

Deadline for the next
Northern Light is
March 2nd, 2012

This is YOUR Newsletter.

Please send your questions or comments for publication to
Jana M. 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 2012

AREA OFFICERS

DELEGATE

JIM K.
delegate@area35.org

ALTERNATE DELEGATE

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AREA CHAIR

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NORTHERN LIGHT

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DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
(D.C.M.s)

DISTRICT 1

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DISTRICT 18

VERN P.
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DISTRICT 21

CARL B.
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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 60 Jon C.	2010-2011	Panel 30 Don M. (deceased)	1981-1982	Panel 6 Waldo H. (deceased)	1956-1957
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 34 Bob P.	1984-1985				
Panel 32 Tom L.	1982-1983				

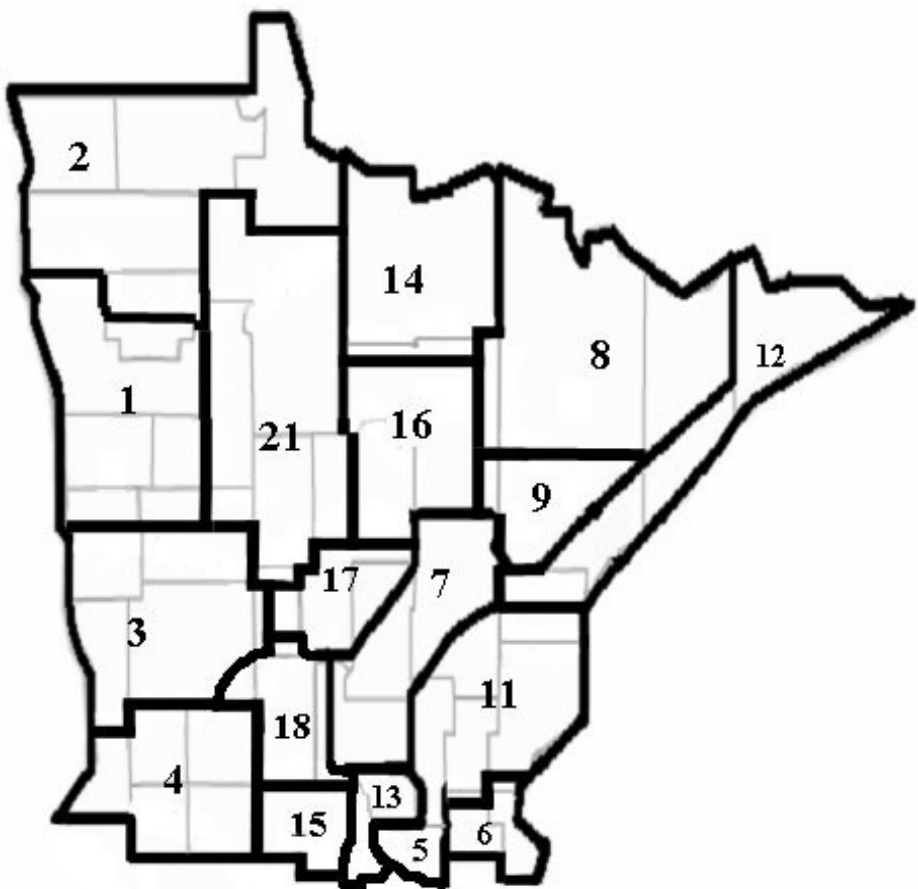
The Delegate’s Duties

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

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

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

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



Area 35
Northern Minnesota

Zone I

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

Zone II

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

Zone III

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

Zone IV

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

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

District Meeting Location Information

- District 1**
2nd Sunday of even months, 2:00 p.m.
Fertile Community Center
101 S. Mill St., Fertile, MN 56540
- District 2**
2nd Sunday of Odd Months, 2:00 p.m.
First Lutheran Church
210 Park Ave. N.
Middle River, MN 56737
- District 3**
3rd Sunday of Month, 10:00 a.m.
Perham Alano Club
Hwy 34
Perham, MN 56573
- District 4**
2nd Saturday of Month, 5:30 p.m.
email DCM at dcm4@area35.org
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.
email DCM at dcm8@area35.org it rotates.
- District 9**
Last Sunday of Month, 6:00 p.m.
Hibbing Alano Clubs
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

Greetings Area 35,

I believe that I am just beginning to better realize what I said I was willing to do. It does appear a little overwhelming but I know that with God's grace and assistance, I will be given whatever it is I need to fulfill my responsibilities to you and our fellowship. I truly thank you for this opportunity.

The New Year has started off relatively busy with information sent from the GSO including my Delegates Communication Kit, our December Highlights from AAWS, and my conference committee assignment. A.A.W.S. highlights include the launch our new e-book project, a new archives document entitled, "Archives Preservation Guidelines," and the addition of a new corrections staff member (Tracy O.). Finance report approximations for the year indicate that net sales were approximately \$60,000 less than budgeted, contributions received were approximately \$143,000 less than budgeted, and expenses were approximately \$600,000 less than budgeted resulting in a next income of approximately \$600,000 to \$700,000 for the first 11 months of 2011.

I have received all materials for my communications kit and I am in the process of sending in all needed materials for this year's General Service Conference. I have been assigned to the Conference Committee on Trustees and I am in the process of becoming familiar with all of the scope, composition, and procedures of the committee. I should be receiving all of the background information in early February and will have CD copies for all DCM's and committee members. These will be available at the February Committee Meeting in Aitkin. I would also encourage DCM's to begin looking at dates and scheduling my Delegate Report back following the General Service Conference.

It was a pleasure to see many of you at the Area 35 Service Workshop held in Brainerd. I apologize for the fact that I was unable to be there Saturday due to health reasons but want to personally thank all the districts and individuals that participated in the event. Verbal feedback on Sunday indicated that presentations were well thought out and enjoyed by all. Thanks again for all your work and service.

Finally, I want to encourage and invite you to participate in the West Central Regional Service Conference in Billings. This is a wonderful opportunity to become more familiar with the background information, to network with members across the region, and to enhance your service experience. The Area has shown a true commitment to supporting such services as we have done a wonderful job of replenishing our Area treasurer over the past 2 years. It is truly incredible to see the financial turn around of our Area and a heartfelt thank you goes out to each and every member and group that has helped make this possible.

Thanks again for all your work and service for Area 35 and for the opportunity to serve in this fellowship.
Jim K.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE'S REPORT

Hello all,

Here we are again. A new rotation and new faces and some old faces. Thank you again for allowing me to serve you. I am already feeling a little less stress changing positions as the chair was a great responsibility and one that I felt privileged to try and do to the best of my ability. Hope you are all ready for some fresh ideas and enthusiasm from our new chairs. Please give them lots of support. Remember they do this and have full lives. I know they love it as much as I do. I want to thank our new Delegate Jim for setting up our workshop it was another great experience and well attended. I will have a report in this edition of the Northern Light. If you need help in any way and I am available I will be honored to participate in any way you would need. Districts need to use the area committee whenever possible in there workshops and just for advice. May god bless you all. I will see you in February and then be off to Montana in March. Remember we are all in this together.

Yours in Love and Service
Michael "Jake" J.

Report on Area 35 Service Workshop 2012

Michael "Jake" J.

I would like to thank all those that attended the Service Workshop in Brainerd. We had an excellent turnout and great participation. Thanks you groups for sending your GSR's and Districts that were able to send your chairs. I think we all learned some things about anonymity and the Internet along with Primary purpose and Spirituality. It was a real pleasure that all of our presenters came prepared and did some reading before hand.

Report continued on next page

Report on Area 35 Service Workshop Continued

Makes the workshop more informative and also you can see growth in those that presented. We had 172 registered for this work shop which was about as large a number as I can remember.

We started out with social websites and confidentiality. We must remember to protect AA by keeping it safe from our EGO'S. While it is great to let people know we have changed our lives in a public setting we must not involve our full names with AA. It was shown how meetings on line are open to public scrutiny and also connects the members social page to AA and the public. We must remember that even on-line meetings should follow our traditions of self support and no affiliation with outside entities. Still seems that we learn the best thru sponsorship otherwise we make up our own rules about what we think AA is. Our Primary purpose is to carry the message and if we keep that up front our Ego's and personal needs stay in the background.

We had very lively discussion and some people gave their thoughts on how to remain anonymous on the web and many others stated they learned much from the presentations.

Importance of Sponsorship was done thru a skit and was very funny yet showed AA reality. Many of us don't realize we are helping people stay alive and get lives. The discussions on sponsors following the skit were passionate and many people shared the importance of have in sponsors in their lives. Many people have service sponsors to guide them in general service.

A pro-con discussion on the Grapevine showed people the importance of being able to inventory everything in our lives. Many people stated that they felt the pro-con was very useful. I have heard many over the years and was glad to have one at our workshop.

Our next presentations were on building healthy group, District and Area. It seemed that sponsorship, group conscience meetings and group inventories were very important. Tradition and Concept checklists are very important tools. Healthy group members thru sponsorship and reading our material make good district workers. The DCM is very important in getting to groups and encouraging participation. The Concepts allow us to work together and as individuals thru leadership and the right of participation. Along with the minority opinion all of our concepts show Love and respect for each other.

Change is essential to AA's growth. Thru pamphlets and informative activities we stay up with the rest of the world. The Grapevine and Internet are ways to keep current on lifestyles and changes in the way the AA message can be delivered.

Thru rotation we continuously bring new ideas and growth to AA. It is still hard for many of us to believe the next person will do just fine (with our guidance of course). There are still many groups that need new GSR's to come forward and relieve those that continue to carry information back to there group even after many years. Everyone needs a chance to grow.

Diversity was a look into the future of AA. Who is welcome and how we welcome them is always important. May all those that are in want of AA find it open to them as long as we stay to our primary purpose.

Thanks to our Trustee Ken for sharing the weekend with us. I hope you all had a chance to share with him individually. He informed us of the struggles at that level of service. It seems everybody wants to run the show. Thankfully we understand that God is in charge.

Overall I believe the weekend was a success. I think we all went home sober and filled with more helpful ways to carry the message in our personal lives, in our groups, in our districts and in our area. Thank you Jim K for putting this Workshop together. Glad your feeling better. May God bless you all with sober days filled with happiness and service.

AREA CHAIR'S REPORT

Greetings Area 35,

Here we are at a start of another exciting rotation of service in Area 35. The older I get the faster time flies, can anyone relate?! I have heard so many in service say "I finally got my position figured out and it's time to rotate out." I agree with this statement and I am not sure where the last two years went but I am grateful I was a part of it with all of you. And here I am again now serving as your Area 35 Chair. If you did not already know, I am a perfect example of what can happen when you just become willing and leave the rest up to God! It is obvious that my time in service was not complete. I am a bit nervous about taking on this responsibility but am confident that I will have all the help needed to fulfill my duties with the help of so many that have come before me.

Report continued on next page

AREA CHAIR’S REPORT CONTINUED

I have been busy working on getting my budget completed, reading and becoming familiar with our Area 35 Ac-tion Book, going over my guidelines needed to fulfill my position, working on the agenda's for our upcoming area meetings and assemblies and looking for locations to hold our assemblies. I am enjoying the variety this position brings and also look forward to the challenges that I am sure will come along the way with it too.

As you know it is the Area 35 Chair's responsibility to choose the incoming Committee Chairs. This is never an easy task, just ask anyone that has served as Chair in the past, but I am grateful to so many of you for your input in helping me choose those individuals that I feel will serve well in those positions this next rotation. I would like to thank each and everyone of them for their willingness and commitment to be of service. They are a great group of individuals that I believe will work together to carry AA's message of hope to the still suffering alcoholic. I look forward to serving with all of them along with your newly elected Area Officers. Please feel free to contact anyone of us if we can be of service to you, your groups or your Districts.

In love and service,
Kelly D.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Greetings.

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.

Well I’ve been making the transition into the treasures job and looking forward to be of service to you. The post office has found me and is forwarding all the mail sent to the Area’s past PO Box in Brainerd. The learning curve for QuickBooks hasn’t been very difficult but still has its frustrations. I want to thank all the groups that have sent contributions already. On a somber note there was one contribution which was saddening to receive. District 17 sent a check along with a note stating they were disbanding a dividing there treasury between Area35, GSO and District 7.

Remember that you can find where to send contributions on our web site area35.org. On area35.org if you go to the officers tab and scroll to the bottom of the page there is a link to the contributions page highlighted in blue. On the contributions page you will find the area treasurers address which is Northern MN Area35, PO Box 87, Bi-wabik MN 55708 also a link to download and print a contribution form that is helpful to me because it has boxes to check for what kind of contribution it is: group, birthday or personal. There are also places for your group name; group city; group number; contact name, phone number and email address. Which are helpful for crediting the correct group with its contribution, it also helps if there are any questions about the contribution? Also, on the contributions page is a link to Paypal if you wish to make your contribution on-line. But remember there are fees to pay for this service. Here is a rundown of what the cost is for some common contributions.

The Fees taken are first 30¢ of the top then 2.2%

Initial	Actual	Fees
Contribu- tion	Contribu- tion	Taken
\$5.00	\$4.59	\$0.40
\$10.00	\$9.48	\$0.51
\$15.00	\$14.37	\$0.62
\$20.00	\$19.26	\$0.72
\$25.00	\$24.15	\$0.83
\$40.00	\$38.82	\$1.15
\$50.00	\$48.60	\$1.37
\$75.00	\$73.05	\$1.91
\$100.00	\$97.50	\$2.45

Please remember to write in the comments section what kind of contribution it is: group, what group, group num-ber, meeting day or if a birthday contribution what group is it associated with. I’m currently working with the Bob the new webmaster on having the Paypal directions placed in a pop up window. If your group is opening a new bank account and the bank is asking for EIN numbers and other forms of documentation and you need any assis-tant please feel free to contact me for help in getting the proper documentation together.

Or if your group just elected a new treasurer and your current bank is asking for more information and you could use some help remember you are not alone. Along with this report is the Area35 budget for 2012 for your review. If you have any questions please ask by e-mail, phone or even good old fashion snail mail.

Humbly in service Steven L.

Area 35 2012 Budget

	2012 Budget					Position: Delegate (Jim K.)								
	Service Wrkshop	Feb. Mtg.	Reg. Conf.	Spring Assy.	June Mtg.	Aug. Mtg.	35/36 Wrkshp	Delegate Conference	Fall Assy.	Dec. Mtg.	Zone Forum	Zone Forum	Total	
	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Expences	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	
Meals	50.00	5.00	120.00	50.00	5.00	5.00	20.00		50.00	5.00	10.00	10.00	\$	330.00
Travel		10.00	240.00	20.00	10.00	10.00	30.00	200.00	40.00	10.00	30.00	30.00	\$	630.00
Lodging			270.00					1,200.00	100.00				\$	1,570.00
Phone													\$	-
Supplies	144.00	10.00	10.00	40.00	10.00	10.00			10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	\$	264.00
Printing		800.00						500.00					\$	1,300.00
Postage		100.00											\$	100.00
Other	10.00	50.00	50.00	20.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	500.00	10.00	10.00			\$	680.00
Totals:													\$	4,874.00
Actual														
udgeted	204.00	975.00	690.00	130.00	35.00	35.00	60.00	2,400.00	210.00	35.00	50.00	50.00		4,874.00

	2012 Budget					Position: Alt Delegate (Mike "Jake" J.)								
	Service Wrkshop	Feb. Mtg.	Reg. Conf.	Spring Assy.	June Mtg.	Aug. Mtg.	35/36 Wrkshp	Reg. Forum	Fall Assy.	Dec. Mtg.	Zone Forum	Zone Forum	Total	
	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	
Meals	60.00	5.00	100.00	60.00	5.00	5.00	25.00		60.00	5.00	20.00	20.00	\$	365.00
Travel	35.00	20.00	200.00	25.00	20.00	20.00	35.00		25.00	20.00	35.00	35.00	\$	470.00
Lodging	120.00		150.00	120.00					120.00				\$	510.00
Phone													\$	-
Supplies	20.00			10.00					10.00				\$	40.00
Printing		10.00		20.00					20.00		20.00	20.00	\$	90.00
Postage													\$	-
Other	10.00		12.00								50.00	50.00	\$	122.00
Totals:													\$	1,597.00
Actual														
udgeted	245.00	35.00	462.00	235.00	25.00	25.00	60.00	-	235.00	25.00	125.00	125.00		1,597.00

	2012 Budget					Position: Area Chair (Kelly D.)								
	Service Wrkshop	Feb. Mtg.	Reg. Conf.	Spring Assy.	June Mtg.	Aug. Mtg.	35/36 Wrkshp	Reg. Forum	Fall Assy.	Dec. Mtg.	Zone Forum	Zone Forum	Total	
	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	
Meals	30.00	5.00	60.00	30.00	5.00	5.00			30.00	5.00	10.00	10.00	\$	190.00
Travel	25.00	25.00	75.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00		40.00	25.00	75.00	30.00	\$	395.00
Lodging	47.00		181.76	50.00					100.00				\$	378.76
Phone													\$	-
Supplies													\$	-
Printing		20.00		40.00	20.00	20.00	20.00		40.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	\$	220.00
Postage													\$	-
Other	10.00		12.00				100.00						\$	122.00
Totals:													\$	1,305.76
Actual														
udgeted	112.00	50.00	328.76	145.00	50.00	50.00	145.00	-	210.00	50.00	105.00	60.00		1,305.76

	2012 Budget					Position: Treasure (Steven L.)								
	Service Wrkshop	Feb. Mtg.	Reg. Conf.	Spring Assy.	June Mtg.	Aug. Mtg.	35/36 Wrkshp	Reg. Forum	Fall Assy.	Dec. Mtg.	Zone Forum	Zone Forum	Total	
	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	
Meals	60.00	5.00	100.00	60.00	5.00	5.00	15.00		60.00	5.00	15.00	15.00	\$	345.00
Travel	65.00	40.00	200.00	65.00	40.00	40.00	70.00		65.00	40.00	65.00	65.00	\$	755.00
Lodging	190.00		300.00	250.00					250.00				\$	990.00
Phone													\$	-
Supplies	100.00			60.00									\$	160.00
Printing	100.00	150.00		160.00	60.00	60.00			160.00	60.00	30.00	30.00	\$	810.00
Postage	66.00	66.00			66.00	66.00				66.00			\$	330.00
Other	10.00		12.00							70.00			\$	92.00
Totals:													\$	3,482.00
Actual														
udgeted	591.00	261.00	612.00	595.00	171.00	171.00	85.00	-	535.00	241.00	110.00	110.00		3,482.00

	2012 Budget					Position: Secretary (Mary S.)								
	Service Wrkshop	Feb. Mtg.	Reg. Conf.	Spring Assy.	June Mtg.	Aug. Mtg.	35/36 Wrkshp	Reg. Forum	Fall Assy.	Dec. Mtg.	Zone Forum	Zone Forum	Total	
	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	
Meals	60.00	5.00	100.00	60.00	5.00	5.00	10.00		80.00	5.00	20.00	20.00	\$	370.00
Travel	35.00	15.00	100.00	40.00	15.00	15.00	20.00		40.00	15.00	60.00	60.00	\$	415.00
Lodging	125.00		300.00	125.00					125.00				\$	675.00
Phone													\$	-
Supplies													\$	-
Printing	15.00	5.00		45.00	5.00	5.00	15.00		42.00	5.00	40.00	40.00	\$	217.00
Postage		15.00							15.00				\$	30.00
Other	450.00		12.00					300.00					\$	762.00
Totals:													\$	2,469.00
Actual														
udgeted	685.00	40.00	512.00	270.00	25.00	25.00	45.00	300.00	302.00	25.00	120.00	120.00		2,469.00

						Position: Archives Chair (Antonette F.)								
	Service Wrkshop	Feb. Mtg.	Reg. Conf.	Spring Assy.	June Mtg.	Aug. Mtg.	35/36 Wrkshp	Reg. Forum	Fall Assy.	Dec. Mtg.	Zone Forum	Zone Forum	Total	
	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	
Meals	60.00	5.00		60.00	5.00	5.00	20.00		60.00	5.00	20.00	20.00	\$	260.00
Travel	45.00	20.00		40.00	20.00	20.00	20.00		50.00	20.00	50.00	50.00	\$	335.00
Lodging	90.00			100.00					100.00				\$	290.00
Phone													\$	-
Supplies		10.00		10.00	10.00	10.00			25.00	10.00			\$	75.00
Printing		10.00		10.00	10.00	10.00			10.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	\$	100.00
Postage													\$	-
Other	10.00												\$	10.00
Totals:													\$	1,070.00
Actual														
udgeted	205.00	45.00	-	220.00	45.00	45.00	40.00	-	235.00	45.00	95.00	95.00		1,070.00

Budgets Continued on next page

Area 35 2012 Budgets Continued

	Position: Archivist (Brad I.)												
	Service Wrkshp Budget	Feb. Mtg. Budget	Reg. Conf. Budget	Spring Assy. Budget	June Mtg. Budget	Aug. Mtg. Budget	35/36 Wrkshp Budget	Reg. Forum Budget	Fall Assy. Budget	Dec. Mtg. Budget	Zone Forum Budget	Zone Forum Budget	Total Budget
Meals	50.00	5.00	70.00	50.00	5.00	5.00	10.00		50.00	5.00			\$ 250.00
Travel	20.00	30.00	250.00	20.00	30.00	30.00	20.00		60.00	30.00			\$ 490.00
Lodging	75.00		100.00	70.00					70.00				\$ 315.00
Phone													\$ -
Supplies													\$ -
Printing													\$ -
Postage													\$ -
Other		200.00	12.00	200.00	200.00	200.00			200.00	200.00			\$ 1,212.00
Totals:													\$ 2,267.00
Actual													
udgeted	145.00	235.00	432.00	340.00	235.00	235.00	30.00	-	380.00	235.00	-	-	2,267.00

	Position: Corrections Chair (Jeff E.)													
	Service Wrkshp Budget	Feb. Mtg. Budget	Reg. Conf. Budget	Spring Assy. Budget	June Mtg. Budget	Aug. Mtg. Budget	35/36 Wrkshp Budget	Reg. Forum Budget	Fall Assy. Budget	Dec. Mtg. Budget	Zone Forum Budget	Zone Forum Budget	Total Budget	
Meals	20.00	5.00	72.00	40.00	5.00	5.00	30.00		40.00	5.00	50.00	50.00	\$ 322.00	
Travel	10.00	15.00	150.00	10.00	15.00	15.00	20.00		50.00	15.00	100.00	50.00	\$ 450.00	
Lodging			168.00						170.00		120.00		\$ 458.00	
Phone													\$ -	
Supplies											300.00		\$ 300.00	
Printing				20.00					20.00				\$ 40.00	
Postage													\$ -	
Other			12.00								100.00		\$ 112.00	
Totals:													\$ 1,682.00	
Actual														
udgeted	30.00	20.00	402.00	70.00	20.00	20.00	50.00	-	280.00	20.00	670.00	100.00	1,682.00	

					Position: CPC Chair (Roger R.)									
	Service Wkshp	Feb. Mtg.	Reg. Conf.	Spring Assy.	June Mtg.	Aug. Mtg.	35/36 Wkshp	Reg. Forum	Fall Assy.	Dec. Mtg.	Zone Forum	Zone Forum	Total	
	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	
Meals	50.00	5.00	150.00	50.00	5.00	5.00	10.00		65.00	5.00	20.00	20.00	\$ 385.00	
Travel	20.00	20.00	150.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00		50.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	\$ 380.00	
Lodging	100.00		300.00	120.00					200.00				\$ 720.00	
Phone													\$ -	
Supplies													\$ -	
Printing	60.00										60.00		\$ 120.00	
Postage													\$ -	
Other	10.00		12.00								400.00		\$ 422.00	
Totals:													\$ 2,027.00	
Actual														
udgeted	240.00	25.00	612.00	190.00	25.00	25.00	30.00	-	315.00	25.00	500.00	40.00	2,027.00	

	Position: Grapevine Chair (Art A.)													
	Service Wrkshop	Feb. Mtg.	Reg. Conf.	Spring Assy.	June Mtg.	Aug. Mtg.	35/36 Wrkshp	Reg. Forum	Fall Assy.	Dec. Mtg.	Zone Forum	Zone Forum	Total	
	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	
Meals	70.00	30.00	75.00	40.00	25.00	25.00	25.00		40.00	25.00	60.00	60.00	\$ 475.00	
Travel	30.00	50.00	130.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00		100.00	100.00	125.00	125.00	\$ 1,060.00	
Lodging	100.00	100.00	200.00	200.00	100.00	100.00	100.00		200.00	100.00	200.00	200.00	\$ 1,600.00	
Phone													\$ -	
Supplies	500.00												\$ 500.00	
Printing													\$ -	
Postage													\$ -	
Other	10.00		12.00										\$ 22.00	
Totals:													\$ 3,657.00	
Actual														
udgeted	710.00	180.00	417.00	340.00	225.00	225.00	225.00	-	340.00	225.00	385.00	385.00	3,657.00	

	2012 Budget				Position: Group Records Secretary (Sandy H.)								
	Service Workshop Budget	Feb. Mtg. Budget	Reg. Conf. Budget	Spring Assy. Budget	June Mtg. Budget	Aug. Mtg. Budget	35/36 Wkshp Budget	Reg. Forum Budget	Fall Assy. Budget	Dec. Mtg. Budget	Zone Forum Budget	Zone Forum Budget	Total Budget
Meals	35.00	5.00		35.00	5.00	5.00	5.00		40.00	5.00			\$ 135.00
Travel	25.00	30.00		25.00	30.00	30.00	20.00		50.00	30.00			\$ 240.00
Lodging	35.00			35.00					80.00				\$ 150.00
Phone													\$ -
Supplies	30.00				30.00				30.00				\$ 90.00
Printing	30.00	80.00											\$ 110.00
Postage		225.00		225.00	225.00	225.00			225.00	225.00			\$ 1,350.00
Other													\$ -
Total:													\$ 2,075.00
Actual													
udgeted	155.00	340.00	-	320.00	290.00	260.00	25.00	-	425.00	260.00	-	-	2,075.00

					Position: Literature Chair (Sean D.)										
	Service Wrkshp Budget	Feb. Mtg. Budget	Reg. Conf. Budget	Spring Assy. Budget	June Mtg. Budget	Aug. Mtg. Budget	35/36 Wrkshp Budget	Reg. Forum Budget	Fall Assy. Budget	Dec. Mtg. Budget	Zone Forum Budget	Zone Forum Budget	Total Budget		
Meals	40.00	5.00	60.00	40.00	5.00	5.00	40.00		40.00	5.00	15.00	15.00	\$ 270.00		
Travel	55.00	75.00	250.00	55.00	75.00	75.00	55.00		55.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	\$ 920.00		
Lodging	160.00		240.00	160.00			160.00		160.00				\$ 880.00		
Phone													\$ -		
Supplies	700.00												\$ 700.00		
Printing													\$ -		
Postage													\$ -		
Other	10.00		12.00										\$ 22.00		
Totals:													\$ 2,792.00		
Actual															
udgeted	965.00	80.00	562.00	255.00	80.00	80.00	255.00	-	255.00	80.00	90.00	90.00	2,792.00		

SECRETARY’S REPORT

Greetings Area 35!

I learned a lot at the January Area Workshop in Brainerd. I also enjoyed meeting the Area Officers and of course the Ice Cream. The presentations were creative and well done this year. I am looking forward to a new year, and I will hopefully be able to learn my job as Area Secretary quickly. I am happy to report that I have the Area Secretary Laptop. Heidi was kind enough to place all the folders that she had saved onto this laptop. This way I can begin where she left off and will save my work for the next Area 35 Secretary. A huge Thank You goes out to Heidi as she did so much for the Area without complaining. And she was extremely organized! I hope to follow in her footsteps.

If you want to receive the minutes by e-mail, please contact me and send or give me your e-mail address. If you want to receive the minutes by snail mail, I’ll need your post office address.
Thanks for allowing me to continue learning and growing in AA Service.

Mary S.
Area 35 Secretary

COMMITTEE REPORTS

WEBMASTER

At the end of December Steve and I met. I was trained in keeping area35.org updated. The responsibility for the web was passed. Throughout the month of January Steve has been available to answer my questions and even jump in and undo some mistakes. LinkSky is our hosting service and has been updated with our new webmaster. We also own the domain name www.area35.org. We were not able to update the address or contact information for our domain name. It seems that the passwords were lost. Work on this continues.

It’s the beginning of a New Year and time to look back and see our area35.org website trend. Over the past 4 years our number of visitors is down 22% and the number of visits down 24%. Our bandwidth is up 49%. Less people are viewing more information on our site.

Year	Unique Visitors	Number of Visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
2008	19,136	28,352	209,542	863,176	6.84 GB
2009	18,220	26,066	177,786	749,009	7.38 GB
2010	16,435	24,370	156,066	546,917	7.41 GB
2011	15,014	21,551	139,809	549,082	10.21 GB

There were 11291 pages viewed this month. 4991 viewed meeting pages, 2255 viewed calendar pages, and 1276 viewed area35.org. About 65% of the pages viewed are meeting or calendar pages. My highest priority will be to keep meeting and calendar items up to date.

There are 563 meetings in our database. The meeting lists have been changed to display in table format. Our meeting list is a list of registered meetings per our area group records. Please fill out a group change form and e-mail the completed form to grouprecords@area35.org A group change form is needed for all updates to our web meeting database.

Bob B.

COMMITTEE REPORTS CONTINUED**COOPERATION WITH THE
PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (C.P.C.)**

I would like to thank Kelly D. for asking me to serve and Area 35 for confirming my nomination to be your C.P.C. Chair for the 2012-2013 rotation.

I would also like to thank Area 35 for sending me to the 36th Annual Area 35 Service Workshop. This workshop was well organized and many districts and individuals gave well-prepared presentations. I enjoyed the opportunity to present on Steps to Healthy AA Groups. My sense is we are off to a great start in our work to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic. I am looking forward to attending the 2012 West Central Regional AA Service Conference from March 2-4, 2012.

C.P.C. work involves cooperating with professionals who often meet alcoholics in places where AA is not present (C.P.C. Workbook). Through professional we can reach alcoholics who might never find the AA program, or find the program much sooner, with the assistance of informed non- AA's (C.P.C. Workbook).

As an area C.P.C. Committee we have a lot of work ahead of us in reaching and informing over thirty different types of professionals who can be found in each of our districts.

I look forward to working with you all on this life saving venture.

Roger R.

12 Steps to Building a Healthy Group
Roger R.
Area 35 CPC Chair

1. The group attracts healthy AA members who are committed to the group.
2. The group strongly encourages members to work a 12 Step Program of Recovery continuously and focuses on the 12 steps in meetings.
3. The group strongly encourages members to have an active relationship with a sponsor and to sponsor other members.
4. The group respects, understands and applies the 12 Traditions to all individual, group and AA matters.
5. The group believes in an inspired group conscience and allows the group conscience to guide the group in decision-making. Periodic group inventories also assist groups in maintaining and improving upon their effectiveness.
6. The group maintains a GSR who carries the group conscience to a local District, Area and General Service Conference (through a Delegate).
7. The group encourages members to be active in AA service.
8. The group actively reaches out to newcomers.
9. The group encourages members to believe in and depend upon a Higher Power, of their own choosing, as a foundation of their recovery.
10. The group actively encourages members to participate in a 7th Tradition to fund AA entities (District, Area and GSO)
11. The group makes AA pamphlets, Grapevine issues and literature available and actively covers AA literature (such as the Big Book) in meetings.
12. The group functions as a fellowship with a strong singleness of purpose; encouraging and arranging activities and communication between members outside of meetings.

Discussion Questions

What do you think, based on your experience, are steps to building a healthy group?
 What do you think are steps that groups take that unfortunately lead to weaker groups?
 How do you think AA Districts can support building healthy AA groups?
 How do you think Area 35 can support building healthy AA groups?
 Is your AA home group healthy, why is it healthy or why isn't it healthy?

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Greetings. Once again I am humbled to have been chosen as a trusted servant for AA as your P.I. Chair. I haven't much to report as I have yet to sit down with those who will be representing their Districts. I have a wealth of experience I can draw from those who have had this committee. With the others and some ideas I have I believe we will carry on what Roger has started and a few new ones. Service has been a big part of my sobriety, what a journey. Our last Area Workshop was by far the best I have attended, job well done. I am looking forward to the upcoming Forum as well as other activities as well. It's great to be a part of Northern Minnesota Area 35. Thank you again for allowing me to serve.

In Service
Butch R.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS CONTINUED**CORRECTIONS**

Greetings from your new Corrections Chair! I'm honored to serve Area 35 and will give it my best. Right now I have more questions for the District Chairs than answers. Hopefully we will learn together. So far I have just started to talk with Randy, Area 35 Treatment Chair, about a joint workshop at the Spring Assembly. Also, Area 36 Corrections Chair has asked for input on a "Summary of Correctional Contact Program for Professionals" letter to be given to Professionals in the correctional field. I'm looking forward to Billings Montana and the Spring Assembly.

In service,
Jeff E.

TREATMENT

Thank you for allowing me to be of service to the area this rotation. I will do my utmost best to serve the area to the best of my abilities. We attended the Area 35 Workshop in Brainerd on January 21st and 22nd at the Brainerd Hotel/Convention Center. The presentations were filled with energy and enthusiasm by all who presented and done an excellent job. The Area Committee had a communications meeting on Saturday night and we exchanged some ideas for a workshop which we will be planning soon. The Treatment Committee will soon be establishing a plan for temporary contacts and "Bridging the gap". I will also be making contact with Treatment Centers for future presentations and informational meetings for this rotation.

Yours in Service,
Randy A.

ARCHIVIST

Hello everyone. I recorded the winter workshop for the Archives. If you would like a copy I can email the files, not recommended for a POP server email, but if you have a gmail or yahoo account it will work. Otherwise bring a jump drive to Aitkin and it will take seconds. The inventory is plugging along. I gave up on the

Father John Doe digitalization and pointed the person the requested them to a web site that sells them on CD.

Last issues Question: What was the title of the second Jack Alexander article? Answer: "The Drunkards Best Friend" in the 4/1/1950 Saturday Evening Post. This issues Question: What magazine has published the most articles on Alcoholics Anonymous?

Yours in service,
Brad I.

GRAPEVINE

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. I am enjoying learning my new position.

Yours in Service,
Arthur A.

GROUP RECORDS

Welcome everyone to the new rotation!
I would like to thank Area 35 for their confidence in my ability to be group records secretary, I will do my best to serve you. I got off to a slow start as I did not get my password to anything until Jan 17. I am still learning so I ask for everyone's patience. I am in the process of updating FNV and AA meeting locator so once again if you did not receive the Northern Light let me know your service position and I will get you in our system. I would like to stress I need addresses, phone number, and email if you have it, plus your position. To place your flyer in Northern Light the cost is \$75 make this out to Postmaster (this helps pay for the cost of mailing) and I will need 600 flyers to have put in the Northern Light. To be in AA meeting locator your group needs a name, meeting time, place (address) and a contact person, phone number, address, I also need to know if this is an open or closed meeting, handicap accessible, what type of meeting (Big Book, Topic, etc.)

Once again I ask for your patience.

Thank you again for the opportunity to be of service,

Sandy H.
Group Records Secretary

LITERATURE

I trust this note finds all well. I greatly appreciate the opportunity and honor to be of service to Area 35 as Literature Chair. I am excited about this new role and hope to do the position justice. I am fortunate and give thanks to Bob K. for sharing with me so much and making himself available with any questions I may have. The Area Workshop went well and I was able to meet and discuss literature concerns with many; I have much to learn. Thankfully an old timer once told me, "Remain teachable". This piece of advice has served me well. Presently I am getting to know my inventory—not just the numbers, but an understanding of the literature. I look forward to continuing to grow and being of service to the area.

Yours in Service,
Sean D.

NORTHERN LIGHT EDITOR

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your new Northern Light Editor. I am excited about the upcoming two years! I want to encourage you all to submit articles. Please be patient with me as I learn the ropes and please contact me about any corrections, comments, or suggestions.

Yours in Service,
Jana M.

ARCHIVE CHAIR

No Report submitted

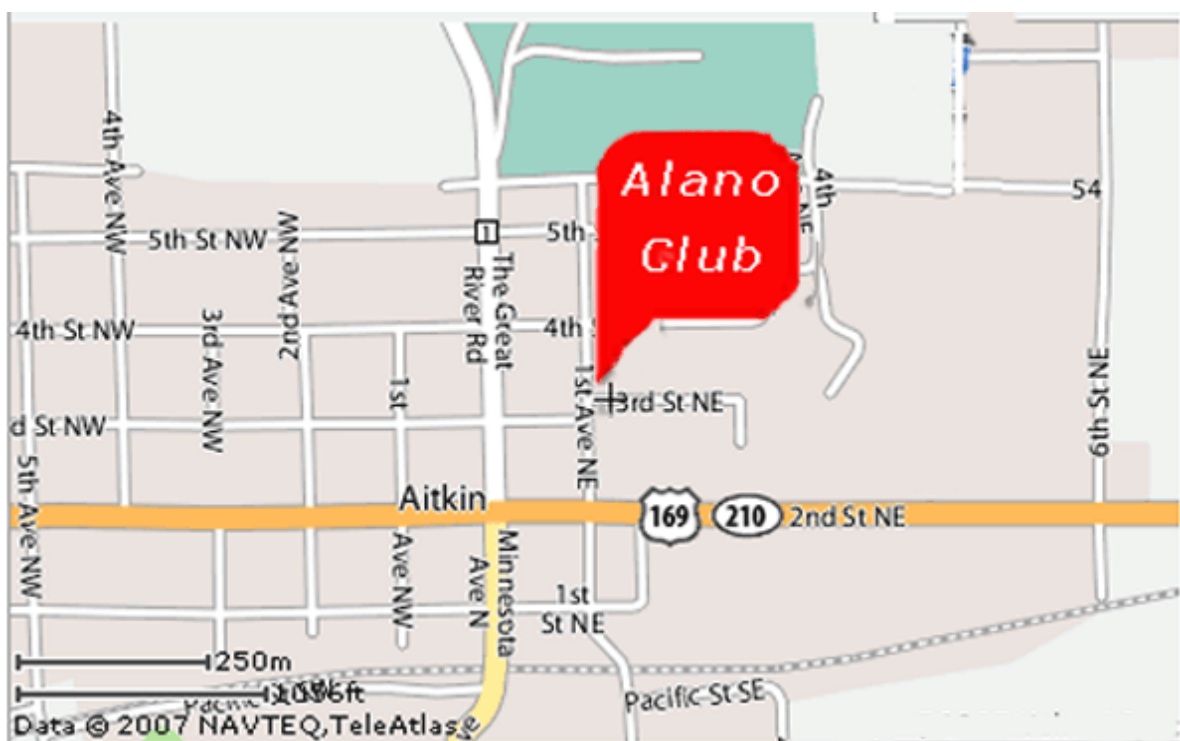
Inclement Weather Procedure For Area 35 Events

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!

Jana M.
Area 35
Northern Light Editor

Northern Light Article

I was very happy and humbled by the votes taken at the recent Fall Assembly in Brainerd. When I was asked if I would serve as the Area Secretary, I thought about the job and wondered if I was up to it. I thought about my service in AA up to this point in my life. And I thought about my present obligations at home and at work and asked myself how this would fit with all of my responsibilities. I felt that although the job looked like a lot of time and work, it would be a way that I could give back to AA what I have been given freely by so many others. There is so much more to sobriety than not drinking. From my perspective, the happiest people in AA are the ones who are busy doing for others, practicing the 12 steps of AA, and working with an AA Sponsor.

As I thought about this job in relation to the rest of my life, I considered how service and leadership in AA helps others as well as myself. When one takes on a leadership role many responsibilities are thrust upon the person and the person has to trust that he or she can meet those responsibilities without even knowing what they all are. I think saying yes to a group, district or area job is spiritual. Trusting that we can do a job when we don't exactly know what we're getting ourselves into.

Didn't we practice trust when we went to our first AA meeting? How about when we picked up the phone and called someone for help to stop drinking? How about the time we needed a ride to a meeting and called that person who gave us their phone number at the meeting? How did we get to the tables of AA but by trusting that it just might help us somehow, someway?

That's how I am looking at the next two years of the job as secretary. I'm trusting that this job will help me as much as I will help the area. I am working for all of you who voted for me to be your Area Secretary. I trust that I will do my very best - I promise.

Your trusted servant:

Mary S
Area 35 Secretary
Grand Rapids, MN

Northern Light Article

I read with great interest an article entitled "Sky High" in the Nov. 2011 edition of the Grapevine. It was a story about a young AA member from St. Paul, MN who struggled with ways to have fun while staying sober. It brought me back to my early years in the program. I was fifteen years old when I came through the doors of AA. I was reminded of the loneliness I felt, the need for acceptance, and all that adolescent angst and anxiety. I wanted to stay sober so badly but I didn't know what to do. My sponsor had three suggestions.

First, he said if I was going to stay sober, I had to change the faces and the places. There was no hanging out at the same old haunts with the same old friends and trying to stay sober. That was a formula for relapse he told me.

Second, he told me no relationships for the first year of sobriety. I asked why and he said sobriety was difficult enough without complicating the process by taking on a relationship. He told me to have a relationship with myself before I tried to have a relationship with someone else. Besides, he added, sobriety would require my undivided attention. Lastly he told me that the formula for working the program was really simple - he told me to put as much energy into my program as I did into getting drunk. I asked him what that meant and he said I would figure it out.

I contemplated his advice and decided it meant this; since I partied every day, I would go to an AA meeting or AA function every day. And that is exactly what I did for my first 365 days of sobriety.

But what about that adolescent need to socialize, to be part of a group, to have fun and thrill seek? I did it all through the fellowship of AA.

During my first year of sobriety, AA friends and I organized dances, we went to concerts, we enjoyed AA conventions and camp-outs. We played cards at the homes of AA members, we organized football and softball games and we did it all sober. We would have meetings before the social event and meetings after the social event concluded. Sometimes we stayed up all night talking around campfires and enjoying a meteor shower the Higher Power provided. It was an exciting, thrilling time and I did it all wrapped in the protective cloak of the fellowship of AA.

Time passed and that need to always be with my friends subsided, but my love of the program never waned. Today I am 48 years old and I have 33 years of sobriety. I go to one meeting a week, I sponsor other men and I am very involved in service. However, had it not been for those formative years in AA and learning how to have fun while sober, I don't think I would have ever made it to my first 30 day chip.

JD
Thursday Night Young People's Group
St. Cloud, MN

AREA 35 COMMITTEE MEETING
December 4, 2011

9:00 A.M. Action Chair Committee Meetings

10:30 am Area Committee Meeting

Call to Order Open with the Serenity Prayer

Past Delegates in attendance were recognized: Jerry S. (Panel 56), Charlie C. (Panel 54), Tim C. (Panel 52), Tom A. (Panel 50), and Susie A. (Panel 48)

Additions/Corrections to the Agenda:

Drawing to Assign DCM's to Action Committee

Reserving Spots for Assemblies

Budgets

Secretaries Position and Requirements

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

OFFICER REPORTS

DELEGATE-Jon C.-

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy Joyous Sober New Year. I would like to thank all the officers, chairs, DCM's and GSR's for a job well done these past two years. I have been very fortunate to have worked with a group of people so dedicated and determined in carrying the message to those who still suffer. Thank you. We cannot and will not rest on our laurels. We will need to improve on every category of service especially contributions to G.S.O. Our percentage of participating groups has gone down every quarter from the last two years. There are two compelling factors for this downward trend: The economy and the Area treasury. Outside these two, one of our biggest problems was not visiting the groups and explaining what GS.O. provides to groups. We do provide forums, orientations, workshops etc., but the GSR's that attend are for the most part already explaining to their groups the seventh tradition. We need all the other groups if they do not come we must go to them. Please visit the groups and encourage contributions. The A.A.W.S. is discussing a report regarding the possible plan for posting "Daily Reflections" on the G.S.O.'s A.A. Website. The e-book format in English, French, and Spanish of both the Big Book and the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions is priced at \$6.00. For your information these are the shipping charges for A.A.W.S. Literature: \$0-50 at \$10, \$51-250 at 19%, \$251-500 at 16% and over \$500 no charge. These are the financials for the A.A.W.S. For the first 9 months. Actual Income \$294,000, Literature revenue profit \$6,008,000, Contributions \$4,481,000, Expenses: Personal expenses \$6,449,000, operating expenses \$3,745,000. The Grapevine's latest issue's theme is "Un-crazy Holidays". AA Grapevine.org store is providing free standard shipping from 11/28 to 12/12, 2011. The first e-book will be available in December (Language of the Heart). You can give two gift subscriptions of Grapevine magazine for only \$42. One subscription at regular price is \$28.97. These are the financials for the Grapevine for 9 months: Net Loss \$32,267, Total Income \$1,355,915 expenses were \$1,387,982. The Lavina had gross profit \$45511 and expenses &107,695. In closing I would like to congratulate the incoming officers, soon to be chairs, DCM's and GSR's. I wish all of you the best and if there is anything I can do, please ask. Thank you all for letting me be of service. God bless, Jon

ALTERNATE DELEGATE- Jim K.-

Dear Members of Area 35, I hope you all had a good Thanksgiving and you are looking forward to the upcoming rotation and the new opportunities that lie ahead for us all in service. I am honored and humbled to be serving as you new Delegate for this rotation and encourage you to contact me with any concerns, questions, or ways that I can be of service to your groups. Since our past meeting, I have had the opportunity to contact all of our districts and individuals participating in our upcoming service workshop and further explore my upcoming role as Delegate. I am looking forward to the January Area 35 Service Workshop to be held the 21st and 22nd at The Brainerd Hotel and Conference Center. I want to thank all of the individuals and districts that volunteered to present at the workshop. I encourage all of those presenting to take the care to make their presentations as informative and meaningful as possible to all those attending. If you have not yet made reservations for this event, I encourage you to do so as soon as possible. Ken B., current West Central Regional Trustee, will also be with us for the weekend so it will be a great opportunity for new GSR's and DCM's to gain a bit of a regional perspective as well. Jake has been included on all recent email communications and I will be meeting with him to go over the agenda and duties for this event as he will be chairing it as your new Alternate Delegate. I have started receiving communications from the General Service Office regarding timelines for the coming year and requests for information on all incoming Area 35 Officers and Committee chairs. I need all officers and chairs to see me today to insure that I have names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses to forward to the General Service Office. I will also be sitting down with Jon, if possible, or other past delegates who are willing to insure that I understand the upcoming immediate roles and I am fully prepared for the 2012 General Service Conference. Finally, I want to again give a very warm and heartfelt thank you to all the members of Area 35 in your decision to entrust me to serve as your Delegate for this upcoming rotation. Words cannot describe the overwhelming emotions that I feel with this responsibility. I will do my upmost to serve each of you and all of Area 35 to the best of my abilities and thank you for this opportunity to be of service. Yours In Service, Jim

CHAIR-Michael (Jake) J.-

Wow 2 years already. It is so hard to believe that my term as your Area Chair has ended. I feel like every other position that I have had when I finally get the hang of things rotation happens. What a blessing for you and me. When I start to think I know too much I forget that God's in charge and I become master of my own destruction. Thank you for allowing me the chance to serve Area 35 I feel truly blessed. It's been 2 years of learning the chair position and dealing with my first major health problems. I appreciate your patience and help. We survived some issues and grew together by handling things as God led us. Hopefully, we are growing together as a fellowship in our area. The assembly was exciting and I enjoyed participating and meeting new people. We had about 150 people in attendance which was a nice turnout but we still need more GSRs to bring our group together and help us to carry the message. Thanks to District 21 for their help at the Fall Assembly. You elected some wonderful people to serve and I know that they all care about AA and will do their best. The assembly went smooth and our past delegates did a wonderful job of proctoring our elections. It was a little more costly and I set the process of coffee a little low but overall in the last 2 years we were able to save some money at some events while others cost a little more. I hope the next 2 years go smooth for Kelly our incoming chair and I will assist as much as possible. Let us continue to grow as an area keeping the traditions and concepts in mind so that we can carry the message of our fellowship to all these that need and want it. I thank Jon, Jim, Sarah, and Heidi for taking care of me so well. It has been a pleasure spending time with them. God bless and take care, Michael (Jake) J.

SECRETARY- Heidi R.-

Greetings Area 35! I am requesting all December Committee reports be to me by December 18th. I have created the flyer for the Spring Assembly and sent the information to Box 459. The Spring Assembly should be in the next issue. I attended the Zonal Forum in Perham, MN. I had a great time and want to thank everyone who helped by setting up and bring food. Over the past months, I have started working on getting the new Area 35 Action Booklet ready to be printed. The new Action Booklets will be available at

the February Committee Meeting. I was informed of an error in the 2011 Fall Assembly Minutes. Under the section “Nominations for West Central Regional Trustees” the final results were Jerry S. - 24 and Charlie C. – 61. In the minutes I sent out to everyone they say Jerry S. – 24 and Charlie C. – 24. Finally, I want to thank the Area for allowing me to be of service as the Area 35 Secretary for the past two year. It was challenging as well as rewarding. I have learned so much more about the service structure and AA as a whole. I do not feel my sobriety would be the same if I did not participate in service work. Yours in service, Heidi R.

TREASURER- Sarah K.-

December 2011 Area Committee meeting Treasury report: Hello Area 35! Here are your period 6 (Oct. 1, 2011 - Dec. 3, 2011) numbers: period six income totaled \$6,914.79; we received \$4,405.00 in group contributions, \$24.48 in birthday contributions, \$1,770.00 in special contributions (\$1,000.00 from the Heartland Roundup, and \$770 from the Gopher State Roundup), \$693.03 income from coffee sales at the Fall Assembly, \$9.00 in seventh tradition funds, and \$13.28 in interest. Happy birthday to all, and please pass on our gratitude for your support. Our period six expenses totaled \$4,837.42. General event expenses for the Fall Assembly totaled \$2,760.30: \$1,238.03 for room rental costs and \$1,522.27 for coffee costs. A complete breakdown of area officer and chair expenses can be found in the period 6 “Detailed Expenditures” report available from DCMs, or by contacting the area treasurer at treasurer@area35.org. **NOTE: the PO Box for Area 35 has changed. Please update your records. All contributions will now be mailed to: Area 35, PO Box 87, Biwabik, MN 55708.** Online contributions can be made (for a fee) at: <http://www.area35.org/donate.html> You can find a link to make an online contribution at the bottom of the page under the officers tab on our Area 35 website. 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.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS

ARCHIVES-Art A. –

We had 9 in at our last meeting. Andrew told us that the new District Action book is done. Everyone who helped Andrew did a great job. Antoinette F. will be the new Area 35 Archives Chair. I know she will do great. I can only hope she has much fun as I have had. I would like to thank everyone in Area 35 for letting me be a small part in Area 35 service work. Yours in Service, Art

ARCHIVIST- Brad I. –

Since the Fall Assembly I have written an article for the newsletter, had the full display at the St. Cloud round-up, gave an Archives tour at the Saint Cloud Round-up, recorded the C.P.C./P.I./Treatment and Corrections workshop in Saint Cloud and had a joint display with Area 36 at Founders Day on St. Louis Park. Recent contributions to the Archives are a book by a Keeley Cure graduate, a very rare 1939 Canadian Liberty magazine, an original 1909 magazine with an Emmanuel Movement article and the Charles Townes book “Habits that handicap”. These will all be on display at the Superior Round-up in April. I look forward to serving with the incoming committee and am always available for your district or group. My Calendar for 2012 is filling fast and I am already committed for the 77th Founders Day.

DISTRICT 5-Rita D. –

Greetings everyone from District 5. We are active & busy. Our Treatment Chair brings a monthly meeting into two Treatment Centers, Skip continues to help by coordinating the meetings in Sherburne County Jail, Jack continues his Archive work and Jake is taking care of Literature. At our November District meeting we held elections again for District positions. We voted to separate the Secretary/Treasurer position. We now have 6 of the 9 positions filled. I'm happy to announce our incoming District members as follows: DCM-Heidi R., Alternate DCM-Todd C., Treasurer-Chuck, Corrections-Chad, Treatment-Jack J., Literature/Grapevine-Paul M. This leaves PI/CPC, Archives and Secretary to be filled. I do believe the Secretary position will be filled at our December meeting. We had three new GSR's and several visitors come to learn how they can be of service. I will be meeting with the incoming DCM, Alternate DCM and any others to pass on information and answer questions at our December 19th meeting. We are in the process of securing a new meeting location. This will hopefully be finalized this week and we will be at a new location in January. I am amazed as to how fast this rotation has gone by! This said I want to thank District 5 AA members for giving me the privilege and honor of serving as DCM. I could not have done it without the support and help of ALL our groups, GSR's and committee members. So THANK YOU ALL!!! Thanks to Paul, Jack, Todd, Beth, Chuck, Skip, Mick, Char, Betsy, Heidi and both big & little Jake! Without your hard work & dedication to Service we could not have carried the message. Soon the New Year will be here and it's out with the old & in with the new...so good luck and congrats to all incoming Area Officers, Area Committee Chairs, GSR's, District Committee Chairs and DCM's. Always Grateful to be of Service, Rita

DISTRICT 6-Kathie G. – Not present, Report given by Dave A.

We had elections in September and Dave was nominated as DCM. We are still looking for people to fill other position within the district.

LITERATURE-Bob K. –

There were 9 at the meeting this morning. District 11 is new and wants some catalogs. District 15 has a new Literature chair. They went through a lot of pamphlets at the county fair and are restocking there pamphlets. District 21 is looking for a new Literature chair. District 3 is getting literature to jails and treatment centers. District 8 is restocking there literature inventory. District 12 has a new literature chair. There were some questions about catalogs and ordering. Work on the E-Book project that was due to start in October, the new start time is early December for the Big Book and the 12X12. The last 2 years was great. Yours in service Bob K.

Area 35 Literature Chair

DISTRICT 8- Randy A. –

We held out last district meeting on November 7th, 2011 with a total of 40 in attendance with 16 groups represented. We welcome a new group to the district: the Ely Monday Night First Steppers Group and we also regretfully lost one other group in our district: the Mt. Iron Woman of Spirit Group which had been involved with the district for quite some time. Losing a group is like losing a friend and my heartfelt condolences to those who are left without a “Home Group.” This expresses the vital importance of practicing the Traditions, Concepts, and conducting business meetings within the home group and how vital our second legacy of Unity is to our fellowship. We have completed a financial review of our district treasury which included a committee consisting of the current district officers. The financial records were deemed to be accurate and matched according to bank statement and check registrars. Under old business, our Literature/Grapevine Committee Chair also gave a financial report on literature inventory and has replenished stock for the new incoming chair. We have compiled a 2012 district meeting host group list and were able to get most of it filled for the year. A special thanks to all the groups for your participation and interests. We also had a motion on the floor to financially support all the new incoming district committee chairs as well as the new DCM and Alternate DCM to attend the Aitkin Committee Meeting on December 4th, 2011 in Aitkin for the amount of \$30.00 each. The group conscience of the district decided that it would be in the interest of each committee chair to attend to the meeting to get better informed and exposed to the committees. In addition, all the commitments for the district have been fulfilled and reports are being submitted either written or verbally. This past month, I

had the opportunity to attend the Palo Open Meeting as well as the Biwabik Open Meeting in which my sponsor spoke at the Palo Open Meeting and our new incoming District Archives Chair Renee G. from International Falls spoke in Biwabik and did an excellent job. I will continue to visit groups and open meetings to the end of the rotation as part of the DCM's responsibilities. In closing, I would like to thank all the trusted servants of District 8 for allowing me to be of service and for giving me the opportunity to express my gratitude to Alcoholics Anonymous. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors. Yours in service, Randy A.

DISTRICT 12- Jana M. –

At the last committee meeting I reported that we had our elections and every officer positions was filled except for our treasurer. We were able to have an election for our treasurer at our last district meeting. Kimberly our former PI chair will be the new district treasurer. So we now have: DCM-Sevando, Alternate DCM- Bob, Treasurer – Kimberly, and Secretary- Rodney. We also approved Big Book to The Carlton County & Douglas County Jail meetings. We talked about an Oversight Committee to review the treasury. We all thought it was a good idea. The representative from DULYPAA said they are bringing a meeting and speaker into the Center for Alcoholics and Drug Treatment which was good news. We have been having a hard time getting a meeting in there. Yours in service, Jana M.

TREATMENT- Robert (Butch) R. –

We met with 10 people in attendance from Districts 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, and 16 in attendance. All are making their commitments and researching new opportunities. We cannot rest on our laurels. Alcoholism is an ever present disease and is our responsibility to be there for those who still suffer. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Treatment Chair this past rotation. Our Zone 3 workshop was a success and Mother Nature was also successful on that day too.

DISTRICT 15- Sandy H. –

We at District 15 have been quiet; our next meeting is Monday, December 5, 2011 at Albany community center at 8pm. At this time we will be holding elections for secretary. Due to personal commitments our elected secretary needed to step down. Everyone is welcome; we will be passing along information for our new rotation at this meeting. Thank you everyone who has made me feel welcome, (I am sure Pete will be just as welcome) for the last 3 plus years. It has been an honor to serve. Thank you, Sandy H.

DISTRICT 9- Chuck R. –

This quarter has been a busy one for District 9. We had the long-timers panel in October. Again, it was well attended. The audio recording is now part of the District 9 archives. The Area 35 Fall Assembly had many attendees from our district. We are proud to say that the Alternate Delegate is from our district. We had elections for district positions. All positions are filled. We continue to work with the organizational committee to implement the AA-informational meetings (beginners). These meetings will begin on January 5th. They are held in 4 week increments. The volunteer participation has been encouraging. One of the groups is working towards having a New Years Eve party at the Alano Club. In February we are having a group sponsored open meeting. Hope everyone has a happy holiday. In service, Chuck.

PUBLIC INFORMATION-Roger R. –

We had 11 people attending our PI/CPC breakout session this morning. At this meeting: Tim from District 13 shared information on listing their AA assistance line with GSO. The group discussed ways to increase turn out at the district beginners meetings. Coordination between District PI, CPC, and Treatment Chairs is important in attracting newcomers to beginners meetings. District 9 is launching a beginners meeting in January. Cari from District 21 is getting more meeting schedules out. All seems to be well in Districts 5, 8, 6, 18 and 11. As your PI Chair, I assisted District 13 in electing new officers and chairs using 3rd legacy voting for all position. I participated in a Corrections, Treatment, and PI workshop on November 19 in St. Cloud that 50 people attended. I have worked with Explore MN and Area 36 to successfully place a one page information sheet on AA meetings in MN. This information sheet will be handed out at service counters at 12 travel centers. I would like to express my gratitude to Area 35 for allowing me to serve as you PI Chair.

DISTRICT 7- Mark N. – No Report Submitted

DISTRICT 11- Gary H. –

We did get someone to be the incoming DCM and her name is Becky. All our jail and prison meetings are being met. Yours in service, Gary H.

GROUP RECORDS-Laurie R. – No Report Submitted

NORTHERN LIGHT-Daniel R.- No Report Submitted

DISTRICT 2- Rodney P.-

I can't believe this is my finale report as District 2's DCM. This rotation is was just like past DCM's said it would be. All the joys have outweighed any of the thoughts of why did I take the position. So I want to thank all the AA'ers that served before me, your stepping stones which I get to walk, makes my service to AA easy. Our last district meeting was held November 14, 2011. There were 12 in attendance, of which 8 were GSR's. Meetings in the district are doing well. Some GSR's reported that more newcomers are attending their meetings. The district round-up is set for February 17 and 18 at the Seven Clans Casino in Thief River Falls. I would also like to mention Kim B. our new incoming DCM is present today. Hope to see you at the area service workshop in January. Yours in service, Rod

DISTRICT 16- Mary S. –

First and Foremost, I love being part of AA in District 16. On Saturday, October 8th we held an AA workshop called intro to AA. It was well attended. The speakers were Dan H. and Scott J. The district will do this event again next year as it helps new AA members understand singleness of purpose and how AA is different from treatment. We hope to add in more AA history too. Our district meeting is this week Wednesday. I have learned a lot as DCM and appreciate the opportunity to give back to AA. Thank you.

CORRECTIONS- Kelly D. –

We met this morning in our Action Committee Meeting and we had 13 in attendance with representation from Districts 3, 8, 21, 13 and 12. We went around and shared what was going on in each of the Districts. Commitments are being fulfilled in the correctional facilities within those Districts. We spent time recapping and going over some of the important highlights of discussion this last rotation. What can we do to get more individuals involved in service and volunteering to go into our correctional facilities? We talked about the importance of hosting Workshops on the District level and possibilities of having joint Workshops with other District Chairs to get better attendance. We discussed the importance of having a contact person for our correctional facilities even with the spirit of rotation to allow good communication with the facilities and Alcoholics Anonymous. We discussed the importance of being sure we show up and are there when we say we will be there so we don't lose the opportunity to carry the message of hope to those individuals in our correctional facilities. We also talked about the importance of continuing to have an AA contact list within the Districts for those inmates that will be due to be released that has requested a contact. The numbers asking for a contact have continued to climb (around 200 this rotation) and it is so important that we are available to help these individuals find recovery as soon as they are released from a facility. Because it was the last time that we would be meeting as a committee, I took a few minutes to thank them all for their commitment of service over this last rotation in Corrections. It has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve with all of them. And last I have to say I am still trying to wrap my head around the new position I have been elected to serve as your Area 35 Chair this next rotation. All weekend at the Fall Assembly I was told that I only had to be willing and the rest was up to God. Never in my wildest dreams did I think my name would be pulled out of that hat! I guess God had plans for me that I didn't have for myself. I am truly humbled by this experience and I am committed to do the best job I can to fulfill my duties as your next Area 35 Chair. Please do not hesitate to ask me if I can be of help or service to you in anyway. In love and service, Kelly D.

DISTRICT 3- Jim S. –

We held our elections last month and we have filled all of our positions. Thanks for all of those who volunteered. We will end this year with our financial obligations met in full. All of our treatment and corrections commitments are filled. We have started the planning for our next District Round Up for the upcoming summer. We have added a list of all of the Round Robins on our calendar to our website. The actual flyer will be posted about a month before the event happens. We as a district agree that each District Committee Chair and District Officers will create goals to improve upon what we individually do in an attempt to leave the district in better shape for the next rotation. We had our Zonal Forum October 29th. It was a great success. Thanks to all the Area officers for coming to our humble home, thanks to the Perham Alano Club for hosting

and thanks to all those that attended. In Service, Jim S

DISTRICT 4- Dee Dee B.-

Hello from District 4: I am sorry that I am not able to attend the Area Committee meeting and give my final report as DCM. I want to thank Jeff for his willingness to be of service. I attended Fall Assembly October 1st and 2nd. I gained a lot of valuable information and was able to participate in the election process. Thank you District 4 for supporting me and the AA groups that supported their GSRs to attend. We had elections at our October 8th District meeting in Elbow Lake. DCM – Jeff C, Alternate DCM – Jim T., Secretary – Mary M., Treasurer – Dee Dee B., PI/CPC – Sharon S., Literature – Mike B., Corrections/Co-Corrections – Terry and Colleen S., Treatment – Duane R. will consider. On October 29th a group of us attended the Zonal Forum. It was a good opportunity for our new GSR Jeanne K. to meet Area officers and learn about the service structure. Thank you District 3 for the great food and fellowship! The District Meeting was November 12th District Meeting was held at the Lakes Area Alano in Alexandria, MN. There were about 15 people. We welcomed two new GSRs, Jeanne K. for Elbow Lake and Joe S. for Glenwood Tuesday and Friday night groups. Joe asked AA members to join them and share their experience, strength and hope to help these meetings follow the Traditions. The Saturday Night Douglas County jail meetings are being covered. Jeff C. will go to Traverse County Jail if anyone wants a meeting. There was discussion about an incident at one of the meetings and how it should be handled. Our new corrections chair, Terry S, will discuss this with the jail coordinator. Terry plans to have a meeting with all the volunteers to discuss concerns and get an accurate volunteer listing. Our District meetings rotate each month and the December 10th District meeting will be in Glenwood at the United Parish Church at 5:30 p.m. A special thanks to all the Area 35 Officers and Committee Chairs. You have given us so much. I truly admire your commitment to service work. 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 the opportunity to serve as District 4 DCM. I look forward to the new rotation in 2012. Dee Dee

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (C.P.C) -Doug N. -

In the years 2010-2011, we were able to present the AA word to professionals in northern MN. Some districts are more active because of the population being higher in their cities. In Duluth, the Minnesota Juvenile officers held their annual conference. AA was invited to have a literature display table and volunteers were present to answer questions. In district 13, the St. Cloud VA medical center was presented information by their CPC chair. Some CPC work was done at St. Cloud State College and for Military Reserves. CPC luncheons were held in various districts throughout the northern area. All of our districts have clinics and hospitals so we are able to reach the medical professionals. County jails have sheriff and deputies to present AA literature to. Churches need an AA meeting list and perhaps a contact person. “About AA” is a quarterly piece of AA literature printed on one page. Many professionals have “About AA” mailed to themselves from New York GSO. The mailing list keeps increasing and printed in the GSO quarterly report that all DMC’s receive (the increase is made note of). Respectfully, Doug N.CPC chair.

DISTRICT 13- Steve J. – Not present, Report was given by Andrew

DISTRICT 1- Lon G.- Not present, No report given

GRAPEVINE-Dee K. –

We had 9 in attendance at our Grapevine/Literature Committee Meeting with representation from Districts 15, 5, 3, 8, 12, 11, 21, and 4. We had questions that were answered on ordering literature and Grapevine’s. We also had discussion on the cons for having the Grapevine. Most in attendance were new to the positions. Reports by those in attendance will be included in their reports. At the beginning of my rotation I was given \$888.00 in Grapevine inventory and a little over \$100 in cash. I was also given \$500 in cash at the beginning of my rotation from the Area 35 Treasury. Currently at the end of my rotation there is \$1630.40 in inventory and \$418 in cash to be given to the new Area 35 Grapevine Chair.

DISTRICT 18– Vern P. – Not present; Report given by Collin

We had our elections in District 18 and currently have only one position that is not filled at this time. We are working on the jail meetings and getting more volunteers into the rotation.

DISTRICT 21- Carl B. –

Hi everyone, I’m Carl B., DCM for District 21, and an alcoholic. I just want to start my report by thanking all the volunteers who helped out at Fall Assembly as I was unable to attend. District 21 just held our annual Gratitude Potluck, the Saturday after Thanksgiving, we hold a potluck, then have a call up meeting where each person talks for 2-3 minutes about gratitude, then picks the next person. About 55 people in attendance. At our last 3 district meetings we tried to rotate our location, at Park Rapids and Walker. There didn’t seem to be any additional interest so I’m not sure if the next rotation will continue to travel or keep our meetings in Bemidji. We held elections at our last meeting and Dave G. will serve as our DCM, Brent T. our Alternate DCM, Darrin P. our Secretary, and Carol D. is willing to continue as our Treasurer one more term. We are continuing to keep our meeting lists up to date, and we have a couple new GSR’s in our district which is very exciting. I just want to say thanks for allowing me to serve district 21, you guys have been great.

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 9 in attendance from 2 districts, districts 2, 16 old and new plus the Group Records Secretary and Northern Light Editor and me. I was in attendance at our Area 35 Zone 1 Service Workshop at the Perham Alano Club. A new web base group change form is almost done. Thanks to Dan just a little tweaking to do and it will be posted. If you have an event that you would like on the website please email them to me or upload through the website. We are looking at (recoding) being able to be more printer friendly in the meeting list pages. We have run into a small snag. I was surprised and humbled to be voted as the next area treasure. Thank you. At the meeting we discussed whether to post a couple of flyers to the Website. One was thumbs down the other mixed 50/50. Also, showed an example I received of a poor meeting change request. Top search engine requests were for Duluth then St. Cloud and Ely. Now a little summation about the Web site usage for the months of October and November. In Oct we had 56,730 hits from 1,707 different sites. The busiest day was Oct 1 with 2723 hits from 73 visitors; Average is 76 hits per hour. In November we had 51,027 hits from 1,780 different sites. The busiest day was Nov. 14 with 2,553 hits from 87 visitors; Average is 70 hits per hour. Humbly in service, Steven

OLD BUSINESS

FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE –

We met as a committee on December 4th 2011 at the Aitkin Alano Club in Aitkin with 7 members present including our new incoming Area 35 Treasurer Steve L. we conducted a financial review for period VI-October 1st to December 2nd, and we the members of the oversight committee concurred that the financial records for the area treasury to be concise and accurate with no current discrepancies. We reviewed the bank statement, check registers etc and determined that the records matched accordingly. The current financial oversight committee consists of the area chair, area treasurer, DCM, GSR, one to two interested AA members and past delegate. We discussed the incoming composition of committee members. We also discussed having one current member carry out into the next rotation for experience. We will be doing our final review for period VII – December 2 to December 31 at the January area workshop. We are looking for interested members to serve on the committee and to contact the current area 35 chair or the new incoming area chair. Thanks to the Area 35 Financial Oversight Committee for their dedication, commitment and enthusiasm to area 35 and AA. Yours in service, Randy A., Financial Committee Oversight Chairperson

SPRING ASSEMBLY 2012–

The 2012 Spring Assembly will be held March 31st and April 1st at Cragun’s Resort and Hotel in Brainerd, MN. The Assembly will start at 9am on Saturday March 31st. Room rates at Cragun’s are \$95.00 per night (tax not included). To get the blocked rooms ask for Northern Area 35 Assembly. The rooms will be blocked until February 2, 2012.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF INCOMING AREA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Jeff E. – Corrections Chair, Randy A. – Treatment Chair, Jana M. – Northern Light, Robert (Bob) B – Webmaster, Antonette F. – Archives, Art A. – Grapevine Chair, Sandy H. – Group Records Secretary, Sean D. – Literature Chair, Roger R. – CPC Chair, Butch R. – PI Chair, Brad I. - Archivist

Motion was made and 2nd to approve the incoming Area Committee Chairs. Motion passed 20 in favor and 0 against.

DRAWING FOR ASSIGNING DCM'S TO ACTION COMMITTEES

- Archives Committee – Districts 2 and 12
 - Literature Committee – Districts 5 and 13
 - Treatment Committee – Districts 1 and 7
 - Public Information Committee – Districts 3 and 6
 - Northern Light Committee – Districts 16 and 21
 - Corrections Committee – Districts 8 and 9
 - Cooperation with the Professional Community – Districts 11 and 18
 - Grapevine Committee – District 4
- Finance Committee – District 15

RESERVING SPOTS FOR ASSEMBLIES

Kelly the incoming Area 35 Chairperson and Jake, the outgoing Area 35 Chairperson were sent an email about a company that searches for possible sites for Area 35 Assemblies and Workshops. Below is the information sent to Kelly and Jake.

WHY USE HELMSBRISCOE?

- TIME:** Industry research shows that 40% of a meeting planner's time is spent on site selection. HelmsBriscoe can save you that time.
- INDUSTRY PRESENCE:** HelmsBriscoe is the largest site selection company in the world with over 1200 associates plus located in 42 countries. Our global organization books over 25,000 meetings annually.
- BUYING POWER:** HelmsBriscoe has tremendous buying power that translates into savings for our clients. In 2010 alone, we booked almost 4 million room nights – and over \$675 million in group revenue! Hotels recognize and value our business and work with us to ensure that our clients receive special consideration and very competitive rates.
- INDUSTRY KNOWLEDGE:** Our extensive database includes not just the number of rooms and square footage of meeting space, but condition and service information along with past rates received by our clients. This knowledge is very useful when selecting and negotiating with hotels.
- EXPERIENCE:** HelmsBriscoe associates are seasoned professionals with an average of eleven years of industry experience. The HB team is comprised of former Hotel/Resort Directors of Sales and Sales Managers, in addition to Meeting and Event Planners. With this wealth of experience HB offers the client invaluable insight into the site selection process.
- NO COST:** There is absolutely no cost to you, the client! HelmsBriscoe is paid a placement fee from the hotel.

THE PROCESS

THE AGREEMENT If your organization is agreeable with our services I will begin the initial site selection search for meetings requiring 10 guest rooms per night or more. The following services are complimentary to meeting planners.

THE REQUIREMENTS..... The planner will provide the basic requirements for the program including desired location (s), preferred dates, meeting room requirements, number of sleeping rooms, and any other details that are pertinent to the initial search.

THE RESEARCH..... I will search our database of over 20,000 hotels, which includes comments from other associates and meeting planners on such things as service, physical condition and rates. I will compare these results to other resources. I will also check for any special deals available to HB representatives only, to see if any match your requirements. Specific hotels requested by the planner will be included, as well those that I have found that fit your requirements.

SENDING THE LEAD/RFP... Requests for proposals will be sent out to the hotels. I will compile all of the information I receive back from the hotels into a grid format and send the results of my search to you.

NARROWING THE DECISION... Using the hotel grid provided, you will select one or more hotels that you are interested in pursuing, and I will request sales kits and further considerations from the hotel. I will also take this time to set up any site tours you request, which will allow you to meet the staff and become more familiar with the hotel (s).

THE FINAL CONTENDER...

You select the hotel of your choice, and I request that the hotel draw up the contract.

NEGOTIATIONS... I will review the first draft of the contract from the hotel, ensuring that pertinent clauses and concessions are included. A clause will be included in the contract stating that the hotel will pay a placement fee to HelmsBriscoe. You will receive a copy of the contract for review, and we will negotiate until a final agreement has been reached. You will then sign the final copy of the contract and return it to the hotel.

YOUR SITE HAS BEEN SELECTED! The process is complete. It is now time for me to step back and let you begin to work directly with the hotel. I will continue to be there to assist in any way possible.

Discussion:

- How long does it take to find locations for Assembly sites? It depends on the Area for the event and how long it will take to negotiate the contract.
- If they come up with a sight and we can find a better sight, do we have to use their suggestions? We only have to use the company, if we sign a contract with a location from them.
- We do not have to sign a contract with them to use their services.
- The rooms could be more expensive to cover the cost on the cheaper rates for the site.
- We should at least get a quote from this company to see what they can offer and then bring it back to the committee meeting.
- This could limit us from getting locations at the same places outside of the company.
- Concerned with anonymity
- Concerned with making sure we are keeping with the Traditions.
- We need to look at if this is doing our job for us and is that all right
- Kelly will email out the information to Area Chairs, Area Officers, and DCMs.

Kelly will also get quotes from the company to see what their rates would have been for the January Workshop. She will also ask the company if they are going to use AA members' names (anonymity).

This will be add to the agenda for the February Area Committee Meeting.

BUDGETS

The 2012 budgets for the incoming Area 35 positions are due to the Area 35 Chair by January 15th. The outgoing Area 35 Treasurer made copies of the 2010 and 2011 budgets for all the incoming Area Action Committee Chairs and Area Officers.

SECRETARY POSITION AND REQUIREMENTS

The outgoing Area 35 Secretary brought up the discussion of getting a laptop or Microsoft Word for the incoming Area 35 Secretary. The issue is that the secretary types the minutes and needs to have Microsoft Word on their computer. Currently, the incoming Area 35 Secretary does not have Microsoft Word so Area 35 would either need to purchase Microsoft Word or a laptop for the incoming secretary.

Discussion:

- This could be an issue for the Treasurer so they should be included in the motion.
- At this time, Area 35 is financial sound and would be a good time to look at purchasing the laptops. We do not know where the Area 35 treasury will be in two years.
- Can Alcoholics Anonymous own property such as a computer? Currently Area 35 does own a laptop that is used by the Area 35 Group Records Secretary. AA is not supposed to own real-estate property.
- The Area 35 Treasurer only needs QuickBooks for their position. The current QuickBooks software owned by Area 35 only has the ability to be added on one more computer. In the next couple of years, we will have to look at either purchasing a laptop or purchasing another license of QuickBooks.
- We may just want to purchase the Microsoft Word for the Secretary and then decide in two years if we should purchase a laptop. The incoming secretary does have a laptop.
- We should not have to have money in order to take an Area position. We need to support and purchase whatever is needed for Area Chairs and Officers to do their jobs. This is part of the reason AA groups send money to the Area so we can support the people in Area positions.
- We should purchase what we need right now and then form a committee to do more research on the topic.
- The motion was vague and needs to have an amount that they will not exceed (ex. \$600).

Having a laptop owned by Area 35 will help us keep all of the information together and pass along to the next Area Secretary and Treasurer.

Motion was made to purchase whatever needs to be purchased so the incoming Area 35 Secretary can do the same job as the outgoing Area 35 Secretary. The motion was second. A friendly amendment was made to the motion which was to include the Treasurer on the motion. Another friendly amendment was made to the motion that the Area 35 Secretary's and Area 35 Treasurer's expenses would not exceed \$600 each or \$1,200 total.

Final Motion – Motion was made to purchase whatever needs to be purchased so the incoming Area 35 Secretary and Area 35 Treasurer can do the same job and the outgoing Area 35 Secretary and Area 35 Treasurer with expenses not exceeding \$600 each or \$1,200 total. Motion was second. Motion passed with 24 in favor and 4 opposed.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS -

- Wild Rice Round-up – January 13th to 15th at Shooting Star Hotel and Entertainment in Mahanomen, MN
 - 36th Annual Area 35 Service Workshop – January 21st to 22nd at The Brainerd Hotel and Conference Center in Brainerd, MN
 - Area 35 Committee Meetings – February 26th at Aitkin Alano Club in Aitkin, MN
 - WCRAASC – March 2nd to 4th at the Holiday Inn in Billings, MT
 - 8th Annual Big Ole Round-up – March 9th to 11th in Alexandria, MN
 - 30th Annual Spring Fling – March 10th at the Community Center in Fertile, MN
 - 33rd Annual Winter Wrap-up – March 16th to 18th at the Coates Plaza Hotel in Virginia, MN
- Area 35 Spring Assembly – March 31st to April 1st at Cragun's Resort and Hotel in Brainerd, MN

CLOSED WITH THE LORDS PRAYER - 2:40pm.

2012 – AREA 35 SCHEDULE

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

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

Area 35 Spring Assembly
Cragun’s Resort & Hotel
11000 Craguns Drive
Brainerd, MN 56401
March 31st and April 1st, 2012
Call (218) 825-2850

March 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
U.S. Federal Holidays are Red				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Daylight Saving Ahead 1 hr	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	Good Friday	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Easter	Monday	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		
						U.S. Federal Holidays are Red

Upcoming Events in Areas 35 & 36

Note: Area 35 events take precedence!

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

- 8th Annual Big Ole Roundup
March 9th, 10th & 11th
Alexandria, MN
- 30th Spring Fling
Saturday, March 10, 2012
Fertile Community Center
101 S. Mill St.
Fertile, MN 56540
- 33rd Annual Winter Rap – Up
March 16th, 17th. & 18th, 2012
Coates Plaza Hotel
503 Chestnut Street, Virginia MN
- 42nd Annual Iron Range Get-Together
May 4th, 5th, & 6th
Acceptance Is The Answer
Wendigo Lodge
20108 Golf Crest Road
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
(866) 727-7345

Area 36

- 18th Sunlight of the Sprit Roundup
April, 20th, 21st & 22nd
Holiday Inn
Fairmont, MN
- Gopher State Roundup
May 25th, 26th & 27th
Double Tree Blooming Hotel
Bloomington, MN
www.gopherstateroundup.org

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
February 26th, 2011

<div><div><div><div><div><div></div><div>9:00 A.M. Action Chair Committee Meetings</div></div><div><div></div><div>10:30 A.M. 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 December Committee Minutes</div></div></div></div><div><div>OFFICER REPORTS</div><div><div><div></div>Delegate – Jim K</div><div><div></div>Alternate Delegate – Michael (Jake) J</div><div><div></div>Chair – Kelly D</div><div><div></div>Secretary – Mary S</div><div><div></div>Treasurer – Steve L</div></div></div><div><div>COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS</div><div><div><div></div>TREATMENT – Randy A</div><div><div></div>District 15 – Pete B</div><div><div></div>District 9 – John F</div><div><div></div>PUBLIC INFORMATION – Robert (Butch) R</div><div><div></div>District 7 – Neil F</div><div><div></div>District 11 – Becky N</div><div><div></div>GROUP RECORDS – Sandy H</div><div><div></div>NORTHERN LIGHT – Jana M</div><div><div></div>District 2 – Kim B</div><div><div></div>District 16 – Gene V</div><div><div></div>CORRECTIONS – Jeff L</div><div><div></div>District 3 – Jim S</div><div><div></div>District 4 – Jeff C</div><div><div></div>C.P.C – Roger R</div><div><div></div>District 13 – Scott B</div><div><div></div>District 1 – Irene J</div><div><div></div>GRAPEVINE – Art A</div><div><div></div>District 18 – Vern P</div><div><div></div>District 21 – Dave G</div><div><div></div>WEBMASTER – Robert (Bob) B</div><div><div></div>ARCHIVES – Antonette F</div><div><div></div>District 5 – Heidi R</div><div><div></div>District 6 – David A</div><div><div></div>LITERATURE – Sean D</div><div><div></div>District 8 – Rolene L</div><div><div></div>District 12 – Servando M</div></div></div></div></div>	<div><div><div></div>Lunch</div><div><div>OLD BUSINESS</div><div><div><div></div>January Workshop 2012</div><div><div></div>WCRAASC 2012</div><div><div></div>Spring Assembly 2012</div><div><div></div>Financial Oversight Committee</div><div><div></div>Conference Hotel Support</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>Agenda Items 2012</div><div><div></div>Area 35/36 Workshop 2012</div><div><div></div>Fall Assembly 2012</div><div><div></div>Area 35 2012 Budget Approval</div><div><div></div>Committee Meeting Space</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>TBA</div><div><div></div>Adjourn</div></div></div></div>
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