

Deadline for the next
Northern Light is
July 1st, 2011

This is YOUR Newsletter.

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

Please bring extra copies to share with your group!

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

AREA 35 COMMITTEE 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!

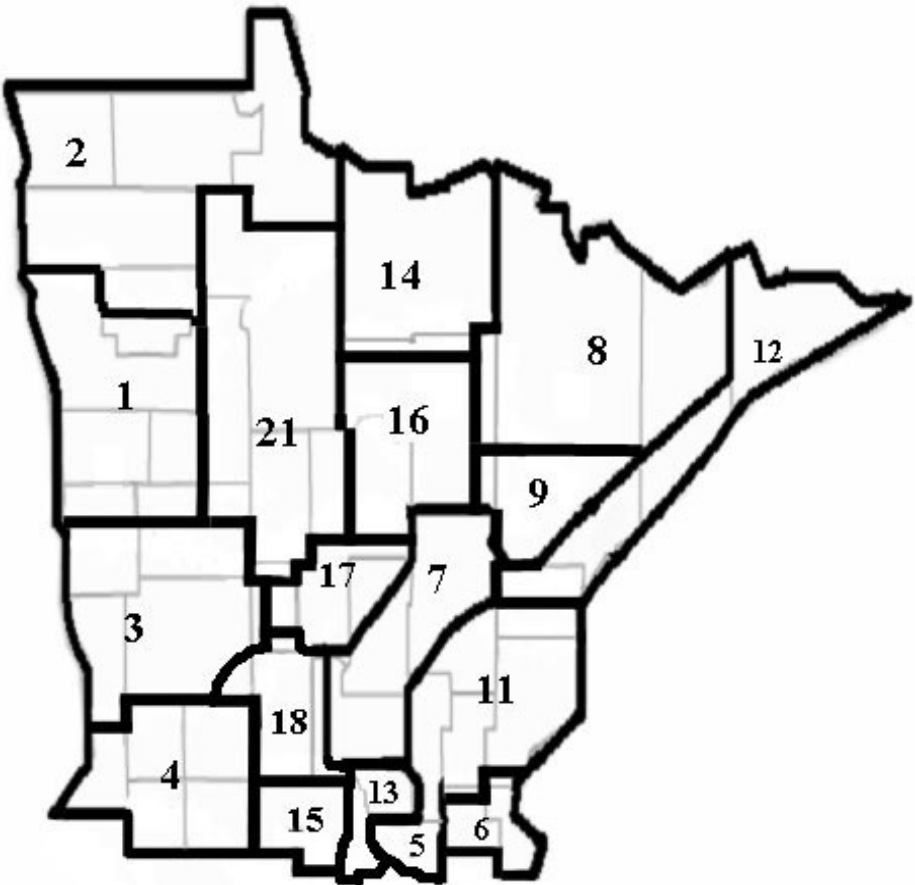
Our Past Delegates

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

The Delegate’s Duties

- Though the high point is the Conference meeting, the delegate’s job goes on year-round and involves all aspects of the Conference structure. The delegate should:

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



Area 35

Northern Minnesota

- Zone I**
- District 1** - Ada, Crookston, Erskine, Fertile, Fosston, Mahnommen, 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
2nd Sunday of Odd Months, 2:00 p.m.
First Lutheran Church
210 Park Ave. N.
Middle River, MN 56737

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

District 4
2nd Saturday of Month, 5:30 p.m.
Call DCM Dee Dee (320) 491-7230
for location (It Rotates)
Potluck at 6:30 p.m.
Round Robin at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

District 7
3rd Thursday of Month, 7:00 p.m.
First 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 1st Avenue
Hibbing, MN 55746

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

District 12
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
1st Monday of Month, 8:00 p.m.
Albany Community Center
741 Lake Ave.
Albany, MN 56307

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

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

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

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

Delegate's Report General Service Conference

I want to thank all members of Area 35 for your support for me attending the 61st General Service Conference held at the Crown Plaza in New York. My flight left early in the morning from Duluth to Minneapolis. I met up with our Trustee Ken B. and two WCR delegates Terry and Alan. The flights were enjoyable and we landed in New York in the late afternoon. I am not very good at finding my way so it was a comfort to have those individuals on the same plane and taxi.

When I arrived at the hotel, I checked into my room and headed to the Remote Communities meeting. What is a remote community, you may ask? An idea expressed to the 19th World Service meeting "in order for the message of A.A. to exist, without borders, languages, race or religion, it must not be perceived as a threat to an individual's cultural identity and should focus on the alcoholic's powerlessness over alcohol." The reason for this meeting was to focus on efforts to reach remote communities and solutions to overcome the barriers of culture, language and geography. During the only time each year that all the areas meet, presentations were made on geography by a delegate from Alaska, language by a delegate from San Diego/Imperial California, and on culture by a delegate from Hawaii. These presentations were very informative and interesting. I always assumed the remote communities were present because of geography, but language and culture are also very important. This was my first time attending this meeting, and I am glad that I did. If anyone would like more information, please see me.

At 7 pm on Saturday night we had a "delegates only" meeting. We exchanged information and discussed the process of the conference with the Area 61 delegates. It was very informal with questions coming from the Panel 61 delegates about New York, committee work, conference, etc. Last year, I thought this meeting was very useful and feel that the Panel 61 delegates shared the same feeling this year.

We opened the conference at 9 am with the registration and 10 am with a "welcome" from our chairman of the board, Ward Ewing. Phyllis Halliday, our General Manager of the GSO, followed with roll call. Then, greetings from our delegate chair, Leon A., Nebraska Conley B., Trustee gave the keynote address. I want to that when my name was called at roll call, I had goose bumps knowing that I had the privilege of serving Area 35. The rest of the morning was spent reviewing the mechanics of the conference, the agenda and manual, and questions from the conference members.

We had a regional lunch from 12-1 pm. I presented the final financial report for the 2011 WCRAASC held in Nisswa. For your information, we had a beginning balance of \$6,871.14 and an ending balance of \$8,109.22. Our next service conference will be held in Montana. We also discussed our next regional forum, which will be held in Davenport, IA at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center on September 9-11, 2011.

After lunch, we had a presentation/discussion session on diversity in A.A. the topics covered included the "The Language of the Heart is Spoken Here", "The Hand of A.A.-Inclusive, Never Exclusive", and "Tradition Five-Our Primary Purpose." This session was very informative and the presentations were well done.

The rest of the afternoon we had a joint trustee and conference committee meeting. At this meeting, we shared ideas and concerns about cooperation with the professional community. It was interesting to hear remarks from our Class A trustees, a Judge, and an M.D. To close out the evening, we had our opening dinner, where two delegates, one GSO staff, one trustee, and one A.A. W.S. Director shared their stories.

Continued next page!

Delegate's Report continued from previous page!

Monday morning, from 9 am-12 pm, we had our first conference committee meetings, where we went over our agenda. We had a lot of discussing and input from our committee. Monday afternoon we had board reports for the General Service Board, A.A. W.S. Board and the Grapevine Board. All reports were followed by questions and sharing. Most of the question were on literature prices/contributions and the Grapevine budget/updates. Believe me, there were plenty of questions! I pointed out that if we did not produce so many pamphlets and let the Grapevine provide the differences and similarities of each alcoholic in stories, it would be a two-fold investment. The cost of the pamphlets would decrease and the members that ask for these pamphlets could find in formation in the Grapevine and subscriptions would increase. After the reports, we were given a slide presentation on finances by Terry B., Chairperson, Trustee Finance and Budgetary Committee.

Throughout Monday and Tuesday, we had the privilege of listening to the Panel 61 delegates' report on area service highlights. We also participated in "What's on Your Mind?" sessions. Some of the comments I shared include the following: If you want to increase membership, stop making pamphlets; our general service office should be run like most households and not like the federal government. We should use our monies prudently and not keep adding services and literature until members complain and contributions increase. With our money crunch, why are we adding another staff person at this time and many more? They tell me that I was not afraid of the microphone, but I wanted to share with the conference the conscience of Area 35.

Monday evening we had a presentation/discussion on An Informed Group Conscience: The Voice of A.A. The topics were self-support- where do money and spirituality mix, humility-accepting the group conscience, and an informed group conscience –using the three legacies. Tuesday morning opened with another three hours of conference committee meetings. Our committee met one hour earlier so we could finish our work to bring back to the conference. Tuesday afternoon we had a presentation/discussion session on sponsorship. The topics were the following: importance of a home group, leading by example-attraction not promotion and recovery, unity, service.

Late afternoon, we took the subway to visit the G.S.O./Grapevine offices. The work done at the G.S.O. consists of archives, files, contributions, publishing, records, shipping, order entry, and Grapevine. The offices were very practical and not lavish. The support staff worked in cubicles. The Grapevine offices were the same with a few empty. The Grapevine had laid off four staff workers to help with their budget shortfall.

We received from the General Service Office a packet that contained two wallet cards: one stating "I am responsible", declaration of unity and from Bill's last message and the other included 12 steps of A.A., 12 traditions of A.A., Serenity Prayer and our Preamble. The packet also contained Corrections Correspondence, your A.A. General Service Conference, The A.A. Grapevine and La Vina, Queens bus map, and a welcoming letter. At the General Service Office Archives, we received a folder containing archives self-guided tour, markings Fall and Winter 2010, History of AA on cards, and a bookmark. Last, but not least, it's your Grapevine packet that contained a GVR registration form, Grapevine editorial policy, Grapevine representative handbook, subscription forms in English and Spanish, card introduction the AA Grapevine.org web card, AA Grapevine Today, and the AA Grapevine catalog.

It was very interesting visiting the offices of our GSO and Grapevine. I had discussions with our publication staff, CPC staff, Grapevine CFO, and Executive Editor/Publisher. I also saw a demonstration of how to order the Grapevine and the new on-line magazine.

Wednesday morning we held a workshop on how to increase participation in AA- Striving for self-support in all over affairs. "Our attitude toward the giving of time when compared with our attitude to giving money presents and interesting contrast." Questions were what are the benefits of participation in AA?, How do I communicate the benefits of striving for self-support in all our affairs?, and share ways to encourage participation in AA.

Wednesday afternoon I watched the elections of trustees from the northern region, southwest region, trustee at large/Canada. The new Trusees are N.E., J. Gary L. on 4th ballot, S.W., Clayton V. on the 3rd ballot and trustee at large/Canada, Barb K. on the first ballot.

Wednesday evening, Thursday morning and afternoon were discussion and voting on agenda items.

Thursday evening we had our last presentation/discussion sessions called "Alcoholics Anonymous-the Digital Age. The topics were practicing our traditions in the digital age, carrying AA's message online and Grapevine-AA's meeting in print, and more. Following the presentations, we went back to agenda discussion and committed reports until 10:30 pm.

Continued next page!

Delegate's Report continued from previous page!

All day Friday we worked on committee reports and discussion of agenda items and finished up at around 5:30 pm. My delegate report back on agenda will be

After we finished the agenda, we had the farewells by rotating delegates and the closing remarks by Ward Ewing.

Saturday morning we had a closing brunch with farewell talks from rotating trustee's Conley B., Dorothy H., John K., and Joanne L..

I left New York Saturday afternoon and returned to MN that night. I believe I did the best job I could in representing Area 35. Our voice was heard often, even though it was not always the most popular. I wanted to make sure to emphasize the 36 principles of AA which should be, but are not always the most popular position. It is alarming how delegates and staff stretch our traditions to fit their agenda.

If anyone has any questions about the conference, please call or email me. I am your delegate and you deserve answers. I did not miss any portion of the any session, so I am thoroughly informed of anything that happened inside the doors of the conference. Thank you again for your trust and the privilege to serve as your delegate.

God Bless
Jon C.

Alternate Delegate's Report

Greetings Area 35,

I hope you are all enjoying the warming weather and upcoming signs of summer. It is a wonderful reminder of the growth that we get to experience as our result of being a part of area service. I want to thank the Area for supporting me to attend the Spring Assembly in Tower and to all the individuals who helped with the event.

It is always a privilege to see the area come to an informed group conscience on the happenings affecting our fellowship. I was also able to attend the Corrections/Treatment workshop put on by Butch and Kelly. Great job you guys. Finally I want to personally thank Jon for his willingness to voice our conscience at the General Service Conference.

I am looking forward to the upcoming Zonal Forum to be held in Duluth on the 14th of May. We are hoping for good participation and a useful dialogue to address any issues and provide support to the services happening in our area.

I am looking forward to hopefully seeing you all in June at our next Area Committee Meeting (baby pending) and many of you at the Zonal Forum in May. Thanks to all the work you all do in your home-groups each day and the message that you carry to the still suffering alcoholic.

Yours in Service,
Jim K.

Chair's Report

Well its been a little slower after the Spring Assembly. Thank you all for showing up and Jim and everyone else for taking care of things. I am doing much better after my heart attack. Although I did end up back in the hospital twice with minor chest pain. I am a beginner at change once again. Learning how to take care of my heart. I am amazed at the healing power in prayer and thank everyone for theirs. I thought the assembly went well and although long we had some good discussion. Giving Jon our conscience to take to The General Service Conference. I am communicating with another area that is looking at changing their area chair position and splitting the duties between chair and alt delegate so I sent them our position descriptions. It is one of the best parts of my job just sharing our experience with others. I am having some trouble with the location for the Fall assembly. I guess I'm trying too hard to save money and still have a nice facility. Will have it finalized soon. I am looking forward to the Zonal Forum in Duluth. I missed a few things like the Superior Round-up and the Zim Open because of health problems. I attended the Iron Range Get -Together and saw many old friends and listened to great speakers. I am blessed to be a part of Area 35 in Northern MN. Thanks for all that our service people do in Northern MN. God bless.

Yours in Service and love,
Michael (Jake) J..

Secretary's Report

Greeting everyone in Area 35,

Well, I have definitely had a very busy few months with AA and work. I have finally completed all of the reports from the WCRAASC which include past/present delegates meeting, delegates only meeting, breakout session reports (10), and evaluation. Once I got all of the information typed and the financial reports from JoAnne, I made CDs which were sent to the 2011 WCRAASC Chair, Area 35 Delegate, West Central Regional Trustee, Delegate for Montana (host for 2012 WCRAASC), and the Chair for the 2012 WCRAASC. I have also made a CD to add to our Archives and will give to the Area 35 Archivist at the June Committee meeting. I have also emailed all of the information to the West Central Regional Delegates and will email the past delegates in Area 35 the minutes from the past/present delegates meeting. I was able to email Jon, Area 35 Delegate, the Agenda items Report from the Spring Assembly. I hope he was able to take the information with him to New York. I have completed the Spring Assembly Minutes and if you find any mistakes or have questions please email me at secretary@area35.org. On May 14th we have our Zonal Forum for Zone 4 which will be held at the Duluth Alano Club. I am looking forward to seeing everyone up there and always find the forums to be a great time.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be of service!
Heidi R.

Treasurer's Report

Greetings Area 35,

I'm pleased to say I've been able to do some 7th Tradition work since I saw you all last. I was invited to a group to talk about the importance of the 7th tradition and the Area's financial policies and uses of money. It was quite fun for me and I appreciated the invitation very much; if you'd like me to visit your group or district and (briefly) share on the 7th tradition, please just ask! I also took the advice of a past Area 35 treasurer and created some birthday cards to encourage more participation in the Birthday Plan. Look for this hot item at the June committee meeting, and please spread them around.

I thought the discussion at the Spring Assembly raised some great issues for our Area to consider and I look forward to hearing more discussion on these items from our groups. Now, I'd like to share an example of how the 7th tradition has been used recently at the Area level to further our 12th step work. Our Area Corrections Chair, Kelly D., has taken advantage of the opportunity to host an AA informational booth at a transition fair for inmates being released from prisons. It is a great opportunity for us to help reach out to the still suffering alcoholic. Great work Kelly! Also, our Treatment Chair, Butch R., and our Corrections chair, Kelly D. put on a great workshop at the Spring Assembly to share information on how we can better help connect patients and inmates with AA. They did a wonderful job and much information was shared and discussed.

If you have an example of how the 7th tradition has made 12th step work possible, please share the story with me so I can include it in my next report. You can send it to me via email or mail. I'm looking forward to an upcoming Zonal Forum in Zone 4 at the Duluth Alano Club on May 14th, 2011, where I hope to hear from the groups in that zone what we can do to help them in their 12th step work. Be there! Finally, I'm sorry to say that I won't be at the June committee meeting as we'll have a new bundle of joy I'll need to be with then J, but my reports will be there! I look forward to seeing you all in August.

Grateful to be of service
Sarah K.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Information Report

I would like to thank Area 35 Northern MN for sending me to the Spring Assembly on April 2-3 in Tower MN. We all worked hard at the assembly to give our group conscience to Jon C. our Delegate. I enjoyed the diversity of thinking expressed in the Public Information breakout and general session that I moderated.

As the seasons have changed it is now time to begin thinking about staffing the AA booth at the Minnesota State Fair in August. Area 35 Northern MN will be covering two days of the state fair, Saturday August 27 and Sunday August 28. Thus it is time for groups that want to volunteer for a two-hour shift at the state fair to contact their DCM. I will bring my sign up schedule to the June Area Committee Meeting. I will work to make shifts available to all individuals and groups who want to volunteer in the AA booth at the MN State Fair.

I would like to extend a special thank you to District 18 for inviting me to present at their PI Luncheon in April. I enjoyed the lively discussion we had with local professionals.

Please feel to contact me if you would like me to present at an event or workshop in your district.

Thank you for the opportunity to continue to be of service to Area 35!

Sincerely,

Roger R.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS Continued!**Correction Chair's Report**

Greetings Area 35,

Well we survived another harsh winter in Minnesota and I don't know about all of you but I am glad to see Spring finally arrive! It has been a very busy time for all of us these last few months with the many service events that have gone on here in Area 35. I attended the WCRAASC that Area 35 hosted this year in Nisswa and would like to thank my co-committee chairs and volunteers that helped to make it a successful event. A lot of work goes in planning this conference and we pulled it off with just a few minor "mishaps" (I will only speak of my own tho) which included me giving Jon the wrong cover for the programs to be copied. I apologize for the confusion this caused to all that attended but am grateful that there were many (you know who you are) that reminded me that we are not all perfect and we do make mistakes.... it proved to be a very humbling experience for me so thank you!

It was great to see some old friends from our West Central Region and discuss Agenda Items together again this year. The presentations and breakout sessions were most helpful and it was wonderful to see service at work in many areas of our fellowship. Butch and I held our Zonal 4 Corrections/Treatment Workshop the night before the Spring Assembly in Tower and we had 26 in attendance. Thanks to everyone that attended and supported us in our efforts to educate and help to continue to carry AA's message into our treatment and correctional facilities. We will be holding our last one of our rotation in Zone 3 sometime this fall.

I attended the Spring Assembly and it is always amazing to me when we come together as a body how much work we can accomplish in such a short period of time! The highlight of every Spring Assembly for me is when we send our Area Delegate off with our formed group decision on the Agenda Items. The presence of God that filled the room when we sent Jon off was very powerful! Thanks Jon, for serving as our Delegate and I look forward to hearing all the details of the conference when you do your report back with us.

Since the start of my rotation in January 2010 I have received a total of 113 inmates requesting an AA contact upon their release. I knew we had several and decided to sit down one day and count them and I was amazed at the total I had. This speaks volumes to me on the service that is done in Area 35 to help these individuals by being a contact for them. I am truly grateful to all of you that have done this form of 12 step work when asked! If you have not already been a contact maybe it is something that you would consider becoming? And as always I would like to thank the Area and the groups for your financial support in allowing me the opportunity to serve as your Area 35 Corrections Chair.

Kelly D.

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.

Since my last report at the Spring Assembly I’ve updated Two District Web pages with help from Dan. Dist 7’s updated their map and added a

meeting list link along with adding a new web page for District 4. I also Reworked and added new links to the Downloads page. I added Temporary Treatment Contact form for AA Members and Temporary Treatment Contact form for Patient. Also, redid the form for the link Area 35 New Group Information Form and Change Group Information Form.

Please check them out.

Besides that it has been the normal business of updating meetings and adding fliers. Because Area 35 is a dynamic entity, not stagnant, we can only be as good as the information given us and passed between us all.

Thanks for allowing me to serve as your Area35 Webmaster.

Steven L.

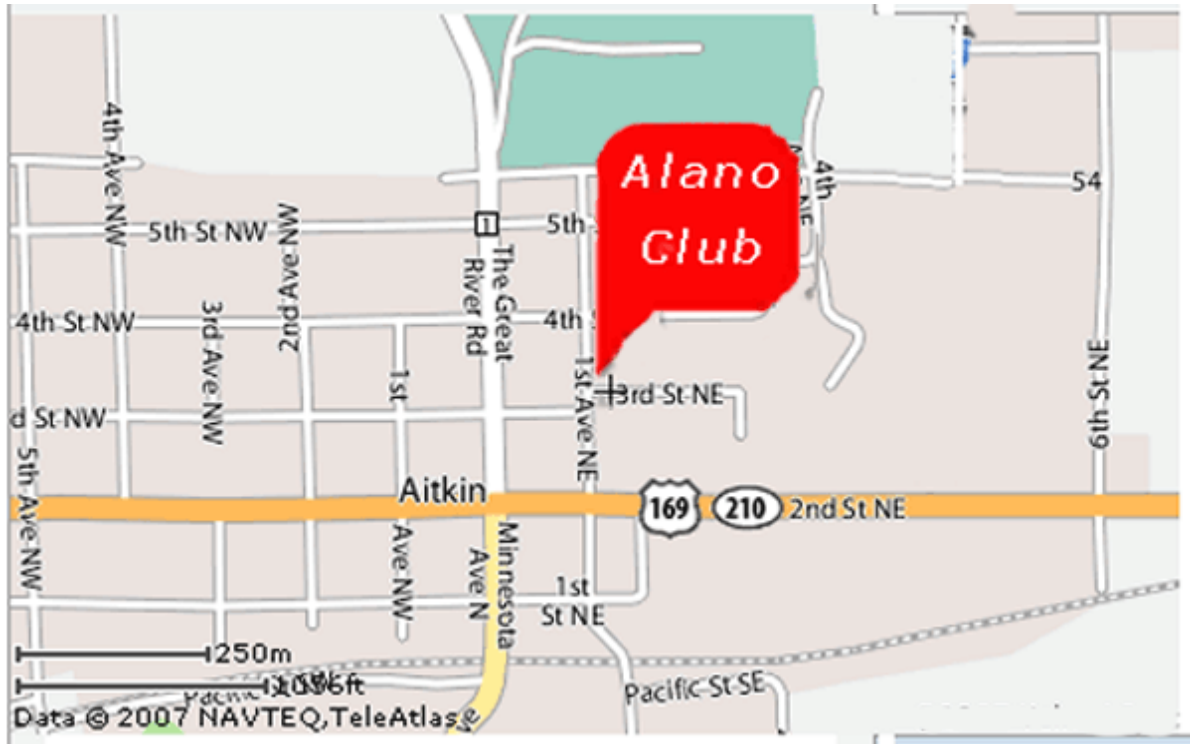
Inclement Weather Procedure For Area 35 Events

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. 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

The latest contributions to the Archives display are 1 November 19th 1950 “American weekly” and a February 1944 “Read magazine. I am presenting at the District 18 workshop on June 11th in Long Prairie and a Zonal Workshop in Thief River Falls on August 20th. I am doing a joint display at Gopher State with Area 36 over Memorial Day weekend.

This issue’s history question.

Name the first theatrical film that had a member of A.A. as the lead character.

Brad I.

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

No report submitted!

GROUP RECORDS

Hi everyone, I hope things are well with you all. Not much has changed with group records. 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 (the joint Area

35/36 meeting website) as well. Remember that if you want your 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.

GRAPEVINE

No report submitted!

ARCHIVE CHAIR

I would like to thank area 35 for giving me the opportunity to work on the board for the WCRSC. I had a great time; it was a great bunch of people on the board and had a great

experience. I’m sorry I couldn’t attend due to illness. I would like to thank everyone for helping out as greeters.

We had 7 in attendance at the archives breakout. District 13 is busy putting together an action workbook. Brad is always busy getting new material for the archives. We will be having an archives workshop for districts 1, 2 and possibly 21 on August 20th at the Seven Clan Casino from 12-4pm. We had a good discussion on how the old timers are a great asset to districts and meetings. District 6 might be having a workshop later. I enjoy working with everyone.

Art A.

LITERATURE

No report submitted!

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

Northern Light Editor

This issue comes right after our Area 35 Spring Assembly held at the Fortune Bay Casino by Tower, MN. It was great to have our Officers, Action Chairs and GSR's that went to the Regional in Nisswa share what had been shared there about the Agenda Items. It is such an advantage to have these Regional events because of the wealth of knowledge shared and the head start you get from discussing the Agenda. I appreciated seeing our trusted servants in the hosting District - 8 and Area 35 doing so much to make this Assembly happen.

You may notice that this issue has four more pages than what we normally have. This is because the Assembly minutes took up a whole ten pages instead of the usual five or six. Because of this I did not separate the GSR sharing session report from the minutes but it can be found on bottom of page 22 and top of page 23.

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

I added an article on **page 14** entitled, **BEING INVOLVED** written by our Area CPC Chair Doug N. from Wahkon, MN where he discusses how involvement in service in all levels has been important to his sobriety.

The next issue will have our list of candidates for the next rotations Delegate along with there resumes, the excitement mounts. Stay tuned!

Remember, you can always check current and back issues of the Northern Light online at 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 has a page with all the registered meetings in the area! Area 35 and Area 36 have joined together to create meeting locator for the whole state! Try the state wide meeting locator at **aameetinglocator.org/**

Northern Light Article**Thank you to all who made the West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference a great event in Northern Minnesota!**

Now that the WCRAASC is put to bed, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee for all their hard work. As the Chairperson for the conference I received a lot of praise for the work that was done and what a fine conference it was. I would like to recognize the people that were the reason for the success. Although, there were a lot of people involved by the time it was said and done, these are the chair people that did the organizing and kept the ball rolling:

Delegate - Jon C.
Treasurer - JoAnne N
Secretary - Heidi R
Flyers and Publications - Kelly D
Greeters - Art A
Speaker Host - Roger R
Registration - Mary C
Airport Drivers - Tim R
Coffee - Butch R
Timer - Steve J

I personally would like to thank them all for their time and dedication to service. They represented our area very well. They also filled in where help was needed without being asked. And of course we had a good time.

Thanks again,
Jerry S.
Regional Conference Chair
Makinen, MN

Northern Light Article**BEING INVOLVED**

Being involved is an insurance policy against going back drinking.

By being involved there is some responsibility to reckon with.

One example – putting meetings on at a jail or prison

First, I need to feel gratitude for my own sobriety and sanity.

Second, I must have a story to tell the still suffering alcoholic.

I don't think going to a jail/prison and reading the big book to them is enough, nor is it enough to explain something in the big book. I need to tell them my story on whatever chapter/step we are talking in the big book. This is how I carry the message to alcoholics I believe... if I tell them something about myself on what it was like what happened and what it's like now I can get their attention and they will try to apply our program to their selves.

I think there must be a continuing effort from each person who puts on meetings in institutions the more they can know us, the more they will trust us, resulting in continuing working on their own program of recovery. This depiction isn't about me it's about AA and our goals.

Some how the word has to reach more members so we can have increased involvement.

INVOLVEMENT IN NEW GSR'S

INVOLVEMENT IN NEW DCM'S

INVOLVEMENT IN NEW DISTRICT CHAIRS

INVOLVEMENT IN NEW AREA CHAIRS

INVOLVEMENT IS CARRYING OUR MESSAGE TO THE STILL SUFFERING ALCOHOLIC. ALL OF US WHO ARE PRESENTLY BEING INVOLVED IN SOME AA ENDEAVOR MUST PASS ON WHAT WE HAVE GAINED TO NEW REPLACEMENTS.

Therefore, in our involvement we need to rotate out after two years, re-involve do those two years and so on. If we did service positions in our groups, in our district and in our area... we could be involved for 58 years and not repeat any one job. If we go to be delegate, we would have over 60 years in General Service, not to mention Area Secretary, Treasurer, Chairman, and Alternate Delegate. Do the math.

Respectfully Submitted,

Doug R. N.

Area CPC

WAHKON, MN

Area 35 Northern Minnesota
April 2-3, 2011 Spring Assembly
Fortune Bay Resort, Tower, MN

Call to Order Open with the Serenity Prayer

Why we need a Conference- Margie

Recognize Past Delegates- Charlie C. (Panel 54), Tom A. (Panel 50), Susie A. (Panel 48), Bruce B. (Panel 44), Bob J. (Panel), Scott J. (Panel 38), and Tom L. (Panel)

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

Add To Agenda:

Smoking at Area Assemblies

Agenda for Spring Assembly on flyer

OFFICER REPORTS

DELEGATE - Jon C. I hope all is well in Area 35 and we are all concentrating on carrying the message to the suffering alcoholic. I think sometimes in our efforts to carry out our trusted servants guidelines we perhaps forget the most important responsibility of any servant or member of alcoholics anonymous is to carry the message to those who suffer. This is most important and is our singleness of purpose. We just hosted the West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference at Grandview Lodge in Nisswa. I would like to take a few minutes to thank Kelly D. (our flier and publications chair), Mary C. (our registration chair), Roger R. (our Early Bird Meeting chair and our host for our speaker, Don M.), Tim R. (driver to and from the airport chair), Steve J. (timer chair), Butch R. (coffee chair), Rita D. (hospitality room chair), Joanne N. (Treasurer), Heidi R. (Secretary, historian, and basket (case) lady), and Jerry S. (overall chair of the event). Jerry also filled in for Art A., making sure we had greeters and anything else that was needed. Art was our greeter chair and became ill and could not attend. I missed your cookies Art. Last, but surely not least, all of the volunteers who worked with our chairs to make this conference a success. Please stand and be acknowledged for a fine job. Thank you to all. It was a great conference and many positive comments were received; however, there were several negative comments as well. Concerns included that the lodging was too expensive, facilities were spread too far apart (conference center, main lodge, hospitality room, etc), and that the delegates should have been more prepared. We will take these comments into consideration when planning for future events but again thank you all who took part in the conference. I look forward to the discussion of our 2011 Final General Service Conference agenda items. I generated a "Hot Topics" agenda from what we had discussed at length during the conference. I hope this helped. We always pose the question on what items will be brought to the conference floor out of committee (consider, review, or discuss). I went over last year's agenda and 17 considers, 5 reviews, and 5 discuss came up for vote on the floor. No additional considerations were discussed and 4 out of 17 floor actions moved forward. It is hard to predict what is going to come out of committee. Consider is most prevalent but review and discuss also come up on the floor. It is my feeling that we comment and vote on every item so I can voice the group conscience of Area 35. I look forward to the breakout sessions and discussion of the items. In New York, the G.S.O. is moving forward on the proposal for the sale of A.A.W.S. literature in digital format. Infrastructure investment is expected to amount to approximately \$400,000 incurred over a two-year period. By the implementation of the e-book publishing, internet, and related technologies will look to and depend even more upon the fellowship for expanded support through contributions. What about the Grapevine? The Grapevine board is working hard to convince current and future subscribers to go digital, both Grapevine and LaVige. This plan was developed in order to deliver digital access, increase usability, and decrease postage and printing costs. If half of Grapevine readers convert their print subscription to digital subscription, A.A. Grapevine's expenses will be reduced significantly. Did you know there was a period of time when the Grapevine ran out of subscription forms at the office? Some of our members who subscribe to the Grapevine are receiving four to 5 renewal subscriptions mailed individually, even when their subscription has not expired. This is a waste of paper, time, and money. The Grapevine interviewed candidates for two Grapevine director vacancies. After paying all expenses for the candidates, the Board took no action on the vacancies, which resulted in more money being spent that we don't have. We need to be more prudent with finances at all levels of service. Sometimes, I think the G.S.O. pinches pennies but needs to start pinching dollars. For your information, I was asked at an agenda workshop I attended what the cost of the General Service Conference was. I do that the average cost per delegate is \$5800. There are 93 delegates, totaling \$549,400. This came about when one member suggested that we hold another conference to work strictly on the conference inventory. It would provide continuity and less printing and office expense. I will close for now to give time for other reports. Thank you for all your support. Let's make this Spring Assembly informative and useful. Thank you again for the privilege to serve Area 35 as your delegate.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE – Jim K. Greetings Area 35 Members, It is wonderful to be at another Spring Assembly and see so many members working together to carry the conscience of Alcoholics Anonymous. I hope to get to visit and talk with many of you this weekend. I attended the February Committee meeting in Aitkin and received all background information on this year's GSC Agenda Items. I was able to stop in at the WCRSC on Sunday this year as it was right in our back yard. It was wonderful to see so many Area 35 members there. I did receive and reviewed all of our background information and was able to discuss the information with various members who attended the full Regional Conference. I am looking forward to chairing the Breakout session to discuss the agenda items on Policy and Admissions here at the Spring Assembly. We are set for our 3rd Zonal Forum of the rotation which will be taking place in Zone 4. This event will take place May 14th, 2011 at the Duluth Alano Club from 12 p.m. and 4 p.m. We encourage all members from Zone 4 to attend this forum. I want to thank Jana from district 12 for assisting with finding a location to host this event. Our final Zonal Forum will take place in the fall and will be held in Zone 2. DCM's from Zone 2 please contact me as soon as possible so that we can determine a sight for this upcoming event. I am also still working on setting up a sight for the 2012 Service Workshop to be held in January in Zone 3. I am hoping to have this location and contract taken care of by our June committee meeting so that we can have everything set. Once the location is set, we will discuss a possible format based on evaluation results from this year. A full report of this year's Winter Workshop is available to all members. I made an error in copying and did not have this for the body at the February Committee Meeting. I apologize for this. Please take a copy today. Finally, I want to thank all of the districts that send me there district minutes each month. It is always great to see what work is being done throughout the area. If I can do anything to assist in any work with Districts or other events, please let me know.

CHAIR - Michael J. Hi everyone. It is such a wonderful feeling to be here with you. By now most of you know I suffered a heart attack... I know... surprise me too. I am doing fine and following doctor's suggestions. Thanks for all your prayers and support. I am really grateful to be a part of an area that is so willing to help when something happens. Your Area committee has really stepped up to help me out. I have been busy with a lot of things in my life...what's new. Attending the WCRAASC was just another plus in my life. I thought it was handled well and Jon made sure it was not too organized. It's great to leave room for mistakes shows that we are just regular people. I sat thru each presentation and thought the presenters did a good job with what they were given. Many times we expect answers when really they just trying to inform us so we can ask questions and have discussions. I really admire what our delegates have to work with when they get to the conference. It seems that their knowledge and of our areas thoughts will be the most powerful force in how to vote. The big issues are anonymity, the Grapevine, and special literature. Great discussions on how we must protect AA from ourselves as we seem to be the cause of our unrest. Do we read and follow the Traditions and Concepts with the same spirit filled guidance as the steps? Are we careful to protect AA through humility? Will we let AA be everything to everyone or will we stand up to protect the new drunks' right to live? These are many questions I took out of our conference. It's not about fighting for the right answer but looking for God's guidance to protect and lead us. I hope we stand strong as an area and send our Delegate to New York with Gods hand on our decision. We have many events coming up which I am trying to find the best financial and prudent place to host them. Please look within yourselves and ask where would I serve best in AA and make sure people know if you are willing to stand in the fall for an Area position. Districts let's bring a great group to the fall assembly to stand for Delegate. You all make this possible. Thanks for your support. Yours in love and service.

SECRETARY- Heidi R. All 2011 Spring Assembly minutes are due to the secretary by April 15th. Please DCMs, Area Chairs, and Area Officers please get your report to me on time. If you do not get your reports in on time it can cause other chairs to be later on getting their parts done so we can get the information out to groups, districts, and GSRs. I am planning to get the breakout session reports types and sent out by email and also added to the Northern Light. We had one new group to our Area called "There is a Solution Women's Group in Duluth, MN which are a part of District 12. Thank you to Area 35 for the opportunity to be of service.

TREASURER - Sarah K. The numbers I'll be sharing are for period 2 of 2011, from Feb. 24-March 31, 2011. During this period we received \$2,179.01 in total income: \$2,938.38 in group contributions, \$235 from the 7th Tradition basket in the WCRAASC hospitality room Area 35 sponsored, and \$5.63 in interest. Thank you all so much for your support! Unfortunately, what is notably missing are any birthday contributions.

PLEASE remember what a great way the birthday plan is to share your gratitude for sobriety and encourage your homegroup members to do the

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 16)

same! If each of us talked about the Birthday Plan at our homegroups, imagine how much attention we could garner. It has been repeatedly proven that talking about a need will encourage more people to respond. Our Period 2 expenses totaled: \$6,480.88: \$50 for Area Committee Meeting rent, \$171.87, and \$6,259.01 in Area Chair and Officer expenses. There was a \$1,200 expense for our Delegate to go to NY with our group conscience, and expenses per chair for attending both the Winter Workshop and the WCRAASC in Nisswa, MN. Finally, a little tidbit of information for you to share with your districts and groups: In 2010, only 50.1% of active groups in Northern MN contributed to Area 35. As the Area relies solely upon group contributions, it is vitally important that the message be carried to our groups of the need for ongoing financial support to enable us to continue with our 12th step work. Finally, please make sure your districts and groups are listed correctly on the Area treasury reports. If you see a group with a “?” mark by it, that means I'm not sure I have the correct group number or name assigned, or perhaps that there was no group number provided. Having accurate group names and numbers ensures your group's contributions are correctly recorded, so if every district/group would check their own districts and help me get accurate information I would greatly appreciate it! Please send all contributions to Area 35, PO Box 328, Brainerd, MN 56401. Thank you for the opportunity to serve!

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS

Treatment-Robert (Butch) R. We met as a committee with 7 Districts in attendance. All shared comments on the Facilities they are working with and those they are working on. We had much discussion as how we can better our methods in reaching out to the many Facilities where we are not present. All in all everyone has a pretty full workload. I have also been active with the AA Help Desk with contact requests. We are only responsible for our efforts and not the outcome but as I, most of us feel disappointed when our offers are heard but not accepted. Even though we never lose the enthusiasm and the love we have for the Fellowship and continue to offer the message of Hope.

District 9-Chuck R. We are in the process to set up a Beginner's Meeting program. The Beginner's Meeting Committee from District 8 gave the District a presentation about how they conduct their Beginner's Meeting. We have worked closely with various correction and treatment centers by providing multiple speakers each week. Additionally, we have met with the St. Louis County Parole Officers to discuss (ours and theirs) expectations regarding signing slips. They shared that they expected the “white slippers” to attend a full meeting and that no one should sign anything if they hadn't. We explained that it is the individual AA members' right to decide whether or not they will sign the slip. As a district we implemented a suggestion for “newcomer packets” from our Literature Chair. She has researched, ordered, and organized the packets. We have been encouraging our GSR's to stress service and its many values at their home groups.

District 15-Sandy H. - No Present. Report given by Doreen L. I am currently serving as the GSR for the Holdingford Wednesday Night Meeting-District 15. Sandy couldn't make it this weekend but sends her warm hello to Area 35. District 15 had their meeting March 7th with 13 members in attendance with 8 being GSRs. All groups in the district seem to be doing well with good attendance. We held our annual Stearns County Roundup on March 26th with 220 registered in attendance. We would like to give a special thanks to Rita, DCM for District 5, for sharing her story of experience, strength, and hope. We also had three past Delegates attend and would like to thank Susie (Panel 48), Tom (Panel 50), and Tim (Panel 52) for their attendance as well. We had great food, fun, and fellowship. District 15 is currently gathering volunteers to help man the booth at the Stearns County Fair that will be held this year during the last weekend in July. Sobriety in Motion group has donated their updated literature stand to District 15 and we would like thank them for their donation. Ken B., from Avon, passed away a few weeks ago and will be greatly missed. He served as Chair for 6 years. Clint J. has stepped up to fill his position and we would like to thank him for his willingness to serve. District 15 has also decided to host a hospitality suite at the Gopher State Roundup which is memorial weekend, and used to be Sobriety in Motion. If you attend this event, please stop by Suite 501 to visit. We would love to see you. Our next district meeting will be April 4th at 8pm in Albany at the Community Center. As always it's been an honor to serve the district, the area, and most importantly the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the opportunity to serve.

PUBLIC INFORMATION-Roger R. Districts 11, 8, 12, 4, 5, 13, and 7 were represented at our meeting this morning. We discussed three topics and received reports from Districts on PI activities. Topics discussed were: How can we stimulate more PI activity in Districts; Phone line - AA logistics, operations, and costs; Issues related to maintaining 2 online meeting directories. District 13, 12, and 8 report intensive PI activity including: Beginner's Meeting; distribution of assistance line cards; printing 3-10,000 meeting schedules; distributing meeting schedules widely; airing/ printing meeting schedules in local media; meeting with Area Group Records Secretary; distributing PSA's to radio stations. It appears to me that 80% of our areas PI activity is occurring in 20% of Districts. As your PI Chair I need to work harder in getting out to districts, district meetings, and district workshops. I learned a lot at the WCRAASC. I enjoyed hosting Don M., Trustee-at-Large. Thank you for the opportunity to serve Area 35.

District 7- Mark N. We in District 7 had a great experience hosting the West Central Regional Service Conference in early March; we had good participation with people from the District coming to their first service function, making a positive and lasting impression. Some of the things we are working on in District 7 are the possible replacement of/or finding a permanent location for our AA help line. Planning for the upcoming rotation of District chairs, treasurer and secretary, Our 3rd annual summer picnic, District web page, getting out to treatment, jails and the professional community, reviewing and registering meetings, looking for better and more ways to use pamphlets and literature, keeping our newsletter going, the County fair and the fall CPC luncheon. It was good to see GSR's and District chairs at the Assembly. I want to apologize for my leaving early on Sunday, before the Assembly ended but I had a bad meal at the restaurant on Saturday night and was quite sick from it and really could not stay to the end.

District 11-Gary H. Our meeting was held on the first Tuesday of March with 3 new GSR's showing up. We discussed getting people to suit up and show up and the benefits of getting involved in service for others own serenity and just feeling good about themselves.

GROUP RECORDS-Laurie R. First of all I want to apologize for not being at the WRAASC for the entire weekend, my mom was in the hospital and I felt it was important that I be there for my family. I have been busy with doing group updates and registering new groups with GSO and passing them on to Steve our Area Webmaster as necessary. I also continue to update the aameetinglocator.org (Area 35/36 joint meeting website) as well. I also continue to answer emails. Reminder to everyone, if your group wants to be on the Area 35 website and aameetinglocator.org, they need to be registered with GSO, and be active. To have an active status your group needs to have either a GSR or Primary Contact and have at least one meeting time. Also when you are filling out the forms for new group or group changes, please include whether your meeting is closed or open, Handicap Accessible and type of meeting such as Big Book or 12X12. If you have any questions about your group please come see me, email or call me and I will be more than happy to help you out. Also I did a print out of all the Districts from FNV to give to the DCM's so that we can get group information updated. I mailed the latest issue of the Northern Light on Friday March 24th. If you would like flyers to be inserted into the Northern Light the cost is \$75 and the check needs to be made out to postmaster. I would also need 600 flyers. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

NORTHERN LIGHTS-Daniel R. Please take note that the deadline for submission for the next issue of the newsletter is May, 4th. I think this should give plenty of time to get the minutes from this meeting, reports in, put the issue together and to the printer. After that it should leave Laurie R. our Group Records Secretary enough time to get it mailed out and in the mail in time to reach everyone before our next area meeting in Aitkin on June 5th. 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 can be submitted. You'll notice I added the DCM sharing session report from the January workshop and even was able to include the Hospitality Report Rita sent me from the Regional last month in Nisswa. After some discussion with my action committee members I decided to extend the deadline from Thursday, March 3rd before the Regional to the following Wednesday after the Regional. This allowed some Officers and Committee Chairs to mention some of their experiences from the Regional. I am sorry to those who got their reports in before the first deadline and were not able to report on the regional, it was a crunch time decision with a short timeline to get this issue out. I hope you will appreciate the articles on pages 20 and 21. One is an article by Jim B., our first atheist member from the early years, which may be somewhat relevant to one of the agenda items up for discussion. Also, there are two more early writings by Bill W. included with one about the Right of Appeal and another about why we have a General Service Conference.

District 2-Rodney P. Greetings from District 2, we held our last District Meeting March 13th. We had 17 in attendance with 7 being GSRs. We conducted our normal meeting, with the election of Bryant W. as Corrections and Treatment Chair. A motion was made to set up an Archives Workshop this rotation; we will be starting the process with the Area Archives Chair. Then came the fun part, we started and finished discussion on the agenda items. Thanks to all in the district that participated in the lengthy process.

District 16 - Mary S. Hello, District 16 is going along well. We were very fortunate in that Jon C., our Area Delegate, was so kind to meet with District 16 at our March meeting and explained to the new District Committee Members about “the agenda” and took out the mystery. Everyone who attended had an opportunity to talk and respond and it was extremely helpful. We are deeply grateful for Jon sharing his time and knowledge with us. I think it planted a few seeds and helped some understand that AA is much bigger than individual's home group. The Tuesday Night Solution group's flyer was in the Northern Light for the Bill and Lois Weekend in July. The Iron Range Get Together is the end of April in Grand Rapids at the Wendigo Lodge. The brand new directories we printed up are gone so we need to print up more. I brought along a new GSR, Tracy, representing Longville AA which I am very happy about. Otherwise, there is no other news to report. Thank you for the opportunity to be of service.

(Continued on page 18)

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CORRECTIONS - Kelly D. We met this morning in our action committee meeting and there were 12 in attendance. We had representation from Districts 6, 5, 3, 8, 7, 13, 9 and 18. We had discussion on what we need to do when we have inmates needing AA contacts releasing from the prisons to northern Minnesota. I explained that I get the information from Area 36 and then pass it on to the Corrections Chair (DCM if there is not one) of the District the inmate is releasing to. Because we have inmates that want a contact with release dates as far as a year out and because I have received second request for contacts, I got with Larry F. Corrections Chair for Area 36 and he explained why this was occurring. He informed me that they updated and made some changes to their contact information fliers. The inmates can now request a contact to write to them long before they are released and if they do not hear from an AA member within a reasonable time they can submit a second and third request asking for one. It was agreed that we need to get letters out right away when we receive them and not wait until a few months before their release date like we have in the past, this will avoid getting more than one request from those inmates. As always I am truly grateful for everyone that has taken on the task of being a contact for these individuals because there has been many. Vern from District 18 reported that they are still looking for volunteers and that the meetings in their correction facilities are well attended by inmates. Melissa from District 6 reported that they still have too many volunteers that are willing to go into the Isanti Jail. It was discussed that maybe she could give those names to other District's close by to see if they would be interesting in helping in their correctional facilities. Skip from District 5 reported that they now have 15 male volunteers to go into Sherburne County but they are still in bad need of women volunteers. He reported that Mille Lacs County is going well with volunteers going in once a week. Sean District 3 shared that there is an "Association of Sheriffs" and wondered if there was one for corrections. He said he would do some research to find out and let us know. Jim from District 3 reported that he has found contacts for the last 3 inmates I sent him. Jerry from District 8 reported that they are fulfilling their correction responsibilities and Eric new Corrections Chair from District 7 reported they are doing the same.

District 3 - Jim S. We have finalized the last of the details of our districts first attempt at an annual Roundup. Speakers are Randy A from District 8 and Tom G. from Michigan. We currently have a treatment, corrections and treasurer's positions open. I have closed the district's checking account as the previous treasurer has made no effort to respond to my messages. I have checked with the bank and no money has been misappropriated. Our district's policy is to have the treas. current DCM and previous DCM as signers so we still have two signers. Also, it is our policy that the current DCM takes over as the treasurer's responsibilities until a new treasurer is elected.

District 4 – Dee Dee B. Hello from District 4. I want to thank Jeff C for agreeing to represent District 4 at Spring Assembly. The past few months have been very busy for everyone and we have been working to ensure that the AA legacy will continue. Dee Dee and Mike attended the West Central Region Service Conference in Nisswa on March 4th and 5th. It was an interesting experience hearing the discussions and getting a chance to meet the Delegates. I had a chance to attend the DCM breakout session. The room was full and good ideas were shared. Thank you to District 4 for allowing me to attend the WCRAASC and for the financial support. March 11th-13th was the Big Ole Roundup in Alexandria. Winter sent us a curve ball and some people did get stranded after the Friday night speaker. Our Literature Chair, Mike B. sold \$323 in AA literature. The Alexandria Thursday Night "As Bill Sees It Group" purchased AA books to donate to the Viking Library System. District 4 is going to have an AA informational table at the Family Fun Fest in Herman on April 16th. On March 19th at 3:30 p.m. we had a special meeting with 9 people attending to go over the agenda items. Jeff C provided copies of the CD with background information to all GSRs that requested it and had a few copies on hand. He reviewed the background information and outlined the agenda items with page numbers to reference for the meeting. With Jeff leading the discussion we had an informed group conscience. Thank you Jeff for all your hard work! At 5:30 p.m. on March 19th we had our regular District 4 meeting with 14 people. Jeff reviewed Concept VIII. We are going to include our District 4 website with the Area 35 website to make it easier to find. Jeff is continuing to update the website with group changes, meeting lists, etc. Dee Dee and Sharon were given the updated Group Records list that Jeff had received and they will review this. The Tuesday and Thursday Alexandria Young Peoples Group is no longer meeting. Laurie R. and Steve L. have been very helpful with group additions and changes. There has not been much activity with our 24-hour helpline. We will continue to get the tear-off sheets out. We had reports from our chairs and GSRs. Our next District 4 Meeting/Round Robin will be Saturday, April 9th at 5:30 p.m. in Alexandria. Thank you Jon for your updates from GSO. We are glad to hear Jake is home and wish him a speedy recovery. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

C.P.C. - Doug N. PI and CPC Area Chairs are interested in visiting each District whether it is a special workshop or at their District Meetings. We want to inform all the Groups on the Two Ways of carrying our message about AA. On, January 26 – 28, 2011, Districts 8, 9 and 12 participated in manning a table at the "Minnesota Juvenile Officers Conference" in Duluth. Many of the participants asked questions at the AA table and literature was handed out. Seven of the participants will receive "About AA" from the GSO two or three times a year. About AA is a single page, very informational sheet about AA, directed to various professionals. The professionals across this nation don't get to the luncheons the Districts/ Areas offer them. In the last few years "About AA" subscriptions have been rapidly rising, this is a free newsletter and we encourage our groups to send them to the professionals in their districts. The newsletter will enlighten the professional and perhaps make them more inclined to attend some of the luncheons.

District 12 is going to the outlying communities and to colleges in their area to pass along our message.

Districts 7 and 8 are planning a PI/CPC luncheon in their areas.

District 13 – Steve J. The CPC chair for District 13 has been training with the Chaplains of the MN National Guard. We are scheduled for April 11th at 11am. We will be meeting at the Training and Community Center in Inver Grove Heights. The people presenting will be: Mary L., CPC Chair District 8, Area 36; John D., CPC Chair District 12, Area 35; and Steve J., DCM District 13, Area 35. In St. Cloud there is a new treatment facility for Alcoholism. Our treatment Chair has contacted them and has set up our first meeting to go in this month. Our PI Chair put on a training session for our AA hotline with a nice turn out. The training was very informative. The PI Chair is also working on updating our meeting schedules before going to print later this month. The Corrections Chair is working on a correction's fair coming up in May. It will be the only event like this in the area this year. We are currently without a Literature Chair. We had nominations at our last District Meeting but won't be voting on this position until the next District Meeting. The Archives Chair is working on putting together a District Workbook.

District 1- Lon G. Greeting from District 11! I am pleased to be here alive, sober, and well by the grace of God and the fellowship of AA and to serve as the DCM for our District. I know everyone can agree it has been a very long winter and one of the favorite events in our District, the annual joint AA/AI-Non event, had to be canceled due the weather last month. It is uncertain as to if this event will be rescheduled this year but an effort in being made. Our District is doing well. Our financials are looking better than they have for quite some time. We have some new faces eager to serve and look forward to their contributions. Due to an increased workload for the past several weeks, I was unable to attend the February Aitkin Meeting and WCRAASC in Nisswa. Irene J. and Laura C. were more than willing to fill in and represent our District and we are very grateful, I know I sure am! Our district meetings are on the second Sunday on the even months of the year and are going well in District 1. I am happy to be part of it!

GRAPEVINE-Dee K. We had representation from Districts 13, 4, 8, 5, 18, 6, and 12 during our committee meeting. Districts 8 and 13 are in need of a new Grapevine/Literature Chair. We had a lot of questions about the Grapevine such as where do the orders go and why do we get 2nd and 3rd reminders to renew our subscription even after we have all ready renewed our subscription. We discussed materials available in the Grapevine Archives Online and that they are well worth the subscription cost. We had great discussion on the Grapevine and how we can get them out to districts. Thank you to everyone who helped carry in the Grapevine and Literature materials on Friday and thank you in advance for help carry them out today. Thank you for sending me to the WCRAASC and was a learning experience. It has been an honor to be of service to Area 35.

District 21 - Carl B. Not Present and No Report Submitted

District 18- Mike D. Our last district meeting was March 1, 2011 with 14 in attendance. We have a new Alternate DCM name Vern P. New-comer's packets have been purchased, assembled, and given to groups by the District Literature Chair, Duwayne P. The Archives Chair, Mike C., is currently working on writing the district history by utilizing old-timers. He is also making progress on a static display. We are still working on updating group records and attempting to get unregistered groups to register. We will be having a district inventory at the May district meeting. The CPC/PI luncheon will be April 15, 2011 at the Lakewood Health Systems in Staples, MN at 1pm. Roger R. will be the presenter. Thanks to all who assisted in tracking down a PowerPoint presentation. The Archives Workshop is scheduled for June 6, 2011 in Long Prairie, MN. Brad I. will be the presenter and there will also be a potluck and speaker.

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 7 in attendance from 3 Districts which were Districts 2, 7, 16, plus Group Records Secretary, Northern Light Editor and me. I was in attendance at our District 8 Service Workshop 2/26/11. Also went to District 9's District Meeting to present information on Beginners Meetings. Also, I was in attendance at the Area Workshop in Virginia. I would like to thank all the people who came back to our little corner of the room mine along with the Records Secretary, Laurie R. and helped correct changes to the website and area group records. I know I made changes to about 75 Meetings or more. We were very busy. Thank you for sending me to the North West Regional Service Conference at the Grand View Lodge. I heard a lot of different viewpoints about the upcoming agenda items. I went to two breakout sessions PI & Corrections. Wish I would have went to publications breakout session after the fact I found out there was some discussion about Web publishing. The best

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though was the side conversations with people. One in particular was Saturday night after the proceedings were done we made a bonfire. Out from another room came a gentleman from Iowa and we ended up talking about problems their web site is experiencing. Mostly the problems were with event and flier postings on their website. I explained the criteria our area uses. Also had four examples of recent fliers and events that either I could not post or requested that they change their flier to meet our criteria. The other people I meet at the conference were wonderful and it was great to put a faces to some of the emails I get. Now a little summation about the Web site usage for the month on March We had 46,768 hits from 1,373 unique sites like Google 560, Yahoo 61, MS Bling 78, AOL 8 and others. The busiest day was March 7 with 1876 hits from 86 visitors, busiest weekday was Mondays. Things we discussed:

1. Flier Policy -Received a couple of fliers from South Dakota. Proper Area 35 events always then if room Area 36 events and stop there. 2. Put a new and improved and user friendlier upgraded Group New and change group form on Line 3. Add the treatment Temp contact and bridging the gag form to the web site to down load 4. Adding Officer and Action Committee job descriptions online. 5. When making fliers remember to give a physical address like 123 recovery circle NOT just a location like town hall, Community Center. And upload fliers to me in PDF or Word Doc formats please. 6. Area District and zone boundary maps- who made this? 7. Printer friendly. You can more printer friendly meeting list on aameetinglocator.org which we pay to support and supply current information which your groups should check to make sure it has correct information also. 8. Look for Action Chair replacement interest now so the potential new people can inquire about the duties of the job from the people doing them now. Because Area35 is a dynamic entity, we can only be as good as the information given us and shared between us all. Thanks for allowing me to serve as your Webmaster.

ARCHIVES-Art A. I would like to thank area 35 for giving me the opportunity to work on the board for the WCRSC. I had a great time; it was a great bunch of people on the board and had a great experience. I'm sorry I couldn't attend due to illness. I would like to thank everyone for helping out as greeters. We had 7 in attendance at the archives breakout. District 13 is busy putting together an action workbook. Brad is always busy getting new material for the archives. We will be having an archives workshop for districts 1, 2 and possibly 21 on August 20th at the Seven Clan Casino from 12-4pm. We had a good discussion on how the old timers are a great asset to districts and meetings. District 6 might be having a workshop later. I enjoy working with everyone.

ARCHIVIST- Brad I. Since the committee meeting I have been extremely busy. I set up a display at the WCRAASC, which was very well received. I attended the Archives breakout session and gave instructions on the simplest method of recording in a digital format and how to transfer analog recordings to digital. I gave several people history web site URL's and recommended a Yahoo group to join. I am disappointed that our Area's agenda item did not get out of the Trustee's Committee but that is just the way it goes. The next scheduled display is in 2 weeks at the Superior Round-Up. We have some new contributions on display this weekend. Recent contributions are: a ninth edition of Hannah Hawkins the Reformed drunkards daughter, copyright 1843; a first printing of "The Conquest of Alcohol by Edward J. McGoldrick Jr. signed and dated by the author; A late 1940's paperback of "The lost weekend" with a great color cover; A very rare 1942 book "Twelve against Alcohol" by Herbert Ludwis Nossen; "Unshackled" the stories of 12 men and women who had been transformed from a skid row life; 2 1893 Arena magazines with articles on the Keeley cure for alcoholism, one by Dr. Keeley himself; A great ½ page Keeley cure ad with a quote from Bishop Shanley of the Fargo Diocese and a scan of the cover of "Peter the Drunk". The next Archives workshop is scheduled for June 11 in Long Prairie. Thanks again for giving me this opportunity to be of service.

District 5-Rita D. Greetings from District 5! All is well in our District with committee chairs busy with service work and carrying the message. We have 8 members here this weekend. At our March District meeting we had 3 new GSR's and 2 of them are here this weekend. A committee has been formed for a CPC Luncheon. We went through the Agenda items for an hour after the meeting and met on the 27th for 4 1/2 hours to finish it. Our District has a new group!! This group moved into the Elk River Alano and also moved from Area 36 to become a part of District 5, Area 35!! We have started another rotation for Sherburne County Probation Department with the AA Orientation meetings. We are looking for women volunteers for Sherburne County Jail; they have been cut from weekly meetings to only twice a month (the 1st & 3rd weeks). I attended WCRAASC and I'm very grateful to have been there and to hear the different opinions regarding the Agenda items. I also am grateful that I was a part of the hospitality room-great fellowship & great food. Thanks to all of you for making this a possibility!! Our District is struggling with the 7th Tradition...we have 40 groups with 5 groups who support us. Do to the state of our treasury I made a 7th Tradition flyer to distribute to all groups to raise awareness as to how and why we need their support. I want to thank Sarah K. for her feedback & great suggestions. The flyer also encourages AA members to participate with us. We are still in need of Corrections and PI/CPC Chairpersons. Skip & I continue to visit groups. We have asked GSR's to encourage their groups to have a "Service Workday" to help us distribute meeting schedules and AA Literature to laundry matt's, libraries, police departments, clinics, etc... HUGE thanks to our GSR's & Committee Chairs for all their hard work & dedication!! Grateful to be of Service.

District 6-Kathie G. Not Present, Kathie's Report Given by Melissa Please accept my apology for not attending the Spring Assembly. I will be in De Moines, Iowa during this time. Since last assembly District 6 is fulfilling all obligations. Treatment and jail meetings are covered every month and going well. One of our main goals was to have an agenda item meeting which was held March 19th at the Cambridge Hospital, Foundation Room. One of the attendees commented that it was too bad that more people did not attend because it was a historic event in District 6. The meeting went well and the people that attended seemed to be well informed. At our next district meeting we will discuss a time for Jon's report back. I will be attending the Area Committee Meeting in June.

LITERATURE-Bob K. Thanks for sending me to WCRSC. It was a great learning experience and at times was real busy. It is interesting to listen to people that talk about a book or pamphlet that did something to help or maintain their sobriety. Thanks for all the help at the WCRSC and the help last night getting all the boxes and totes in. It was greatly appreciated!! There were 8 at the committee meeting. The "AA and Armed Services Pamphlet" deadline was extended to July 15 for short stories that will be considered for the new pamphlet reflecting new experiences in the military. We are going to put together a proposal for a LARGE PRINT of AA COMES OF AGE to be ready for Area 35 approval. We also talked about separating literature money (money in and out) from our personal account. Some thoughts were for cash only and a separate bank account. Dist. 12 - They are making their own GSR packets and they have added the Service Manual. Dist. 18 - they are also making their own GSR packets. Dist. 8 - Had their literature display at Winter Wrap Up. Dist. 13 - they are updating their inventory. It seems like there is a lot of districts that are putting together their own GSR packets. The reason for this is: it takes so long to get this information from GSO. Thanks for allowing me to serve.

District 8 - Randy A. It has been a very busy month as far as AA service commitments are concerned. We attended the WCRAASC in Nisswa, MN on March 4-6, there were over 300 in attendance and we had good representation from District 8. I attended two breakout sessions for Literature/Grapevine and DCM in which we went over topic questions followed by discussion/answer. In addition to the informative agenda items discussions there was a report given by our West Central Regional Trustee, Ken B, and a speaker meeting by our "Trustee-at-Large," Don M, who gave an inspirational talk. We had our last district meeting on March 9th at Palo, MN. There were 13 groups in represented and 31 in attendance. Under old business: we had a signup sheet for volunteers for the Area 35 Assembly in Tower, MN for coffee, registration, and greeters. I was impressed and elated that we were able to have it filled up so quickly by the end of our meeting. Under new business: we discussed nominations for Area 35 Delegate and nominations will take place at our next district meeting on April 7th in Virginia, MN followed by an election on May 13th, which will be the Delegates report. There was also a motion on the floor to approve a proposal for Literature/Grapevine for \$250 at the beginning of each rotation to replenish and upgrade inventory stock. The motion narrowly passed by a margin of 11 in favor and 8 against. The Literature/Grapevine Committee Chair, Robin, also requested that the Literature Committee prepare newcomer packets which would be sold to groups for \$2.00 each. GSRs were asked to take this matter back to their home groups for an informed group conscience and will be discussed at the next district meeting. Currently, all our district commitments for Corrections and Treatment are being fulfilled and all of our service positions are also filled. The District Committee Chairs and Officers are doing an excellent job in their respective duties with no service complaints. On March 12th we had our District 8 Agenda Items Meeting hosted by the Pike Sandy Group at Pike Town Hall with 24 in attendance. We had informative discussions followed by presentations for all of our District Officers and Committee Chairs who did an excellent job presenting on their assigned agenda items. Hopefully this meeting will have brought an informed group conscience to all of our trusted servants in our district and to their respective home groups for the upcoming General Service Conference. A special thanks to all who participated in this event and your opinions, input, and/or comments are greatly appreciated. In closing, I would also like to thank District 8 for financially supporting me in all aspects of service this past month and monies not spent have been returned accordingly.

District 12 - Jana M. Our Corrections Chair mailed packets of literature and a questionnaire to 9 facilities. He set up a P.O. Box for anonymity and security reasons. He reported that all facilities have AA meetings available. PI and CPC are busy delivering lots of literature to clinics, schools, visitation centers, Damiano Center, AJC, and jail parole officers. The Juvenile Corrections Convention went well. This was a joint participation with both Districts 8 and 9. Officers were very interested in the fact that AA is self-supporting and no a burden on the public resources. They got 7 addresses for "About AA" mailing. The meeting rotation is going well. At the last 2 District Meetings we have had 2 GSRs from the Silver Bay Area attend and 2 are here today.

DELEGATE SHARING AND BREAKOUT SESSION REPORTS

I. Agenda

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Review suggestions for the theme of the 2012 General Service Conference. Floor Discussion: No Discussion

Presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2012 General Service Conference

Discuss presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2012 G.S.C.

Floor Discussion: A topic suggested – “Preserve the Future, Respect the Past”

Consider reducing the number of presentation/discussion topics planned for the 2012 General Service Conference.

Floor Discussion:- The reason for reducing the number of topics is to make room the General Service Conference Inventory.

Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2012 General Service Conference.

Floor Discussion: A topic suggested – “Are websites bringing us together or bringing us apart?”

Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form. Floor Discussion: No Discussion

Consider a request that the trustees' Conference Committee meet annually with the Conference Committee on Agenda and the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions to address matters concerning the Conference Agenda and Conference Policy.

Breakout Session: Unanimously in favor. AA members of the breakout session had discussion as to how this would be done. For instance, are they going to fly members of the committee to New York or do a teleconference? It was agreed that the current agenda item is asking if we agree to the need for this meeting to take place. If the agenda item passed, then we would look at what the best way for this meet to happen. This agenda items is not looking at the how but the need.

Floor Discussion: Area 35 Assembly was unanimously in favor

II. Cooperation With the Professional Community

Discuss the concept of a compilation DVD of C.P.C. literature.

Breakout Session: Vote: 7 were in favor and 16 were opposed. They felt this would be redundant since you can get them from the computer. Floor

Discussion: Vote: Majority were in favor with 1 opposed.

Discuss a draft sample letter to professionals on how they might use the A.A. Grapevine, La Viña and La Vigne.

Breakout Session: Vote: 16 members were in favor and 12 opposed.

Floor Discussion: Vote: Area 35 was unanimously opposed to going ahead with the draft sample letter to professionals.

- One group was opposed to this item after looking at the background information where the letter is promoting the Grapevine.
- Our Delegates sits on this conference committee and they agreed to the letter; however, they did not agree to the back page of the letter. This was added outside of the conference committee.
- Feels the back page of the letter is soliciting the Grapevine. Also, groups who go into these different facilities could bring subscriptions for alcoholics. This would be a better tool than the letter.
- If we oppose this Agenda item, are they not going to discuss the Agenda Item at all?

It sounds like we are looking for another way for others to do our work, instead of us.

Review a draft service piece regarding use of the A.A. Grapevine, La Viña and La Vigne in C.P.C. endeavors.

Breakout Session: No Discussion Floor Discussion: Vote: The area was opposed to using this service piece. Our Delegate informed us that one item he has researched is that the La Vigne (French Speaking Grapevine) is not AA literature. It was developed by the French Canadians and some people feel it should not be on the Agenda due to being an outside entity.

C.P.C. Kit and Workbook - Breakout Session: No Discussion. Floor Discussion: No Discussion

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

List of goals and project suggestions for C.P.C. committees.

Sharing on formats for one-on-one contact with professionals.

Sample guide letter for healthcare professional school administrators.

III. Corrections

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

Breakout Session: Vote: No vote was taken. The AA members of the breakout session felt they would have liked to see the progress report and reviewed the pamphlet before having to vote instead of “Committee Members Only.” The breakout session had some discussion concerning “Committee Members Only” and voting on agenda items they don’t see.

Floor Discussion: Majority of Area 35 members abstained from voting because they could not see the information. Our Delegate explained the reason for “Committee Members Only” information is so if there is something wrong (ex. breaking traditions), AA members are not using the information and GSO does not have to try and get the information back.

Consider adding references to the Big Book in the pamphlet “A.A. in Correctional Facilities,” including a proposed section describing Big Book studies as a possible meeting format.

Breakout Session: Vote- Unanimously in favor. AA members of the breakout session wanted to know the cost (not included in background information).

The changes that would be made have minimal cost. They would use up the current supply of pamphlets before starting new pamphlet with changes. The AA members of the breakout session were in favor of the pamphlet and felt it was worth the cost since it is important to add information about the Big Book.

Floor Discussion: Unanimously in favor of adding references to the Big Book.

Review contents of Corrections Kit and Workbook.

Breakout Session: No Discussion. Floor Discussion: No Discussion

IV. Finance

Review update from trustees' Finance Committee on gathering personal stories drawn from the Fellowship that humanize the impact of Seventh Tradition monies for the purpose of communicating with the Fellowship about self-support.

Breakout Session: No discussion. Floor Discussion: No discussion

Consider two alternative suggestions of ways to revise the pamphlet F-3 “Self-Support: Where Money and Spiritually Mix” forwarded from the trustees' Finance Committee.

Breakout Session: Majority wanted to just leave it alone. The minority wanted alternate 2 with “Or” instead of “And” Floor Discussion: Majority is in favor of leaving the packet alone.

Consider a request “that the trustees' Finance Committee develop a Finance Workbook, a draft of which is to be made available for the 2012 General Service Conference, to assist group, intergroup/central offices, district and area service workers in carrying the message of our shared responsibility for the Seventh Tradition.”

Breakout Session: They wanted to have this either a workbook or a finance kit but not both. During the breakout session some members felt that the agenda item was not clear. They seem to asking for a workbook but later in the agenda item it talks about “Carrying the Message.” The workbook will be intended for use with Area, District, and Group treasurer.

Floor Discussion: Vote: Majority were in favor of this or Agenda Item D. In the past we had a workbook but this was only a 5 year plan. GSO must have felt this was not successful so they dropped this.

Consider a request “that the trustees' Finance Committee convert Self-Support packet F-19 to a comprehensive Finance Kit.”

Breakout Session: They wanted to have this either a workbook or a finance kit but not both.

Floor Discussion: Vote: Majority were in favor of this or Agenda Item C.

Discuss the list forwarded from the 2010 Conference Finance Committee for additional ways to communicate about self-support:

Birthday Plan 2. Seventh Tradition Pamphlet 3. Box 4-5-9 or Grapevine Articles 3. Finance Workbook/Tool Kit 4. Report Costs of Services to Members 5. Discuss Effects of Inflation 6. Add Additional Financial Information to the Web site

Breakout Session: The AA members of the breakout session suggested having an inventory of how GSO is using their money (financial inventory).

All of the above suggestions are focused on what AA members could do so we felt GSO should look at what they could do. One way to communicate self-support is “Challenge of 7th Tradition.” Floor Discussion: No discussion

V. Grapevine

Consider that A.A. Grapevine, Inc., be permitted to utilize digital channels and current (commissionable) support and distribution technologies such as but not limited to smart phones, tablets, e-reader, applications, and commissioned online stores for the sale and distribution of magazines, books and products.

Breakout Session: The members of the breakout session were in favor as long as they proceed with caution. We do not want to lose what we have or have other entities benefit from what we have.

Floor Discussion: Vote: 33 in favor and 40 opposed.

One member was concerned with having a commissionable process with the Grapevine which means selling the Grapevine to others for them to make a profit. We need to look for a process that will make AA more accountable for this. We do need digital formats but we need to keep them within the principals of Alcoholics Anonymous. Companies such as Amazon.com will make a profit from this and should not be all right.

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One comment was that this is just another means of getting the information out to more alcoholics. This is the same as the money we spend to deliver the Grapevine (Post Office) or make the copies (Print Companies). One other concern was they want us to make sure we do not get rid of the print version. Currently, AA World Services (AAWS) is looking into creating and selling digital applications for the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous. This would keep others from owning the rights to the applications and making a profit off our literature. We should be looking into doing the same with our Grapevine so we are not selling it to outside entities for them to make a profit from.

A member with a visual disability uses a Kindle so she can read AA literature. Using these formats makes it easier to read the information than using a magnifier with book. Currently the only digital AA literature in the 2nd edition of the Big Book. The member feels we need to get these digital formats out there for people with visual impairments.

What is the current commissionable support?

We feel a digital format is good but we do not want to have to pay someone else to distribute this for us.

This could be an anonymity break because when AA member buy the Grapevine and go against our traditions.

Are we grasping for straws to get the Grapevine out of the red. Should we be sacrificing our principals to save the Grapevine?

One feeling was that selling this to outside entities is different than purchasing supplies such as pens, printing, and etc. Giving our Grapevine to different companies to sell, looks like we are affiliated.

We are currently contracted with an outside company and could this be the current commissionable support? We use an outside company in California to take subscription orders when you call.

Could selling the Grapevine online put us more in the red?

Currently, the grapevine archives are online but not the AA subscription.

Consider permitting A.A. Grapevine, Inc., to accept contributions limited to the same General Service Board contribution policy, to be used for operation expenses with excess funds continuing to be forwarded to the Reserve Fund.

Breakout Session: The consensus from the breakout session was mixed on this item.

Floor Discussion: Vote: 24 in favor and 55 opposed

Right now we give money and something (Grapevine) in return. Now we want to give money with nothing in return.

They used to have a birthday contribution plan for the Grapevine.

Alcoholics do have the ability to purchase more subscriptions; however, this has been tried and the Grapevine is still not self-supporting. Allowing contributions could be a new solution that will get us out of the red.

Some participation on this would be better than no participation on this.

Would this be earmarking funds and we do not do this (Pink Can example)? If groups start passing two baskets during their meeting (one for Grapevine/one for AA entities), will this take contributions away from GSO? The \$400,000 taken out of the reserve fund could be considered the same thing; however we are trying to make GSO self-supporting.

Could this affect GSO contributions because people are putting their money towards the Grapevine?

If the Grapevine is going to start taking contributions from AA members, will this mean that AA members will get a say in what articles, formats, themes, and etc are in the Grapevine. Currently, AA members do not get a say in what going into the Grapevine, and if we contribute we should get a say just like we do with AA and GSO. Actually we should be getting more of a say in the Grapevine since they are using the AA reserve fund which is money from AA members.

We are putting more emphasis on profit instead of emphasizing if the Grapevine is useful in carrying the message.

Review request for a discussion on how to best support the Grapevine magazine.

Breakout Session: Suggestions/Concerns: Increase purchase of subscriptions. The Grapevine is not supporting the traditions. Go back to older versions that are less expensive (we do not need glossy pages). Eliminate/reduce the 3 reminders to renew your subscription which is a waste of time and postage. One Sponsee and Sponsor go through Grapevine subscription each month. Donate subscriptions to other places besides treatments and jails.

Floor Discussion:

One group feels that to deal with these issues individually without taking a through look at the Grapevine's financial stability would be placing the "cart before the horse." In the background the Grapevine has been declining subscriptions and in the past several years has not been self-supporting (last year loss was \$400,000) and is projected for 2012 to have a loss of \$500,000. In the survey completed in 2011, a majority of AA members feel the Grapevine should continue with approximately only 6% of AA members subscribing to the Grapevine. A proposal was brought forward from Thursday Night Young Peoples Group of District 13 that all resolutions, agenda items, pertaining to the Grapevine be tabled at this time until the conference can provide an full financial accounting to include a business plan detailing the following items: a plan to restore the financial health of the Grapevine and place on the road toward financial independence and self-support, a plan to minimize losses of the Grapevine while still making it available to the fellowship and other interested parties, a plan to dissolve the Grapevine completely and discontinue its printing, and plan to make the Grapevine free and available on internet. Without the above information we and others are unable to make an informed group conscience. We need to develop a business plan and stop looking at the money aspect of the Grapevine.

A suggestion is to change the Grapevine from a monthly subscription to a quarterly subscription.

There was over 19 years (1960 -1979) when the Grapevine was self-supporting so let's stop saying it cannot be self-supporting.

In 1988 and 1989 there were approximately 130,000 subscriptions to the Grapevine and currently we are at approximately 88,000 subscriptions. We need to look at what has happened with the Grapevine to make a loss of 40,000 subscriptions in the past 20 years. We need to review the 19 year period when the Grapevine was self-supporting to see what we were doing right.

Consider collections of Grapevine stories for possible publication in the year 2012 or later.

Breakout Session: First, we need to find a way to make the magazine profitable. These things are actually profitable and they are helping the Grapevine.

Are these publications a need? Should we be considering?

Floor Discussion: Vote: 60 in favor and 4 opposed. A suggestion for the collection of Grapevine stories was "working the program."

Review and discuss the results of the surveys conducted per the 2010 Advisory Action.

Breakout Session: The breakout session was not in favor of the surveys and felt they were bias. Floor Discussion: No Discussion

Review revisions to "The A.A. Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings in Print" pamphlet.

Breakout Session: Majority were in favor of the review. Floor Discussion: No Discussion

Review contents of the A.A. Grapevine Workbook. Floor Discussion: No Discussion

VI. Literature

Review the revised draft pamphlet "The A.A. Member—Medications and Other Drugs."

Breakout Session: Mail to "Committee Members Only." Floor Discussion: Area 35 had no discussion and abstained from voting since they were unable to view the pamphlet.

Review progress report from the trustee's Literature Committee on the development of literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous.

Breakout Session: No Discussion. Floor Discussion: Having literature for atheists and agnostics has all ready been approved at the by the 2011 General Service Conference. What this agenda item is asking is if we should review the progress report from the trustee's literature committee. We are going to be reviewing this progress because we have asked the committee to create the progress report

Review progress report from the trustee's Literature Committee on the revision of the pamphlet "A.A. and the Armed Services."

Breakout Session: The deadline for stories to be submitted was continued until July 15th.

Floor Discussion: This is for "Committee Members Only." They want this pamphlet to reflect more recent AA members of the Armed Services. There were two choices (A and B) and one district picked choice B.

Review draft revisions to the *Living Sober* booklet.

Breakout Session: The breakout session did not vote on this agenda item. One comment was changing wording like a price for a phone call being \$0.10 and currently it would cost more.

Floor Discussion: If Bill W. or Dr. Bob wrote *Living Sober*, we should not make changes to the booklet.

Consider suggestion to replace the text under "When you're a G.S.R." in the pamphlet "G.S.R. General Service Representative."

Floor Discussion: Vote: The majority of Area 35 members were in favor. The want to make the pamphlet more accurately represent the current practice of the GSR because they are more than just a mail contact.

Consider a request to develop an item similar to the Self-support or "green card" to help promote the use of our literature as a Twelfth Step tool.

Breakout Session: The breakout session voted no to this item. All you do is have to pick it up because we have a lot.

Floor Discussion: Vote: Area 35 was unanimously opposed to this.

Consider a request to reconsider the 2010 Conference Advisory Action that "the trustees' Literature Committee develop literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are successfully sober in Alcoholics Anonymous."

Floor Discussion: Vote: 68 we in favor and 6 were opposed.

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Why should we create more literature when we could incorporate these stories into the Grapevine?

One group felt that this was a waste of money and we should not do this. Our spiritual practice requires no one to believe in a particular higher power.

We are creating literature which is making us different from each other when we should be looking at the commonality between us and the disease of alcoholism.

Who is going to decide what successfully sober? Each AA member is going to have a different opinion.

One group felt that we should look at this information to see how atheists and agnostics are keeping themselves sober without a higher power. We have lots of new people coming into AA that could find this information useful. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking.

Consider a request to include the A.A. Preamble in the front inside pages of the Big Book.

Breakout Session: The breakout session voted no to this item. In the Big Book there is a preamble similar to this all ready. The preamble is from the Grapevine and is a copyright of the Grapevine.

Floor Discussion: Vote: Majority were opposed. We do not change the first 164 pages of Big Book so this should not be added.

Consider a request to develop a publication about the General Service Office.

Breakout Session: Voted no since we all ready have one. Floor Discussion: Vote: Majority were opposed

VII. Policy/Admissions

Approve admission to the 2011 General Service Conference of Ron Foor, alternate delegate, Area 22, Northern Indiana, in place of Donald Sheets, the Panel 61 delegate for Area 22. Breakout Session and Floor Discussion: No discussion

Approve request for two members from the General Service Structure of Peru to attend the 61st General Service Conference as observers. Breakout Session and Floor Discussion: No discussion.

Approve request for two members from the General Service Structure of Great Britain to attend the 61st General Service Conference as observers. Breakout Session and Floor Discussion: No discussion

Discuss request to change the deadline for the submission of Conference agenda items.

Breakout Session: The breakout session was opposed to this item. The proposal would change the deadline for submitting agenda items from January 15th to November 15th. It does not talk about changing the date for background information to be distributed.

Floor Discussion: Vote: A majority of Area 35 were opposed.

What is the purpose of this if we do not get the background information sooner? We do not know the full reason for this but the agenda could be set sooner; however, the agenda item does not talk about the background information.

Could this be the first step in the process of getting the background information earlier? Do we need to do this first before we can work on getting the background information earlier?

This change could require many changed within AA such as the date for the Board Meeting and Area Assemblies.

If we move the deadline to November and the General Service Conference is not until March that is 6 months between each of them. If the deadline gets changed to November and we made a proposal to be added to the GSC Agenda at our Fall Assembly there would be little time to get the proposal written and approved by Area 35. The spirit

This spirit of this item was to get the information out sooner. The logistics of doing this could be difficult.

The background information does state that they will distribute an executive summary of the Agenda items. The executive summary will have a small amount of information (1-2 paragraphs) about each agenda item.

One member does not feel that the executive summary will give AA members enough information to make an informed group conscience.

We need to think this thing through before we make a decision.

If this gets moved to November 15th of the 2nd year of a rotation that is a voting assembly which means that the incoming Delegate needs to be well aware of the items the Area is proposing.

Consider the comprehensive plan and estimated cost from the Conference Inventory Planning Committee for the General Service Conference to conduct a thorough inventory of itself.

Breakout Session: The members of the breakout session wanted a better plan put into place. They were against the plan outlined in the background information. The process would happen in the course of three years with a cost of \$15,000 to \$40,000. The problem with having the inventory over three years would be that new Delegates would always be rotating in and taking inventory of a conference they have never seen.

Floor Discussion: Vote: A majority of Area 35 were opposed to the plan outlined in the background information.

Review dates for the 2014 General Service Conference.

Breakout Session and Floor Discussion: No Discussion

Discuss request that a formal relationship be developed between the Conference Committee on Policy/Admissions and the trustees' Conference Committee to address matters of policy relating to the Conference.

Breakout Session: The members of the breakout session were in favor of having a formal relationship between the conference committee and the trustees.

Currently, there is no involvement of the trustees on this committee. Floor Discussion: Vote: Area 35 was unanimously in favor

Consider suggestion that the Conference Committee on Archives meet outside of the time allotted for their joint committee meeting with the trustees' Committee on Archives.

Breakout Session: No Discussion Floor Discussion: Vote: A majority were in favor of this item. Currently, the archives committee meets during a lunch break and do not have their own set time. This would let the archives have its own separate committee instead of being a part of the policy/admission conference committee. This means Delegates would be assigned to this committee. Anything that would bring the trustees and the conference committee together for discussion is a good thing. We need more communication. Historically the archives committee does not have a lot of agenda items so that is why it has not had its own committee.

Review report from the General Service Board regarding Concept V Appeal to the General Service Conference.

Breakout Session: No discussion Floor Discussion: Vote: A majority were in favor of this as long as there are revisions to include Delegates in the right of appeal. In the background it states that the only members entitled to make an appeal are people that fall below the General Service Conference. The members below the General Service Conference include trustees, GSO staff, corporate boards, and committees. This would mean that Delegates could not make or write an appeal at the General Service Conference. This could have been intentional or unintentional; however, one member feels Delegates should have the right to make an appeal. We need to be cautious and bring this up at the conference to see how they feel this would deal with a Delegate bring an appeal to the conference. The Area 35 member asked that our Delegate bring back information to help clarify this agenda item. Seems to be more work that needs to be done to make sure a Delegate can make an appeal.

VIII. Public Information

Consider 2010 annual Web site report from the trustees' Public Information Committee on G.S.O.'s A.A. Web site.

Breakout Session: The report is all ready done so the members were in favor of reviewing the report.

Floor Discussion: No Discussion and majority were in favor

Consider that the 2011 A.A. Membership Survey be conducted by area on a random basis as was done in the 2007 A.A. Membership Survey.

Breakout Session: During the breakout session a majority of members were in favor of conducting a survey. The Delegates will be given the surveys to pass out to specific groups. The groups were chosen at random by the General Service Office.

Floor Discussion: Vote: Unanimously in favor. The survey will be sent out on July 10th, taken between August 1st and 14th, and then returned between August 20th and 27th.

Consider approval of the General Service Board "Policy on Actors Portraying A.A. Members or Potential A.A. Members in Videos Produced by the General Service Board or its Affiliates."

Breakout Session: in the background it states that no we should not do this; however there are some exclusions such as using the ones we have all ready purchased or that both the General Service Board and General Service Conference approves.

Floor Discussion: Vote: A majority of Area 35 was opposed with 3 in favor.

If we are showing faces that is breaking the purpose of anonymity.

Sometimes we read into this a little too far. They are paid actors and the Hope video is a small part that could bring people to Alcoholics Anonymous.

What is the difference between the actors and the non-alcoholic trustees? We are asking the nonalcoholic trustees to represent us where as the actors in a video are portraying alcoholics. They are not representing alcoholics, they are being alcoholics.

Why do we in AA always have to see how close to the line we can get without falling off the edge? Bill would not even put the back of his head on Time Magazine even though it could have helped thousands of alcoholics if he were in Time Magazine. "Bill stated that the good is the enemy of the best" and so he said no. Bill set a very strong solid standard for us.

Not showing faces represent something to new alcoholics coming to AA by showing them we will protect their anonymity.

This could open the door to using faces in other items and videos.

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They are making this policy so that they do not have to destroy or quit distributing the current videos since GSO spent around \$70,000 on creating and developing. In the future they could decide to make another video. They exclude current videos so they can use full faces but won't do it anymore unless the General Service Board and the General Service Conference approves the development by substantial unanimity.

We need to remember that we understand in AA that the actors/actresses are not alcoholics. We need to remember the still suffering alcoholics and what they will think. Could this keep alcoholics away because we are showing faces

Only 1% of alcoholics make their way to AA through a PSA.

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

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

Breakout Session and Floor Discussion: No Discussion

Consider production of new television P.S.A.s.

Breakout Session: In the background some media specialists suggest that we make new PSAs that are in Spanish and French. The majority of members at the breakout session were opposed to producing new PSAs. However one comment was that the largest growing segment of our population happens to be Latino. Experts are telling AA that we need to have some PSAs that are directed towards the Spanish population.

Floor Discussion: Vote: A majority of Area 35 members were opposed to the production of new PSAs. One group feels PSAs are breaking traditions by promoting rather than attracting. We need to get our information out there to alcoholics and interpreting videos is not very useful. We need to think of the service first and the money last. If we do not show full faces in our PSAs why do we need to have them? You cannot tell if they are interpreted videos since you cannot see their faces. Why are we considering the suggestions of an outside agency? We need to see if there is a need in AA for this not from an outside entity? Many people have not seen PSAs and only 1% of alcoholics come to AA by PSAs.

Consider revisions to "Understanding Anonymity" which include text on the topic of anonymity in the digital age and answers the question "What should I tell my loved ones about protecting the anonymity of the A.A. members they may meet?"

Breakout Session: No Discussion. Floor Discussion: Vote: 35 – Yes and 14 - No

Consider revisions to "The A.A. Fact File." Breakout Session: Majority in favor. Floor Discussion: Majority in favor

Consider a revision to "A.A. at a Glance." Breakout Session: Majority in favor. Floor Discussion: Majority in favor

Review contents of P.I. Kit and Workbook. Breakout Session: Majority in favor. Floor Discussion: Majority in favor

IX. Report and Charter

The A.A. Service Manual, 2011-2012 Edition:

Review revisions from the A.A.W.S. Board. Breakout Session and Floor Discussion: No Discussion

Review draft of description on trustee's emeriti. Breakout Session: No Discussion Floor Discussion: These are past trustees and chairman of the board that have finished their term. When they attend events we pay their expenses.

Review list of editorial updates. Breakout Session and Floor Discussion: No Discussion

Review revised text forwarded from the 2010 Conference Committee on Trustees regarding the nominating procedure listed as #2 on page S67. Breakout Session and Floor Discussion: No discussion

Consider request to change the phrase "new kid on the block" to "a first year delegate" on page S52 under Personal Experience in section "Preparing for the Conference."

Breakout Session: The members of the breakout session were unanimously in favor of the change.

Floor Discussion: Vote: 16 were in favor and 27 were opposed. Why are we considering this since past trustees and delegates created this?

Consider suggestion to revise the text on "inactive service workers" on page S37 in Chapter Four to reflect that the appropriate local entity is responsible for addressing inactive G.S.R.s and D.C.M.s and add similar text to Chapters One and Three.

Breakout Session: The breakout session members were in favor of the Agenda item with modifications. The Area does not deal with the GSRs. They are strictly for the groups and districts. The Area should only deal with their committee members.

Floor Discussion: A majority (51) were in favor with 4 opposed

Consider request to review and update the section "What Goes On at the Conference" on page S55.

Breakout Session: A majority of members at the breakout session were in favor.

Floor Discussion: A majority of Area 35 members were in favor of the Agenda item.

Conference Charter:

Consider request to recommend adding "the right of Petition and Appeal" to the Conference Charter as found in *The A.A. Service Manual*. Breakout Session: A majority were in favor. Floor Discussion: Majority were in favor with 2 opposed

Consider request to "address and remedy the inconsistencies between the Current [Conference] Charter and the Original [Conference] Charter" as found in *The A.A. Service Manual*.

Breakout Session: A majority were in favor. Floor Discussion: A majority were in favor.

Discuss A.A. Directories (Canada, Western U.S., and Eastern U.S.). Breakout Session and Floor Discussion: No Discussion.

Discuss General Service Conference *Final Report*. Breakout Session and Floor Discussion: No discussion

X. Treatment Facilities/Special Needs/Accessibilities

Review draft recovery pamphlet for alcoholics with special needs.

Breakout Session: There's no information so they could not make a decision. Floor Discussion: No Discussion

Discuss report from the trustees' Committee regarding changing "Treatment Facilities" Committee to "Treatment" Committee in committee titles and in A.A. literature. Breakout Session: 6 in favor and 5 opposed. Floor Discussion: Majority were in favor

Consider removing line of dialog from video "Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous."

Breakout Session: This has to do with the line "Uncle Sam Will Not Bail You out This Time" 11 in favor and 0 opposed. We felt they should take everything out that says United States since AA is worldwide.

Floor Discussion: Vote: Majority were in favor of this 50 – yes and 15- no. When there is an appropriate time to make these changes we would make them so we are not have large costs for this. The cost would be around \$8,235. We have controversy with this all ready why are we discussing this since we all ready want to get rid of this video. This item is just about removing the line.

Review contents of Treatment Facilities Kit and Workbook.

Review contents of Special Needs Kit and Workbook

Floor Discussion: No Discussion for both workbooks

XI. Trustees

Review resumes of candidates for: 1. Northeast Regional Trustee 2. Southwest Regional Trustee 3. Trustee-at-Large/Canada

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

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

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

Floor Discussion: No Discussion for any of the agenda items.

XII. Archives

Review Workbook. Floor Discussion: No Discussion

XIII. International Conventions/Regional Forums

Discuss report on the 2010 International Convention in San Antonio, Texas.

Breakout Session: Vote: Unanimously in favor. Does the excess income go to the general fund? They need to look at the logistics for larger groups such as having more volunteers.

Discuss ways to encourage interest in Forums and how areas communicate about upcoming Forums in their region.

Breakout Session: Vote: 7 were in favor, 2 opposed, and several abstained from voting. One question was asked ask to what types of forums are they talking about. There was a concern as to whether this is attraction or promotion. The attendance has stayed static and the fellowship has grown. Participation in service work is not increasing with membership increase. The regional forums are hosted by GSO and are where you can meet upper leadership in person. One member questioned whether Forums were a good use of GSO funds and is it an effective use of finances. Floor Discussion: No Discussion

GSR SHARING SESSION REPORT- Given by Scott, GSR for Aurora Big Book Group

First, Scott apologized for not being at the last sharing session. We had 43 GSRs in attendance at the Sharing Session which was 5 better than last year's Spring Assembly. At the Winter Workshop, it was decided by the GSRs to change the format from coming up with questions for discussion at the next sharing session, to creating the questions for discussion at the current sharing session. The format seemed to work with great participation from all GSRs. The questions we came up with were:

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How do the groups handle a situation when one or two members dominate a business meeting? It was decided that we do not let them dominate, try sitting around in a circle, follow a format, have a moderator, use a timer, take them aside to inform them that everyone deserves a chance to speak, and also try to teach through sponsorship and an informed group conscience.

At these assemblies, how do we keep more experienced members from swaying the GSRs opinions? We need to keep coming to these sharing sessions and bring up our struggles. We need to take responsibility and keep informed. We should use Right of Decision sparingly and be prepared to bring our vote back to the group. We should remember that some people are sharing their wisdom. GSRs should keep in mind that they are here to vote their group's conscience.

Where do I get the information to do my job? Go to as many conferences, workshops and district meetings as we can to get the information. The group change forms need to be filled out and mailed in and attend district meetings which provide that information. The Area 35 website has a lot of information pertaining to the GSRs duties. Ask your Districts to have a GSR workshop. Include the Alternate GSR with the GSR in service activities so they can learn. Get a service sponsor and also read the pamphlet, "What is a GSR?"

How do we encourage our home group to hold a business meeting? Set up a time each month and stick to it. Have the business meeting right after the regular meeting. Start with many meetings to get people interested. Tell them if they want to be a part of the decision making, they need to attend the business meeting. Have a Group Conscience Chair who will set up the meetings. Start with a group inventory which can get people interested.

How can we get DCMs to give more detailed reports about their areas? We can approach the DCM Chair or Area Officers and express concerns. We could put a suggestion in the ask-it-baskets. We can also remember that DCMs have only 2 minutes to give their reports.

It was also decided that we would like our minutes published in the Northern Light for GSR present and not present to read.

DCM SHARING SESSION REPORT – Given by Rita D., DCM for District 5

Greetings everyone! We had an AWESOME sharing session with a total of 20 in attendance representing Districts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 18!! We first took a group conscience vote to allow a visitor to join us, this passed unanimously. Two samples "Suggested Guidelines for DCM Reports" were passed out to everyone. We unanimously picked one to use and we all thought this would be a great tool to use as a guide for reports. The 1st topic of discussion was to "Share experience regarding reports". Sharing included: It helps to proof read and read reports out loud, some use bullet points rather than writing full reports, the new guidelines will help, practice timely reports, when the timer goes off we need to be done-lead by example, type or write it out so we are prepared, keep reports to service our District is doing, no need to report items that Committee Chairs are sharing with Area Committee Chairs. The 2nd topic for discussion was: How to conduct or chair Sharing Sessions, Break-out Sessions and Committee's, also the possibility of this as a workshop topic. Sharing included: It's the chair persons' responsibility to keep meeting or sessions in order, keep session on topic and in a timely manner, going around the room giving all a chance to share helps with all of these things and also could urge someone who normally wouldn't share to feel comfortable in doing so, we need to enforce time limits. We did discuss the possibility of having a workshop on "How to Chair a District meeting, Break-out Sessions, Sharing Sessions and Committee's". We voted unanimously in favor of having this as a topic, possibly at the January Workshop. The last topic was: Is it better to fill an open position ASAP or leave the position open? Responses were: Don't fill it just for the sake of having it filled-be sure the person is willing & able to fulfill all duties & responsibilities, talk about service while visiting groups to encourage all to participate, if someone is interested and feels they can commit we should allow them to stand for the position. I want to thank Mark for his wonderful note taking. Also for the AWESOME group of DCM's & Alternate DCM's for their participation!! What a great way to learn from each other :) We went around the room with each topic & all feel that it gave us a better opportunity to share. There was no redundant sharing and no one monopolizing the time:)

OLD BUSINESS

WCRAASC 2011: We had 278 people in attendance at the WCRAASC. From the evaluation many of the attendees felt the conference was a positive experience, was helpful through the discussion of Agenda Items, and they felt more like a member of AA. From the evaluation some suggestions for improving the WCRAASC were moving the Ask-it-Basket to the end of the conference, longer suppers/breaks, spending more time on agenda items and less on presentations, and having a general sharing of what is going on in Areas from the West Central Region. Heidi plans to get the reports from the breakout sessions in the Northern Light and send out an email. All information and evaluations will be discussed by the WCR Delegates during the General Service Conference. The hospitality suite was a huge success! The area spent \$171.87 on the hospitality room; however the donations basket in the hospitality suite received \$235.00 which was given back to Area 35. The expense total for the conference was \$2,938.37. Our income from the conference which comes from registrations, early bird meetings, and speaker meeting was \$4,176.45. This means we were able to add money to the account for the WCRAASC and have more money available for the next WCRAASC. Next year's WCRAASC will be March 2nd to 4th, 2012 in Billings, MT. Thanks to everyone who helped make this a great conference.

AREA FINANCIAL OVER-SITE COMMITTEE: We met as a committee on Friday, April 1, 2011 at Fortune Bay Resort and Casino in Tower, MN. The meeting started at 9:04pm in the Board Room with 5 people present. The Area Chair, Mike; Area Treasurer, Sarah, District 13 Corrections Chair, Jeff; Past Delegate, Tom; and myself. We verified the reconciliation report for period II- February 24th through March 31st, 2011. We also verified the ending balance of the period \$10,599.54 to the deposits and debits on bank statements plus prudent reserve and other assets for total liabilities and equity of \$16,615.53. We also reviewed total group contributions for the period as well as detailed expenditures and profit/loss. We the members of the committee concurred that all bank statements, check register, and other expenditures match accordingly in the Area 35 Treasury this period. We also briefly discussed composition of the next incoming committee and will bring to the attention of the Area 35 body for future reference and recommendations. The possibility of having one or two committee members carrying-over for consistency and experience was suggested. We will keep the Area informed of any change, occurrences, ideas, or proposals that the committee makes. Thank you for your patience and understanding. Randy A, Financial Oversight Committee Chairperson.

AREA INVENTORY Committee Report: Good Day everyone! I want to start out by thanking Jake for allowing us (I speaking for myself, Mike, Roger & Cathy) to serve on this committee. A HUGE THANK YOU to all of the committee members for all their input & help. As we were going through the results of our Area Inventory from last Falls Assembly we made a decision to break it into 2 categories. The 1st category being "Suggestions that can be implemented now," we discussed these items and made a decision to submit a full detailed list of these items in the next edition of the Northern Light. PLEASE look for and READ this information!! We also want to say that several of these items have been put into practice already. One item we would like to mention from this list that we as a committee saw a need for is to Develop a "buddy" system for new GSR's at Assemblies so they don't feel overwhelmed. This could be done during the GSR Orientation by asking "Who would like to have a buddy and then by asking for volunteers to be their buddy. I have made a separate list and they have been passed out. Please be aware that some of these items may need to go back to groups & Districts to get a group conscience vote before any action is taken. Also that some items may not go further than the list they are on. A reminder is that we as committee members came up with ALL the suggestions from your voice during the inventory. The 2nd category is "Suggestions that would need Area approval via a proposal or action prior to implementation". I did print copies of this list for all to have & committee members are passing them out now. 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 one 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. Grateful to be of Service, Rita D., Inventory Committee Chair.

Assembly Discussion: The Area Chair felt some of the items on the 2nd category list can be implemented without needing approval so the Area Chair plans to make some suggestions and go over them with the Inventory Committee. There are several items that would require a vote such as making GSRs a voting member of the Committee Meetings. Concern: During the Agenda Items at the Spring Assembly, we did not do a

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group conscience vote instead but a straw vote which keeps out the minority opinion. We should have done group conscience votes (Only Area Committee, Area Officers, DCMs, and GSRs vote) of the Agenda items at the Area level instead of doing straw votes. We ask out GSRs and DCMs to get a group conscience, then they come here and we do a straw vote. One suggestion is to take away the breakout sessions for Agenda Items. Concern: One concern by a GSR is that they do not attend the Aitkin Committee Meeting and miss out on voting items that take place at the committee meeting. Anything that is voted on at the Committee Meeting is not done to keep GSRs from voting. The DCMs should be going back and getting a group conscience that take with them to Committee Meetings. If there is an item brought up during the Committee Meeting and the Area feels they need a group conscience from the entire Area, it is added to the Spring or Fall Assembly. Area Committee Meetings are run the way they are stated in the Service Manual. If we start to have GSRs attending and voting at Committee Meetings, then it becomes an Area Assembly. If we make this change, it is going to be a huge change. We would have to have more Assemblies, which would cost GSRs more money since there is a meeting every two months.

The process for how Area 35 goes through Agenda Items will be added to New Business for the June Committee Meeting. The GSRs were asked to bring the information back to their groups for discussion so they can bring it to their DCM for the Area Committee Meeting. The Area Inventory will continue to stay under Old Business for the June Committee Meeting.

DELEGATE RESUMES The deadline to turn in Delegate resumes is June 5th, 2011 at the Committee Meeting. Currently, under the Area 35 policy, you can nominate one Delegate from each District. Please review the service manual for the duties of a Delegate before asking someone to serve as Delegate. This can help Districts nominate someone who is able to meet all the duties as Delegate.

LITERATURE/GRAPEVINE PROPOSAL There is a concern that the Literature and Grapevine Chairs use their personal checking accounts for selling and purchasing literature and Grapevine. Two ideas were given during the Area Committee Meeting with one being that the Area 35 Literature and Grapevine Chairs getting their own checking accounts and the other being that sales and purchases would go through the Area 35 Treasurer. The proposal is that the Area 35 Grapevine Chair opens a checking account and the Area 35 Literature Chair opens a checking account. The Area Grapevine and Literature Chairs would then be required to bring a report, inventory, and/or statements to the Area. A suggestion was that the finances for the Grapevine and Literature could be gone through like the financial oversight committee does with the treasury. If we have checking accounts for Grapevine and Literature, we want to make sure they are being accountable to Area 35. A suggestion was to have checks and not a debit card for these bank accounts. The current Literature and Grapevine can look into the process for getting bank accounts. If they feel it is necessary opening a bank account could be add to their guidelines for the following rotations.

ELECTRONIC DONATIONS TO AREA 35 All of the information has been published in the Northern Light and talked about during the past year at assemblies and committee meetings. The Area 35 Treasurer feels PayPal would be the best option with having a 2.2% fee plus \$0.32 for each transaction. The fee would be taken from the group donation not the area. This is the same company used by Area 53, Ohio. If we use PayPal and find that it does not work for Area 35, we can decide to cancel the account. Starting electronic donations does not mean groups cannot mail in contributions. Groups would have the decision to either send in their donation through the mail or through PayPal. If we went with PayPal there would not be a monthly fee or set up charge. There is also a discounted rate for non-profit organizations. PayPal would be linked to our bank account which would deposit the donations directly to Area 35 checking account. When we get a new treasurer and after they set up a bank account, we would change the bank information on PayPal to that account. This procedure could be added to the Area 35 Treasurer Guidelines.

A motion was made to set up a PayPal and run online contributions through the Area 35 website. Motion was 2nd. Vote: 35 in favor and 25 opposed. Motion carried.

Discussion: The treasurer will provide a report as to how the online contributions are going if online contributions were approved. Area 35 can always make a motion later to cancel the online contributions. Some members of the Area were concerned about the fees taking money away from the Area. Another concern was if groups would have to set up an account with PayPal and who would be on the account. You do not have to have an account with PayPal to use PayPal. The Area had discussion on fishing and fraudulent information. Using PayPal would give the groups and the Area Treasurer receipts for all transactions so there would be a paper trail. We still have a Financial Oversight Committee that will be review all of this information.

Call to question. 2nd. Majority were in favor so discussion ended.

AREA 35/36 JOINT WORKSHOP- Mike has been in contact with Lisa, the Chair for Area 36. They have three tentative dates and Mike will be sending out an email to all Area Officers and Committee Chairs so we can finalize the date. We are looking at July or August for the meeting. The information for the date and location of the joint workshop will be available at the June Committee Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

STATE FAIR The report from last year's State Fair booth was in the Northern Light and distributed at the February Committee Meeting. In the past, Area 35 has the booth during first weekend (2 days) of the State Fair and have made a contribution of 1/3 the cost not to exceed \$500. The PI Chair wants to know if Area 35 will support the State Fair booth again with Area 36. One concern was if Area 35 could get more time to man the booth at the State Fair. Roger will check with Area 36 to see if we can participate in more than 2 days of the State Fair. Another suggestion can also be going to one hour shifts instead of 2 hour shifts. People who did not get a time slot during the Area 35 time slots, could call ask Area 36 if they need help. Any volunteers for the booth would be required to pay parking and admission.

A motion was made that Area 35 support the State Fair booth with Area 36 and pay 1/3 the cost of the booth not to exceed \$500.00.

The motion was 2nd. No Discussion. The vote was 52 in favor and 3 opposed. Motion passed.

AREA BUDGETS: The budgets were published in the Northern Light to be discussed by groups and districts and voted on at the Spring Assembly. The annual budget total was \$39,729.00.

A motion was made to accept the 2011 Area 35 budget. The motion was 2nd with no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

FALL ASSEMBLY 2011 Jake is in the process of finalizing the plans. The Fall Assembly will be held in Zone 1 and plans to have the information available soon or by the June Committee Meeting.

SPRING ASSEMBLY 2012 All DCMs in Zone 3 need to get contact information from possible venues for the 2012 Spring Assembly to the Area 35 Chair.

SMOKING ISSUES AND ASSEMBLY SITES One group was concerned about smoking indoors during the Area Assemblies. If we are in the Casino please do not smoke in the doorways. One member feels that smoking away from the doors is not enough and it keeps AA members away. A suggestion was that Area 35 set a new policy about locating facilities with no smoking allowed indoors. All DCMs and GSRs are asked to bring this information back and discuss if Area 35 should continue to use Casinos for Area 35 events. This item will be added to old business at the June Committee Meeting.

FORMAT FOR THE AGENDA FOR THE FLYERS OF THE SPRING AND FALL ASSEMBLY One group had concerns with the Spring/Fall Assembly flyers only having driving directions and hotel information. They feel an agenda should be on the flyers for the Assemblies. They also asked that flyers and information still be mailed out Area 35 AA members. The Area 35 Secretary, who develops the flyers, explained that the flyers come out around 6 months before an event. Area 35 does not know what needs to be on the agenda for an event at the time the flyers are distributed. We do put the Agenda for all Area 35 events in the Northern Light; however that agenda can change up to the day of the Area 35 event. Also, the Area 35 Secretary will mail out the minutes and flyers to anyone in Area 35 as long as they provide her their mailing address. We will continue to have the registration start time and Committee Meeting start time on all Area 35 flyers. As for the Agenda, we will try to have one available, however please note that the information may change. The Workshops are separate from the Area Assembly and distributed separately.

ACTION BOOKLET COMMITTEE A request was made that a statement be added to the Area Action Booklet that suggests or states that this is a nonbinding document and a reference only. Discussion: This booklet is a list of action taken by the Area 35 body and is a great reference guide of past action. The Area Action Booklet is not just a reference book; it is a document with all actions taken and including policies and procedures of Area 35. For example, only having registered groups on the Area 35 website is a policy and action taken could be the location for the Spring Assembly. Anyone from Area 35 can change a policy by going through the proper procedures and making a motion. The policy is something we have to do because it is a part of our job. One question was asked when/where is it in the Area Action Booklet that the agenda for the Spring Assembly changed. The policy is that the Area Chair will set up the Agenda for Assemblies. It was felt that Area 35 should be a part of setting up the agenda because the way we went through the agenda items changed the voting and conscience we are sending with our Delegate.

PROPOSAL FOR NATIONAL GUARD A suggestion was asked that we get Grapevines to local AA members a part of the arm services that will soon be deploying overseas. DCMs and GSRs please bring this back to your districts and groups. They are going to need these.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Continued on page 26)

(Continued from page 25)

- Superior Round-up – April 15th to 17th at Superior Fair Grounds Curling Club in Superior, WI
- Iron Range Get-Together – April 29th to May 1st at Wendigo Lodge in Grand Rapids, MN
- Zonal Forum (Zone 4) – May 14th from 12pm to 4pm at the Duluth Alano Club in Duluth, MN
- Celebration of Recovery – May 21st (Dinner-5:30pm/ Speaker-6:30pm) at Moose Lodge in Waite Park, MN
- Gopher State Roundup – May 27th to 29th at the Sheraton in Bloomington, MN
- June Committee Meeting - June 5th starting at 9:00am at the Aitkin Alano Club in Aitkin, MN
- Weekend with Bill and Lois – July 8th to 10th at Camp Hiawatha in Deer River, MN

Keep it Simple Weekend – August 12th to 14th at Camp Chicagami on Pleasant Lake, South of Eveleth, MN

ASK IT BASKET (Past Delegates)

If you are at the District Meeting or Area Assembly and are not a voting member- Can you make a motion?

At the Area level you cannot make a motion. At the district level you are autonomous so if your district decides you can nonvoting members can make a motion, then you can?

If the Grapevine continues to struggle financially, Could it be published and distributed by A.A.W.S? Or merged with A.A.W.S?

The simple answer is yes it could. However, the Grapevine has always been an independent cooperation with editorial freedom and would need a lot of consideration from our fellowship.

Instead of going over the agendas in breakout sessions, why can't we just start going over the agenda on those times?

Yes, we can change these things. One of the reasons we do this is because they do at the General Service Conference. We try to get more in depth discussion during the breakout sessions so we do not have to discuss these items in lengths as a whole assembly.

One of the problems with the breakout sessions is the time restraints. Hopefully we can use the committee process to work on making a change that will work for Area 35.

What year did they take the word "Honest" out of Tradition 3 in AA Comes of Age? And why?

The year was approximately 1957 to 1959. What was heard was that the word honest gives alcoholics an excuse to stay out of alcoholics anonymous.

Why do we have so many Area business functions at casinos? I know the cost is good but it should not be the deciding factor. Many of our fellowship also have gambling issues. Are we limiting who can serve by having Assemblies at casinos? Is it only about the money?

We are all alcoholics and have meetings that are by bars. We are still able to go to these meetings without have a drink. We never try to think about outside issues when locating venue.

What was your most memorable experience at the conference?

At the General Service Conference they have someone there who is drawing the events because you cannot take pictures. The past delegate has seen those drawings many times and at the conference, he realized what he was getting the privilege to be a part of.

The Area gave him the opportunity to be there and he could sense the spiritual essence of Alcoholics Anonymous. That is an experience he will never forget.

What should we do about P.S.A's?

We can listen to them or as in District 13 the PI Chair has been getting them out to the media.

Why is Area Committee Meeting always in Aitkin? Why doesn't it rotate around the districts so more committee members could report what they are doing or not?

Aitkin was chosen because it is centrally located. Changing the location of the committee meeting was looked at and it was found to be a lot of work. You would have to find locations that can hold around 100 people. This would put a lot more work on DCMs and the Area Chair to find and set up venues. The food at Aitkin is also extremely good and a great deal for \$5.00 which is the best price around. The committee meetings can be moved if the Area decided to this would be beneficial.

Whatever happened to the Grapevine "reflections" component, proposals for the GSC Agenda Items, and 3rd legacy voting procedures?

The proposals were sent to GSO and the Trustees Agenda Committee decided to not add them to the Agenda for the General Service Conference.

If we are 100% keeping the traditions of AA, why do we have all of these special interest groups such as women only, men only, etc? The 3rd tradition is the only requirement is a desire to stop drinking.

First, we do not find anything in AA that is 100%. This is one of those age old questions and one of the problems with groups is when we get away from holding business meetings which gets them away from the traditions. In AA we try the best we can to follow the Traditions. Women's groups can be useful for new women who do not want to be hit on by men; however this should not be there only meeting.

Right of Decision (Appeal?) - How often should it be used?

Read out of the service manual right of decision. In concept 5, they talk about right of appeal whenever it is necessary but not excessively so no one listens anymore (ex. Dr. Bob's Nightmare).

Could we consider staying at a hotel which gives you reward points for "free" night stay?

We can stay at those places; however we cannot use that as a deciding factor for where we have events.

Is there a need to spend more time and add more to GSR orientation? New GSRs can be overwhelmed.

The past delegate sympathizes with the GSRs and remembers that feeling. He is grateful that we added the GSR orientation because it was not there when he was GSR. Having more time during the GSR Orientation is something that can be discussed with the Area35 Chair.

ADJOURN

2011 – AREA 35 SCHEDULE

You can find out more about events on 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 web site!

June 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
Father's 19 Day	20	Summer 21 Begins	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		U.S. Federal Holidays are Red
←		Http://www.Printfree.com				
		→				

July 2011						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
U.S. Federal Holidays are Red					Canada 1 Day	2
3	Independence 4 Day	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30
←		Http://www.Printfree.com				
		→				

Upcoming Events in Areas 35 & 36 Note: Area 35 events take precedence!

You can find out more about events on area35.org/

District 3 2011 Annual Round-Up
July 8 - 10, 2011
Lake Region Recreation Center
(29371 on highway 78 between Ottertail and Battle Lake)
Map on Area Event Calendar

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

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.

AREA 35 COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA

June 5, 2011

<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 Spring Assembly Minutes</div></div> <div><div>OFFICER REPORTS</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> <div><div>COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS</div><div><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>___ WEBMASTER-Steve L.</div><div>___ ARCHIVES-Art A. / Brad I.</div></div></div></div> <div><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>___ TREATMENT- Robert (butch) R.</div><div>___ District 15- Sandy H.</div><div>___ District 9- Chuck R.</div><div>___ Lunch</div></div><div><div>OLD BUSINESS</div><div><div>___--Financial Oversight Committee</div><div>___ Delegate Resumes</div><div>___ Fall Assembly</div><div>___ Spring Assembly 2012</div><div>___ Area 35/36 Workshop</div></div></div><div><div>NEW BUSINESS</div><div><div>___</div><div>___</div><div>___</div><div>___</div></div><div><div>___ General Service Conference Report</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>___ TBA</div></div><div><div>___ Adjourn</div></div></div></div></div></div>
