PENNIES SINCE THE LAST MEETING AND HAD THEM IN A BAGGIE AND HANDED THEM OVER TO ME FOR THE AREA 35 TREASURY. I WAS SO TOUCHED BY HIS WILLINGNESS TO HELP AREA 35 AS HE WAS ON A VERY LIMITED INCOME.**

**NEIL IS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW WE WANT TO GROW IN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS AND I'LL BE FOREVER GRATEFUL FOR HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY OF KNOWING HIM. MAY GOD BLESS HIM ALWAYS.....**

**IN SERVICE AND PAST DELEGATE,**

**JOANNE N.  
BRAINERD, MN**



**AREA 35 COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**June 5, 2011**

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: Jerry S. (Panel 56), Tim C. (Panel 52), Tom A. (Panel 50),

Additions/Corrections to the Agenda:

Smoking Issues at Assembly Sites

Area Inventory

Approve February 2011 Area Committee Meeting Minutes: **Motion made to approve the February 2011 Area Committee Meeting Minutes. All in favor, passed unanimously.**

**OFFICER REPORTS**

**DELEGATE-Jon C.-** I want to thank the Fellowship of Area 35 for the privilege and opportunity to represent you at the 61<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference. Over all, we had a good conference and discussed a number of agenda items that came out of committees. Many items I voted in the minority to carry Area 35's group conscience to the conference. I was surprised that other areas have the same concerns as we do in Area 35 and voted in that manner. It was nice not to be the lone maverick. Unfortunately, the prevailing attitude of the conference was spend, spend, spend. I feel as a General Conference, we have not been prudent with our funds or financially responsible. We must do better in the future to assure that Alcoholics Anonymous will be here in the future. I also received our Area 35 quarter contribution statements from our General Service Conference. I emailed these reports to the Officers, Chairs, DCM's, and past delegates. DCM's please look over your district's financial reports and thank the groups that participate. Also, try to visit the groups that do not participate and encourage their participation in the future. This is very important to ensure that this entity of our service structure has the financial resources to serve. We must also contribute to our other entities, the area and the districts in order to serve anyone, anywhere with a desire to stop drinking. All entities need financial help to provide services in carrying our message, so please contribute what you can. Please, all DCM's see me or call me to arrange a date and time for my delegate's report in your districts. I want to ensure that I get to all the districts and its members in order to keep everyone informed. In service, the most important members are the group's GSR's and its members. Be informed, ask questions, and share suggestions and ideas. I personally may not agree with every comment but I respect and appreciate all of them. God only knows that I am not always right! We have been given a direction to proceed with actions to make our area, officers, and committee chairs serve better. We will implement these changes as time goes by. It will be good for our area to precede with these inventory suggestions and implement these actions. It is so important that we take time to do inventories at all levels and take actions on our shortfalls so that we can be the best we can at carrying the message. I will be giving my delegate's report back after this committee meeting, so stay tuned for more to follow. I took an abundance of notes at the conference and hopefully will be able to answer questions. For those of you who are unaware, I have been dealing with some medical issues. The doctors have determined that I have had a mini stroke, which has effected by short term memory. I appreciate members in the area that have assisted in driving me to evening meetings and thank everyone in advance for their patience.

**ALTERNATE DELEGATE- Jim K.-** Greetings Area 35 Members, Thanks for the continued opportunity to server Area 35. It has been an exciting past couple of months for me personally with many opportunities for growth in several areas of my life. For those unaware, Sarah and I welcomed our daughter, Finley Grace, to the world on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Her water actually broke in our Wednesday night meeting and she delivered the following day. We felt that Grace would only be fitting as it is by God's grace that we have been given this opportunity of sobriety and a happy contented life. We held our 3<sup>rd</sup> Zonal Forum of the rotation in Zone 4 at the Duluth Alano Club on May 14<sup>th</sup>. I want to thank those DCM's from that zone who did such a good job of getting the information out regarding the event and supporting it. A very special thank you to Jana and all of District 12 for hosting the event and providing an incredible spread of food and fellowship. Our final Zonal Forum will take place in the fall and will be held in Zone 2. I will be contacting DCM's from this zone to set up a location and date. I need to apologize to the area for the delay in booking a location of our upcoming the 2012 Service Workshop which will be held in January in Zone 3. This ideally should have been done prior to this time. I will have a location secured as well as a guest for the event for our next meeting. This information will be shared with the new Alt. DCM at the end of this rotation to insure a smooth transition for our next Service Workshop. I was asked by District 7 to stand and agreed to submit my name for consideration of Area 35, Panel 62 delegate. I want to thank the district for asking me to stand. It is truly a privilege to even be considered as a person to take on this role. It is wonderful to see a number of other individuals who are willing to stand for this position and for taking the time to serve Area 35. Thanks for all you do for Area 35 and this opportunity to serve.

**CHAIR-Michael (Jake) J.-** I thought the Spring Assembly went well and appreciate everyone who stepped in and helped take care of things for me. We need to remember there are people who can do these positions if things happen. I had an excellent time at the Zonal Forum in Duluth. We had some of the best food; however most of it was stuff I was not supposed to eat. We had around 20 people at the Zonal Forum who were not Area members which was nice to see. We also had some great discussion and questions. I did get the opportunity to talk with Jon before he left for Florida and he was concerned about the Delegates report he gave in District 8. Jon cares so much about what he does, that I think he needs to know that it is all right to be sick and that you can only do our best. We need to look at what God's will is and not our will. I was nominated by District 9 to stand for Area 35 Delegate so I have submitted by resume.

**SECRETARY- Heidi R.-** The 2011 Area 35 Spring Assembly minutes were completed and distributed by email and 2 by mail. If you are not getting the minutes or flyers, please let me know and I will add you to my distribution list. Also if you find any corrections to the Spring Assembly minutes please let me know. All Area Officers, Chairs, and DCMs please get me your report for the June Committee Meeting by June 13<sup>th</sup>. At our Officer's meeting this morning we talked about the Area 35 Officer and Chair Guidelines. The guidelines were suppose to be updated and given to the Area Chair by the June Committee Meeting; however I think many people were not able to get this done. We are asking all Area Chairs and Area Officer to update their guidelines and submit them to me by June 13<sup>th</sup>. I will format the guidelines and then pass them on to the Area Chair for review and approval. Once the Area Chair has reviewed the Area 35 Officer and Chair Guidelines, he will get them to the Webmaster and Northern Light Editor. The guidelines should be in the next issue of the Northern Light. Once I get Jon's Delegate report from the General Service Conference, I will email everyone a copy. Finally, I had a great time at the Zonal Forum in Duluth. I learned several things from the Zonal Forum such as how important having districts can be since many alcoholics in place such as jails and treatment centers would never get a meeting or Big Book if it was not for the districts. They are the ones making sure these things are getting to the still suffering alcoholics. Thank you for allowing me to be of service to Area 35.

**TREASURER- Sarah K.-** Greetings Area 35, my sincerest apologies for not being with you today. Our little bundle of joy came a couple of weeks early. As you can see from our profit and loss income statement, we took in a total of \$4,071.10 in group contributions from April 1 to June 4. Our budgeted need was \$6,485.33. So please continue all your hard work to encourage 7<sup>th</sup> tradition support. You might consider having a gratitude month at your homegroup this June to celebrate gratitude to AA during the month it was founded by encouraging 7<sup>th</sup> tradition contributions. Our birthday contributions for the period totaled \$58.22, so happy birthday to you! I have sent Jim with some Birthday cards. Please take them all back to your districts and distribute to the groups to help encourage more grateful birthday contributions! I mention the birthday plan when we give out medallions and now I hand the birthday person an Area birthday card! The \$905 in special contributions was from the Gopher State Roundup (from last year). Adding in the other period income (7<sup>th</sup> Tradition, Share the Love, and Interest) brings us to a total income for this period of \$5,296.13. Our total period expenses were: \$4,117.15. Of note this period was the \$600 expense money we voted give the delegate for expenses at the GSC. If you have any questions on expenses, please contact me. So, turning to our balance sheet, this leaves us with \$11,774.72 in our checking account, which matches the bank statements and check register, \$6,014.79 in our Prudent Reserve account, and \$5 in our Savings Account, for a grand total of \$17,794.51. The other reports I have available are the detailed expenditures report and the group contributions listing. Please bring these back to your districts and distribute them to the groups, and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. If you look at the Group Contributions listing and see a question mark by your group or a group in your district, please contact me! The question mark means I received a contribution but I was unsure about the group name or group service number. Also, it would help me immensely if you would offer a kind reminder to your groups that when they send a contribution to put their group service number and their group name. Thank you. Yours in service

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS**

**PUBLIC INFORMATION-Roger R** – I am coordinating district volunteers for the 2011 A.A. MN State Fair Booth. We have a number of open shifts on Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup>. Please see me ASAP to sign-up for a shift. I began working with the PI Committee on "Public Information Steps" for districts in Area 35. We now have 8 basic steps. I will include these steps in my new Northern Light Report. Activities in Districts reported at our PI Committee meeting this morning include the following. District 5 is planning a PI/CPC luncheon. District 7 is working on a new phone line and is planning a PI/CPC luncheon. District 8 is working on new meeting schedules. District 8 is working on new meeting schedules. District 13 has secured airing of a short message and its assistance line phone number. They have also just printed 10,000 meeting schedules. I am grateful for a nomination from District 13 to stand for Delegate.

**DISTRICT 7- Mark N. -** It is a pleasure to wo9rk with the interested and motivated people that come to the district meetings and help maintain the A.A. service structure in central Minnesota. Some of the things we are working on are: planning for our annual picnic this July 31<sup>st</sup> at Lum Park in Brainerd, getting ready for the fair booth at the Crow Wing County Fair on August 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 6<sup>th</sup>, working on moving our central lakes help AA help line to a new location and changing the way we man it, by increasing the number of shifts and expanding the pool of volunteers (it will be very similar to District 13's set-up), we are also planning a CPC luncheon for the fall on October 11<sup>th</sup>, Bringing A.A. to the professionals in different ways that just a luncheon, looking into more and better ways to use the pamphlets and A.A. literature, we are looking into creating and maintaining our own website, maintaining and regularly updating our meeting

*(Continued on page 18)*

*(Continued from page 17)*

schedules, maintaining our monthly newsletter, keeping the meetings going in the jails and looking for volunteers for the Aitkin Jail, keeping the meetings in the treatment facilities, updating and collecting archive materials, setting literature and getting the message out on Grapevine, That's about it, I enjoy working with the folks from District 7. They making it happen.

DISTRICT 11- Gary H. – District 11 had their meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00pm at the Lutheran Church in Finlayson with 9 in attendance. We are preparing meeting lists for a new printing. Our next meeting will be July 5<sup>th</sup>. Yours in service

GROUP RECORDS-Laurie R. – First of all, I mailed the Northern Light on Wed. June 1<sup>st</sup> so if you have not received it yet, I assure you that it's on its way. I continue to enter new groups and update group information as I receive them. I also continue to pass on the information to Steve when groups needed to be added to the website or information needs to be updated. If you look at the Area 35 Website and aameetinglocator.org and find any errors in the information on them let Steve and I know so that we can get it corrected. As I update the information in FNV (the GSO group database) I also update aameetinglocator.org. Reminder, if your group wants to be listed on the Area 35 website and aameetinglocator.org, your group must be registered with GSO and be active. To be considered active your group must have either a GSR or Primary Contact and at least one meeting time. If you have flyers that you would like to have inserted into the Northern Light, I need 600 flyers and a check for \$75 made out to postmaster. If you have any questions please let me know and I will be more than willing to help.

NORTHERN LIGHT-Daniel R. - Please take note that the deadline for submission for the next issue of the newsletter is July 1st. I want to encourage each of you here to submit a service related article that I can keep on hand so that if I have space I can add it to the newsletter. Also, any sharing session or service event reports you have. You'll notice I was not able add too much extra to this issue because the minutes from the Spring Assembly took 10 pages where the usual content requires only 4-6 pages. I did add one article submitted by our Area CPC Chair Doug N. called BEING INVOLVED - That can be found on page 14. I needed to add something to fill one more page to get to 28 pages which are the most that has ever been sent to the printer that I have a history of. That means there was a ton of stuff discussed at the Spring Assembly and Heidi did a great job of documenting it all. I know from talking with her that this was done along with her getting Jon's notes ready for the Conference and all the minutes and reports from the sharing sessions done at the WCRAASC. Of course there was not room for them in the NL but I'm sure Heidi would send them to you if you asked. There is some great discussion in them! The printer took longer than usual as Laurie did not get them to mail out until this past Monday! Of course I will need all of the resumes for those nominated for Delegate before the deadline of July 1st so they can be available in the next issue of the NL. Thanks for allowing me to serve!

DISTRICT 2- Rodney P. - Greetings from District 2: we held our last district meeting May 8<sup>th</sup> at the First Lutheran Church in Middle River, MN. We had 9 people in attendance, only 3 were GSR's. The Tuesday Night Serenity Meeting in Warroad is in the process of getting more active in AA as a whole. This includes elections of a new GSR, treasurer, and getting registered. All of our district chairs are filled. District 2 along with District 1 is hosting an Archives Workshop August 20<sup>th</sup> at 1pm at the Seven Clans Casino in Thief River Falls. Tom B., our literature chair, along with our GSRs are trying to get set up for all 5 county fairs in our district. We as a district are trying hard to keep all our service obligations met.

DISTRICT 16- Mary S. – Our District meets on the first Wednesday of the month at the United Methodist Church in Grand Rapids at 5:30 pm. This past Wednesday we had 5 in attendance. We just ordered 1000 AA Directories and ran out of them right away, so we ordered 500 more. I have some on the table in the back of the room. This time, we put two meetings in the Directory that are new meetings and haven't registered with GSO yet. We placed an asterisk by those meetings so people know they are not registered. We are planning to host a Workshop in the fall. The workshop will be for new AA members and will discuss the Structure of AA and how to choose a sponsor in AA. We have a planning committee working on this. The district also had a literature table set up at the Iron Range Get Together. We had two racks of pamphlets and some Big Books and 12 X 12 Books. We also filled the racks at Northland Counseling, the Jail, the County and State Probation Offices, Itasca Community College, The Hospital Emergency Room and the Itasca County Wellness Court with pamphlets and AA Directories. I'm hoping to connect with District 9 and together host our Delegate for a combined BBQ & potluck, with both District 16 and District 9. Thank You for the privilege of service work for this great organization!

CORRECTIONS- Kelly D. – We met this morning in our Action Committee Meeting and there were 9 in attendance with representation from Districts 7, 3, 8, 5 and 6. Tim from District 7 reported that we lost many volunteers that go into St. Cloud prison due to a orientation training that will be required yearly of them. He will be emailing me the number of John B. that is the temporary contact person that coordinates and sets up the volunteers to go in so we can hopefully get the problem resolved. Jim DCM for District 3 reported that they now have a new Corrections Chair after trying several times to contact their last one with no response. We welcomed Ray to his new service position in District 3. Jerry from District 8 reported that they are continuing to bring meetings into Me-sabi Academy and Nerk. Melissa from District 6 reported that they continue to bring meetings into the Isanti County jail. She reported that she did pass on the information in her District that volunteers are still needed in District 5 to go into the Sherburne County jail. She reported that due to the requirements of Sherburne County a couple of them were not able to volunteer there. Skip from District 5 reported that they now have 15 male volunteers for Sherburne County and still only have three female volunteers. They are bringing in only two meetings a month both male and female due to lack of volunteers needed to bring in weekly meetings. I attended a Transition Fair at the St. Cloud prison on May 11<sup>th</sup> along with Jeff L Corrections Chair for our District 13, Area 36 Corrections Chair Larry F and his sponsee. I would like to thank them all for their service and time, we all had a great time carrying AA's message together. These Transitional Fairs that are put on by the Correctional Facilities are a wonderful way for us to carry the message of recovery and hope to the inmates that are due to be released, our presence there is very important. We had a total of 17 that will be released to Northern Minnesota and several to Southern Minnesota that requested a contact person. As I previously reported in my Northern Light article we had 113 total requests for contacts since the beginning of my rotation which is an amazing amount. With these Transition Fairs we will see the numbers continue to grow. I cannot thank all the individuals that have been willing to be a contact for these inmates enough. It is wonderful to see and speaks volumes that we continue to do our part to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic. As always a thank you to the groups and Area 35 for the financial support I receive in order to fulfill my commitment as your Area 35 Corrections Chair. In love and service

DISTRICT 3- Jim S. - \_At our last district meeting we filled the last of our open positions. Thanks to those that volunteered. We have put the final touches on our upcoming Roundup on July, 8th, 9th and 10th. There are flyers on the back. All treatment and corrections commitments are being met. That is all I have for you at this time.

DISTRICT 4- Dee Dee B. - Not Present and No Report Given, Report Submitted

Hello from District 4. I apologize for not attending June Area Committee meeting. I had planned on attending and ended up not feeling well at the last minute. Our last District meeting was May 14<sup>th</sup> in Glenwood with 15 in attendance. We completed an audit for our treasury and found the District's receipts and expenditures were valid. There were several recommendations that will be implemented with the next rotation in January 2012. We will also implement the DCMs budget with the new rotation. Thank you to Don V. and Jim T. for completing this audit and Stephen for doing a great job as our Treasurer. The Lakes Area Alano which hosts a lot of the Alexandria meetings has moved to 1604 Jefferson Street, Alexandria. Dee Dee and Sharon are working on the group change forms for the address and contact updates and will pass that information along to Laurie and Steve L. There is interest in having a booth and literature available at the 4 county fairs. This will be discussed further at the June District meeting. We had one volunteer for the State Fair. PI/CPC Chair Jeff C is updating the group records and matching the numbers with the active groups. It was decided that we will try to get someone to visit any groups that are not represented at the District meeting and have them fill out a group change form. I was able to visit 2 groups in the past month and plan to visit as many as I am able as part of my DCM duties. Mike B our Literature Chair has been busy keeping book orders filled. Our Corrections Chair-Donita is working on getting more people trained to help with jail meetings. The combined Delegate's report back with District 3 had to be rescheduled. Our next District meeting will be June 11<sup>th</sup> in Browns Valley. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (C.P.C) -Doug N. - There were around 7 people in attendance at the committee meeting. Some districts are putting on CPC luncheons which are good to see. I received a packet from GSO with around 35 stories and information on CPC. I would like to make copies of this information to give to districts. We also discuss manning booths at conferences like the Juvenile Officers Conference held in Duluth. Many of these booths can cost a lot of money such as \$150 for the Juvenile Officers Conference. Some of the conference can cost around \$750. I contacted the CPC office at GSO to talk with them about these booths, and they stated that this is what our CPC chairs do in AA. I plan to do some more research on having booths (manned or unmanned) at conferences. I also received a directory with contacts information for CPC chairs around the entire country. I plan to contact some of them to see what they are doing with these conferences. Are other CPC chairs getting good results from these conferences? In Area 35, Southern Minnesota, they spent over \$2000 on these conferences last year. I do not know if Area 35 could afford to spend that kind of money. I plan to do more research and report what I find in the future.

DISTRICT 13- Steve J. – Not Present, DCM's Report Given by Tim R. This district decided to move our district meeting to the St. Cloud Alano Club. Our first meeting will be on June 6<sup>th</sup>. We invited Jon C. and District 15 to our June district meeting to here Jon's report from the conference from New York. I was just informed that Jon has taken ill and won't be able to attend our district meeting. Our prayers are with him and his family for a speedy recovery. Roger R. was nominated from District 13 as our candidate for Delegate for Area 35. Our CPC chair will be giving a presentation to the National Guard Chaplains on July 11<sup>th</sup>. He is looking for a point of contact with a group that meets in Little Falls that wants to bring a meeting into Camp Ripley. The PI chair made new meeting schedules and will have an A.A. booth at the Benton County Fair. The dates for the fair are August 1<sup>st</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup>. In April, Charter Communications started airing a message on their Public Service Announcement Channel. In the next few weeks Spirit 92.9 will begin to air the PSA's that the district donated to them. The Beginner's Meeting started on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Here are some of the results from the 56 weeks: total attendance was 457, total number of newcomers was 179 (6 weeks no information), total number of Big Book given away was 35 (this averaged out to about a little less than one Big Book given away every two weeks). The meetings are held at the Alano Club in room "C" on Wednesdays @ 7:30pm. The volunteer assistance line was been updated with all shifts cur-

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rently staffed. At the St. Cloud prison we have lost all but one volunteer going in due to volunteers not getting recertified. The prison requires volunteers attend a ½ hour class and update on background checks once a year. We could use more volunteers for the St. Cloud Prison. Our corrections chair would like to find a volunteer for the position of monitoring the corrections P.O. Box. There is also a waiting list of prison inmates who simply would appreciate an A.A. friend on the outside to correspond with. The program sponsored by GSO and is only a letter writing comments. You correspond with someone several states away from Minnesota. You can use the corrections P.O. Box as a return address. Our archives chair is putting together a district workbook and is assisting a member interested in starting an informational meeting focused on A.A. history.

DISTRICT 1- Lon G. - Our district meeting is held the second Sunday of even months at the Fertile Community Center in beautiful downtown Fertile at 2pm. Our district secretary sends out postcard reminders to district members approximately 10 days in advance and our attendance has been steadily growing. Upcoming events within our district include the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Wild Rice Roundup being held at the Sand Hill Bible Camp near Fosston August 12,13, and 14. It is a great event with excellent speakers and lots of outdoor events. For information go to [www.wildriceroundup.com](http://www.wildriceroundup.com) this is a GREAT EVENT! In addition, our district is joining District 2 in hosting an archives presentation with Brad and Art on August 20<sup>th</sup> at the Seven Clans Casino in Thief River Falls. This is an event I am personally looking forward to. We will be looking for a new corrections chair in September as our current chair, Moses K., departs for studies in Spain and will no doubt be carrying the message with him. We are still in need of a CPC chair which we hope to have filled with upcoming fall elections. Our district may lack the large number of members in service but those that do are terrific servants and certainly showing the way for others and I am proud to be part of that. Respectfully in service

GRAPEVINE-Dee K. – Not Present, No Report Given

DISTRICT 18- Mike D. – Not present, No Report Given

DISTRICT 21- Carl B. – Not Present and No Report Given, Report Submitted

Greetings from District 21. We are maintaining our meeting lists and manning our hot line at all times. All the jails in the district have weekly meetings and current literature. Most of the positions in the district are filled. Our CPC/PI chair is working closely with the Beltrami county DWI court, making sure they know what AA is and isn't, and how it can help. We have recently added district representation from the Park Rapids and Walker areas, very thankful for the additional help. We are taking our district meeting on the road, in September we will hold our regular meeting in the Park Rapids area to see if we can get a little more interest in service work. Thanks for allowing me to serve.

WEBMASTER-Steve L. – It's only been through the grace of God and the program and fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous that I haven't found it necessary to take a drink. We had 5 in attendance from 2 districts, districts 2 & 16 plus the Group Records Secretary and Northern Light Editor and me. I was in attendance at our Area 35 Zone 4 Service Workshop at the Duluth Alano Club. It's great that DCM's are listening and taking me up on adding District pages to the web site. Since my last report at the Spring Assembly I've updated Two District Web pages with help from Dan. Updated Dist 7's map and added a meeting list link. I added a new web page for District 4, still a little tweaking to do. I reworked and added new links to the websites downloads page. Added a new group change form in a word doc to replace GSO's form. Also added forms for the Treatment Committee. One is a Temporary Treatment Contact form for AA Members also a Temporary Treatment Contact form for Patient getting out. If you have an event that you would like on the website please email them to me or upload through the website. We are looking at (recoding) being able to be more printer friendly in the meeting list pages. We have run into a small snag. I was surprised and humbled by district 8's nomination to stand for panel 62 Delegate. Please start looking for people to fill the area chairs and action committees for the next rotation. Humbly in service

ARCHIVES-Art A. – We had five in attendance. It was Brad, Andrew, Kathy, Jack and I. Andrew has been talking with long timers and working on their action workbook and hope it will be done in September. Kathy is trying to set up workshops this fall but doesn't know what will happen yet. Brad and I will be holding Area Archives workshop with district 1 and possibly 21 at the Seven Clans Casino on August 20, 2011. I have talked with a long timer who will be giving a ten to fifteen minute talk on the changes he has seen in AA over the years. I would like to thank the Area for sending me to the spring assembly.

ARCHAVIST- Brad I. – Since the Spring Assembly I have been to the Superior Round Up and did a joint display with Area 36 at Gopher State Round up. Both displays were very well received and I answered a lot of questions and gave a lot of directions. There is an incredible amount of interest in the 1939 "Your Faith" magazine with the Dr. Bob interview. I gave out about 70 copies in Superior and had about 130 copies for Gopher State to start and packed up 5 when I left. I am presenting at a District 18 Workshop/AA birthday party in Long Prairie this Saturday and have a zonal workshop in Thief River Falls in August. I am already spoken for in district 12 in 2012. I cannot have the display at the Duluth Round Up this year due to the date conflict with Fall Assembly. I am planning on attending the Regional Forum in Davenport Iowa and the National Archives workshop in Helena Montana both in September. Recent contributions to the Archives collection are an April 1943 "True" magazine; A May 1946 "True; a February 1965 "Good Housekeeping" a November 1950 "American Weekly" 2 1947 Kiplinger magazines; and the book "The Cured Alcoholic" by Arthur H. Cain, the same psychiatrist who wrote the articles "A.A. Cult or Cure?" and "Down with A.A." in the early 60's. The inventory of the collection is plodding along and my next digitalization project is all of the "Father John Doe" LP's. Thank you for this opportunity to be of service.

DISTRICT 5-Rita D. – Greetings from District 5. All is well within our District. All committee chairs are busy fulfilling their duties & responsibilities. We still have our Corrections & PI/CPC Chair positions open. At the Spring Assembly a concern was brought to us by an AA member regarding our Sherburne Co. Probation Orientation meetings. Their concern was that we are breaking a Tradition; however, they couldn't tell us which one. We discussed this and by looking at the 12 Traditions and GSO Guidelines for CPC we found that these meetings are within AA Traditions & guidelines. Our Delegate report back was cancelled on May 15th due to Jon C.'s illness. We have nominated Butch R. for Area 35 Panel 62 Delegate. We are having a luncheon for professionals on July 22nd at noon in Zimmerman at St. John's Lutheran Church. Groups are sponsoring professionals. I would like to thank Skip, Paul & Betsy for their help in planning this event. We will be having a booth at the Mille Lacs Co. Fair in August. I need to thank ALL District Chairs, GSR's and group members for all their help and willingness to serve AA in District 5--you are GREATLY APPRECIATED!! I have plans to have a Service Workshop in September prior to our elections in hopes of getting more AA members involved with service within our District and to also explain briefly the duties and responsibilities for each position. I have almost completed the Group Records updates for Lori R. We have submitted two proposals which will be talked about under new business. Both of these items were a direct result of the Area Inventory at the Fall Assembly. On May 19th the Into Action group celebrated their 10 year anniversary! Grateful to be of Service

DISTRICT 6-Kathie G. – All service commitments are being fulfilled. We are planning a workshop sometime in September. Our next District meeting will be June 16<sup>th</sup> at the Spring Lake Lutheran Church in North Branch at 7:30pm. I will be attending the Regional Forum in September. Grateful to Serve

LITERATURE-Bob K. – There were 4 at the meeting. They extended the date for stories for AA and the Armed Services to July 15, 2011. At the Spring Assembly the question was asked about who wrote Living Sober? It was written by AA members. We have a variety of VCR and cassette tapes--Big Book, Is AA for You, and This is AA in Braille. Maybe give them to the Archives? District 12 sales of Literature are down and they are making their own GSR packets and adding the Service Manual. District 8 sales are slow and they are making their own newcomer packets. District 5 is making new comer packets.

DISTRICT 8- Randy A. –

We held our last district meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup> in Aurora, MN hosted by the Aurora Big Book Group. Total attendance was 43 represented by 18 groups. The secretary's report was read and approved and the treasurer's report was read and approved with a balance of \$2328.66 minus \$500 in our prudent reserve for available balance of \$1828.66. Under new business: we approved changes to our district assigned user phone number by adding the PI/COC chair tot the account. We also approved by a vote of 13-yes and 10-no to eliminate casinos for future use at area assemblies and events. There was considerable discussion on this issue pro and con. The third order of business we had our elections for district nomination for Area 35 Delegate. Delegate nominations were introduced and the election was proctored by past delegates and home group members following the third legacy procedures. The nominee selected by the district was Steve L. by a vote of 16 to 8. After a short break we had our Delegate, Jon C., do a presentation on his report back from the General Service Conference. Jon did an excellent job on his report and we commend him for his efforts and devotion to Area 35 and all its trusted servants. On May 14<sup>th</sup> we attended the Zonal Forum in Duluth at the Alano Club; there were around 25 in attendance and 7 from District 8 including 2 GSRs. The Area Officers did an excellent job with their presentations and there was some very good participation from the members present. It was a very worthwhile and informative event to be a part of. All of our district commitments are being fulfilled and responsibilities are being met, we have a lot of speaker meetings coming up in our area this summer with meetings in Ely, Aurora, Biwabik, Virginia, and "Keep it Simple: in Eveleth. We will have flyers available for all events and will also keep them posted on the Area 35 website. Yours in Service

DISTRICT 12- Jana M. – Thank you Jim, Sarah, Heidi, and Jake for the Zonal Forum; it was a good presentation. There was good and lively discussion and some good humor. We have a new district secretary, Felicia S. In corrections we have a women's meeting started at the Douglas County Jail on Tuesdays from 7 to 8pm. In treatment we are encouraging groups to donate old books and grapevines to treatment centers. At the Zonal Forum, the Area treatment chair donated directories for meetings, especially for Districts 8 and 9. These will be handed out at treatment centers where we are taking meetings. Not much going on. We look forward to the delegate report at our August 1<sup>st</sup> district meeting.

Yours in Service

TREATMENT- Robert (Butch) R. – We met as a committee this morning and shared what we have been doing in our respective districts. All are busy and are fulfilling their commitments. At times it has been hard to find volunteers but a Hats Off to the district committee chairs as they themselves make it happen. Not much new, the help desk in the Twin Cities forwards requests for temporary contacts when someone is coming to Area 35 and I try to place them. I attended the Forum in Duluth this past month, thanks District 12 for a job well done. Once again I am willing to stand for Delegate as being of service has been a very big part of my sobriety.

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DISTRICT 15- Sandy H. – Hello everyone, greetings from District 15. Only the literature chair is filled. Our last meeting was May 2nd; we were asked and voted to send one case of Big Books and one case of the book Daily Reflections to CARE, the former Willmar treatment facility. We hosted a break room at Gopher State. We will be having an unmanned booth at the Stearns County Fair on July 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>. We send our good thoughts and prayers to Jon and his family. Congratulations to the Kath's.

DISTRICT 9- Chuck R. –I am pleased to report that we had a very good GSR representation at the Area 35 Spring Assembly. We are working with District 16 to set a date, in July, for the Delegate's report and picnic.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **FINANCIAL OVERSITE COMMITTEE -**

We met as a committee on 6-5-11 at the Aitkin Committee Meeting. We had 3 members present and we reviewed the Area 35 Treasurer's Reports for period III (April 1<sup>st</sup> thru June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011). We the members of the committee concluded that the financial records – reconciliation reports for the period to be concise, accurate, and up-to-date. We reviewed the checkbook balance, bank statements, deposits, detailed expenditures, and profit and loss budget analysis. We had an ending balance of \$16, 094.72. Let's remember that the Area Officers and Committee Chairs are the custodians of the funds provided and must show extreme diligence and prudence in spending these funds. They must be able to assure the membership maximum return is being obtained for the money expended. The Area funds are to be used judiciously and wisely for the benefit of the general membership. Above all, we must remember that Area trusted servants are directly responsible to the groups, who are ultimate authority and have the final responsibility. Yours in Service, Randy A., Financial Oversight Committee Chair

### **DELEGATES RESUME –**

We have had 5 delegates submitted that will be standing for Delegate and Alternate Delegate. The names are Jim K., Mike J., Steve L., Robert (Butch) R. and Roger R. The resumes will be in the Northern Light for groups and districts to read.

### **FALL ASSEMBLY 2011 –**

The 2011 Area 35 Fall Assembly will be October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Sanford Center in Bemidji, MN. This is a brand new convention center in Bemidji. Flyers are available with contact information for hotels in Bemidji. The first two hotels (Super 8 and AmericInn) blocked rooms for us and are available until August 30<sup>th</sup>. They are listed from the lowest rates to the highest rates. The Sanford Center is not attached to a hotel so the hotels are about 3 miles away from the Sanford Center. The rooms will cost anywhere from \$75 to \$110.

### **SPRING ASSEMBLY 2012–**

The 2012 Area 35 Spring Assembly will be in Zone III. DCMs from each district in Zone III should let the Area Chair know of locations and venues to possibly have the assembly.

### **AREA 35/36 JOINT WORKSHOP**

The Joint 35/36 workshop will be on August 27<sup>th</sup> which is the weekend we have the State Fair Booth. This was the only date that would work for Area 36. Area 35 would prefer to have the workshop in July; however, Area 36 was unavailable. Area 36 also has an Assembly in July. The Area Chair asked for a show of hands for how many people would make and not make it to the Area 35/36 Workshop. About 1/3 of the people from Area 35 would not be able to make the Area 35/36 Workshop on August 27<sup>th</sup>. Once everything was finalized with Area 35/36 a flyer will be distributed.

### **SMOKING ISSUE AND ASSEMBLY SITES**

At our last Spring Assembly this issue was brought up for discussion and then tabled until the June Committee Meeting so groups and districts could go back and discuss the issue.

#### **Discussion**

The smoking is not the only issue with having Area Assemblies at Casinos; the environment is also an issue due to the gambling and people's addictions to gambling. In District 9 they voted to not have Assemblies or other Area events located in Casino. The vote barely passed with a 13 to 10 vote and lots of discussion. In the Area 35 Actions Booklet the only policy currently in place is no smoking inside the rooms where the Area event is taking place. We currently do not have a policy that we cannot have facilities that allow smoking indoors. One suggestion if we do not make a policy change is that maybe we make people smoke outside whether or not you can smoke inside. One other thing we need to keep in mind is that the price for conference rooms and coffee is going to be more expensive. The Sanford Center for the Fall Assembly is going to cost us around \$1300 and coffee could cost around \$2 to \$3 a cup. One suggestion for the 2011 Area 35 Fall Assembly was to have a pro/con discussion on the issue of smoking and Assembly sites. What this would look like is someone would take each side of an issue, research their side of the issue, and do a presentation on what they found. After both the pros and cons, we would have discussion and hopefully this could help AA members make an informed group conscience. One concern with having a pro/con discussion would be the time available at the Fall Assembly. The Fall Assembly is a voting Assembly which already takes a lot of time with the voting procedures and other business. With a pro/con discussion you are still going to have discussion which could be redundant. The good side to using a pro/con discussion with this issue is the fact that it is a personal/emotional issue and make sure we get different topics and feelings. One suggestion if time is an issue at the Fall Assembly, would be to have the pro/con discussion on Saturday night and then the voting/discussion on Sunday.

**DCMs were asked to bring the topic of having a pro/con discussion back to their districts and ask the groups/GSRs if they would like to see a pro/con discussion. Area 35 will then discuss this at the August Committee Meeting.**

**The smoking issue at assembly sites will be tabled until the 2011 Area 35 Fall Assembly since we may be looking at making a change in policy.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE REPORT – Delegate was absent and Area Officers, Committee Chair, and DCMs decided to not listen to the recording of the Delegate's report today. Instead they will listen to the CD on their own time.

### **DISTRICT 5 PROPOSALS**

#### **Proposal #1**

We of District 5 would like Area 35 to consider reverting to the old way of conducting the business at the Spring Assembly for the General Service Conference Agenda items. Which means we would like to eliminate the breakout sessions on Agenda items and do them as a whole body with Area 35 voting procedures to be followed.

#### **REASONS:**

- There was no action taken by Area 35 to change the process of the GSC Agenda items. This should not have happened, we feel that since there was no Action taken to go to the new procedure that it should never have been implemented.
- Breakout sessions are very disorganized and redundant.
- Agenda items for the GSC are very important for our Area. With the way the Area changed the procedure it is duplicating the efforts, chaotic and it allows for all in attendance to vote. We feel that GSR's take time to go through this process with their groups, bring the group conscience to the District, and then we as a District go through them so the DCM can carry the conscience of the District. By allowing anyone in attendance to vote, it is taking away from the "TRUE" group conscience. The voting members of the Assemblies are Area Officers, Area Committee Chairs, DCM's and GSR's and these are the only ones that should be voting on the GSC Agenda items.
- Yes, it may take a little bit longer, but a suggestion would be to have Reports, GSR Orientation, GSR & DCM Sharing Sessions then GSC Agenda items as a body. Old/New business as always.

This is something that came out of the Area Inventory at the Fall Assembly 2010.

**This will be brought back to groups and districts for discussion. The proposal will be added to the Fall Assembly.**

#### **Proposal #2**

We of District 5 would like to have Area 35 consider adding a procedure for our Election year of Area Officers (which is the Fall Assembly of odd years). We would like to see all members willing to stand for Area Chair, Area Treasurer and Area Secretary to be nominated and names submitted for publication in the August edition of the Northern Light. We are not asking that any of the current procedure's to change, just to make an addition to what we have in place.

#### **REASONS:**

- Since members are being asked prior to the election, it would help Groups (GSR's) and Districts (DCM's) to vote a true Group Conscience.
- This would give all an opportunity to get to know more about those willing to serve....especially new GSR's and other service members.
- It may encourage more participation from our members as some may not feel comfortable enough to raise their hand and say "yes...pick me, I want to stand for that position" if they have an interest in a position and have not been asked to serve.

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- This would give past members of Service a chance to be known by the body. Someone for example that took a reprieve from Service for a few years and now has the time to dedicate to a position.
- It was part of our Area Inventory done at the Fall Assembly 2010.

It may actually save time during the voting process at the Fall Assembly as Groups and Districts would know the Group Conscience.

Discussion - This does not mean AA members cannot be nominated from the floor at the Fall Assembly for Chair, Secretary, or Treasurer. A suggestion was to have a list of AA members who are willing to stand as an Area Officers and not list for a specific Officer (ex. Treasurer, Secretary, Chair). If one AA member was standing for the Area Chair position and did not elected, he could still stand for Treasurer or Secretary. Some AA members are willing to stand for more than one officer position. One comment was that when an AA member currently stands for an Area Officer position, they give a 2 minutes report on their AA service. Is that not enough information? Some AA members would like to know ahead of time so they can get an informed group conscience and not have to make the decision on their own (Right of Decision). Is this taking God out of the equation? If we just have names of AA members willing to stand as an Area Officer, would that make this a popularity contest? Another concern was at how much time we have between the August Committee Meeting and the Fall Assembly. The amount of time between each could keep out AA members willing to serve that are good candidates.

No final decision was made so this proposal would not be used for the election of new candidates at the 2011 Fall Assembly.

**All groups and districts were asked to discuss this proposal and be ready at the Fall Assembly for more discussion.**

#### **AREA 35 INVENTORY**

The 2nd category is "Suggestions that would need Area approval via a proposal or action prior to implementation". Suggestions are as follows:

- Consider using an "Encouragement Statement" as a reminder to the body about the importance of staying for the entire Assembly/Workshop-We need everyone's voice.
- Consider discussing Agenda items during the Assembly as a whole rather than using break-out sessions-possibly go back to past practice.
- Consider having pro/con discussion of Agenda items and Area business.
- Consider having GSC Agenda items posted on Area 35's website that is accessibly by password.
- Consider condensing GSC Agenda items and background information to allow groups more time to go through them.
- Consider having Area and or Zonal workshops on GSC Agenda items for those Districts that would like to participate.
- Consider having GSR's voting members at the Committee meetings.
- Consider having on day Assemblies.
- Consider discussing Anonymity & the importance of this due to the use of technology.
- Consider conducting Area business prior to reports at Assemblies and Committee meetings.

Consider asking that those willing to serve in ALL Area Officer Positions be made known to the body no later than the August Committee meeting. This would ensure an accurate group conscience.

Please be sure to review these with your Groups & Districts so we as an Area can continue following up on the Inventory we conducted of ourselves. No further discussion to place on the Area Inventory.

#### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

- Weekend with Bill and Lois – July 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> at Camp Hiawatha in Deer River, MN
  - District 3 Annual Roundup – July 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> at Lake Region Recreation Center in Ottertail, MN
  - August Committee Meeting- August 7<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:00am at the Aitkin Alano Club in Aitkin, MN
  - Keep it Simple Weekend – August 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> at Camp Chicagami on Pleasant Lake, South of Eveleth, MN
- West Central Regional Forum – September 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> at Clarion Hotel & Conference Center in Davenport, IA

#### **CLOSED WITH THE LORDS PRAYER**

2011 – AREA 35 SCHEDULE

You can find out more about events on [area35.org/](http://area35.org/)

**Area Meeting - August 7th - 9:00 am**  
Aitkin Alano Club  
322 1st. Avenue N.E.  
Aitkin, MN

**2011 West Central Regional Forum**  
September 9-11  
Clarion Hotel &  
Conference Center  
5202 Brady Street  
Davenport, IA 52806  
Hotel 1-563-391-1230  
There is no Registration Fee

**Area 35 Northern MN Fall Assembly -**  
October 1 - 2, 2011  
Sanford Center  
111 Event Center Drive  
Bemidji, MN  
South side of Lake Bemidji  
More Info on [area35.org](http://area35.org) web site!

**Area Meeting - December 4th - 9:00 am**  
Aitkin Alano Club  
322 1st. Avenue N.E.  
Aitkin, MN

August 2011						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			U.S. Federal Holidays are Red

September 2011						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
U.S. Federal Holidays are Red				1	2	3
4	Labor Day	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	Fall Begins	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Upcoming Events in Areas 35 & 36

Note: Area 35 events take precedence!

You can find out more about events on [area35.org/](http://area35.org/)

**A Weekend with Bill and Lois**  
July 8 - 10, 2011  
Camp Hiawatha - Deer River, MN  
Map on Area Event Calendar

**Keep it Simple Weekend!**  
August 12-14th 2011  
Camp Chicagami, South of Eveleth, MN  
Map on Area Event Calendar

**4th Annual Summer Wild Rice Round-Up**  
August 12-14th  
Sandhill Bible Camp  
Fred 218-935-5007  
Check flier on Area Event Calendar for more info!

**66th Annual Duluth Roundup**  
Friday, Saturday & Sunday  
September 30th, October 1st & 2nd, 2011  
(DECC), Duluth, MN  
Check flier on Area Event Calendar for more info!

**29th Annual St. Cloud Roundup**  
St. Cloud Civic Center  
October 28-30th  
Check flier on Area Event Calendar for more info!

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 - 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.

<div><div></div><div>9:00 A.M. Action Chair Committee Meetings</div><div>10:30 am Area Committee Meeting</div><div>Call to Order Open with the Serenity Prayer</div><div>Recognize past delegates</div><div>Add To Agenda</div><div>Approve June Minutes</div></div> <div>OFFICER REPORTS</div> <div><div></div><div>Delegate- Jon C.</div><div>Alternate Delegate – Jim K.</div><div>Chair-Michael(Jake) J.</div><div>Secretary-Heidi R.</div><div>Treasurer-Sarah K.</div></div> <div>COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS</div> <div><div></div><div>TREATMENT- Robert (butch) R.</div><div>District 15- Sandy H.</div><div>District 9- Chuck R.</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- Jim S.</div><div>District 4- Dee Dee B.</div><div>C.P.C-Doug N.</div><div>District 13- Steve J.</div><div>District 1- Lon G.</div><div>GRAPEVINE-Dee K.</div><div>District 18-Mike D.</div><div>District 21- Carl B.</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>WEBMASTER-Steve L.</div><div>ARCHIVES-Art A./Brad I.</div><div>District 5-Rita D.</div><div>District 6-Kathie G.</div><div>LITERATURE-Bob K.</div><div>District 8- Randy A.</div><div>District 12- Jana M.</div></div> <div><div></div><div>Lunch</div></div> <div>OLD BUSINESS</div> <div><div></div><div>Financial Oversight Committee</div><div>District 5 proposals</div><div>Fall Assembly</div><div>Spring Assembly 2012</div><div>Area 35/36 Workshop</div></div> <div>NEW BUSINESS</div> <div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> <div><div></div><div>Calendar of Events</div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div> <div><div></div><div>TBA</div></div> <div><div></div><div>Adjourn</div></div>
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