

Deadline for the next
Northern Light is
January 30th, 2012

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

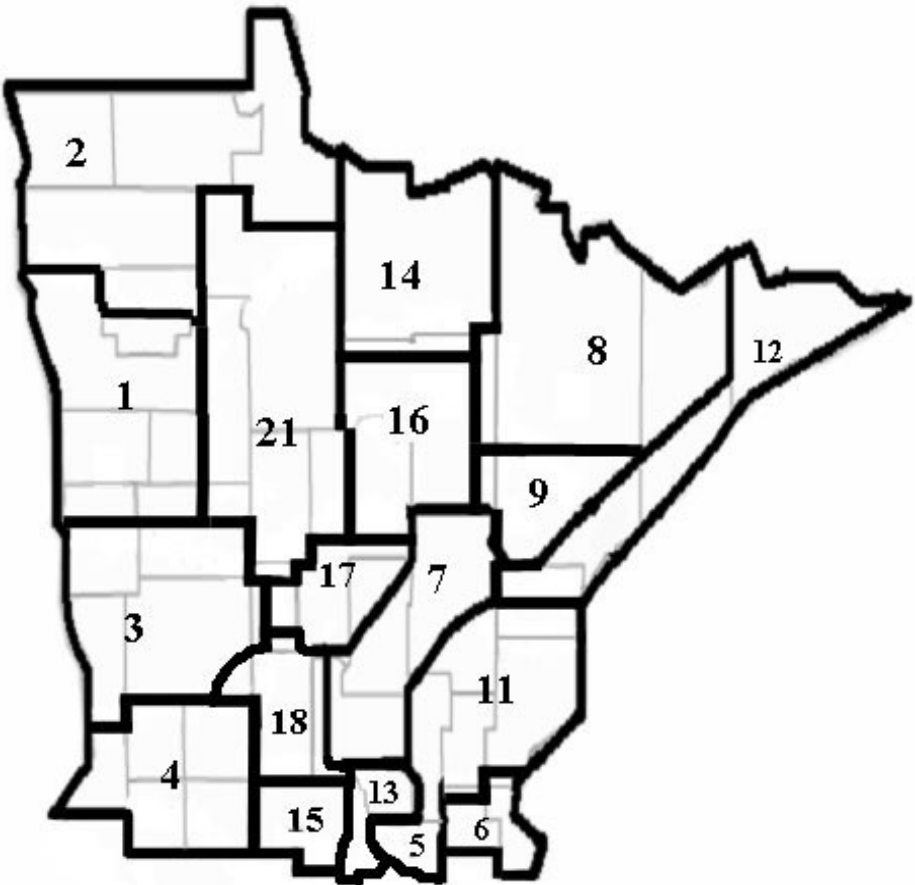
The Delegate’s Duties

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

- Attend the Conference meeting in April, fully prepared. Immediately upon election, every delegate is put on the G.S.O. mailing list to receive Conference materials.
- Communicate the actions of the Conference to area committee members and encourage them to pass on this information, and the delegate’s enthusiasm, to groups and to intergroups/central offices. If an area is too large for the delegate to cover in person, he or she will ask area officers and committee members to share the load.
- Be prepared to attend all area, state/provincial, and regional service meetings and assemblies. From these meetings, delegates come to better understand their own areas and can make suggestions for the Conference agenda. Here, too, they come in contact with A.A. members who might not be reached otherwise.
- Help area committees obtain financial support for the area and G.S.O.
- Provide leadership in solving local problems involving the A.A. Traditions.

- Remind G.S.R.s to inform groups and individuals about the A.A. Grapevine and Conference-approved literature.
- Cooperate with G.S.O. in obtaining information—for example, making sure that up-to-date information reaches G.S.O. in time to meet the deadline for each Issue of the A.A. directory and helping carry out the triennial membership surveys.
- Visit groups and districts in the area whenever possible.
- Work closely with committee members and officers, sharing experience throughout the year. After G.S.R.s and committee members have reported on the Conference, learn from these A.A.s how groups and members have reacted.
- Assume added responsibility if the area chair and alternate chair are unable to serve. Or, if an area committee is not functioning effectively, the delegate may take an active role in remedying the situation.
- Keep the alternate delegate fully informed and active, so that the alternate can replace the delegate in an emergency.
- Late in the second term, work with newly elected delegates to pass along a basic knowledge of Conference proceedings and problems.

(from The A.A. Service Manual, pages S44-S45)



Area 35
Northern Minnesota

Zone I

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

Zone II

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

Zone III

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

Zone IV

- District 8** - Alango, Aurora, Babbitt, Biwabik, Cook, Cotton, Ely, Eveleth, Gilbert, Hoyt Lakes, Mountain Iron, Orr, Palo, Pike, Tower, Virginia, Zim*
- District 9** - Chisholm, Floodwood, Goodland, Hibbing*, Keewatin, Kelly Lake, Lawrence Lake*, Nashwauk*
- District 12** - Beaver Bay, Silver Bay, Brimson, Brookston, Cloquet, Duluth, Esko, Finland, Fredenberg, Grand Marais, Grand Portage, Hermantown, Knife River, Lawrence Lake*, Lutsen, Mahtowa, Pike Lake, Proctor, Sawyer, Silver Bay, Foxborro (Wisconsin), Side Lake, Superior (Wisconsin), Toivola, Two Harbors
- District 14** - Effie, International Falls, Nett Lake

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

District Meeting Location Information

District 1
2nd Sunday of even months, 2:00 p.m.
Fertile Community Center
101 S. Mill St., Fertile, MN 56540

District 2
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

Please accept my apology for not having an report in out last Northern Light. I had a major health issue that prohibited me from writing the report! Dan, thank you for the note in the last issue of the newsletter explaining this.

Our Fall Assembly went great. The greeting staff, registration staff, coffee staff as well as all the other people who participated did great and my hats off to all who participated.

I think we must work harder at getting our GSR'S to participate. As officers at our GSR'S orientation we worked hard explaining duties, service structures pamphlets, service manual, treasury etc, We tried to convey that you people sitting at these chairs are and will be the voice of Alcoholics Anonymous . Alcoholism is not going away and we will need future leaders to carry our singleness of purpose message to new groups, new GSR'R, public luncheons, cooperation with professional people, speaker meetings and many more never FORGETTING AND OFFERING help to the suffering DRUNK.

One of my main concerns is the number of GSR'S that participate at our election process. We have, 7 to 10% of our GSR''s in attendance. I cannot express enough that we need more GSR'S. We, as officers, chairs dcm's need to get out to the groups to explain to them how IMPORTANT THEY ARE.

I am very encouraged to see our election outcome. Jim will do a great job as our delegate. He had experience filling in for me when I was ill. Jake, this job will be a breeze after your chair position. Kelly, bless you, I feel you have the hardest and the most duties of all the area officers. I have worked with you and have seen your dedication and hard work. You have always been prepared and that is very important as the chair. Our next two officers have pretty big shoes to fill. Mary our secretary and Steve our treasurer are very dedicated members of Area 35 and will do excellent jobs. Thank you all for serving and also want to thank all for standing PLEASE,PLEASE always remember our triangle of Recovery, Unity and Service, we need every member to carry our message.

I have sent out WCR trustee nominee to Warren S., Secretary of the nominating committee. Our trustee nominee is Charlie C.. I have asked Warren to send me an e-mail acknowledging receipt of resume. It must be received by Jan, 1st 2012. You can never be too early

I spoke to you about the 2011 survey. Mary at GSO informed me that they have received over 10,000 surveys. Now they are working on the process to review and document all the surveys and put together a 2011 survey for review at the 62nd General Service Conference

Please make sure you send all the forms for your district, groups and GSR'S. Make sure they are accurate and legible so that you will all receive your packets. The faster you send the forms in the faster you will receive your packets.

I guess I am serving as a lame-duck and probably no words could explain it better. I hope to be able to participate in our last forum but I do need a ride since I do not drive.

Thank you for Everything
YOU are all the BEST
Jon C.

Alternate Delegate's Report

Greetings Area 35,

I would be absolutely remised if I did not start off this report by sincerely thanking you for the opportunity to serve Area 35 as your Panel 62 Delegate. When I stepped to the podium after being selected at the Fall Assembly, I was overwhelmed by the realization that I, a falling down drunk who was not responsible enough to do anything in life, had now been entrusted to carry the voice of hundreds of groups in our Northern Area. I want you to know that I take the responsibility seriously and that I will do my utmost to serve Area 35 with the same enthusiasm, integrity, and willingness that have been displayed by those who have come before me. It is a privilege and honor to server Area 35.

It has been a bit of a whirlwind since the Fall Assembly but all in a good way. I have a schedule for the Area 35 service workshop and am confirming with the presenters. I will be in contact with Mike J., our incoming Alt. Delegate, as to the agenda and format for the weekend. He will be responsible for moderating the event but I want to give it him with all the pieces necessary to ensure a great workshop. The event will be held at the Brainerd Hotel and Conference center in Brainerd on January 21st and 22nd. Please remember to make reservations as early as possible as there are limited hotels in the surrounding area that weekend. The flier is available on the website and a format will be added to the flier within the next week or so. Thanks to all the districts and individuals who agreed to present at this year's workshop.

Our final Zonal Forum was held October 9th at the Perham Alano Club for Zone 2. I want to thank Jim S. and all the members of District 3 who helped to coordinate the event. There were approximately 26 people in attendance and evaluations indicate the forum was well received overall. Based on evaluations from the past four forums over the last rotation, there appears to be an overwhelming consent that they are useful and appreciated by those attending. The average attendance at forums this past rotation has been 20-25 individuals so continued work by DCM's and AA members in each district may help to improve this attendance even more.

I will be attending the upcoming Area Committee Meeting in December and will have materials for Jake to pass on regarding the position. I will also be working to meet with Jon and or any other past delegates to gain a better understanding of my role in the upcoming rotation. I thank you for this opportunity to be of service.

In Love and Service,
Jim K.

Area Chair's Report

Hi Everyone,

Well here we are the end of an exciting rotation, if not for you it has been for me. I want to thank you all for making these 2 years as smooth for me as possible. I enjoyed working with some of the most passionate people in AA and serving as Area Chair for Area 35. I hope I didn't screw things up too bad. A friend of mine Butch G, now passed, used to say that we may not always accomplish much but if we can do no harm we have done well.

We as an area have survived our Delegate Jon's health problems, my own health problems, chairs with injuries and babies being born. We are alive and well. I am glad that we have a loving God that watches over us and directs us.

The Are Assembly turned out well with the elections being so awesome to be a part of and watch. Thank you for electing me as your Alt Delegate, once again I will ask God to give me strength and guide me. As I write this...late of course I am going in tomorrow for another surgery at St. Mary's. I will do my best to return healthy. I attended the Palo open and enjoyed the speakers who are both good friends of mine and the food was great. I had the opportunity to get over to Perham with Steve L. and we had a great trip (by plane). Jim and his group did a great job setting up and we had a nice turn out. We met some great people from the area and hopefully shared some pertinent information. As most of you know I can get off track.

We have managed to rebuild our finances this rotation...thank you groups and Sarah, by being prudent and setting up our new financial oversight committee. I have tried to bring fellowship together with service and some enjoyment into the way we serve. I hope that will continue. We are in this together. None of us has to be alone. Let's keep it simple and not louse it up with a lot of things that have nothing to do with carrying the message.

May God Bless you all and keep you safe.

Michael "Jake" J.

Treasurer's Report

Greetings Area 35! I am happy to report I attended our last zonal forum for this rotation and I hope it was as enjoyable for those who attended from zone 3 as it was for me! They had the grill going and burgers ready when we pulled up. We had some information shared, questions answered, and trivia told. I was impressed by the turn-out (we had multiple GSRs present). I was also pleased with the participation and sharing of information. I hope to see these members again at the Winter Workshop. While we were at the forum, the question was asked: how much would it take for the General Service Office and Area 35 to be fully self-supporting. It's been awhile since I shared this information, so here you go! We would need each member of AA to contribute \$6.29 per year, or each registered group to send \$137.45 per year, or \$11.50 per month, to AAWS to cover the costs of services provided by the General Service Office.

Next, we would need the 8,735 individual AA members of Northern MN to contribute \$4.60 to Area 35 per year to cover costs of services provided; or, we would need the 577 registered groups in Northern MN to contribute \$69 per year, or \$5.76 per month, or \$1.33 a week to Area 35 to cover costs of services provided.

So, you can see that it is in each of our interests to encourage every individual member to take advantage of the birthday plan each year, and every registered group to contribute regularly, for in doing so we reduce the financial burden on everyone! There will always be some times, some groups, and some individuals that are not capable of contributing, but if we all work together by sending a little extra for those who can't, we would have no problem becoming fully self-supporting at GSO as well as Area 35. So please, share this with the groups and individuals in your districts. Please help by encouraging each group and each individual to engage in the birthday plan, where you share your gratitude to AA as a whole once a year by sending in an annual individual birthday contribution to Area 35 (perhaps of about \$4.60, the annual cost of services to members), or to GSO (perhaps of about \$6.29 per year to cover costs of those services). Encourage your groups to support the entities that make many of our available services better, and provide other services we couldn't provide for ourselves, by sending contributions of \$5.76 per month to Area 35, and \$11.50 per month to GSO.

Thank you for letting me be of service.

May all be well with you in the future.

Sarah K.

Secretary's Report

Greeting everyone in Area 35,

I hope everyone is doing well. The 2011 Fall Assembly Minutes have been sent out by email to the members of Area 35, GSO, and the West Central Regional Trustee. If you have any questions about the minutes, please feel free to contact me at secretary@area35.org. If anyone would like to be added (or should be a part of) to my email distribution list for the Area 35 Minutes, flyers, and any other related Area information; please give me your name and email address. If you do not have access to email and would like to receive the Area 35 Minutes by mail, give me your name and address. On October 29th I attended my final Zonal Forum as Area 35 Secretary at the Alano Club in Perham, MN. We had a great turn and some wonderful discussion. I always feel as though I leave the Zonal Forum learning something even though I am going to present. I was able to get some great ideas for things I can do when I start my rotation as DCM for District 5. If you have not had a chance to attend a Zonal Forum, please try to make it during the next rotation. I want to thank Districts 3 for their hospitality at the Zonal Forum. I had such a wonderful time.

Yours in Service,

Heidi R.

Area 35 Secretary

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Information

Thank you all for allowing me to serve Area 35 as PI Chair in this 2010-2011 rotation.

I attended the West Central Regional Forum from September 9-11 in Davenport, Iowa. Attending this forum allowed me to interact with and hear presentations from many individuals. These individuals included: Ken B.- West Central Regional Trustee; Ward E.- Class A Trustee and Chairman of the General Service Board; Phyllis H. - General Manager, General Service Office; and Ami B. - AA Grapevine Inc., Executive Editor. I was also privileged to participate as recording secretary in a workshop chaired by Jim K. on “Our Primary Purpose- How Important?”

At one point in the forum I expressed a concern at the microphone that a Trustees Committee on the Conference Agenda seems to play a major gate- keeping role in selecting items for the General Service Conference Agenda. Ken B., our West Central Regional Trustee very much agreed with my comment. This is a major concern because the selection of agenda items plays a major role in dictating the future of AA.

I particularly enjoyed some of the closing comments from Past Trustees. Some of these comments include the following statements.

What am I willing to do for AA- Have I done all that I have been asked to do?

We need to share our service experience- bring someone else along.

We can disagree but not be disagreeable.

Most important person any AA room is the newcomer.

An informed group conscience .is what this is al about

Controversy is ok- we all love AA

We, (AA) will be around as long as God wants us to.

There is no us and them. Working together- this is all us.

If you are willing to serve- God will provide the time!

If you are eligible and don't stand- that's my will. God qualifies the chosen- doesn't choose the qualified.

292 registered/ attended the forum- more than half-165 were attending their first forum

I also attended the Area 35 Fall Assembly on October 1 -2 in Bemidji, MN. We discussed some interesting issues at this assembly, such as the advantages and disadvantages of holding area assemblies at Native American Casinos. I chaired the PI/CPC break-out session at this assembly. I would like to congratulate the individuals who were elected to Area officer positions.

I am continuing to work with Explore MN and Area 36 on making AA meeting information available in the Highway/Freeway Plazas in the State of MN.

In Service,

Roger R.

Correction's Report

Greetings Area 35,

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of another rotation and this will be my last report to the Northern Light as your Area 35 Corrections Chair. It truly has been an honor and a privilege to serve. When I look back over the last two years I am truly grateful for the opportunity I was given to be just a small part of what we do everyday in Alcoholics Anonymous, carrying the message of hope to the still suffering alcoholic. My duties have taken me into some of the prisons in northern Minnesota where I have met many individuals that have asked for our help. I was amongst hundreds of inmates as they walked through the Transitional Fair's collecting what information they could in order to “make it on the outside.” Many times I heard stories from some of those inmates that brought tears to my eyes. I am grateful that Alcoholics Anonymous was there to help restore hope to those that asked by offering our literature, our contact program and most of all our program of recovery. I also had the privilege to meet some of the wardens and several of the prison staff that I corresponded with during my rotation. I often heard from them what a wonderful program Alcoholics Anonymous is. They have always treated us with the utmost respect and thanked us for the service that we do and continue to do in the prisons. I also had the opportunity to work together with Larry F. Area 36 Corrections Chair from southern Minnesota at these Transitional Fair's and Mary M. Area 36 Correctional Facilities Contact Program Coordinator that sends me the many contact requests from the inmates releasing from southern Minnesota correctional facilities to the northern area. They are two wonderful committed individuals to Alcoholic Anonymous and I am grateful that our paths crossed in service together.

I want to also take this time to thank all the District Corrections Chairs, DCM's, GSR's, volunteers who continue to go into our correctional facilities and those willing to be an AA contact for inmates being released. Through our action committee meetings, workshops and assemblies I have met and witnessed many individuals that are committed to make sure we continue to carrying the message of hope into our correctional facilities in northern Minnesota. We could not continue to do this work without your help! Our need is still great however, for volunteers willing to do this form of 12 step work. I have often said that some of the best meetings I have attended have been in a correctional facility. My prayer is that we get more individuals willing to go in and more willing to be of service to Alcoholics Anonymous. And yes, service has kept me busy, sometimes busier than I care to be but the end result has always been the same, in giving I receive. Thank you Area 35 for the confidence and support I received from all of you, starting from the groups for your financial support to fulfill my duties, to the Area Officers and other Committee Chairs I served with. To all of you a very heart felt thank you! Wherever your journey may take you next, may you always feel the presence of a loving God.

In love and service,
Kelly D.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS Continued!

Webmaster’s Report

It's only been through the grace of God and the program and fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous that I haven't found it necessary to take a drink.

I’ve been busy keeping the meeting list up to date with correct and current information from Laurie.
I’ve been busy screening and posting meeting events posted on the calendar.
There is a small glitch with Maps Available both for new meeting locations and with fliers, working diligently trying to find the problem and fix it.

We have been improving the new/change meeting form to fit Area35’s needs.

Paypal is now up and running. You can find it from the Area officers Tab. The vig is high though. For those who don’t know Vig is how much Paypal makes on each transaction.

Donation	Receive	Collects
\$5.00	\$4.59	\$0.41
\$10.00	\$9.48	\$0.52
\$15.00	\$14.37	\$0.63
\$20.00	\$19.26	\$0.74
\$25.00	\$24.15	\$0.85
\$40.00	\$38.82	\$1.17
\$50.00	\$48.60	\$1.40
\$75.00	\$73.05	\$1.95
\$100.00	\$97.50	\$2.50

I want to thank Heidi for doing a great job in formatting all the Trusted Servant Guidelines.

Trusted Servant Guidelines are now added to the Area 35 Website in the Area Officers tab.

We are still looking at recoding the Meeting list page to be able to be more printer friendly
Thank you for sending me to the Regional Forum in Davenport, IA. There were @ 298 people registered. I went to two workshops: PI/CPC and Anonymity in the Digital age. People commented on what a nice informative user friendly web site we have.

A big issue facing AA is anonymity being broken because of Facebook, Twitter and other online social networks. Everyone knows what Alcoholic means. How do we educate people on what anonymity means to and for the fellowship. It’s half of our name. Educating our members on what anonymity means can eradicate this issue. How often does your group discuss traditions? Especially Tradition 11 & 12.

If you have an event that you would like posted on the Area35 website please e-mail them to me or upload through the website. Please, when making fliers remember to give a physical address like 123 recovery circle NOT just a location like at the Town Hall or Community Center. And please upload fliers to me in PDF or Word Doc formats.

Humbly in service
Steven L.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS Continued!**Grapevine**

Good Morning to everyone: I am submitting my final report to Area 35 as your Grapevine Chair. The Grapevine Newsletter just came out. There was a copy of a statement made by

Bill W. back in 1949. It is as true today as it was then: “Many of us still take the basic unity of AA for granted. We seem to forget that the whole of modern society is on a dangerous...dry bender.”

Gratitude is the theme of the November issue as many of you will know by the time the newsletter is printed. Grapevine will again publish some articles from the digital archives including

Bill W’s “A suggestion for Thanksgiving”

Dateline Grapevine has a new name – Grapevine Newsletter. Name change is the only change. FREE STANDARD SHIPPING ON ALL GRAPEVINE PRODUCTS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE

AAGRAPEVINE.ORG STORE FROM 11/28/11 THROUGH 12/12/11. Just enter the coupon code GRAPE upon checkout.

The Grapevine catalog is now available on printable PDF version and Excel Version on the website on the Service/GvR page in the Tools and Resource section for our convenience.

Next issues of the Grapevine

December 2011 – Lovin in the Holidays January 2012 – Young People issue February 2012 - Sex and Sobriety.

Bob and I will eventually be moving to Area 36 where there are some dark districts and will probably be involved in one way or another to be of service. I have had the privilege and honor of being of service to Area 35 about the past 8 years following two years in the district. The fellowship in Area 35 has been awesome. My message to anyone that has 2 years of sobriety is to get involved in your district and follow up with service to the area. You may not have any idea of what you will be getting into; how to do the job; and say Why ME? You will soon learn that you may not seem qualified but you soon will be. The change and growth that you will obtain through service work cannot be found in any other organization. I know that I will never be able to pay the Area back for all the growth and experience I have obtained while doing service work. I can only try and pass it on or pay it forward.

I want to thank each and everyone of you for all the help you have given me. Every day I have had doing service work is a day I stayed sober. How can I say thanks for that.

Yours in service

Dee K.

Literature

Greetings first I would like to thank DeeDee B, Mike B, Jeff C, and all the others that helped at the Fall Assembly. They did a great job. I can see now why Doctors said NO you can not go to Bemidji and I am sure glad that I listened. As some of you have heard after this rotation we are not going to be a servant to Area 35. But that does not mean that we will not do any service work. Where we plan on moving there is dark distracts and will see if we can get something going there. The eBook should be up and running for those that use a mobile reader in mid November. Some things that happened in the last 2 years that have had a lasting impression on me. The fellow that had to work 21 days straight to get 3 days to go to the January workshop. The FedEx driver that wanted to know what was in all the boxes that he was delivering and then asking for a couple pamphlets for a friend and stopping several months later and thanking me and saying “I’ve been sober 60 days now” The elderly lady that wanted 2 books and after figuring the cost went to a table and dumped everything out of her purse to make sure she had enough money for gas to get home and coming back and saying I have only enough for 1 book. I gave her both and said—”Pay it forward” and she has been back to every area event. The person that was going through a bad divorce, the attitude and actions then, and 4 months later - what a change, walking tall with head up. I can not make change—can’t count. Now I can. Checking my orders to make sure I am getting what I really want. After the first area function I thought what did I get myself into!! You get to sit in the back and talk to everybody. Talking with people on the phone and trying to get what they want sent the cheapest way. Answering questions about how to make an order. There is a lot of people that are willing to help -all I have to do is ask and that is not easy for me. I was raised to take care of myself learned to do things on my own and not asking for help until it came to getting and staying sober. Since then that has gotten easier. This has been an honor and privilege to be of service to AREA 35 and thanks for allowing me to serve

Yours in service

Bob K.

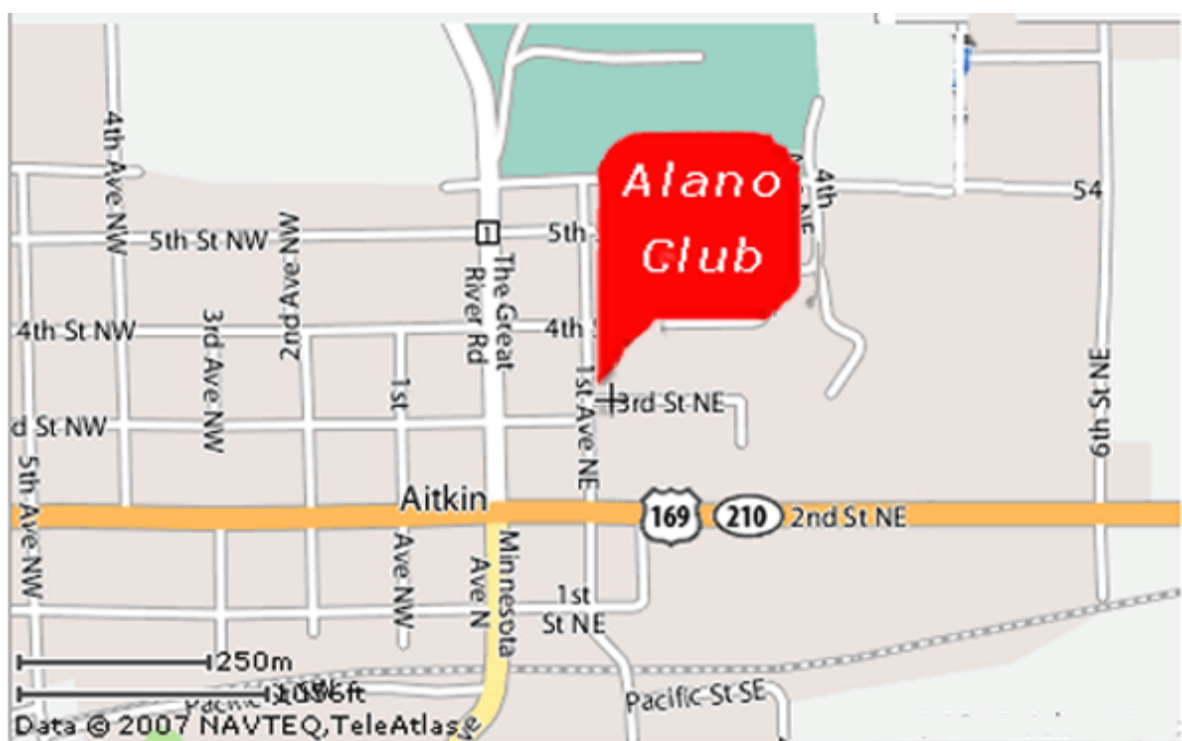
Inclement Weather Procedure For Area 35 Events

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.
7. Post procedure in Northern Lights.
8. Chair remains available and in close contact as he or she is the focal point and main contact he or she must make the decision, and be available for calls.

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

Hello all, I just had the full display set up at the Saint Cloud Round Up and was very well received with a tremendous amount of interest. There is still a huge amount of myth and misinformation floating around in our fellowship but I think I managed to dispel some. The biggest confusion seems to be with the pre-publication multi-lith and the First Edition of the Big Book. I also gave a tour of the Archives display on Friday night before the speakers started. This was the first time I have been asked to do this and the reception was tremendous. I hope I will be asked to do a tour again. I will be doing a joint display with Area 36 at Founders Day in St. Louis Park at the end of November. I will also be recording the Zone Workshop in St. Cloud. The next full display will be at the Superior Round-Up in April.

I look forward to serving with the incoming rotation and enjoyed serving with those who are rotating out. I am available to any district or locale that wants an Archives workshop or history talk. My calendar for 2012 is filling up quickly and I am already committed for Founders Day in June

The answer to last issues question **“What phrase could not have appeared in the First edition Big Book in the chapter To Wives?”** The answer is **“Since this book was first published, A.A. has released thousands of alcoholics from asylums and hospitals of every kind”. In the multi-lith the phrase read “About a year ago a certain state institution released six chronic alcoholics.”**

This issues question is; **What was the title of the second Alcoholics Anonymous article Jack Alexander wrote for the Saturday Evening Post?**

Thanks to all for this opportunity to be of service, Brad I.

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

No report submitted!

ARCHIVE CHAIR

Last archives report for this rotation. I have nothing new to report other than I have thoroughly enjoyed the past two years. It was very much a learning experience. It was good to see so many people standing up for area officers and chairs at the fall assembly. I think we have a good bunch of people and I'm sure they will do a wonderful job.

Yours in service,
Art A.

Treatment

No report submitted!

Group Records

Hi everyone, I hope everyone is having a great fall. I look forward to seeing everyone at ACM in December. I continue to update and enter new group information in the GSO Database and passing them on to Steve L. the Area 35 Webmaster so that he can

continue to update the aameetinglocator as well. When there are problems with the aameetinglocator that I can't fix, I email Mike S. so that he can fix them. Just a reminder, if you want your meeting to be on either website your group must be registered with GSO and must be active. To be considered active you must have either a GSR or primary contact and at least one meeting time. There is a form on the Area 35 Website for you to fill out, that you can either email to me or snail mail it. If anyone has any questions about their group or has any updates that need to be made, please don't hesitate to contact me. If you have an AA flier that you would like inserted into the Northern Light I need 600 of them and a check for \$75 made out to postmaster.

Thanks for allowing me to serve.

Laurie R.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

Northern Light Editor

Hello fellow servants,

It is with much gratitude that I leave this rotation as Northern Light Editor. It was with some apprehension that I agreed to stand when asked. I was not sure it was something I could do. The truth is that it was made easier by the ones who fulfilled it before me including my sponsor who is a past Area Editor. Thank you all for allowing me to serve and for the words of encouragement along the way!

In this issue you will want to check closely in Archivist Brad's report on the previous page - He answers the previous issues' **History Challenge** and asks another History Challenge question!

I was able to add one article to this issue, and an extra page just to test your AA knowledge, and for fun. On **page 14** you will see a challenging **AA related Crossword Puzzle** submitted by Andrew R. from St. Cloud. On **page 15** you will see an article I saved for the last issue in our Panel 60 rotation **Dr. Bob's Last Message**.

The next issue will have reports from our new rotation of Area Officers and Action Chairs. 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!

Signing Off
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 Fun Time

This is the second crossword submitted by an AA member who talked to me a while back at an Area function about adding it to the Northern Light. The answers for the puzzle from the last issue is on the bottom right. Of course answers for this one will be forthcoming in the next issue!

AA Crossword Puzzle #2 Andrew R., St. Cloud

ACROSS

1. Understand, as AA principles
6. Lbs. and others
9. Collegeville neighbor, to locals
10. "___-Haw"
11. "That is how we ___ so long as we keep in fit spiritual condition": p. 85
12. Brainerd-to-Duluth dir.
13. Did some Ninth Step work, say
15. It's the spiritual foundation of all of AA's Twelve Traditions
18. They're on many AA's Fourth Step resentment lists
19. Fishermen wield one
20. On one's toes
24. Chemical suffix
25. Tradition often quoted by group treasurers
26. Football great Dawson
27. Atomic trial, for short

DOWN

1. It "May be the most important job in AA," according to a pamphlet
2. Hwy., e.g.
3. 1977 Steely Dan album
4. Confident comeback
5. Part of many AA group treasuries
6. "...for the frightful day came ___ drank once more": pg. 7
7. One of the 12 Concepts, e.g.

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8
9						10		
11						12		
			13		14			
15	16	17						
18								
19				20		21	22	23
24				25				
26				27				

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8. Low-class, like some old drinking haunts
14. Folded breakfast dish
15. When Area 35's Spring Assembly is generally held
16. "___ among us has been able to maintain anything like perfect adherence to these principles": p. 60
17. Of days gone by
21. Holiday lead-in
22. Hi-___ graphics
23. Explosive stuff

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

A	S	I	A			F	A	R
B	I	L	L	W		I	T	O
S	T	E	P	E	I	G	H	T
				E	T	H	I	C
	B	A	S	K	E	T	S	
T	I	T	L	E				
A	K	R	O	N	O	H	I	O
L	E	I		D	R	B	O	B
E	R	A			G	O	N	E

Northern Light Article

As our rotation for this panel for Area 35 comes to a close I as your Northern Light Editor have decided to leave you with this final article.

Dr. Bob's Last Message

Presented at
The First International Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous
July 28 - 30, 1950 at Cleveland, Ohio

In Memoriam**Dr. Robert H. S.**

August 8, 1879 - November 16, 1950
Co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous

"My good friends in AA and of AA. I feel I would be very remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to welcome you here to Cleveland not only to this meeting but those that have already transpired. I hope very much that the presence of so many people and the words that you have heard will prove an inspiration to you - not only to you, but may you be able to impart that inspiration to the boys and girls back home who were not fortunate enough to be able to come. In other words, we hope that your visit here has been both enjoyable and profitable."

"I get a big thrill out of looking over a vast sea of faces like this with a feeling that possibly some small thing that I did a number of years ago, played an infinitely small part in making this meeting possible. I also get quite a thrill when I think that we all had the same problem. We all did the same things. We all get the same results in proportion to our zeal and enthusiasm and stick-to-itiveness. If you will pardon the injection of a personal note at this time, let me say that I have been in bed five of the last seven months and my strength hasn't returned as I would like, so my remarks of necessity will be very brief.

"But there are two or three things that flashed into my mind on which it would be fitting to lay a little emphasis; one is the simplicity of our Program. Let's not louse it all up with Freudian complexes and things that are interesting to the scientific mind, but have very little to do with our actual AA work. Our 12 Steps, when simmered down to the last, resolve themselves into the words love and service. We understand what love is and we understand what service is. So let's bear those two things in mind.

"Let us also remember to guard that erring member - the tongue, and if we must use it, let's use it with kindness and consideration and tolerance."

"And one more thing; none of us would be here today if somebody hadn't taken time to explain things to us, to give us a little pat on the back, to take us to a meeting or two, to have done numerous little kind and thoughtful acts in our behalf. So let us never get the degree of smug complacency so that we're not willing to extend or attempt to, that help which has been so beneficial to us, to our less fortunate brothers. Thank you very much."

**Area 35 Northern Minnesota
October 1-2, 2011 Fall Assembly
Sanford Center, Bemidji, MN**

Call to Order Open with the Serenity Prayer

Why we need a Conference- Jake J.

Recognize Past Delegates- JoAnne N. (Panel 58), Jerry S. (Panel 56), Charlie C. (Panel 54), Tim C. (Panel 52), Tom A. (Panel 50), Susie A. (Panel 48), Bill P. (Panel 46), Bruce B. (Panel 44), Bob J. (Panel), and Scott J. (Panel 38)

Approve 2011 Spring Assembly Minutes: ***Motion made to approve the 2011 Spring Assembly Minutes. All in favor, passed unanimously.***

Add To Agenda:

No speaker meeting on Saturday.

Reimbursement for stand-in literature chairs

OFFICER REPORTS

DELEGATE - Jon C.

I hope all of you are looking forward to this Assembly. It is so important to get as many GSR's as possible to this assembly because on Sunday morning this is shifting to a voting assembly. The voting members are the current Officers, Committee Chairs, DCM's and last but not least the GSR's or ALT. GSR's, you are the biggest body of members in the room, and you could, and should be the main body to elect our next rotation of Officers. I thank you all willing to stand for the positions and for the willingness to serve Area 35. This is not my quote, but Area 35 rocks! If you don't mind, I would like to spend some time on topics for the G.S.O. The Grapevine, what else? The Grapevine will probably show declines in subscriptions and products as we move forward with upcoming strategies. Factors are the downward trends of the print publishing issue and the lack of new and expanded engagement through the web. The Grapevine has not yet activated the new engagement initiatives. Because of my health, I was not able to give delegate report backs. I am sorry for that. I asked in New York what the definition of engagement is, and someone said promotion.

Financial Reports for Grapevine/Lavina

Grapevine 6 month loss of \$22,563

Total income, including interest from Reserve Fund was \$883,497

Total expenses were \$906,060

Lavina 6 month loss of \$34,137

Total income was \$51,773

Financial Reports for AAWS

Big Book Sales

\$904,368 in sales, with \$169,454, or 18.7% by non-AA entities

Literature Sales

6 month gross profit of \$4,099,000, which was an \$80,000 increase from last year's contributions.

Contributions

6 month actual was \$3,007,000, which was \$21,000 above last year

Expenses

6 month personal expenses were \$4,128,000

6 month operating expenses were \$2,669,000

Area 35 contributions to GSO have been on a steady decline over the last two years. The first year our treasury was almost deleted, and must thank every member of Area 35 for stepping up and contributing to give our Area 35 capitol to do service work for the area. It is my hope that this next rotation can do better encouraging GSO contribution. I think some groups and members just do not understand services provided by GSO. One of our past delegates pointed out also that it is imperative that officers get out to local groups and workshops to explain those benefits from contributing so members can ask questions and get answers. Area 35 was also asked to participate in 2011 Public Information Survey Questionnaire. Seven groups were selected and four were active, so I sent information to the four groups, and they sent it back. The information has been forwarded to the GSO. Before I close, I will tell you that at times I could feel tension on the conference floor. There seemed to be friction between the GSB, AAWS and Grapevine Board. I got up and said something seems to be broken around here and it should be fixed. One staff member got and said there is nothing broken and nothing to fix. When the agenda item concerning the two Grapevine Director vacancies came up, then the pot got hot. The Grapevine Board's nominating committee interviewed and recommended two nominees to the full Board. Their names and resumes of nominees were forwarded to the trustee's nominating committee for approval by the GSB and GSC. The Board voted "no" and GSC committee never brought it to the floor. I was a very unusual set of circumstances. I believe there is trouble in paradise. I guess I rattled on long enough. I wanted to keep this report short but what the hell, it is my last hoorah. Thank you all for you support and letting me serve Area 35 as your delegate. In Service, God Bless, Jon C.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE – Jim K.

Dear Area 35 Members, first of all I wish to thank the Area for financially supporting me to attend this weekend's event. I am looking forward to a great weekend and seeing all of you. It is always so wonderful to see some many members gathered together to help carry out our primary purpose, that of carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. I was able to sit in on a Delegate's conference call with members of our West Central Region prior to the Regional Forum to discuss happenings around the region. It also allowed an opportunity hear back from Ken B. after the last Board meeting and to discuss the upcoming Regional Forum. I want to thank the Area for supporting me to go to the West Central Regional Forum in Davenport, Iowa. I was able to attend all of the weekend and have a report available outlining my experience there. It was great to see a lot of members from Area 35 at this event. I was asked to moderate a breakout session on, "Our Primary Purpose: How important is it," due to Jon's absence at the forum. It was also quite helpful to get a chance to sit down with the delegates from the region and discuss works being done throughout the West Central Region. The 36th Annual Area 35 Service Workshop will be held January 21st and 22nd at the Brainerd Hotel and Conference Center. Rooms are available to be reserved and I suggest reserving room as early as possible as this is also the same weekend as the Jaycee's Ice Fishing Extravaganza. Our block of rooms will be held until January 1st. Fliers are available on the website and here this weekend. Our guest for the weekend will be Ken B., current West Central Regional Trustee. I need volunteers from 5 districts to present at this year's workshop as well as three volunteers who are area chairs or past delegates. This will be a slightly different format based on evaluation results last year. This should be a great event and I hope to see you all there. Finally, I want to thank all of the districts that continue to send me their monthly business meeting notes. It is always inspirational to hear what is going on in individual districts and see what activities they are doing to carry the message to those who still suffer. Thanks again for this opportunity to serve Area 35. Yours in Service, Jim K

CHAIR - Michael J.

Hi everyone, hope you are all well. This has been a long year for the Area Committee with many difficulties to overcome. I believe its Gods way of keeping us humble and realizing we are not in this fellowship alone. It has been a time of healing since the Spring Assembly and taken me some time to start feeling normal again. It was another learning experience as this was the first time I had to deal with my health and now I know that you can only heal so fast just like recovery, it is a process. I have enjoyed attending some Round-ups, speaker meetings, and a hog roast over the summer. Speaking time with friends in the fellowship has been great. Just attending a meeting where a young friend of mine received a year coin and it brought tears to my eyes as I have watched his struggles. I attended the forum with 2 Jerry's and a Butch. Wonderful travel companions they be. The forum was informative and another great learning experience. Once again I love watching how God sets the agenda no matter what our plans. Our trustee Ken B. opens the forum and does a good job leading us all weekend. He is proof that you don't have to be great orator to lead. The Chairman of the General Service Board, Ward Ewing is really down to earth and impresses me with his heart and caring for AA. Our general sharing sessions had questions and topics about who is responsible to inform groups that it is not ok to change the stops and what the General Service Office responsibilities are and what they can and cannot do. We talked about when Apps will be ready for the Big Book and 12 by 12. Also who is responsible for signing rental agreements and such with clubhouses? Our new Grapevine Director seems very knowledgeable and willing to take our magazine into the future. Our job is to make sure it's done with spiritual principals. There was a lot of questioning and defending of processes at GSO and both sides handled it well. I don't think everyone got the response they wanted but just as in our entire sobriety if we air our thoughts with God and others we get healed. I attended workshops on self-support: do money and spirituality really mix and concerns for AA's future. Both had good discussion and showed that people were trying to keep spirituality at the forefront and let God pull the strings. The workshop on Concerns for AA's Future looked like it was going to be all about concerns over the General Service Board and structure but turned towards our responsibilities at the top of the triangle as AA members. One of the things that stood out near the end of the forum was the comment that we have lack of leaders in AA today. I believe that people are determining their roles in sobriety rather than having God guide them to where he can use them best. Please join us as we journey together in the fellowship of AA. Thanks for allowing me the privilege of serving you. I have enjoyed the last 2 years with all its blessings and frustrations. I hope I have fulfilled the role God has asked me to play.

Yours in fellowship and love Michael (Jake) J

Spring Assembly Evaluations

31 from GSRs, 3 from DCMs, and 7 from other

1. How did you like the assembly? Great, don't like casinos, ran smooth, good participation, facility great, helped me understand the role of GSR, liked breakout sessions and ask it basket, and better than previous area I was in.

2. How can we better meet your needs? Redundancy in discussing agenda items, should discuss together in large group, GSR sharing session questions should be answered, more places to plug in computers, follow timer, get agenda out earlier, match experience GSRs with new ones, presenters better prepared, find away to shorten Saturday, too long everyone tired when voting, maybe start on Friday evening, and 1st assembly enjoyed it.

3. Other comments or suggestions. Clarification on voting members, little too long Saturday evening, thanks for having tables, do old and new business first, service and faculty was great, well organized, format and length Saturday not attractive to newcomers, have the agenda items and voting the primary item on Saturday, have only written reports from districts and chairs for spring assembly only, great job Jim, never enough time, maybe shorted the number of items discussed, emails collected by who and going where, GSRs cannot voice their opinion on all items, more food around to snack on, don't run sessions over an hour, hospitality room, and room should have fridge and microwave. I looked over the last Spring Assembly 2010 and many of the thoughts were the same as far as agenda items.

SECRETARY- Heidi R.

All reports from the Fall Assembly are due by October 14th with the Northern Light Reports being due November 1st. I have completed the August Committee Meeting Minutes so if you find errors or corrections, please let me know. If you are not getting the minutes by email and would like to, please send me your name and email address. Also if you do not have email, you can give me your address and I will send you the minutes by mail. The Area 35 Trusted Servant Guidelines have been added to the Area 35 website thanks to Steve. If you click on the tab "Area Officers" you will get a list of all the Area 35 positions. Then when you click on a specific position the guidelines for that position will be displayed. We were unable to fit all of the guidelines in the Northern Light; however, I did

(Continued on page 18)

(Continued from page 17)

email them to everyone on my distribution list. I also brought copies with and will have them displayed around the room for people to review. If you are considering a service position and/or asking someone to fill a service position please review these guidelines. Yours in service, Heidi

TREASURER - Sarah K.

Hello Area 35! Here are your period 5 numbers: period five income totaled \$3,078.71; we received \$3,000.53 in group contributions, \$68 in birthday contributions, and \$10.18 in interest. Happy birthday to all, and please pass on our gratitude for your support. Our period five expenses totaled \$2,118.10. A complete breakdown can be found in the period 5 "Detailed Expenditures" report available at the assembly on the back table. All DCMs and GSRs present should have collected these reports. If you need a copy of any financial report, feel free to contact me at treasurer@area35.org or 218-838-0960. In the race for group contributions, leading the pack is District 8 with \$2,591.66. Following close on District 8's heels is District 13 with \$2,277.36. Way to go! I don't know what the DCMs and GSRs in these districts are doing, but I'd love to hear how you're encouraging contributions! Please contact me with any seventh tradition success stories, or ways you've seen seventh tradition funds used to carry the message. Leading the charge in Birthday Contributions is District 13 with \$74. Nice work!! Birthday contributions are a great way for individual AA members to show their gratitude for this program once a year on their AA sobriety birthday by sending contributions to their group, district, Area, and GSO. We also received our first (real, not test) online contribution via the Paypal link on the Area 35 website. It happened to be a birthday contribution (this will appear on the next report). I set up the Paypal account the end of July, and Steve L. got the Paypal button up and working on our website in August. Thanks Steve. You can find a link to make an online contribution at the bottom of the page under the officers tab. Please feel free to make use of it, but know that there is a \$0.30 + 2.2% per transaction fee which Paypal deducts from each contribution. This doesn't cost much more than a stamp for small contributions, but can be rather costly with larger contributions. You might want to consider that fee when making your group contributions, as you do when paying for the stamp. NOTE: the PO Box for Area 35 will be changing in December. Keep your eyes open for the new mailing address. Until then, all mail-in contributions can be sent to: Area 35, PO Box 328, Brainerd, MN 56401. Online contributions can be made (for a fee) at: <http://www.area35.org/donate.html>

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS

LITERATURE-Bob K.

The first thing is a big thanks to Mike and Jeff for taking over by duties. Due to a broken knee cap I am not able to be there. Accidents happen so fast and it's not the fall that hurts it the sudden stop. Had surgery on Monday morning and got home Tuesday evening. I need to remind myself that doc gave me pain pills for a reason. Doc is talking 3 months for recovery. The other personal new is that I am not up for another committee position for the next rotation. We are putting our house up for sale and in May we will be moving out of Area 35. I have learned the importance of service work. We have a great area with lots of common sense and knowledge here. We need to use it to our advantage. In the Annual General Service Conference Report starting on page 14 there is "Presentations and Reports" which has short 1 to 1 ½ page talks that make good topics for a meeting. There is a new literature catalog that has the new pricing. The new digital literature sight will be up and running later in October. Yours in service Bob K.

Submitted by Randy A., DCM District 8

The meeting opened at 10:07 with the serenity prayer. Introductions were made with 6 members present. Mike B. the Literature Chair from District 4: They set-up at a Round Robin having a potluck with speakers and sold \$100 worth of literature. Jana the DCM from District 12 stated that things are moving at a slower pace in her district. They will be going to Silver Bay to host their next district meeting. A treatment center in the Duluth area is requesting copies of old Grapevines. Robin M. from District 8 said they are collecting old Grapevines and are making up beginners packet. They are also bringing Big Books to local libraries and colleges. Jake the literature chair from District 5 is also making beginners packets and distributing Grapevines to various places. They have 9 different pamphlets in their packets plus meeting schedules and a plastic card with the Serenity Pray and 12 steps. Jennifer H a member of literature committee stated that each group decides on making their own packets. Randy the DCM from District 8 attended the WCRAAF and included discussion on various topics such as Grapevine subscriptions, separate entities discussion, financial support to Grapevine and is it a violation of Tradition 9, a Facebook like to Grapevine, a reserve fund for Grapevine subscriptions, copyright materials in literature, and questions on losing our copyright to our 12 Concepts. There was good discussion and feedback from the committee members.

District 8 - Randy A.

On September 9th, 10th, and 11th we attended the West Central Regional Forum in Davenport, Iowa. I sat in on the "12 Concepts Workshop" and "Concern for AA's Future." Both of these workshops were well attended and had some very informative discussions. The topics covered were about the fellowships lack of understanding what AA is and Tradition problems – not understanding our spiritual principals and unity. One of the most intriguing presentations was from our Class A - Non-alcoholic Trustee, Ward Ewing. He spoke of the importance of the "Minority Opinion," "Right of Decision," and "Right of Participation" and that participation in an act of trust. Every voice in Alcoholics Anonymous matters. He also mentioned that the General Service Board will start doing an inventory process of the General Service Conference in October of 2012. The total attendance for the forum was 294 with 165 new attendees. We made it down there in record time as our Webmaster, Steve L. flew his airplane down with three other passengers aboard. I started getting motion sickness on the flight back home and felt very nauseated and almost barfed, but it was relieved when we landed. We had our last district meeting on September 8th in International Falls, MN with 15 groups represented and a total of 37 in attendance. Thanks to the host group "A New Foundation" for their hospitality and comfort for the district meeting. They even brought us a microphone to speak in as well as good food and snacks. It was an honor and privilege to be there for the first time in many years hosting a service event. We conducted our district elections utilizing the 3rd legacy procedures. The proctors for the elections were Past Delegate, Charlie C. and Area Webmaster, Steve L. Our newly elected DCM will be Rolene L. and our Alternate DCM will be Charles I. We were able to all of our positions and had seven election face offs and seven white ballots. We will have on the district committee nine women and five men out of a total of 15 positions. Thanks to District 8 for their monetary support to attend these pertinent service events and for their dedication and commitment to Alcoholics Anonymous. Money not spent will be returned to the district. Yours in service, Randy A.

District 12 - Jana M.

Greetings from District 12! We had our elections at our September District Meeting with Servando M. – DCM, Bob J. – Alternate DCM, and Rodney S. – Secretary. The Treasurer position is still open. Our current chair people are organizing their records and contacts to pass onto our next rotation. The other item we addressed on the agenda at our last meeting was the proposal for using district money to reimburse volunteers for fuel expenses involved in chairing treatment and corrections meetings. We asked the GSRs to bring this back to their groups at the last district meeting. The proposal passed. We also have a new service committee which is the Duluth Area Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous. Yours in service, Jana M.

TREATMENT-Robert (Butch) R. No report submitted

District 15-Sandy H. –

I am happy to report that I have 2 GSRs with me this weekend Marlene and Lisa. Also Pete the incoming DCM will be here tomorrow. The unmanned booth we had at the Stearns County Fair showed that quite a number of pamphlets were taken, which was a big change from last year. This year we updated all our pamphlets before the fair. District 15 donated 1 case of Big Books and 1 case of Daily Reflections to the Willmar Treatment Facility. Due to my daughter getting hit by a car, I was unable to attend the last district meeting. Our next district meeting is October 3rd at 8pm at the Albany Community Center. Everyone is welcome. Thank you for allowing me to be to serve, Sandy H.

District 9-Chuck R.

In July, we started out with the Delegate's report. It was a potluck with the CD of Jon's report. Attendance was good. District 16 was also a part of this event. We were inspired by a presentation for District 8 about their Beginner's Meeting. Since that time, we have had two planning meetings. At this time we are canvassing all the District 9 groups to determine the level of real participation. October 15th is the date of the Long-Timers Panel. The discussion will center on what sobriety was like 30 years ago; as all the panel will have at least 30 years of sobriety. We are encouraged by all the people who are white slipping their way into AA. At the last district meeting we held elections and all of our chairs have been filled. Our new DCM will be John F.

PUBLIC INFORMATION-Roger R.

Thank you to Area 35 for sending me to the West Central Regional Forum in Davenport, Iowa on September 9 to 11. The forum reminded me that we all have a responsibility to do as much as we can each day for AA. At this morning's, last Assembly break out session, we discussed the following with 10 attendees. PI activity in Districts 21, 7, 13, 8, 5, and 11 highlights of this discussion include: a new assistance line operation in District 7, a new Beginner's Meeting on the campus of St. Cloud State in District 13, a PI luncheon at Hibbing Fairview Hospital in District 8, vigorous PI activity in distribution of schedules and literature in District 5. I have followed up on an opportunity identified by District 13 to have AA meeting information disseminated at the 12 highway and freeway plazas in the state of Minnesota. Explore Minnesota has offered to hand-out a one page information sheet on AA meetings in our state to travelers at service counters. I presented a draft of this meeting information sheet to our committee this morning and am also collaborating with Area 36, Southern Minnesota on this initiative. We discussed the results and activities at this year's State Fair Booth (also see me Northern Light Report). The committee supports continuing our Area 35 participation in the AA State Fair Booth. The upcoming Area 35 Corrections, Treatment, CPC, and PI workshop is on November 19th in St. Cloud, District 13. It was suggested that this workshop be directed to assisting new incoming District Action committee Chairs. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your PI Chair, Roger.

District 7- Mark N. No report submitted

District 11-Gary H.

All commitments are being met. We have no volunteers for any positions in District 11 at this time. Yours in service Gary H.

GROUP RECORDS-Laurie R.

Hi everyone, the Northern Light was mailed on Monday. I continue to update the GSO database with new and updated group information and passing that information on to Steve our Area Webmaster. I also continue to update the aameetinglocator (which is Joint Area 35/36 meeting website). If you have any group changes that need to be made, there are forms on the table outside that you can fill out; otherwise the form is also on the Area 35 website. If you have any questions at all please don't hesitate to contact me. Also if anyone is interested in being Group Records Secretary talk to me. Finally, if you have an AA flyer that you want inserted in the Northern Light, I need 600 of them and a check for \$75 made out to postmaster. Thanks and Yours in Service Laurie R.

NORTHERN LIGHTS-Daniel R.

This morning in our Action Committee meeting we had our usual five with me, our Webmaster Steve, Laurie Group Records, Mary S. District 16 DCM, and Rodney P. DCM 2. We also had a PI and Newsletter Chair from District 7 that may be interested in an Area position and a GSR sit in. I did go to the Regional Forum in Davenport by plane with Steve L., Past Delegate Charlie C. and DCM 8 Randy A. Being my first trip in a small plane I was more than a little apprehensive but beside some good natured ribbing about not having enough parachutes for all of us, the typical Minnesota nice comments about how fuel cost were high and I might have to be dropped in lake superior, it was not too bad. Steve is actually a good pilot and asked quite often if we were doing OK. One of the jokes was that we were at cruising speed and altitude and were free to move about the

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cabin! What bothered me the most is before we took off was how Charlie bent down and kissed the ground. I did so when I got back home too! On Friday, September 9th the Conference opened with welcoming and opening by the Grapevine and World Services Board and GSO Staff. There were many people that were from Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and even Michigan that attended and participated. On Saturday, there were presentations from the AA Grapevine Board Director and AA Grapevine Executive Editor Publisher. Much was discussed about supporting the grapevine and the new ideas for the online version. I got to spend some time talking with our new Grapevine Editor. She was hired strictly for her publishing and business experience and did not come up in the service structure. I talked to her some about the grey pages and she did not seem to understand the problem. She just kept referring to the grapevine charter and how it says we it is a way to connect with outside sources for support. I read the charter later and agree that it does mention this but the problems that we have discussed at our past assemblies present issues that go beyond what is in the charter. I wrote her a letter outlining some of these issues such as links going out to questionable sites from the grapevine site! AA in the Digital Age is a huge discussion and will be the theme for the next rotation. The Big Book will be on iTunes for iPhone and iPod in November and much discussion about dealing with these outside entities. Saturday evening I attended the breakout for Anonymity and the Internet where there were much lively discussions about Facebook, Chat Groups and Email methods in service! On Saturday night they showed four great 8 min. videos in a row with teens talking about their drinking and recovery - very well done! One of the sites that was closed that puts up the "Daily Reflections" has opened again. Since this is my final Assembly report I want to thank all of you for allowing me to serve! Daniel R.

District 2-Rodney P.

Hello from District 2. We held our last district meeting September 11th with 15 in attendance of which 2 were newly elected GSR's. Our regular meeting was held, with discussion on District 5 proposals, prudence of spending Area funds at casino's or at other places, with smoking being a factor. Another item was discussed! The importance of election's being held this weekend. We also held our District elections, with all but three positions being filled. Kim B. was elected as the new DCM. In Service, Rodney

District 16 - Mary S.

District 16 held their elections on Wednesday, September 7th at the United Methodist Church in Grand Rapids. We have filled all our positions but the PI/CPC which will most likely be filled by December as a couple people have expressed an interest in this position. Our new DCM is here today and his name is Gene Villeneuve. Our Alternate DCM is Lynne L. Please welcome Gene and Lynne. On Saturday, October 8th our District is putting on a Workshop titled "Introduction to AA 101" which will cover the history of AA, the Present Day Structure of AA and how AA members can get involved in their groups and district and area. It's going to start at 10:00 am and end around 4:00 pm. It will be held at the Harris Township Hall in Grand Rapids and there will be a noon Pot-luck. Dan H. and Scott J. will be the Presenters. Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

CORRECTIONS - Kelly D.

We met this morning in our action committee meeting and there were 5 in attendance with representation from District's 9, 8, 4 and 13. We welcomed Nick, District 8 incoming Corrections Chair. Jerry, Corrections Chair for District 8 reported that all commitments are being met and their contact list is being filled with volunteers willing. Dee Dee, DCM for District 4 reported that their Corrections Chair has resigned however; they will be holding their elections for the next rotation and should have it filled. She also reported that they continue to bring meetings into the Alexandria Jail and they have started a woman's meeting in the Douglas County Jail. They have had some problems however due to the Correctional Facility requesting a half of days training in order to go in. Jeff, Corrections Chair for District 13 reported that they will be doing their elections in November. He reported that he is having trouble getting individuals willing to be a contact for inmates being released. He has sent fliers to all the groups asking for their help. He had two, one from Benton County and one from Stearns County that he sent letters to using the District PO Box as a return address. He also reported that the St. Cloud prison is in need of Big Books and he and another individual donated some along with some Daily Reflections. John, Corrections Chair for District 9 reported that Nerk is being covered with volunteers going in and Fred from his District will probably be their new incoming Corrections Chair for the next rotation. Butch, Area 35 Treatment Chair and I along with Roger, Area 35 PI Chair and Doug, Area 35 CPC Chair will be hosting our last Zonal Workshop in Zone 3 on November 19th at the St. Cloud Alano Club from 1:00-3:00 pm. A special thanks to Steve, DCM for District 13 and Roger, Area 35 PI Chair for their efforts in getting this workshop set up. I have sent an email along with the flier to all DCM's in those Districts to distribute among the groups. We are looking forward to it striking interest to many as we present a lot of information on what we do and what they can do to be of service to the still suffering alcoholic. I also made copies and they are out the table by registration. Butch and I had the opportunity to have the other 3 Workshops during our rotation in the other Zones the weekends of our Area 35 Assemblies which was a big cost savings to the Area along with good attendance. I would like to personally thank Butch and everyone that supported us in our efforts to continue to bring AA's message of hope to individuals in our correctional and treatment facilities through these workshops. And last, as my rotation is nearing an end I would like to thank you Area 35 for the opportunity I have been given to serve. It truly has been one heck of a ride! In love and service, Kelly D.

District 3 - Jim S.

It has been a quite time in district 3 since the last Area meeting as the summer winds down.

Currently we are fulfilling all of our treatment and corrections positions. Our only open position is Round Robin and I'm sure someone will step forward to fill that spot. We have recovered our treasurer's information that has been missing since our treas. disappeared last Dec. Gratefully no funds were missing. Our districts contributions are sufficient to complete our business through the end of the year.

District 4 – Dee Dee B.

Hello from District 4, on August 13th prior to our regular District meeting we held a special District 4 Officers meeting to open communications for the upcoming elections that will be held in October in Elbow Lake. We reviewed job duties from the Service Manual. It was recommended that a way to become familiar with duties as a District Officer is to attend the Area Committee Meetings and meet with other District Officers. We also discussed issues/concerns from our members. Donita our other Co-Corrections Chair resigned. Thank you to Donita for all her service work. A new Saturday 7:00 p.m. Women's AA meeting was started at the Alexandria jail. At the August District meeting a vote was taken to change the District meetings to the third Saturday of each month beginning January 2012. The group conscience reported by the GSRs is to keep the Round Robin the same night as the District meeting in hopes of increasing participation. At our September District meeting in Carlos we had nominations for District Officers and discussed the nominees for Area 35 Delegate. We are stressing the importance of group contributions to keep AA going. All GSRs and future GSRs are encouraged to attend the Zonal Forum on October 29th. Thank you for allowing me to serve, Dee Dee

C.P.C. - Doug N.

Mark from District 7 is going to have a CPC luncheon in October. The CPC chair from District 13 had a meeting with the VA hospital and clergy. Donna H. is the new PI/CPC chair for District 8. District 5 held a CPC/PI luncheon and had great results. We have a social service representative interested in more information on possible beginners meeting for young people. This is a work in progress.

District 13 – Steve J. Not present. Report given Scott B.

Greetings to all from District 13! The end of our rotation is at hand. I'm very grateful I have been a part of this rotation and would like to thank all of you for the opportunity to serve and be part of this group. The district is hard at work caring the AA message of recovery. Our CPC chair had a luncheon with the MN National Guard Chaplains this past month in conjunction with District 8 from Area 36. It was well received by the chaplains. Last spring CPC had a luncheon with SCSU counseling staff. As a result of that meeting we are now caring the message every Wednesday night at SCSU with a beginners meeting of what AA is and what AA is isn't. Our Treatment Chair is working with Recovery Plus and Sobriety First bringing meetings into both facilities. Also is working with CPC with the new beginners meeting. Our PI chair has updated all group information with the Area Group Records Secretary. Meeting schedules and message cards have been printed and are now available. Charter Communication is airing the message "If you want to drink that's your business, if you want to STOP, we can help. Call Alcoholics Anonymous 320-202-1895" on their public service announcement channel. New flyers have been made for the beginners meeting and passed out to all GSRs. AA assistance line is completely staffed and doing well. Our Corrections Chair has new names of inmates wanting temporary contact upon their release. If you have anyone in your group that would like to serve in this capacity, please let me know. We are bringing meetings into the prison on the 1st, 2nd, 4th, and 5th Wednesdays of the month, and also to Stearns County Jail every Wednesday at 7pm. Our Literature Chair has restocked our supply of literature at the district and will have a booth at the upcoming St. Cloud Round-up.

District 1- Lon G.

It has been another good year in District 1. We have added a few new groups and seen new faces joining in service. Although contributions are down we continue our efforts to emphasize the importance of our seventh tradition. The most recent event was our fall potluck/picnic held September 10th with modest numbers in attendance but enthusiasm for this event remains high and we are already looking at ways to make it bigger and better for 2012. I would like to thank Brad and Art along with Rod for the cooperative effort between our districts to host the Archives workshop held in August. What an amazing collection of materials and the historical information shared there was enjoyed by all. Our districts biggest event the Wild Rice Winter Round-up will be held for the 10th year on January 13, 14, and 15 at the Shooting Star Hotel and Entertainment Center in Mahanomen. This event continues to grow and attract speakers from around the country. For more information you can go to www.wildriceroundup.com or the Area website and Northern Light. Another event being highly anticipated in our district is our annual Spring Fling held March 10th 2012. This year's event will be entirely devoted to the topics of sponsorship and a committee has been formed and let by Jean H. of Fort Collins, CO and a summer resident in our district. Jean is a devoted servant to the program of Alcoholics Anonymous and particularly 12th Step Work and sponsorship. She will no doubt work tirelessly to insure this event is a success. You can watch for more information on the area website and Northern Light in upcoming months. I am also pleased to announce that at our most recent district meeting held this past Sunday we voted in new district service positions and most notably Irene J. will be our new DCM. Many of you know Irene and she will no doubt serve our district well. Thank you Irene! It has been my pleasure to serve our district as DCM and will continue to serve in other capacities. I am so grateful to this program and I thank God for helping me find the way here! Respectfully in service, Lon

GRAPEVINE-Dee K.

Greetings to Area 35, I am sorry to report that I will not be in attendance for any of the Fall Assembly. My husband, Bob, took a fall on Sunday and ended up with a broken Knee cap. He is on restrictions as to what he can and cannot do; and I now have additional responsibilities with him. We are really going to have a lot of together time. He was able to find a bell that has a real nice ring to it; which may have made it easier to get my attention to assist him when he needed. THE BELL QUICKLY DISAPPEARED. I am more in favor of verbal communication. Grapevine announced they have published two new books for our use, our groups use and our sponsees use. STEP BY STEP: Real AAs, Real Recovery - Soft cover \$10.95 (\$10.50 for 5 or more copies). EMOTIONAL SOBRIETY II: The next frontier - Soft cover \$ 9.95 (\$9.50 for 5 or more copies). Discount: 20% for orders of \$500.00 or more. Grapevine Catalog is now available on line. Go to aagrapevine.org and click on the Tools and Resource section for the latest Grapevine Catalog in PDG format. Please contact me if you have any requests for any Grapevine materials and I will bring them to the December Committee Meeting in Aitkin. On a personal note: Bob and I are putting our house on the market and will be moving to SW Minnesota as early as May unless our house takes longer to sell. We will be moving at a later date if that is the case. I have felt very privileged to have been a part of Area 35 and to have served in the many positions that I was asked to serve. I know that Area 35 is a great place to be; lots of opportunities to be of service and lots of fellowship. Thanks again for the opportunity to serve. I am looking forward to a new part of my journey and holding close the memories you all have given me on my journey, Dee K.

District 18- Vern P. Not present. Report was given by JoAnn A.

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Our last district meeting was on Tuesday, September 6th with 14 people in attendance. The meetings are doing well. We had our elections and Vern P. is continuing as our DCM. We filled all positions except Grapevine and Corrections. We have a Round Robin coming up on Friday, October 21st at the Verndale Civic Center. If you have any questions contact Vern P.

District 21 – Carl B. Not present. Report was given by Stan H, Alternate DCM

District 21 is getting ready for elections in November. I was not at the last district meeting but Carl was present. The district is solvent and the groups are contributing. I would like to thank the out of town people for attending Pine Tree group it was a lot of fun having you there.

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 4 districts, districts 2, 13, 16, & 7 plus the Group Records Secretary, Northern Light Editor and me. I've been busy keeping the meeting list up to date with correct and current information from Laurie. I've been busy screening and posting meeting events posted on the calendar. There is a small glitch with Maps Available both for new meeting locations and with fliers, working diligently trying to find the problem and fix it. We have been improving the new/change meeting form to fit Area35's needs.

Paypal is now up and running. You can find it from the Area officers Tab. The vig is high though. For those who don't know vig is how much Paypal makes on each transaction.

I want to thank Heidi for doing a great job in formatting all the Trusted Servant Guidelines. Trusted Servant Guidelines are now added to the Area 35 Website in the Area Officers tab. We are still looking at recoding the Meeting list page to be able to be more printer friendly. We have run into a small snag. Dan and I had a Computer Conference call on Tuesday June 14 to look at what is going on with the problem. Wanted to ask if (BIG IF) need be can we out source (Pay a pro coder to look over the problem and offer a fix?) Thank you for sending me to the Regional Forum in Davenport, IA. There were @ 298 people registered. I went to two workshops: PI/CPC and Anonymity in the Digital age.

People commented on what a nice informative user friendly web site we have. A big issue facing AA is anonymity being broken because of Facebook, Twitter and other online social networks. Everyone knows what Alcoholic means. How do we educate people on what anonymity means to and for the fellowship. It's half of our name. Educating our members on what anonymity means can eradicate this issue. How often does your group discuss traditions, especially Traditions 11 and 12? If you have an event that you would like posted on the Area35 website please e-mail them to me or upload through the website. Please, when making fliers remember to give a physical address like 123 recovery circle NOT just a location like at the Town Hall or Community Center. And please upload fliers to me in pdf or word Doc formats. Now for a little summation about the Web site usage for the months of August and September. In August we had 56,865 hits from 1,817 different sites. The busiest day was August 5 with 35,196 hits from 91 visitors; Average is 76 hits per hour. In September we had 54,375 hits from 1,551 different sites. The busiest day was Sept. 14 with 2,761 hits from 90 visitors; Average is 78 hits per hour.

Humblly in service, Steven

ARCHIVES-Art A.

There is nothing new to report for the archives since the last report. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Area 35 for giving me the opportunity to serve as Area Archives Chair for the past two years. It has been a great experience not only working in archives but with Area 35. To me any service work that I have been involved with in AA has been the greatest experiences of my life. If the new Area Chair people get half of the enjoyment I have, they will be very happy. I hope to continue in some kinds of service work with AA for as long as I can. I think Area 35 is very fortunate to have people who are able to serve in any capacity they can. Yours in service, Art

ARCHIVIST- Brad I.

Since the August committee meeting I have been on the road a lot. I presented and recorded the Zonal Archives workshop in Thief River Falls. I attended the Regional Forum in Davenport Iowa where I tossed a question in the "Ask it Basket concerning the 1939 "Your Faith" magazine as to GSO making copies available to the fellowship, adding this document to the A.A. history timeline and adding a footnote to "Dr. Bob and the Good Old-timers". The response was "We will look in to it". I attended the NAAA workshop in Helena Montana where I had 3 tables to display. I am pleased to report our display was a huge hit amongst the attendees, particularly the 1939 "Your Faith" magazine. I gave out 86 copies. I received a public thank you from Michelle M. GSO archivist in her Friday night presentation and several heartfelt thanks from attendees. The assistant archivist from Akron intergroup shared with me the excitement they felt when their copy arrived. He was the one that opened it. But the most rewarding experience came from the eldest statesman on the long timer's panel. Fritz M. from Montana with what I believe was 52 years. He shared with me that in the early 60's he was a loner in Wyoming with the nearest meeting over 80 miles away and he corresponded with Irene K. of Brainerd. These letters kept him going. He told me that he got to meet Irene in the 80's and he still had some of the letters. To me this illustrates that if you ever think you are not making a difference in some one's life your Higher Power has decided that you just don't need to know about it. I don't have a display at the Duluth Round- up because I am here. The next display is at the St. Cloud Round Up and I have room there to set up the complete display. Thanks so much for this opportunity to be of service to the Fellowship, Brad I.

District 5-Rita D.

Greetings from District 5! All is well in the District with Committee Chairs fulfilling their duties and responsibilities. Our Alternate DCM stepped down due to personal reasons at our July meeting. Corrections and PI/CPC are still open positions. However, Skip continues to coordinate Sherburne County Jail meetings. Between myself, GSR's and groups we are taking care of literature distribution. We held our PI/CPC luncheon on July 22nd with only 7 professionals in attendance but it was still a success. A HUGE thanks to the groups for sponsoring professionals!! We brought a case of Big Books into Sherburne County Jail. I received 2 contacts from Kelly our Area 35 Corrections Chair and contacts have been made. We are starting another 8 week session of the Sherburne County Orientation Meetings. We covered the State Fair Booth on Saturday August 27th--this was a great experience as always! During my time slot we actually had a "live" one--great 12 Step opportunity! Thanks to Heidi R., Skip R., Kelly D., Joe and several more women for covering time slots. We held a Service Workshop on September 17th with only Jack J. & I in attendance...we used the opportunity to work on our Archives. We held nominations at our August meeting for the upcoming rotation and had elections in September. I'm happy to announce that Heidi R. is the incoming DCM! Congrats to Heidi & I know she will do a great job. Unfortunately that was the only position filled--we had nominees for Treatment Chair and Alt. DCM but they withdrew their names-one because of a broken back which is Jake C. (little Jake) and the other decided to serve as a GSR. The nominee for PI/CPC didn't come back for elections!! I also know that there are a few individuals who are possibly willing to serve and God will provide so Heidi will not be alone! We have 7 in attendance this weekend. Thank you District 21 for hosting this Assembly and the Pine Tree group for a wonderful welcome & meeting Friday night. I have 3 months left in this rotation so it's not over yet, but since this is the last Assembly of the rotation I want to say THANK YOU DISTRICT 5 for allowing me to serve...it's been an honor and privilege. District 5 you ROCK and I love you all. I cannot do it alone and even is Service I'm so grateful that it is a 'WE' program!! Grateful to be of Service, Rita

District 6-Kathie G.

Greetings from District 6, our district meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at the Spring Lake Lutheran Church at 7:00pm in North Branch. With only 6 members at our September meeting we were unable to complete the election of all our Officers and Committee Chairpersons so we will continue this process at our following monthly meeting as needed. The following positions were filled: DCM, Dave A., Treasurer, Bob A., and Secretary, Kevin G. September 22nd I attended a volunteer appreciation luncheon at the Isanti County Jail. They wanted the AA volunteers to know how much they appreciate the meeting we do for the inmates. Also, there is a new volunteer coordinator at the Isanti County Jail so hopefully we will be able to get more new AA members on the meeting list. Our committee members have been busy doing presentations at all the meetings in District 6 to invite more members to district meetings. Grateful to serve, Kathie G.

GSR SHARING SESSION REPORT-

Dave was the chair and Daniel was the secretary for the sharing session. They had 12 incoming GSRs, 12 new GSRs, and 41 GSRs total at the sharing session. Daniel read the old minutes and the group voted to end the meeting at 5:45pm. A sheet of paper was sent around so the minutes could get to everyone by email or mail. They read S20 from the service manual about sharing sessions. 1. Do we have a sample format for when we give reports to the district and to groups? They get them in their GSR packets from GSO, they can use the agenda, and the DCM can help the GSRs write reports. 2. What do old GSRs do to help prepare new GSRs to better serve? Bring them with to the January workshop, get GSR packet at a workshop, have the outgoing GSR go through the packet with the new GSR, have a service sponsor, encourage your group to have Alternate GSR attend Area Assemblies with GSR, and have old GSR become alternate GSR so they can help GSR. 3. Can each group choose to have audio Big Books for sale? Any format of Big Book is good to sell, people can memorize the Big Book if they have it in audio, and each group can decide what they want to sell. 4. Has anyone had a problem with the DCM not attending their meeting? A responsibility of the DCM is to attend meetings that are not participating in the district. 5. What do you do about fear at assemblies such as fear of talking or fear of asking questions? We need to keep reminding ourselves that AA is an inverted triangle, when you have fear pray, and think about your 4th step. We had a motion to close that was seconded. We closed the meeting with the "Responsibility Statement" at 5:47pm.

DCM SHARING SESSION REPORT –

DCM Sharing Session Report: Greetings everyone from Area 35 DCM's! What an awesome sharing session we had, with 17 in attendance including 2 incoming DCM's!! Districts represented were 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16 and 21. I want to thank Mark N. for taking such great notes of our sharing. He has been a wonderful assets as secretary this rotation. Also, I want to thank each and every DCM who has been a part of our Sharing Session's during this rotation...we have always learned a lot from each other and it has been a great experience! The first thing we discussed was coming up with a list from Districts within each Zone of possible host sites for the January Workshop and the Spring & Fall Assemblies. We did pass a list around completed it as best we could and gave it to the Area Officers. We had three discussion topics, however only made it through two of them. **The first sharing topic was:** What can we do to help incoming DCM's be better prepared for their new position. **Responses:** We learn from ours and others experience, so let's pass on that experience & meet one on one with them to share and answer questions; Be sure they read the Service Manuel and go through the duties/responsibilities with them; Communication is key; Pass on to new DCM's our current Sharing Session Format and 'Suggested Guidelines' for reports; Show compassion, cooperate and be available; Be sure they know the time commitment--DELEGATE responsibilities; Service Sponsor or communicate with past DCM's-don't be afraid to ask; Attend Area functions-Workshop, Spring & Fall Assemblies and WCRSC & Forum; Organize information-possibly use file cabinet; Be sure they know Roberts Rule of Order; Back out graciously; Be Humble; Encourage them the Alternate DCM to be active; Use a committee to visit groups. **The second sharing topic was:** Share our experience in getting out and visiting groups/what works and what doesn't work. **Responses:** Ask for volunteers and or delegate GSR's and Committee Chairs to help; Rotating monthly meeting helps for large territory Districts so more will come to the District; Asking for permission to speak at the meeting is very respectful; Bring group contribution envelopes; It's a lot of fun to go visit all the groups...to better get to know AA members and attend a variety of meetings; Delegate again....ask or assign GSR's and Committee Chairs; Try to visit more than just once in the rotation; It's good to have the Treasurer go visit too; Communicate to the groups what the District does; You will and do not get good reception from all groups--concentrate on the positives not the negatives; It's not what you say, but how you say it; Go to groups with a good attitude; Count your blessings and to the best you can; Take an interest in the group and bring literature with you to leave; Get out, visit & be a good example of Service. Again I want to thank all in attendance. This has been an awesome adventure and we did it...there was never an 'I' Sharing Session!! See you all in December. Love in Service, Rita

OLD BUSINESS

SPRING ASSEMBLY 2012

(Continued on page 21)

(Continued from page 20)

The Area 35 Chair has several sights selected but is waiting for the results from another agenda item concerning assembly sight selections. One facility is in Elk River, MN and the other sight is in Onamia, MN.

AREA FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE:

We met this morning October 2nd, 2011 with 5 members of the committee present. We reviewed the financial statements for Period V – July 29th through September 30th. We the members of the Financial Oversight Committee for Area 35 have concurred that the records for period V to be concise, accurate, and thorough. We also discussed the composition of the next incoming rotation. The current approval process as stated in the financial policy that was approved by the Area 35 Assembly was to be recommended by the committee. It was suggested by the committee to have the newly appointed members of the committee sit in on the final review process of the rotation at the Area 35 Committee Meeting in December. We send special thank you to our current Area 35 Treasurer, Sara K. for doing an excellent job in her respective duties for Area 35. Also, thank you to the "Financial Oversight Committee" for the dedication of their time and effort for service to Area 35 and Alcoholics Anonymous. We the members of Area 35 Assembly commend them a job well done. Yours in service, Randy A. Financial Oversight Committee Chair

ASSEMBLY SIGHTS DISCUSSION

The concern is about smoking indoors during the Area 35 Assemblies. When we have the Area 35 Assemblies at Casinos you can smoke inside the facilities and this can cause AA members not to attend due to health issues with smoking. A suggestion was that Area 35 set a new policy about locating facilities with no smoking allowed indoors. Discussion: We will have to spend more money on the facilities if we go away from using casinos. One member felt that if some people have health issues due to cigarette smoke, we should respect them and chose facilities that are smoke free. One member pointed out that having them at casinos also can be an issue for AA members with gambling additions. The cost is much less if we have the Assemblies at Casinos. If we do not have Assemblies at casinos this could limit the possibilities to have assemblies in Zone I. The cost is 1/3 less when we have assemblies at casinos. The cost of the rooms at casinos is \$150 to \$500 while rooms not at casinos can run from \$1500 to \$2000. Some felt we shouldn't put a money issue above the members of AA. A suggestion was to change or add to the action we have taken in the past. The statement that there would be no smoking in the assembly room could be changed to stating there would be no smoking inside the rooms and a certain amount of feet outside the rooms. A suggestion was to make signs letting members of the Assembly know where they can smoke and cannot smoke.

The Area 35 Chair will take the information presented today and use it when selecting the location for the 2011 Spring Assembly. The incoming Area Chair can look at creating an ad hoc committee with the incoming DCMs to work on this issue.

DISTRICT 5 PROPOSALS

Proposal #1

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

REASONS:

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

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

Discussion: In District 8 they took a vote and had 7 in favor of the proposal and 17 opposed with lengthy discussion. The Area 35 Delegate felt that the way we are doing agenda items is working. However, he feels we need to make sure that no matter what come out of the breakout sessions, people can still going to the microphone and discuss an agenda item when we meet as a whole. One area member felt that having the breakout sessions helps the area have a more in depth discussion on the agenda items. The purpose of the Spring Assembly is to give the Delegate as much information as we can for the General Service Conference. Currently, there is no policy as to how the Spring Assembly is run and this is usually up to the discretion of the Area 35 Chair. One member felt that we ask our DCMs and GSRs to get their group conscience and then they come to the Assembly and it does not matter because everyone can vote. Before we make a policy we should try going through the agenda items without the breakout sessions and straw vote to see what works better. One GSR felt that when we do straw votes on the agenda items it can take away the GSRs vote. One member felt that we do the breakout session to model what they do at the General Service Conference. Also, if the intent behind the agenda items is to give an idea of what the area feels then everyone should have the right to vote that is a member of Area 35. If this is the case then the role of the GSR is not to protect their vote but to be the one who shares the information gotten from your group with the rest of Area 35. More people are willing to voice their opinion in the breakout sessions than in front of the entire Assembly. If we take that away some people may not be willing to share and only the same people will share all of the time from the microphone. Read the Quarterly Reports from GSO so you know what may be coming as agenda items at the General Service Conference. The breakout sessions can give you a starting point for discussion so when you get to 1-2am people are not just voting things through because they are tired. We need to make sure the ones chairing the breakout sessions know what they are suppose to be doing. The area archivist will look back at past assemblies to see if there ever was a policy change. **No action was taken on this proposal.**

Proposal #2

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

REASONS:

- Since members are being asked prior to the election, it would help Groups (GSR's) and Districts (DCM's) to vote a true Group Conscience.
- This would give all an opportunity to get to know more about those willing to serve....especially new GSR's and other service members.
- It may encourage more participation from our members as some may not feel comfortable enough to raise their hand and say "yes...pick me, I want to stand for that position" if they have an interest in a position and have not been asked to serve.
- This would give past members of Service a chance to be known by the body. Someone for example that took a reprieve from Service for a few years and now has the time to dedicate to a position.
- It was part of our Area Inventory done at the Fall Assembly 2010.

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

Discussion: One member of the area agrees with this proposal since she is a new GSR and does not know anyone at the area. We would still accept nominations from the floor at the Fall Assembly. One concern was if we start posting nominations for Area Officers ahead of time, will they show up at the Fall Assembly. If you post just a list of names for people willing to serve and no information about the people, then you still may not know how to vote. If we put resumes in the Northern Light, which will take up a lot of room, then it can become an ego thing. District 8 was unanimously opposed to the proposal. The primary concern from District 8's was that it limited the number of people willing to serve, and decreased the amount of time people had to decide if they wanted to serve as an Area Officer.

The motion was called to question and seconded. The majority were in favor of calling to question.

A motion was made to add to the procedures of the elections of Area Officers to have Area Chair, Area Treasurer, and Area Secretary be nominated in advanced but also allow nominations from the floor. The motion was seconded. Four were in favor and the majority was opposed. The motion failed.

NEW BUSINESS

SATURDAY NIGHT AA SPEAKER MEETING

It was brought to the attention of the Area 35 chair that typically we do not have a speaker on the Saturday night of an election assembly. We usually save that time to finish business so we have enough time for the elections on Sunday. A show of hands was taken and the majority were in favor of completing business instead of having a speaker meeting.

NOMINATIONS FOR WEST CENTRAL REGIONAL TRUSTEE

Nominations: Jerry S. (Panel 56), Charlie C. (Panel 54), Susie A. (Panel 48), and Tom A. (Panel 50)

Ballot 1: Jerry 24, Charlie 36, Susie 9, and Tom 16

Ballot 2: Jerry 22, Charlie 48, Susie 4, and Tom 11

Ballot 3: Jerry 24, Charlie 24

Charlie C (Panel 54) was elected as the Area 35 nomination for West Central Regional Trustee

ELECTIONS FOR AREA OFFICERS

Area 35 Delegate (Panel 62)

Nominations: Steve L., Roger R., Michael J., Jim K., and Robert (Butch) R.

Ballot 1: Steve L. 8, Roger R. 10, Michael J. 17, Jim K. 40, and Robert (Butch) R. 10

Ballot 2: Steve L. 5, Roger R. 4, Michael J. 15, Jim K. 54, and Robert (Butch) R. 7

Ballot 3: Michael J. 22 and Jim K. 63,

Jim K. was elected as the Area 35 Delegate for Panel 62.

(Continued from page 21)

Area 35 Alternate Delegate

Nominations: Steve L., Roger R., Michael J., and Robert (Butch) R.
Ballot 1: Steve L. 8, Roger R. 16, Michael J. 56, and Robert (Butch) R. 8
Ballot 2: Steve L. 4, Roger R. 6, Michael J. 73, and Robert (Butch) R. 6
Michael J. was elected as the Area 35 Alternate Delegate.

Area 35 Chairperson

Nominations: Robert (Butch) R., Roger R., Steve L., and Kelly D.
Ballot 1: Robert (Butch) R. 14, Roger R. 30, Steve L. 12, and Kelly D. 32
Ballot 2: Robert (Butch) R. 6, Roger R. 38, Steve L. 7, and Kelly D. 37
Ballot 3: Roger R. 46, and Kelly D. 43
Ballot 4: Roger R. 45, and Kelly D. 44
Motion was made to have a 5th Ballot. The motion was 2nd. Motion was defeated. The election went to the hat and Kelly D. was elected.
Kelly D. was elected as the Area 35 Chairperson

Area 35 Treasurer

Nominations: Jeff E. and Steve L.
Ballot 1: Jeff E. 39 and Steve L. 50
Ballot 1: Jeff E. 22 and Steve L. 66
Steve L. was elected as the Area 35 Treasurer.

Area 35 Secretary

Nominations: Rita D., Roger R., and Mary S.,
Ballot 1: Rita D. 24, Roger R. 32, and Mary S. 33
Ballot 2: Rita D. 14, Roger R. 29, and Mary S. 45
Ballot 3: Roger R. 16 and Mary S. 71
Mary S. was elected as the Area 35 Secretary.

AREA CHAIR SELECT INCOMING AREA ACTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

A Motion was made to have the new incoming Area 35 Chair select the incoming Area 35 Action Committee Chairs to be approved at the December Committee Meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

66th Annual Duluth Round-up – September 30th to October 2nd at Duluth Entertainment Convention Center in Duluth, MN
29th Annual St. Cloud Round-up – October 28th to 30th at St. Cloud Civic Center in St. Cloud, MN
Zone 3 Workshop – November 19th at the St. Cloud Alano Club in St. Cloud, MN from 1-3pm.
December Committee Meeting – December 4th at Aitkin Alano Club in Aitkin, MN
36 Annual Area 35 Service Workshop – January 21st and 22nd at Brainerd Hotel and Conference Center, Brainerd, MN

ASK IT BASKET (Past Delegates)

Would you please explain the reason for asking for the minority opinion? If there is someone in the minority who has a new piece of information to add that was not already mentioned. When the information presented is able to change someone's vote, the body is asked if they want to revote on the question. If a majority want to revote and new vote can be taken. You can only have the minority once for each motion.

Is an assembly an open or closed meeting? The Assemblies are closed meetings because we use full names.

Are non-alcoholics allowed to go to the microphone? Since Assemblies are closed meeting and they are not allowed to be here they cannot go to the microphone.

Should non-alcoholics be GSRs for AA groups? No, the GSR should be a member of the fellowship.

Should non-alcoholics attend district meetings, committee meetings, or assemblies? Assemblies, Committee Meetings, and District Meetings are closed meetings so non-alcoholics should not be attending. AA cannot give membership to addicts; however, they are welcome to attend open AA meetings.

Why would you keep coming back after you have served your time in AA general service? Many of the past Delegates do not look at it as serving your time but as a privilege to participate. We need to keep coming back because what we have is a daily reprieve contingent on the maintenance of our spiritual condition.

What should you do if you know something about a person being nominated for a position that would make them a bad choice if elected? Pray for the individual.

What is your favorite memory serving as delegate? At the General Service Conference we were able to get out one night at a reasonable time. Some of us at the conference went and saw a play about Bill and Dr. Bob. The next day we went to Bill's house.

Why does one person get to go over the 4 minutes and others are asked to stop? It was voted at the committee meeting that DCM would get 2-3 minutes and Area Chairs and Officers would get 4 minutes. At the microphone there is no switch to turn it off when people go over their minutes like they do at the General Service Conference.

Why do you ask to stand when saying prayers and is holding hands necessary? It is a group's choice if they decide to do these things or not. This is also an individual's choice.

In our 3rd legacy voting procedures, is there a special purpose for the 5th ballot? When you see no movement in the votes that is why you go to the hat and in a sense leave it up to God. The Area decides if they want to have a 5th ballot or go to the hat. When we have a close vote what that means is that the two candidates would both be good. However, if we see some movement in the votes and a particular candidate has most of the votes that is when you may want a 5th ballot. The people in the minority would then decide to support the candidate who has most of the votes.

Suggestion: Assemblies where voting for the next rotation officer positions, the agenda should have no live reports (turned in), elections, open speaker meeting, and ice cream on Saturday then nothing on Sunday. Answer: There is too much work to get it all done in one day.

What is your favorite service story? One past Delegate got into service because he missed one home group meetings and came back to find he was the new GSR.

Is there a way it can be set up where we wouldn't have to pay for individual cups of coffee at these functions? At some functions we do get to purchase endless cups of coffee; however it depends on what the facilities wants and this is decided with the Area Chair. We try to be self-supporting with the coffee.

What are some words of wisdom from previous Delegates to GSR's and new DCM's? Keep hanging in there, it gets better. If you are thinking of getting out of service, please talk with someone and hang in there.

Have we received the full financial amends from our previous treasurer? What is the amends balance currently? The past Treasurer has paid \$1,700 and owes for her amends \$2020.16.

Please tell your finest travel experience in service. Doing Delegates reports backs and visiting each district.

What happens if a trusted Area person does not show for functions? They will get voted out and replaced.

Who is the funniest Past-Delegate you know/knew? All of the past Delegates are funny in their own way; however Jerry does have lots of jokes.

What is your scariest travel story in service? When Tom drives through snow storms instead of stopping.

If someone has the desire to quit drinking, why does it matter what they call themselves? We belong to Alcoholics Anonymous and alcohol is in our name. I believe that if it is called Alcoholics Anonymous we should call ourselves alcoholics. It is in our name and I am an alcoholic. It helps unify everyone.

ADJOURN

2011 – AREA 35 SCHEDULE

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

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

GSR School
December 15th
The First Congregational Church,
415 Juniper St.
The SW corner of Gregory Park & Juniper St.
Brainerd, MN

36th Winter Workshop
January 21st and 22nd
Brainerd Hotel and Conference Center
2115 South 6th Street
Brainerd, MN 56401 - 218-829-1441
Reservations must be made by January 1st, 2012

Area Meeting - Sunday, February 26th - 9:00 am
Aitkin Alano Club
322 1st. Avenue N.E.
Aitkin, MN

West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference (WCRAASC)
Anonymity: Our Spiritual Responsibility in a Digital Age.
March 2-4, 2012
Holiday Inn 5500 Midland Road Billings, MT 59105
Call 1-800-465-4329

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

January 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
New Year's 1 Day	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	M.L.KingJr. 16 Day	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				U.S. Federal Holidays are Red
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/

33rd Annual Winter Rap – Up
March 16-18, 2012
Coates Plaza Hotel
503 Chestnut Street, Virginia MN

30th Spring Fling
Saturday, March 10, 2012
Community Center, Fertile MN
Lorena 218-945-6849

Area 36

18th Sunlight of the Sprit Roundup
April, 20 - 22nd
Holiday Inn
Fairmont, MN

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
December 4th, 2011

<div><div><div><div><div></div><div>9:00 A.M. Action Chair Committee Meetings</div></div><div><div></div><div>10:30 am Area Committee Meeting</div></div><div><div></div><div>Call to Order Open with the Serenity Prayer</div></div><div><div></div><div>Recognize past delegates</div></div><div><div></div><div>Add To Agenda</div></div><div><div></div><div>Approve August Minutes</div></div></div><div><div>OFFICER REPORTS</div><div><div><div></div><div>Delegate- Jon C.</div></div><div><div></div><div>Alternate Delegate – Jim K.</div></div><div><div></div><div>Chair-Michael(Jake) J.</div></div><div><div></div><div>Secretary-Heidi R.</div></div><div><div></div><div>Treasurer-Sarah K.</div></div></div></div><div><div>COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS</div><div><div><div></div><div>ARCHIVES-Art A./Brad I.</div></div><div><div></div><div>District 5-Rita D.</div></div><div><div></div><div>District 6-Kathie G.</div></div><div><div></div><div>LITERATURE-Bob K.</div></div><div><div></div><div>District 8- Randy A.</div></div><div><div></div><div>District 12- Jana M.</div></div><div><div></div><div>TREATMENT- Robert (butch) R.</div></div><div><div></div><div>District 15- Sandy H.</div></div><div><div></div><div>District 9- Chuck R.</div></div><div><div></div><div>PUBLIC INFORMATION-Roger R.</div></div><div><div></div><div>District 7- Mark N.</div></div><div><div></div><div>District 11- Gary H.</div></div><div><div></div><div>GROUP RECORDS-Laurie R.</div></div><div><div></div><div>NORTHERN LIGHT-Daniel R.</div></div><div><div></div><div>District 2- Rodney Pe.</div></div><div><div></div><div>District 16- Mary S.</div></div></div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div>CORRECTIONS-Kelly D.</div></div><div><div></div><div>District 3- Jim S.</div></div><div><div></div><div>District 4- Dee Dee B.</div></div><div><div></div><div>C.P.C-Doug N.</div></div><div><div></div><div>District 13- Steve J.</div></div><div><div></div><div>District 1- Lon G.</div></div><div><div></div><div>GRAPEVINE-Dee K.</div></div><div><div></div><div>District 18-Vern P.</div></div><div><div></div><div>District 21- Carl B.</div></div><div><div></div><div>WEBMASTER-Steve L.</div></div></div><div><div></div><div>Lunch</div></div><div><div>OLD BUSINESS</div><div><div><div></div><div>Financial Oversight Committee</div></div><div><div></div><div>Spring Assembly</div></div></div><div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div></div><div></div></div></div><div><div>NEW BUSINESS</div><div><div><div></div><div>Approval of incoming Area Committee chairs</div></div><div><div></div><div>Calendar of Events</div></div></div><div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div></div><div></div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div>TBA</div></div><div><div></div><div>Adjourn</div></div></div></div>
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