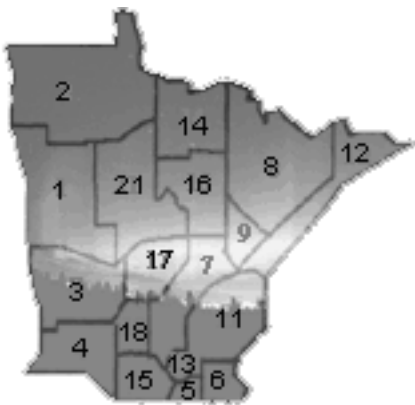


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Deadline for the next
Northern Light is
July 1st, 2012

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

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DISTRICT 18

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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

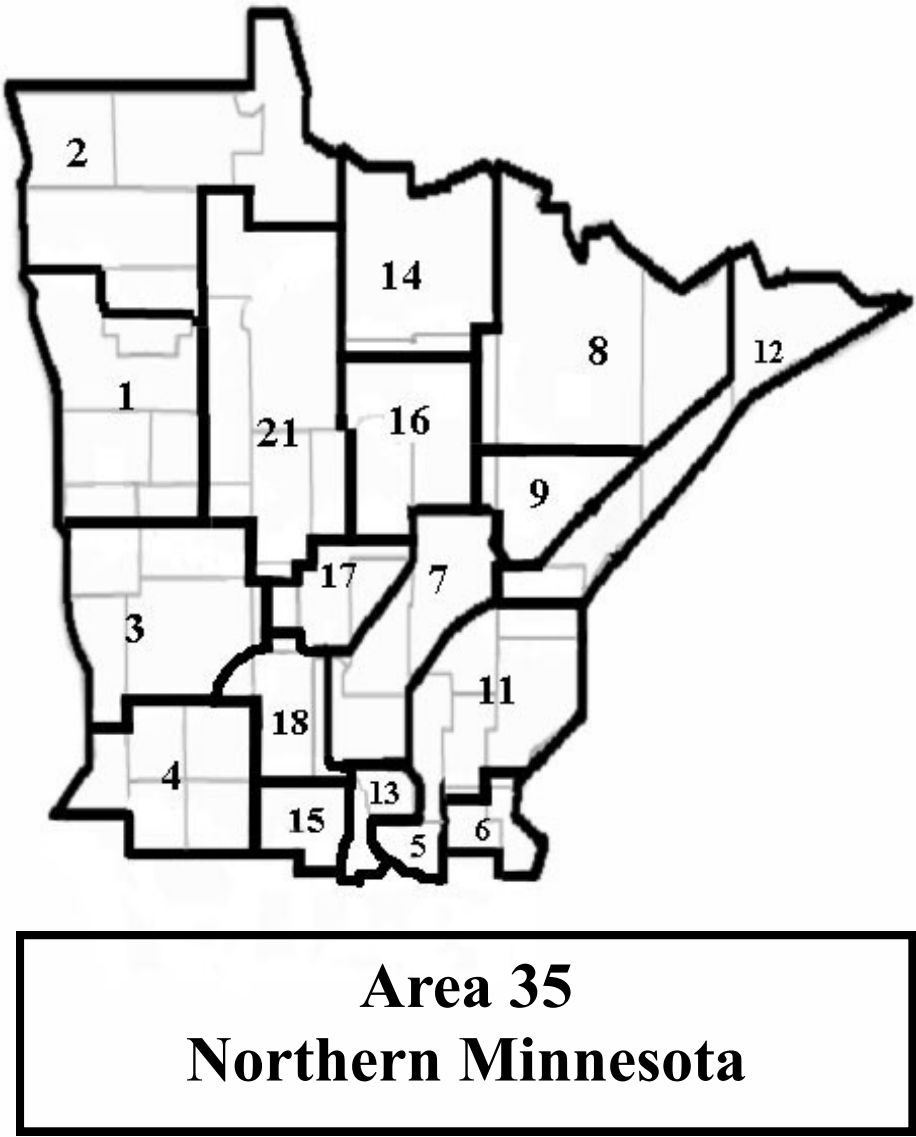
Panel 60 Jon C.	2010-2011	Panel 26 Vern R. (deceased)	1976-1977
Panel 58 JoAnne N.	2008-2009	Panel 24 Gordon B. H.	1974-1975
Panel 56 Jerry S.	2006-2007	Panel 22 Frank P. J. (deceased)	1972-1973
Panel 54 Charlie C.	2004-2005	Panel 20 Clarence B. (deceased)	1970-1971
Panel 52 Tim C.	2002-2003	Panel 18 Dave H. (deceased)	1968-1969
Panel 50 Tom A.	2000-2001	Panel 16 Arno A. (deceased)	1966-1967
Panel 48 Susie A.	1998-1999	Panel 14 Donald F. (deceased)	1964-1965
Panel 46 Bill P.	1996-1997	Panel 12 Donna T. (deceased)	1962-1963
Panel 44 Bruce B.	1994-1995	Panel 10 Bob B. (deceased)	1960-1961
Panel 42 Greg G. (deceased)	1992-1993	Panel 8 Pearl N. (deceased)	1958-1959
Panel 40 Bob J.	1990-1991	Panel 6 Waldo H. (deceased)	1956-1957
Panel 38 Scott J.	1988-1989	Panel 4 Wendell H. (deceased)	1954-1955
Panel 36 Louie H.	1986-1987	Panel 2 Arthur R. (deceased)	1952-1953
Panel 34 Bob P.	1984-1985		
Panel 32 Tom L.	1982-1983		
Panel 30 Don M. (deceased)	1981-1982		
Panel 28 Garfield (Duffy) S. (deceased)	1978-1979		

The Delegate’s Duties

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

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

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



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

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

Zone III
District 5 - Becker, Big Lake, Elk River, Milaca, Otsego, Princeton, Zimmerman
District 6 - Braham, Bethel, Cambridge, Forest Lake, Harris, Isanti, Lindstrom, North Branch, Rock Creek, Stacy, St. Francis
District 7 - Aitkin, Baxter, Brainerd, Fort Ripley, Garrison, Ironton, Little Falls*, McGregor*, Palisade, Pierz, Pillager*
District 11 - Finlayson*, Grasston, Henriette, Hinckley*, Isle, Lake Lena, Malmo, Moose Lake*, Mora, Ogilvie, Pine City, Quamba, Sandstone, Wahnkon, 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.
Contact DCM Jeff 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.
Freshwaters Church
12475 273rd Ave NW
Zimmerman, MN 55398
Questions? Contact DCM Heidi
dcm5@area35.org

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.
Contact DCM Rolene dcm8@area35.org
for location “It Rotates” Cook, MN

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

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

District 12
3rd Thursday 6:30 p.m. - Email DCM Servando 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 56301

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
3802 Greenleaf Ave NW
Bemidji, MN 56601

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

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!

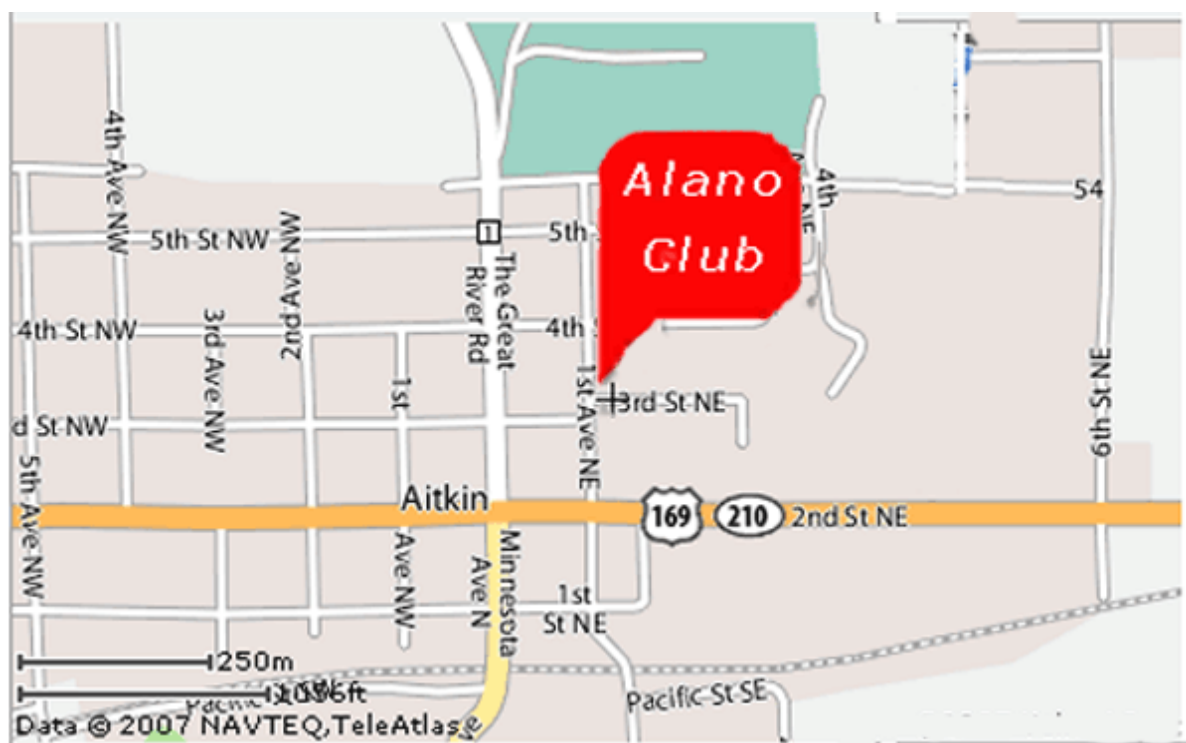
Submissions to the *Northern Light*

General submissions to the *North-
ern Light* are very welcome! Feel
free to send letters or articles that
are pertinent to Alcoholics Anony-
mous. However, please note that if
space is limited, first priority will
be given to reports from Area Offi-
cers, 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: north-ernlight@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



DELEGATE'S REPORT

Greetings Members of Area 35,

I don't know if it is possible to adequately express my gratitude to serve this fellowship and to be a part of Area 35. It is truly a blessing. Of course the large activity that I had the privilege to be a part of since our Spring Assembly was the General Service Conference (GSC). I am blessed to be a part of an Area that is so active and informed about the issues that we face as a fellowship. I look forward to seeing all of you as I get out to districts to give my delegate's report.

Here are some pertinent facts that were passed along to me at the GSC. A full report of happenings will take place at district meetings when I give my report. I sincerely hope that you will make an attempt to attend one of these reports back as it truly gives your group a better understanding of what takes place at the board level and how this affects our fellowship as a whole. It also allows for open communication from the fellowship to the General Service Board and vice versa. A net total of 972 new A.A. groups in the U.S. and Canada were listed at G.S.O. last year. A web site redesign is in initial planning stages. G.S.O. had a net profit of \$817,900 for 2011 and total revenue was \$14,226,400. Gross margin from literature sales was \$9,538,800 and contributions accounted for \$6,264,500. It is apparent that we need to look at what it truly means to be self-supporting in our districts, areas, and as a fellowship as a whole.

Concerns around the Grapevine have been ongoing for some time and I am sure that their financial status will continue to be an area of focus for much of our fellowship. Some new initiatives taking place with the Grapevine, Inc. include 2 eBooks now available, *The Language of the Heart* and *Best of Bill*. Other facts include the fact that Grapevine ended 2011 with a net income of \$22,838 and is budgeted for approximately a \$34,000 net income for 2012. The GSC did pass the proposal put forth by the General Service Board to devise a plan to restructure the current A.A. World Services, Inc. and A.A. Grapevine, Inc., corporate and governance structures. This plan will be brought forth to next year's conference.

I want to thank those districts that have contacted me to set up their delegate reports and encourage all other DCM's to do so soon. I am truly looking forward to getting out to see you all and passing on the information and experience I have received.

Yours In Service,
Jim K.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE'S REPORT

Hi everyone hope you are having a great spring. It has been a busy spring with health problems and many things happening in AA. I have had the privilege of attending some open meetings and continue working with the new drunks coming in our doors. One open meeting I attended was in Zim and it was not long after that its founder Kenny K passed on to the big meeting in the sky. They have lost 2 home group members (Kenny and Clarence) that were a big part of my sobriety and though ill for a few years will be sadly missed.

Even after a few years of sobriety I look forward to meeting the next one thru the door and offering them the message AA gave to me that saved my life and gave me a new one.

I am looking forward to our zonal forum in St Cloud on the 19th of May from 12:00 to 4:00. It will be held at the St Cloud Alano club. It will be great to see all of you from Zone 3.

I am currently serving on the Iron Range Get Together and look forward to it on the 4, 5 and 6 of May. My sponsor showed up from Arizona (Spanky) and we have been able to spend some great times together. He says hi to all who remember him. I was glad to hear Jim got back safe from the big city and look forward to his report. Thanks Jim. I'm sure it was hard to be away from Sarah and their new daughter. That is the price many of us pay for getting the opportunity to have a new way of living offered to us. Are you grateful for your sobriety? Have you shared it with a newcomer lately? Are you happy? If not come join us as we trudge the road of happy destiny, together in the fellowship of AA.

Yours in Love and Service
Michael (Jake) J.

AREA CHAIR'S REPORT

Greetings Area 35,

Well we had our first Spring Assembly of this rotation and I am truly grateful for how well the weekend went. I apologize and do however have a correction on the number that were registered. One of the registration pages was inadvertently added twice, (we had two separate pages going) we did not have 197 in attendance. We had 169 which is still a very large number of attendees. I would like to thank District 7 again for hosting this event. I have also typed the evaluations from the Assembly and they are in this addition of the Northern Light. Please take the time to read them. I want to thank everyone that took the time to fill one out, your feedback, suggestions and comments are important to Area 35. As always it was an emotional ending to the Assembly when we sent Jim, our Area 35 Delegate off with a standing ovation. He did a great job going over the Agenda Items along with the Committee Chairs and is very well prepared to carry the voice of northern Minnesota to the Conference. I look forward to hearing his report back when he returns.

I continue to respond to many emails coming through our Area 35 Website and passing them on as needed. I will also be meeting with Lisa G, Area 36 Chair about our upcoming Joint Workshop with them on July 21st. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!

I will be attending our first Area 35 Zonal Forum in Zone 3 in St. Cloud at the Alano Club on May 19th from 12:00 – 4:00 pm. I look forward to meeting and getting to know more individuals from that area as us Area Officers present a mountain of information. After that event I will be heading to the St. Cloud Round Up for a great evening of fellowship.

Again thank you to all the Districts that send me your monthly meeting minutes, I enjoy reading all of them. If I can be of service to any of you in any way please let me know and thank you for the opportunity to be of service.

In love and service,
Kelly D.

**SPRING ASSEMBLY 2012 EVALUATIONS
CRAGUN'S RESORT
TOTAL - 52**

DCM/ALT DCM (11 total)

How did you like the Assembly?

- I thought this was a very organized and focused Assembly.
- I always enjoy these Assemblies.
- Very well. Jim did a great job covering and going through the agenda items. Kelly kept us on schedule. Facility was very accommodating, dinner was a bit challenging though to get back on time.
- Well run. The meeting space was too small. It is important that the “comfort” of the room allow participants to remain involved in flow of business.
- Meetings were great, facilitators great. Location wonderful.
- I had a great time and learned lots! It gets me excited for service work.
- Very good.
- Well run!
- Good, able to talk to other members on what they are doing with their District and asked questions about how to get people involved.
- Long but informative.
- The timing for this event went along really smoothly. The Agenda Items went over great!! The staff at this hotel was just great.

How can we better meet your needs?

- Better description of where breakout are located. Some of the GSR's had difficulty.
- At this point nothing.
- Unlimited coffee (i.e. wristband)
- Microphones – more or one in the back with the way the room was laid out.
- Ensure that microphone users properly use the mic. If we cannot hear what's being said, interest is lost, clarity of ideas is lost.
- Kelly thanks for getting future Assemblies scheduled!
- Nothing.

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

- Facilities spread out to far.
- Please continue.
- Golf carts to get back and forth. Saturday could have started at 9 instead of 10.

Other comments or suggestions:

- Thank you to all those involved in putting on the Assembly. There was a lot of information that was shared in away that was easy to understand.
- Finding the Tech rooms was a bit difficult.
- 190+ in attendance is great but we were quite packed into the main Assembly room. Breakout rooms are hard to find. Meals, service at Cragun's is not good.
- Thanks for having water and tables for us.
- Would like to know suggestions of how to get better attendance from District members and GSR's.
- Do more to involve GSR's.

GSR'S (total 27)**How did you like the Assembly?**

- I thought it was awesome! Little or no confusion. Cragun's is a wonderful place. I hope we have more events here. Kelly did a great job chairing and Jim really kept the ball rolling on the Agenda Items.
- Very good and very informing.
- Fellowship.
- It was a good Assembly.
- It was only my 2nd Assembly. I thought it was very good, better than the Fall Assembly.
- This was a good Assembly. Good order, went smooth.
- It was put together very well.
- Very well done.
- I liked everything about the Assembly except the location. Cragun's should not be considered for a Assembly location in the future. The sound system and restaurant are awful.
- Informative, went smoothly and everyone kept things moving quickly. Seemed organized. Everyone seemed happy.
- Went very well. Enjoyed another Spring Assembly. Good breakout sessions.
- Wasn't so bad for my first time. Shared a lot of information, wasn't too long.
- I had a fantastic time! I always seem to learn a lot at Area events.
- It was great! Good sharing. Jim kept things moving very well. Kelly did a great job.
- It was fine.
- I liked it. Delegate did fine job!
- Very well, I found it informative.
- It wasn't bad. It opened my eyes a bit to GSC, GSO and GSB. It also made me realize to a point, how rhetorical some of the Agenda Items were, as they have already been implemented. It seems almost pointless to be here.
- It was informative.
- Good job throughout. Especially liked becoming more informed on Agenda Items.
- Got a lot done on Saturday. Sunday was well scheduled, all presentations had their topics in good condition.
- Lot Assembly attended, excellent. Liked being on time.
- This was my first Assembly and I had heard many complaints and criticisms about Assemblies. I found them to be wrong in my opinion. I had a great experience!!! I thought it was very organized and informative. Thank you all for your service work and thank you for allowing me to be of service.
- It was long. Didn't like how long the first day was. People don't need to be coming up all saying the same thing especially when we all are in agreement on the topic.
- I enjoyed it a lot.
- Very good very informative.
- Good, I got here Saturday afternoon.
- My first Assembly. It went well. Lots of information. I enjoyed it.

How can we better meet your needs?

- Unsure.
- Did a good job.

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

- Perhaps we could ask everyone to have the courtesy to move forward in their chairs, up closer to the table to allow someone to get out of the meeting room if they have to. People seem to be inconsiderate of this.
- Less expensive places to have our Assemblies.
- A little bigger Assembly rooms.
- Keep organization the way it was this time.
- Please consider older members when selecting facilities, long walks and very difficult to find rooms. Better audio, difficult to hear. Sound system was terrible. Bigger main room so people can get up and down without disturbing others.
- Long walks for elderly/handicapped.
- Room awfully tight trying to get to the microphones or bathrooms. One more microphone halfway would have helped too!
- At GSR Orientation: a better description of what goes on at Assemblies, what to expect and where to go? What is a breakout session and which should I attend.? What's the best way to share info with the group and preparation before the Assembly? When and what are voting Assemblies?
- Set the tables up so there is more walking room between the tables.
- As far as the conference, it seems to be fine. Nothing else that wouldn't be self serving, for cost and location.
- I can't think of anything other than maybe rolls, donuts in the am.
- 1st Assembly no idea. Cafe with better meal choices – evening.
- Get rid of the breakout sessions.
- Keep meeting rooms closer.
- Maybe get a facility that is not so spread out and difficult to find meeting rooms.
- Start the voting say around 6:30 so it does not go so late. I noticed people getting upset and saying out loud “It's 10:00!!” We should let all those who wish to speak do so without complaining or whining.

Other comments or suggestions:

- Didn't really think we should be sending 15 people to a Forum.
- Kelly did a very good job, Jim did a good job with moving along Agenda Items.
- Keep up the good work.
- The sound system is very important for understanding for new GSR's. I feel I missed a lot from the speakers and the floor.
- Please remove this facility from the Assembly list. The \$40.00 processing charge and cancellation policy (prior to 30 days) is not acceptable. Food was terrible, long musty hallways. The facilities for the last 2 Assemblies were perfect. Is it possible to post Agenda info online for Area to download? Instead of CD's? Or District's can post?
- Audio needs to be a little louder.
- I thought the Assembly was perfect! Great work.
- Let's find space for future Assemblies that we can have enough space between tables that people can move in and out to do what they have to: talk on the microphone, go to the restroom, get coffee without bumping into people, spilling coffee and drinks and making people get up and down in their chairs. After all we do have to sit along time and getting up is a must for most!
- I found myself not knowing which direction to go at time of “breakouts” and also how and when to find specific groups. Was wondering hallways trying to figure it out.
- The breakout sessions seemed redundant. That time could be used to explain that info to everyone to be better informed. I was not able to go to all sessions I wanted to anyway. It's kind a waste of time that we could better use as a whole group.
- Humbled and informed this weekend. “What a way to spend my 68th B'Day!” HA
- Keep up the good work. Thanx.
- This was my first Assembly in Minnesota. I was impressed by the attendance, organization and enthusiasm of all.
- Encourage people to bring someone new to AA to Area events.
- Less time on breakout's to allow more time and earlier start time for evening votes. Visits to microphones by same people on same topic!!

OTHER (total 14)**How did you like the Assembly?**

- It appeared to run smoothly.

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

- Excellent sharing and participation from the floor.
- I really liked it.
- Good. It is amazing how much I continue to learn as I keep coming to Area functions.
- The Assembly itself was very good. Still would like to see more. The facility was too spread out for a function like this. Also isn't centered well within the city.
- Another good experience. Opportunity for meals was limited.
- Very good, very informative. Jim, did a good job of going over the Agenda Items.
- It was good, moved thru reports on Agenda Items pretty quick.
- Very good, information. Everyone did an excellent job.
- I liked our Assembly, I disliked the location.
- The Agenda was smooth! Also, way to go regarding scheduled Assemblies a year out!
- Good. Don't like the resort/facilities. It is a maze, too much walking.
- Excellent.
- Very well, informative.

How can we better meet your needs?

- Continue to streamline the process.
- Time constraints for lunch at this facility, long wait for restaurant, not a lot of choices. Too far too drive for lunch.
- I think you could do away with reports, after all we do have Aitkin Committee Meetings. Take more time to get informed on what we are voting on.
- There could be sometime scheduled for Committee Chairs during the GSR/DCM sharing sessions. Maybe our Committee's could get together again and have their own “sharing session”??? Pack it in, being we are already here.
- Continue to build on the fellowship. Great turnout.
- It was good everything was fine.
- Seating a little tight. Allow more time for dinner.
- Meeting rooms closer together. Everyone was spread out way to far.
- Please find a place that is handicapped accessible. The many stairways are difficult, if not impossible, for some of our members. Thank you. Also the dinning room (Saturday night) was understaffed, so people were late for the evening business and the very limited menu was inadequate. (no salad option)
- When possible pick a facility that does not require a ¼ mile walk for breakout sessions. We do have “special needs” AA's who cannot climb stairs as well. Our past Delegate's should “sponsor” our new GSR's by sitting amongst them during a Assembly, and the Delegate should engage GSR's to share experience.
- Some of the Area Chairs could have been better prepared for their reports/presentations and also talked about what they were doing instead of reading their job descriptions.
- Better microphones, it was hard to hear.

Other comments or suggestions:

- Long walking distance to rooms from Assembly room.
- I think we should use our past Delegates more, they are a wealth of information, they have the experience we lack.
- When there is dinning available at the conference, the facility may want to do “buffets” to help better serve us in the amount of time we have to eat. Breakfast seemed to go really well.
- Encourage group members or GSR sharing on group thoughts.
- Eating situation was not accounted for by facility. Kitchen unable to keep up and people were late.
- The P.A. System was not good. People in the back ½ of the room had a lot of difficulty hearing.
- Consistent and clear voting procedures. As soon as we start voting and allow minority opinion, we should be formal. This way we show GSR's and DCM's why we follow Robert's Rule of Order and why our entire fellowship values thoroughness and spiritually led informed decisions over hasty made decisions. Basically, how we start a meeting is how we should end one! Good job overall!
- Microphones very hard to hear those speaking. Speakers not working properly?
- Keep up the good work! I thought the main meeting room was a little to small. It was difficult to get up to go to the bathroom etc.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Greetings!

I really enjoyed the Spring Assembly this year. I learned a lot and had a great time connecting with everyone else who attended. I am finding that it doesn't matter how long I have been a member of Alcoholic's Anonymous, I still learn. I have subscribed to the Grapevine off and on for all the years I have been in AA. It is a portable meeting for me. I can give it to my friends, I can mail it to people I know in the armed services. I can leave it in various newspaper racks in my clinic, hospital or other waiting rooms in town. One never knows who will pick up a Grapevine and how it might change a life. There is a saying that I saw recently and it is this... "The true meaning of life is to plant trees, underneath shade you do not expect to sit." -Nelson Henderson... That is how I view my service in Alcoholic's Anonymous. By the service work I do today, someone will one day benefit. I won't know how, where or who – but I know that it was the work of others before me who brought me to this wonderful life saving program, and I will continue to do my part for others.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service to Area 35.

Mary S.

TREASURER'S REPORT

I want to thank you for sending me to the West Central Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference (WCRAASC) in Billings MT March 2-4. I heard a lot of interesting discussions on the upcoming Conference agenda items. The information I gathered at the WCRAASC will help me preside over the breakout session topics I am chairing with useful and informative information. I want to commend our Area (Bob and Neil) who did an outstanding job of giving a presentation on social websites, like the one presented at the workshop. I was also impressed by Area 41's presentation about AA diversity. I wish you all could have been there.

The Finance Oversight Committee at the Spring Assembly worked. Right away they found a few discrepancies and we spent most of the day locating and fixing the problems. There was some technical difficulty in the transition of funds between the old treasurer and the new treasurer. A double entry of a deposit occurred and a misfiled expense was found. After careful scrutinizing of Quickbooks and the bank statements, everything finally balanced.

Since the Spring Assembly, I was asked to come and audit District Eight's checking account. District Eight started a yearly Oversight Committee for their treasury this year. Their account balanced.

I want to thank the 62 groups that have sent in group contributions since the spring assembly.

It's been a challenge at times when groups don't give enough group information to receive proper credit. I need your group's service number and your group's district number for your group to receive proper credit. The group's correct name is not enough information. For example, do you know how many groups have the name "Back To Basics Group"? There are eight groups with that same name. Don't be surprised if you get a phone call from me asking for more information about your group's contribution.

Remember, you can find where to send contributions on our web site area35.org. On the web site there is a tab on the top of the page called Donate Online. This tab will bring you to the contribution's page where you will find the area treasurer's address. My address is Northern MN Area35, PO Box 87, Biwabik, MN 55708. Also, on this page there is a link for you to download and print a contribution information form. Finally, on this page there is also a link to Paypal, if you wish to make your contribution on-line.

I would like to correct an error that was brought to my attention at the Spring Assembly. In the March Northern Light in the graph of income, there was some misinformation about coffee income. Correct coffee income from the workshop was a loss of \$79.94 not a gain of \$297. This error occurred because the expense for coffee was not calculated.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Treasurer.

Humbly in service,
Steven L.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

WEBMASTER

I have been asking for experiences using AAmeetingLocator.org. No one has taken some time to share their experiences. Personally I feel that this site is an embarrassment to Area35, Northern Minnesota, and Alcoholics Anonymous. Take a look at the advanced search fields. I can search the AA database for item like relationships. Some relationship examples are Child of, Employee of, Parent of, Sibling of, Supervisor, Employee of, and others. Under Demographics I can search for Birth dates or Deceased Dates. Under address fields I can search for Billing or Work addresses. I can search regions like Europe and Central Asia, or any state in the USA. The search criteria is just not AA. This appears to be a page that is part of a business that also uses AA meeting. I feel that this site either needs to be cleaned up or remove its affiliation with Alcoholics Anonymous.

For those that like statics:

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan-2012	1,486	2,227	12,082	56,317	1.24 GB
Feb-2012	1,436	2,124	9,944	53,392	1.34 GB
Mar-2012	1,518	2,215	10,687	60,792	1.23 GB
Apr-2012	1,351	1,858	8,408	47,350	878.15 MB

Referrals to area35.org are coming from:

- http://www.aa.org/	139
- http://www.usrecovery.info/	139
- http://www.theagapecenter.com/	111
- http://aameetinglocator.org	40
- http://alcoholism.about.com	25
- http://www.aanorthdakota.org/index.php	40
- http://aa-meetings.com	10

Our calendar has the highest use on area35.org. In close second is our meeting lists. There has been an increase in activity on our district WEB pages. Every district has a WEB page on area35.org. I am here to help. Let me know what information you want on your district page and we will work and make it happen.

I’ve been helping members and GSRs fill out our group change form. When this form is filled out and sent to our group record keeper (grouprecords@area35.org) the following will be updated. The area35 meeting information on area35.org, GSO records and directory will be update and AAmeetingLocator.org may even be updated. This one form can be used to update GSR information and meeting information. Including new meetings and deleting meetings. I am working on an interactive online form.

Bob B. - Webmaster

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

At this time my sense is that districts are busy doing what has been done in the past in terms of CPC work.

In Cooperation with the Professional Communities we strive to work with professionals who come into contact with potential members of AA before those prospective members come into contact with us. These professionals include but are not limited to : medical professionals, therapists/counselors. clergy, military officers, judges, probations officials, social workers, lawyers, teachers and many other types of professionals.

I would like to encourage each district in our area to develop a plan to reach professionals in their communities and inform

these professionals about what AA can offer still suffering alcoholics.

If I can be of assistance to your district in developing and implementing your plan please feel free to contact me.

My goal is for our area as a whole to do much more than we ever have in CPC work.

In service,
Roger R. - CPC Chair

ARCHIVIST

In the early days of sobriety in Alcoholics Anonymous my perception of our Fellowship was limited to my experience in the Saint Cloud area. Due to financial constraints, limited driving privileges and having only one car I could not venture any farther. When I became a G.S.R., with the financial support of my home group my perception of our Fellowship expanded to Paynesville, Albany and Lake Henry. With the continued support of my home group I became active on an Area level and my perception of our Fellowship expanded to Starbuck, Middle River and beautiful downtown Palo. When I became an Area Committee chair with Area support my perception expanded to include Whitefish, Bozeman, Billings Laramie, Cody, Casper, Minot, Fargo, Omaha, South Sioux City, North Plate, Ames, Sioux City, Dubuque, and Davenport.

At these Service Conferences and Regional Forums, I was able to share my experiences with my counterparts from the West Central region and to hear their experiences. I was able to hear the other Delegates and the Regional Trustee’s positions on the Agenda items and was able to bring these back to my Area and my respective committee to have the most informed Group conscience possible.

It can be argued that this information could be gathered by e-mail or Skype and it is no longer necessary to fund Area Committee Chairs to Regional Forums and Service Conferences. I counter this position with the experience gained by personal participation at Regional Forums and Service Conferences is priceless. Our Delegates historically have come from the positions of Area Chairs and Officers and their experiences at multiple Conferences and Forums give them the added perception and experience to serve our Area and our Fellowship as a whole. What may seem prudent now will short change our Area and our Fellowship in the years ahead.

Our Panel 76 delegate is probably sitting in their home group right now with little perception of A.A. as a whole but through participation in General Service their perception will grow as our Panel 62 delegates has and my hope is that we continue to support them spiritually and financially in this process.

Last issues History Answer: Ed Webster of Minneapolis and the Nicollet group.

This issues question: From what book did Bill borrow the story of the businessman that quit drinking then picked up the bottle after he retired? (page 32)

Brad I. - Archivist

GRAPEVINE

Do to unforeseen circumstances there will be a change in the grapevine chair. At the next committee meeting is approval of the new Grapevine Chair.

COMMITTEE REPORTS CONTINUED**CORRECTIONS**

Greetings and thank you from all those behind bars.
The inmates are very thankful for meetings brought to them from all you volunteers.

Crow Wing County Jail had their first Transition Fair on April 26th, and it was a big success. Eric L. from District 7 allowed me to participate. I had a wonderful time with the volunteers from Brainerd. We got requests for a temporary contact person from several offenders being released soon. Thank you for all the great work in Crow Wing County.

The St Cloud Prison Transition Fair is being held May 9th. Denny J. from District 13 and I will join two volunteers from Area 36. It will be my third Fair at St Cloud and I'm looking forward to the opportunity to help inmate AA's who attend prison meetings.

There is concern that some Correctional Facilities do not have AA literature available for the inmates. I'm working on finding out which facilities need Big Books. One AA group in District 13 is funding literature for jails and prisons. I appreciate their support in carrying the message.

Again, thank you for all your work.

Gratefully in service,
Jeff E. - Corrections Chair

LITERATURE

Greetings friends and I trust this note finds all well and enjoying your day!

I am continuing to connect with District Literature representatives to assist them in any way I can. My goal is to provide a consistent resource for the individual District Literature Chairs as they serve the groups they represent.

I received a wonderful letter from Judy R. who is the Literature Chair for Area 02 Alaska. We plan on touching base with a call and sharing best practices from each Area that I'm sure will help me better serve Northern Minnesota.

I look forward to meeting with the action committee at the June meeting in Aitkin to discuss the Advisory Actions and Additional Committee Considerations from the 62nd General Service Conference that pertain to Literature as provided by Jim.

I am grateful for the opportunity to be of service!
Sean D. - Literature Chair

TREATMENT

We had one request for a temporary contact for a female client that got out of a treatment facility in Minneapolis and transferred to Duluth MN. located in District 12. District 12 currently does not have a Treatment Chairperson but have contact people in their district willing to do 12th step work. There has been not too much activity for commitments or contacts. We need the Districts to become more active in reaching out to the still suffering alcoholic. Part of "Bridging the Gap" between a treatment program and AA is the temporary contact program, which is designed to help the alcoholic in a treatment program make that transition. It is suggested that the temporary contact take the newcomer to a variety AA of meetings; introduce him or her to other AA's; insure that he or she has the phone numbers of several AA members, and share the experience of sponsorship and a home group.

In closing; I have been reviewing the 62nd General Conference advisory actions and additional committee recommendations and will be giving a full report to the Treatment committee at Aitkin next month. Hope to see you all there.

Yours in service,
Randy A. - Treatment Chair

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Greetings,

I don't really have too much to report. I am still working on reviving some interest in putting on P.I. Luncheons in each District. I hope to have some sample packets put together by the next meeting in Aitkin maybe I can drum up some interest. I received a request for Radio PSA's from the Boise Fort radio station and passed it on to the district P.I. chair and will find out the outcome at the next Dist 8 Committee meeting this coming week. We have had a changing of the guard as you may say in most areas and it is important that we get AA information out to them.

In service,
Butch R. - PI Chair

ARCHIVES CHAIR

Greetings from Northern Minnesota!

We have exciting stuff happening here. We are working with District 8 to hold an Archives workshop. Our very own Brad Iverson has agreed to present an Archives workshop in Hibbing on June 16th from 12:00 to 4:00pm at the Alano Club. 3725 1st avenue. We will have a potluck also. I attended the spring assembly and I continue to be humbled by the things I continue to learn about Alcoholics Anonymous. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Yours in service,
Antonette F. - Archives Chair

GROUP RECORDS

Greetings Area 35. It still amazes me that you put your trust in me to be group records secretary. Thank you.

I have been busy trying to update FNV and Northern Light Mailing list. Things have been a little hectic around my home so I am late to get to things for that I apologize. If you want your flyer inserted in the Northern Light, you will need to get 600 flyers to me or the Cold Spring Record with instructions to put in the Northern Light and a check for \$75 made out to Postmaster to help with the cost of mailing. Hoping everyone enjoys summer. Remember progress not perfection.

Thank you for your trust,
Sandy H. - Group Records Secretary

NORTHERN LIGHT

Hello all,

Articles, Articles, Articles. That is what I am asking for. I strongly encourage you to write about your experiences in AA. This is YOUR newsletter I would like to hear from YOU.

Yours in service,
Jana M. - Northern Light Editor

AREA 35 COMMITTEE MEETING
March 31 - April 1, 2012
Cragun's Resort Brainerd, MN
Minutes

SATURDAY, MARCH 31

Call to Order Open With the Serenity Prayer

RECOGNIZE PAST DELEGATES - Panel 58 - JoAnne N., Panel 56-Jerry S, Panel 54 - Charlie C., Panel 52 - Tim C., Panel 50 - Tom A., Panel 48 - Susie A., Panel 40 - Bob J., Panel 38 - Scott J. and Past West Central Trustee - Ted S..

ADD TO AGENDA - There were no corrections or additions to the agenda.

Approve Fall Assembly 2011 Minutes - Motion was made and seconded to accept the Fall Assembly 2011 minutes as written, all were in favor and the motion passed.

OFFICER REPORTS:

DELEGATE - Jim K - Greetings Area 35 Members, It is an exciting and busy time of year. I hope you are all enjoying the blessings of sobriety and taking time to share this life saving message with others in your home group and through sponsorship. I am looking forward to spending the weekend with you and gaining a better understanding our area's conscience on the Agenda Items we have been presented for this year's General Service Conference. It is still quite overwhelming to me that you have chosen me to be your representative at the conference. I assure you that I will do my utmost to represent Area 35 to the best of my abilities. I hope you all received the information regarding the fact that Daily Reflections is now available on the GSO website for daily viewing. This is nice resource and a good way for many of us to take a moment during the day to reflect on the gifts we are given and the course of action we need to engage in. In writing this report I took a moment to read the reflections for the day titled: "TRUSTED SERVANTS." It quoted *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, p.134 stating, "They are servants. Theirs is the sometimes thankless privilege of doing the group's chores." I believe this statement encapsulates what it is that we all do here in AA; we serve. It is our privilege to be given the opportunity to work with others as servants to a greater good rather than acting as senators over those we serve. I hope that this type of an attitude permeates our discussions, the work that we do here today, and the spirit that guides us when we leave here this weekend. Other news from our General Service Office found in the recent Spring 2012 Box 459, includes the fact that the Grapevine is seeking a Senior Editor to work in the New York City office. There will also be a Class A Trustee position opening up in 2013. If you know of a professional that might be a good candidate for such a position, please submit their resume to the Secretary, trustees Nominating Committee, General Service Office by July 31, 2012. There are also openings for 2 AAWS No-Trustee Directors that will to begin in 2013 as well as 2 Non-Trustee Grapevine Directors. And finally, for those of you waiting to hear the theme for the 2015 International Convention to be held in Atlanta Georgia, here it is; "80 Years-Happy, Joyous and Free." I want to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to go out to the WCRSC in Billings, MT. This was a wonderful event and it was great to see many members from our area there. Thanks to Roger, Jake, and Neil for riding out a day early with me so that I could attend the Delegates only meeting. I want to encourage the area members to continue to support all of our officers and chairs to attend these events. The information and experience shared they're undoubtedly assists our Area 35 Officers and Chairs to better serve in our area. Since the WCRSC, I have had the opportunity to meet with and talk to many of our WCR current and past delegates about the upcoming conference and their areas discussions regarding the background information. I was also able to attend the Area 36 Spring Assembly last week in Burnsville. This was a great experience to be able to see how other areas conduct their meetings and to further network with others in service around the state. I did not budget for this event and therefore am not submitting a request for reimbursement. However, I do see a true benefit to attending such events and encourage other officers to look into attending and budgeting for them in the future. All plans, flights, etc. have been set for my trip to the GSC in New York. I am looking forward to the experience and even more so to the experience of coming back and sharing it with you. I have a couple of Delegate reports already scheduled (thanks District 7 and 13). I want to please encourage DCM's to schedule these reports back as soon as possible so that I can get all information out to you in a timely fashion. I have included a brief handout on the back table with information related to the GSB's motion that was not included on the Agenda but will be voted on at this year's conference. The packet contains the GSB motion as well as email correspondence that I had with the General Manager of the GSO regarding questions surrounding the proposal. The information is simply meant to act as some background information for the proposal and hopefully help to answer some questions that people may have regarding the proposal. I want to thank all the districts that send me their district meeting minutes. It is always a privilege to read about activities that are going on around the area to better carry the message. And finally, I want to thank each of you for this wonderful opportunity for growth and the privilege to serve as your Area 35 Delegate. Yours In Service, Jim K

ALTERNATE DELEGATE - Michael "Jake" J - Good day. I hope that you are all well and enjoying the weekend so far. This time of the year is very busy after the February Committee meeting came the WCRAASC in Billings. I rode with 3 wonderful gentlemen from our Northern Area... Jim, Roger and Neil. We laughed and ate and told stories all the way there and back. The conference was well attended (close to 400) and well informed. One of my favorite topics was the agenda item on having GSR's be Grapevine reps. Kind of reminded me of door to door magazine salesman. We had presentations and discussions on digital anonymity. Our Area did the topic it had presented at the workshop and did a great job. May 19th Zonal Forum in St. Cloud is confirmed. Sometimes our discussions got off topic as we in AA tend to do when we get excited about what we hear. We had some God wars and exciting discussion on spiritual views. Many people thought that every time we discussed anything about a pamphlet that we just don't need any more. Other discussions were on the difference in our Region and how the coastal regions think about special needs and pamphlets. We are not the only voice at the general service conference. There were discussion on the process at GSO and how many past delegates had non-positive experiences but we also had several stand up and say they did have great experiences. I will have more in my next Northern Light article. If you need me to come to your District, feel free to call. Yours in service and love, Jake (Michael J)

AREA 35 CHAIR - Kelly D - Greetings Area 35. It is good to be here with all of you this weekend and I am looking forward to our time together. It has been a busy couple of months for me as it has been for many as we started another new rotation of service with all of us getting acquainted with our service positions. I attended our January Workshop in Brainerd and it was a great time of learning and fellowship to all that attended. We had our first Committee Meeting in February and although the weather was not very favorable, we had a great turnout. The weekend after I was on the road to Billings, Montana for the WCRAASC which was a weekend filled with Agenda Items and more fellowship. I had the opportunity to moderate the Corrections breakout session there with Jeff, our current Area 35 Correction Chair. A lot of information was shared and discussed with others from our region. Thanks Jim, for asking me and giving me the opportunity to be a part of that breakout session. Last night I attended the Area 35 Zone 3 Workshop here on Corrections, Treatment, PI, CPC and the Web. Great job done by all of our Area Chairs that presented! I met with the Area Officers and Committee Chairs after that Workshop to continue to keep communication open amongst everyone and discuss how things are going in their respective service positions with their responsibilities and duties. This morning I met with the others from the Financial Committee and then on to the GSR Orientation with the other Area Officers. It was great to see so many GRS's present at this Assembly. We had 59 in attendance. Thanks to all of you for your commitment to be of service! I have been busy getting contracts signed for our Area Assemblies in 2013 and 2014 and am also working with Lisa G. Area 36 Chair on our upcoming joint workshop July 21st. Be sure to grab the fliers on all these upcoming events. I am truly humbled and grateful for this opportunity to be of service to all of you. Please let me know if I can be helpful to you in anyway. In love and service.

AREA 35 SECRETARY - Mary S - Thank you for the opportunity to continue to be of service to Area 35! I attended the 2012 West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference in Billings, Montana. It was a great experience to see the Delegates representing our Region as well as hear the conference agenda items read and discussed. It is an experience that all AA Members should have at least once in their lives because it shows how big AA really is. It's so much more than the experience that we have in our Home AA groups. If you want to experience more from your AA experience, go to the next West Central Regional AA Service Conference and you may wonder like I did, how this AA structure grew from two alcoholics meeting each other one day, sharing their experience, strength and hope from this disease called alcoholism. My first Zonal Forum will be on May 19th in St. Cloud. The Fall Assembly 2012 and Spring Assembly 2013 flyers are printed and out on the tables. Once again, please feel free to talk to me if you are not getting your minutes by e-mail or if you want me to send them to you in the mail. Thank you again for the privilege of serving Area 35 as your Secretary. If I can be of any assistance, do not hesitate to call. Yours in Service, Mary S.

TREASURER - Steve L - I want to thank you for sending me to the West Central Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference (WCRAASC) in Billings MT March 2-4. I heard a lot of interesting discussions on the upcoming Conference agenda Items. The information I gathered at the WCRAASC will help me pre-side over the breakout session topics I am chairing with useful and informative information. I want to commend our Area (Bob and Neil) who did an outstanding job of giving a presentation on social websites, like the one presented at the workshop. I was also impressed by Area 41's presentation about AA diversity. I wish you all could have been there. I had a wonderful time at the GSR orientation session earlier; I fielded lots of questions and was able to provide answers. I gave a powerpoint show explaining the Areas current financial status. I asked all GSRs to take a copy of both packets: Balance Sheet-Profit/Loss-Detailed Expenses and Group Contribution Listings from the side table. As you can see from the Areas expenses we were \$ 3180.28 under budget.

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

Area 35 Balance Sheet			
Current Assets	Jan 31	Feb 29	March 31
Checking/Savings			
1000-Area 35 Checking Account	16,900.43	16,986.90	14,287.31
1100-Savings-Prudent Reserve	5,000.00	6,025.00	6,025.00
Total Checking/Savings	21,900.43	23,011.90	20,312.31
Total Current Assets	21,900.43	23,011.90	20,312.31
Other Assets			
1-2000 - Monies to Savings Acct	5.00	5.00	5.00
Total Other Assets	5.00	5.00	5.00
Total Assets	21,905.43	23,016.90	20,317.31
Area 35 Expenses			
	Period 2	Budgeted	
Committee Meeting Rent	50.00	50.00	
Area 35 Archives Rent	200.00	200.00	
WCRAASC	4,349.75	5,967.39	
Finance Oversight Committee	35.00	0.00	
Total Area 35 Event Expenses	4,634.75	6,217.39	
Total Officer & Action Chair Expenses	6,747.01	8,344.65	
Total Net Expense	11,381.76	14,562.04	

There is a problem with group contributions. Some groups are not giving enough information to receive proper credit. I need the group’s service number, the group’s correct name and the group’s district number on all contributions. What not to do is below. Most groups do a terrific job.

Area 35 Group Contributions
District 04 Contributions
 P.C. of Alexandria
 ???01 - Monday Noon AA Hoffman
District 09 Contributions
 ??? - Tuesday Night Women’s Meeting
Area 35 Income

	Period 2	Year To Date
Total Group Contributions	\$3,466.23	\$8,384.24
Total Birthday Contributions	\$22.98	\$38.98
Special Contributions	\$50.64	\$50.64
Total Other-Anonymous	\$0.00	\$1,787.13
Total Income	\$3,539.85	\$10,260.99

The Finance oversight committee worked. Right away they found a discrepancy and we spent most of day locating and fixing the problems. There was some technical difficulty in the transition of funds between the old treasurer and the new treasurer. A double entry of a deposit occurred and a misfiled expense was found. After careful scrutinizing of Quickbooks and the bank statements, everything finally balanced. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Treasurer. Humbly in service, Steven L.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS:
DISTRICT 7 - Neil F - Greetings to everyone from District 7! On behalf of our district, I’d like to welcome you back to the Brainerd Lakes area. We’re glad you’re here and are grateful to serve Alcoholics Anonymous with you. If anyone has questions about the community or surrounding area, please feel free to ask me or another member of District 7. We do have a supply of meeting schedules available here as well. District 7 meets monthly on the 3rd Thursday at the First Congregational United Church, 415 Juniper Street in Brainerd. All district chair positions are filled except for Archives and Alternate DCM. Patti, our elected DCM, resigned in February and we will miss her wonderful smile and laugh as well as her service to the district. We discussed the 2012 General Service Conference agenda at our last meeting held on March 15th and I feel prepared to carry the district’s conscience here at the Assembly. We had 3 new GSR’s at the last meeting - a special welcome to Cory from Go to Any Length and Maria from Sleepy Hollow meetings. Also welcome to Larry from Our Common Welfare group for carrying the group’s conscience to the district and the Assembly. Also to all existing GSR’s and district chairs! We have about 70 meetings in our district and I have begun visiting groups but have a long ways to go to get to all of them. It was great to sit in on a group’s business meeting and watch them elect a new GSR! The district has received financial support from groups formerly in District 17 and it is a priority of mine to visit those groups as well. We encourage and welcome all AA’s in our district to participate and let me know what the district can do to help support our groups. District 7 will be participating in a transitional fair at Crow Wing County Jail on April 26th. We will be there to offer information about AA to inmates who will be eventually transitioned back to their respective communities. Our next district meeting will be at 7 pm on April 19th and we have Jim scheduled for his delegate’s report to District 7 on May 17th. Many of our district chairs are very active and focused on carrying the message of Alcoholic Anonymous. I am grateful to serve with such enthusiastic and dedicated groups of AA’s. Yours in service, Neil F.
DISTRICT 11 - Becky N - Greetings from District 11:- I was unable to travel for the Spring Assembly and am grateful that Bill was able to go in my place and “shoot from the hip” with a district report. In addition to what he presented, this is what’s been happening in ”my neck of the woods”- GSO group sheets that were handed out at the February Area meeting have been reviewed, verified, or updated. Several meetings have found new homes in neighboring districts since the absorption of District 20. Thank you Sandy for your efforts in updating these and all the group records in our Area. Currently, only 11 of our 26 groups are listed on the Area35 website. We are very close to getting the rest of the groups updated and listed as well. Thanks Webmaster Bob for your service to Area 35 also. In confirming information with the active groups, 4 (possibly 5) more people have stepped up to be GSRs. Yea! Progress! Now if we can just start filling our vacant Committee Chair positions... Corrections remains the only chair filled at this time. We had a little excitement in the beginning of March when 4 of our Moose Lake groups were given less than 2 weeks notice to vacate the building they were in because it had been sold. Thanks to our Higher Power, lots of prayers, and a huge effort by dedicated members, a new home was found right up the street at Hope Lutheran Church. - Another 4 week “Back to the Basics” workshop was started in mid-March, this time in Hinckley. Twelve people signed up and two people from the previous Pine City workshop are leading the group. Thanks to “Today’s Promise Women’s Sober Transition House” for providing the meeting site, and everyone who helped get it going. Respectfully in service, Becky N, District 11 DCM
GROUP RECORDS - Sandy H - Hello, I’m Sandy H., alcoholic currently serving as your Area 35 Group Records Secretary. At our Records, Web, Northern Light breakout session this morning we discussed the New GSR form. I inquired about putting in an article Northern Light to explain why this information is so important to get to the Group Records Secretary and explain it so it is not so intimidating to new GSR’s would all DCM’s see me sometime this weekend. I have printed out only the active groups for them. I have been busy trying to keep the Northern Light Mailing List and FNV updated. I had 509 names for mailing of the Northern Light this last time. I also would like to talk to all DCM’s to make sure that they are all receiving the correct amount of Northern Light’s so I am not shorting them. I will keep everyone updated on what I end up with. If you would like your flyer inserted in the Northern Light I need a check for \$75 made out to Postmaster to help with mailing and 600 flyers for inserting into the mailed Northern Light. I would like to remind everyone to please fill out the Regional Forum Suggestions and either email your answer or put them in the back in the box I have provided. Yours in service Sandy H.
NORTHERN LIGHT - Jana M - Thank You for Opportunity To Serve. - DCM’s please check your information to make it is correct and up to date, and that your district meeting location info is up to date too. The deadline for Reports & Articles for the next Northern Light is May 3rd. Reports should be different than the one that you give to the Secretary for the minutes at the committee meetings or assemblies. Those minutes go into the Northern Light also, so that report is already in the Northern Light. When you do a report in the Northern Light, you are talking to everyone out there so they are a little different that the report to committee or at assemblies. I also want to encourage anyone to submit an article. It doesn’t have to be perfect. I can worry about the grammar. Articles cannot be anonymous. They should have a title, first name and last initial, and the city or town where you are from. Yours in service, Jana M. - Northern Light Editor

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

DISTRICT 2 - Kim B - Not Present, Report given by Adrienne S - The District is doing well. Regular G.S.R. reports given. The DCM is working on updating meeting information for Area, District and G.S.O. New CPC/PI Chair was elected - Mike S. In the spirit of rotation Tammy B was elected new District Treasurer. New committee was formed to set up the 2013 NorthStar Round Up in Thief River Falls, MN. the Next District Meeting is May 13th, 2012 at 2:00 pm in Middle River, MN Adrienne S, GSR Northstar Group, District 2 Secretary

DISTRICT 16 - Gene V - It is with gratitude that I serve as the District 16 DCM. District 16 holds its meeting the First Wednesday of each month at: 5:30 pm, United Methodist Church, 1701 S.E. 8th Avenue, Grand Rapids, MN. Our next District meeting will be April 4th. Our District has had very good group GSR attendance with 10-16 people per meeting. Our District is planning an AA Public Information presentation for professionals on May 4th as a luncheon. The Public Information Luncheon will be held at the Sawmill Restaurant in Grand Rapids. All professionals are welcome to attend. If you know of any professional that would like to attend or would like additional information please contact me. The Bowstring group will have an Open Speaker Meeting/Potluck on May 19th. Have a wonderful and peaceful Spring.

CORRECTIONS - Jeff E - Thank you to everyone responsible for a great Spring Assembly! I'm starting to recognize faces and put them with service positions in their respective districts. Someday I'll be able to attach names, (and maybe learn when I am suppose to be at breakout sessions.) There is a wonderful group of recovering AA's to work with this rotation. I now look forward to service as fun and rewarding instead of work. The District Chairs and their committee members at the Assembly were enthusiastic and eager to carry the message into Correctional Facilities. We discussed the problems that are common to most Districts - difficulty in getting volunteers, working with strict Correctional Facility guidelines and policy, funding literature for and getting it into jails and prisons. We also shared solutions that will work to make things easier for us in the future. Roger R., CPC Area Chair and I will work at helping to educate professionals and staff at CF's in Area 35. One note of encouragement - at my last meeting in a prison one inmate asked for a piece of paper acknowledging his six months of sobriety, something he could look at each day to give him hope behind bars. To all you volunteers -YOU are appreciated! Gratefully in service, Jeff E.

DISTRICT 3 - Jim S - We hold our district meeting every 3rd Sunday of the month at 10am at the Perham Alano Club. We have all our service positions filled. We have received plenty of 7th tradition donations to fulfill our financial obligations and to have a 3 month prudent reserve. We are looking into google voice to create a permanent answering service for the hotline as opposed to an individual's answering machine or cell phone. Our district's 2nd Annual Roundup is this July. Flyers will be out shortly. At our last district meeting we had 23 people and our next meetings April 15th. Lastly, I am blessed to have an active and committed district. In Service, Jim S.

DISTRICT 4 - Jeff C - District 4 meets at 5:30 on the third Saturday of each month. The meeting correlates with the monthly Round Robin and rotates through the district meetings. Meeting locations are listed on the district web page on the area 35 website. District 4 held a special meeting to discuss agenda items on March 10. Although there were only a few people in attendance, we had a lively discussion. Our last district meeting was march 17 in Morris MN. I'm not sure if it was the fact that it was St. Patrick's Day or because the temperature was 80 degrees, but attendance was unusually small with only 12 in attendance for the district meeting and about 25 for the Round Robin. Those who were there had a great meeting and got extra servings of cake. Our district committee is full, but we are having a difficult time getting our service committees going. A few people have had time conflicts and at least one other has health issues. Individuals are still working to share the message and as a group we will work to coordinate these efforts. Our next district meeting is April 21 at 5:30 at the Alexandria Alanson club, you are all welcome to attend. yours in service Jeff C, DCM

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY - Roger R. - 14 members attended our PI/CPC break-out session this morning. Districts 13, 3, 6, 11, 5, 9, 4, 7 & 8 were represented. Current CPC district activities include: planning CPC luncheons for professionals and AAI Presentations for treatment Professionals. In one district (8) Clergy Professionals are seeking AA information to pass on to Parishioners. We engaged in a lively discussion on the Following topics: CPC Luncheons, Zonal training formats, district AA Assistance Phone lines and a "Sponsor the Professional" proposal. Thank you for sending me to the WCRAASC in Billings, MT. I learned much in Area Presentations, Discussion of Agenda items and the PI/CPC break-out sessions. I also participated in the PI/CPC, Treatment, Corrections and Web Zonal training session last night. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to continue to serve AA and Area 35

DISTRICT 13 - Scott B - District 13 will be hosting the area 35/36 workshop on July 21st at Calvary Community Church. Workshop will run from 12:30 – 4:30. Fliers are available at the door. District 13 will also host the area 35 Forum on May 19th at the St. Cloud Alano Club from Noon-4:00. Currently Our House in St. Cloud holds two A.A. meetings per month. They have requested we increase that to two meeting per week. Treatment is working on filling these additional time slots. Treatment is also updating the Temporary Contact List. This is a list of members that are willing to do service for A.A. from giving rides, speaking to bringing in meeting. Our A.A hotline is currently full. P.I. also stocked the area libraries with Big Books and A.A. literature. Our IF YOU WANT TO DRINK THAT'S YOUR BUSINESS, IF YOU WANT TO STOP WE CAN HELP is currently being run at local public access stations. Soon P.I. will be updating our A.A. meeting lists for the year. Corrections filled both Stearns and Benton County Jails. Volunteers are still needed at the prison. Corrections are also working on correspondence with A.A. members and inmates. It appears that inmate release dates are different from what is shared in their letters. It is unclear if this is a inmate issue or is there more we can do with the Prison. It is a pleasure to serve with men and women who have so much love and compassion for A.A. Thank you for this opportunity to serve. Yours in service, Scott B.

DISTRICT 1 - Irene I - Greetings from District 1. I am pleased to be here sober, well and alive by the grace of God and the fellowship of AA and to serve as the DCM for District 1. Our district is doing well. With rotation of GSR, I hope we will see new faces at our District meetings. Due to weather, I was unable to attend the Area Meeting in Aitkin, but thank you Sandy H. for sending me the information from the Area Meeting. We still have positions to fill. But I can't remember what they are. District 1 hosted their 30th Annual Spring fling on Saturday, March 10th 2012. Thanks to Jon S. for taking my place and taking charge. The topic being Grow Recovery with Sponsorship. I was unable to attend, but I heard there was about 83 people in attendance, more than last year's fling. Our district meets on the 2nd Sunday of the even months of the year. Due to Easter we will be holding April's meeting on the 3rd Sunday. Attendance is good and hopefully with the new rotation we will be seeing new faces. Everything is well in District 1 and I am glad to be able to serve as our DCM. Respectfully in service, Irene J, DCM District 1.

GRAPEVINE - Art A - Unable to attend - report given by Sean D.- I met with representatives of Districts 12, 13, 8, 6, 5, and 4 during the Action Committee Meetings at the Spring Assembly on behalf of Art A. We discussed which groups had Grapevine subscriptions and of the people present, about 60% stated they had a group which subscribed to the Grapevine. Two unique ideas were shared. One was a group that gave a Grapevine Subscription for each 1 year Sobriety Birthday. Another shared a group idea that has a separate collection can for the Grapevine and when the balance reached enough for a subscription, a name was drawn from that group to award the subscription. Yours in Service, Sean D.

DISTRICT 18 - Vern P - Not present, report given by Neil R, Alt. DCM - the District meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at Long Prairie Alano Club at 6:30 pm. We have switched the treatment and alternate DCM due to DCM not being active and the gentleman we voted in for Alternate DCM is having health issues and couldn't make it to the Area functions. Our Archive chair is getting information on when groups in our district started and put an article together on its history. Staples Group Round Robin April 28th at 6:30. The District Committee is putting together a Potluck/Fun and Game night for sometime in September. Corrections Chair still waiting to hear from the Jail to find out if those who applied to go to do meetings in the jail met with the requirements. Our CPC/PI Chair is open. DCM position will be voted on if we should replace due to not being able to fulfill position. Discussed wallet cards with district committee members names and contact information and positions. Yours in Service, Neil R.

DISTRICT 21 - David G - Our last District Meeting was on 3/12/2012. We are still in building mode. We have lost a few people due to an inability to make a commitment to service or some have been there for the past several years. We still need corrections, treatment and grapevine chairs, plus an Alternate DCM. We look for a bright tomorrow and cherish today for today I am sober and all of you are the reason why... so thank you all for being here... Dave G.

WEBMASTER - Robert (Bob) B - Eight people attended the WEB break out session. Bob B, Sandy H, Jana M, Gene V, Dave G., guest Pete B. DCM district 15 and Eric D. Webmaster District 3. I did attend the West Central Regional Conference and did a presentation on Social Websites with Neil F. From district 7 we reviewed 1 flyer and it was determined that the flyer was a club fund raiser and not an AA event. We discussed the DCM mail forwarders. Jim K. our delegate collected names and addresses for our area action committees and all the mail forwarders were updated. There seems to be a hole in our processes for collecting the DCMs' information. We will discuss this at our next area committee meeting. Much time was spent on our area 35 group change form. There seems to be confusion filling in this form. We did not come to a consensus on how to improve this form. I passed out business cards at our assembly asking all to visit aameetinglocator.org and provide some feedback. Is the website being used? How do you like the advance search page? Are the meetings correct? Does the district review their meeting information on this website? Is meeting information being updated in a timely manner? Thank you for letting me be of service.

ARCHIVES - Antonette F - Greetings from Northern MN. Well, my second report and things are starting to move along nicely. I am pleased with the energy and enthusiasm of the people who are interested in the history of Alcoholics Anonymous. We met at the assembly and once again, the activity of the districts are outstanding. District 14 has done some partnering with District 8 and they are moving leaps and bounds to be involved with the service structure again. District 8 and 9 are working on having a joint archives workshop on June 16th at the Hibbing Alano Club. Our very own archivist has agreed to give a presentation. District 9 is also looking at that day for the delegates report. If you feed them, they will come.... I am humbled with the opportunity to serve as area archives chair. Thanks for letting me serve. Antonette

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 16)

ARCHIVIST - Brad I - Since February I have submitted an article and a history question to the N.L. I attended the WCRAASC in Billings. It was the second time in 6 months that I went border to border in North Dakota. I attended the Archives break out session and shared about setting up displays and digitizing audio. We also talked about preserving and scanning documents. I was invited to the Winter Warm Up in Moorhead and set up a display for the evening. My next scheduled display is the Superior Round-Up. I have been invited to International Falls for their revived Round-up on May 19. I am speaking and giving a history talk at the Iron Range Get-to-gather in May also. Area 36 and I are doing a joint display at Gopher State. Recent contributions are a 1902 book “Down in Water Street” by Samuel Hadley, a story of the Water Street Mission. I have this book on display today. The inventory of the Archives is progressing but going slowly. I think I am up to the 5000’s. Please keep the district minutes coming. Check with your district secretary to make sure I am on the list. We can’t archive records if we don’t get records. Thanks again for this tremendous opportunity to be of service. Brad I. Area 35 Archivist

DISTRICT 5 - Heidi R - Greetings from District 5, Our district meeting is held on the third Monday of the month at 7:00pm at Freshwaters Church in Zimmerman, MN. At our last meeting we went through the General Service Conference Agenda Items as a district. It was great to see how prepared the GSRs and District members were for this meeting. I want to thank Jake C. for attending the West Central Regional A.A. Service Conference. He came back with some great information and was able to help our district make an informed group conscience. I am still working with District 6 to find a date for our Delegate’s report back. In District 5 our Treatment Chair is bring in two meetings per month. We also have two jails within District 5 (Mille Lacs County Jail and Sherburne County Jail) that we are bringing meetings into. We are always looking for more volunteers to help at the Sherburne County Jail. Our district approved purchasing \$150 worth of literature to have on hand for groups. We are planning to start our next rotation of the Probation Orientation meeting this Thursday, April 5th. Finally, I am excited to see all of the people who are here from District 5. All of our Committee Chairs and, I believe, 7 GSRs were able to make it this weekend. Yours in Service, Heidi R.

DISTRICT 6 - David A - Our district covers most of Chisago County, Isanti County and parts of Washington, Anoka and Pine Counties with 29 Groups. Our monthly meetings are held in the Spring Lake Lutheran Church between Cambridge and North Branch at 7:30 pm on the third Thursday of each month. We hold weekly AA meetings in the Isanti County Jail. We put on AA Informational meetings with the impatient clients at the Dellwood Recovery facility every other week. We are still working on filling the rest of our standing committees and district offices. In March we held a meeting to study the Agenda items for the committees of the General Service Conference in lieu of our regular monthly meeting. We ended up covering all of our delegates “hot topics” in four hours before we ran out of steam. Thanks for your time, Dave A.

LITERATURE - Sean D - Good Afternoon All - I trust this note finds all well and the day full of opportunity to be of service! Each day presents an opportunity to learn something new. I wish to again express my gratitude for the opportunity to be your literature chair. Each day presents an opportunity to learn something new. YTD sales have been \$1327.20. I recently received an order for \$1412.12. My greatest challenge to knowing what I should have in stock and I’m asking for your input. Please submit all literature requests before my next order on May 14th, 2012. I can then have your order at the Aitkin meeting on June 3rd. I attended WCRAASC in Billings, Montana. There I was able to visit with other area chairs about how best to serve my Area. I will submit a literature contact list to all DCM’s. Please update and return to me at Literature@Area35.org Yours in service, Sean D., Literature Chair.

DISTRICT 8 - Rolene L - Our District is doing good. We have from 25 to 35 in attendance at our District meetings. We have 41 groups in our District. Some of the most important agenda items at our meetings are attendance and communication. Making sure our District is working together with their Alternates. How important getting information to the GSR’s to take back to the groups. Letting our GSR’s know they can participate on any committee and also getting updated information for each committee chair. District 8 allowed me to attend the West Central Regional Conference in Billings, Mt. It was a great experience sharing the drive with our Area Chair and Area Secretary. I was so grateful for this conference, seeing Areas from 7 states come together. Discussing our Agenda items for this weekend. Our District had our agenda items meeting March 24th. There were 30 in attendance. It was very good to see so much participation. I need to thank our past DCM Randy A. and a few of our past Delegates for all the guidance they have given me as I serve District 8 as DCM. I am happy to report that there are 31 registered at this Spring Assembly from our district this weekend. Yours in service, Rolene L.

Delegate Sharing and Breakout Session Reports:

Jim K guided the discussion which began at 7:15 pm and continued through 10:30 pm.

Opened with the Serenity Prayer- Agenda items were discussed in order-

I. Agenda -

A. - Review suggestions for the theme of the 2013 General Service Conference - *no suggestions*

B. Determine the inventory questions listed in the “Inventory Plan” which were approved by the 2011 G.S.C. that will be discussed each year for the 2013, 2014 and 2015 General Service Conferences. - *No Comments from committee, no comments from floor*

C. Consider reducing the number of presentation/discussion topics for the 2013 General Service Conference to allow scheduling for the Conference Inventory process approved by the 2011 G.S.C. - *consider modifying, no comments from the floor*

D. Review suggestions for presentations/discussion topic ideas for the 2013 G.S.C. - *no comment from the committee, no comments from the floor*

E. Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form - *no comment from the committee and no comments from the floor.*

II. Cooperation with the Professional Community-

A. “A.A. Cooperation with the Professional Community” DVD:

1. Discuss report on replacing the current “A.A. Cooperation with the Professional Community” DVD with a new compilation DVD that includes existing material.

Committee Comments: Pretty good idea since they already have the report

2. Review draft product of replacement DVD.

Good idea since they already have the draft

B. Consider adding the phrase “non-alcoholics may attend as observers” to the “Singleness of Purpose” statement in C.P.C. literature.

Committee - majority thought it was a bad idea and confusing and unnecessary - NO

Floor Comments: Anyone can attend an open meeting - Professionals may attend, Closed meetings are for Recovering Alcoholics only - District 5 was in favor of this, consistency with the language would be a positive and make things simpler, Delegate’s comment doesn’t feel that words in a pamphlet won’t make as much a difference as CPC Committee’s going out and talking to Professionals and handing them the literature and reviewing it with them 1 on 1.

Straw Vote -Majority opposed

C. Review contents of Cooperation with the Professional Community Kit and Workbook.

Good idea - we do that every year.

III. Corrections:

A. Review the draft revision of the pamphlet “it Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell.”

No Comments, no objections -

B. Consider revisions to the pamphlet “A Message to Corrections Professionals.”

Concern most talked about *The phrase “Non-alcoholics may attend as observers” and they don’t like the phrase “observers” ” The body was in general favor that As Observers be taken out.*

C. Consider a possible remake of the 1987 video “it Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell.”

The committee was divided over cost and effectiveness, issues of outdated language, culture, smoking in cells were considered outdated, although the message is not outdated considering the cost of a remake - It’s probably okay and doesn’t need to be remade. Floor comments - the message is right on the money, yes, it’s a little outdated, but the information is still good and not worth re-making a new one. Floor Vote - 50/50. Group decided to trust Delegate to make best decision after he hears all information presented

D. Review contents of Corrections Kit and Workbook.

No comment.

IV. Finance:

A. Consider suggestion to increase the Conference delegate fee.

B. Review the current \$3,999 dollar limit on annual individual contributions and one-time bequests.

C. Review proposed Self-Support Kit.

D. Review draft document of self-support/financial talking points to be used by the Fellowship.

E. Review information concerning General Service Office/A.A. Grapevine Financial Projections for the years 2013 and 2014 .

V. A.A. Grapevine

A. Consider proposal for A.A. Grapevine’s Audio Strategy.

The committee had no comment... from the floor District 7 supported this unanimously

(Continued on page 18)

(Continued from page 17)

- B. Consider list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2013 and later.
Proposed titles were reviewed and very little discussion on this topic. All were in favor of the topics listed.
- C. Consider “Sunset” proposal for Grapevine items.
*Committee had no comment, one person wondered how it’s decided which titles to sunset.
The floor, after a vote was in favor of this*
- D. Consider incorporating the service responsibilities and duties of the service position “Grapevine Representative” into the Service responsibilities and duties of the “General Service Representative.”
*Committee comments - Most discussion on this point and most were not in favor of this item
Healthy discussion - in general, the committee voted no.
Comments from the Floor - Question regarding why this came about and Jim stated that the Grapevine is in financial trouble. The Trustees would like to combine the two. The Grapevine this year is profitable and the subscriptions have jumped up due to E-Book subscription. Grapevine is not represented in most groups and some feel there should be a push to promote Grapevine in the groups. -
Big Lake Group voted no on this, and prefers that the job is not given to the group GSR’s as they have enough to do. -
-District 8 stated that most of their committees are Literature/Grapevine and maybe this would be the best idea.
- Create a Grapevine representative for the District
-One other comment was that New York cannot dictate what local groups do, but literature could be changed to better represent what the Grapevine Rep actually does.
Vote - Most were opposed to this consideration
Groups in Canada have a higher rate of subscriptions due to the fact that the groups were t talking more about the Grapevine and laying the subscriptions out on the tables.*
- E. Review Grapevine Workbook.
No comment....

VI. Literature

- A. Discuss progress report from the trustees’ Committee on Literature on the development of literature which focuses on spirituality that includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are sober in Alcoholics Anonymous.
This item was a report - there were no comments
- B. Consider the draft of the revised “A.A. and the Armed Services” pamphlet.
*Since times have changed, maybe some changes could be made to reflect the changes
It’s important that the changes be updated to assist the men and women serving today*
- C. Consider the final draft of the revised Living Sober Booklet.
Committee comment was that it’s a done deal, changes made mostly punctuation.
- D. Discuss a suggestion for revision of the pamphlet “Circles of Love and Services.”
No discussion - comment made that nothing looks like it needs any changes
- E. Discuss a request to add text from the dust jacket of the Third Edition of the Big Book Alcoholics Anonymous, to the dust jacket of the Fourth Edition of the Big Book.
*Committee stated that this change would be waste of time as no one reads the dust jacket
May not be additional costs, straw vote with committee was unanimous nay. Pages 1-24 had been the foundation and it would say this is the message... no cost for the change., all future printings would be changed - it won’t cost anything.
Vote from the Floor - All in favor were more than those not in favor
Minority Opinion - none*
- F. Consider a request to add the A.A. Preamble to the front inside pages of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous.
*Committee wondered if it will change 1-164. No additional costs to add the Preamble to the Big Book - the page is blank, it would just be added, ... straw poll 17 yes, 18 no’s with committee. From the floor, one questioned if this would hurt the Grapevine - as some buy it for the Preamble alone - the Preamble should be left as it is. Some felt it should be added but not on the blank page they could add the Preamble to the back of the book.
Straw Vote - Slightly in favor of opposed
Front of Big Book VS Back of Big Book - Vote taken....
First Edition the Preamble was in the front of the book with a little different wordage
Preamble means to “go before” so it should be in the beginning of the book.
Some feel it shouldn’t be in the Big Book at all. It might cost a lot and will change the structure of the Big Book ...Already printed in AAWS Conference Literature
Straw Vote - Add AA Preamble to front inside pages to Big Book - Slightly opposed*
- G. Consider a request to add the short form of the Twelve Concepts for World Service to As Bill Sees it.
*Straw Poll in the committee - 6 yes’s, 21 no’s
From the floor the comment was that the concepts should be in the book
Straw Vote - Slightly in favor 40 to 30
Minority discussion - why did we pick the book, As Bill See’s It... Jim re-read the background information, steps and traditions are in the book, but the concepts are not in the book.
It would prove purposeful to have all the guiding principles in the book
General consensus -*

VII. Policy/Admissions

- A. Approve request for two members from the General Service Board of India to attend the 62nd General Service Conference as observers.
- B. Review dates for the 2015 General Service Conference.
- C. Consider modifying the procedure for the submission of Concept V minority appeals to the General Service Conference.
- D. Review policy and guidelines regarding the use of personal electronic devices at the General Service Conference.

VIII. Public Information

- A. Consider 2011 annual report from the trustees’ Public Information Committee on G.S.O.’s AA Website.
No comment
- B. Review the final draft of the “Alcoholics Anonymous 2011 Membership Survey” pamphlet.
No comment
- C. Public Service Announcements (P.S.A.s):

1. Consider approving the proposed Hispanic video P.S.A., “Tengo Esperanza.”
No comment

2. Review report on centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the 2010 television P.S.A., “My World.”
No Comment

3. Consider centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the proposed Hispanic video P.S.A., “Tengo Esperanza,” at a cost not to exceed \$40,000 as an addition to the work of local Public Information committees.
*Committee voted in favor of this
No comments from the floor
Straw Vote - In favor*

4. Review current video P.S.A.s for relevance and usefulness
No comment

5. Consider production of new video P.S.A.s.
*No Comment - no need for new PSA’s
This is video - which is sight and sound, rather than just sound. It is really important video to check it out, video gets dated much quicker than audio*
- D. Consider a suggestion that A.A. establish a presence on Facebook for the purpose of providing information about A.A. to the public, this presence would

(Continued on page 19)

(Continued from page 18)

serve as an resource only, with no interpersonal communication capabilities.

Committee discussed this but came to no conclusion

Place a Non-interactive Facebook site on there or a redirect to another sight and in the case of AA the re-direct would be AA.org

Facebook would have copyright ownership of anything on their site

There is a Like on AA and could lead to breaking anonymity

Just because someone visits a webpage doesn't mean they are alcoholic

Anything that goes on facebook is public information and we could compromise our tradition

Maybe we should think things through more before we jump into it like Facebook,

Facebook has lots of advertising and AA is not connected with outside enterprises

PI is public information and facebook is public information

We don't want to get into controversy

Everything is tracked on the internet - if you put AA in on Facebook, there's a lot of information on there that is NOT AA.

Facebook reaches young people and we want to reach young people

If they aren't selling a service, they are tracking you

Straw Vote - Group Opposed

E. Discuss requests related to adding language referring to current media to Tradition Eleven.

Group Opposed

F. Consider updated text for Anonymity Wallet Card.

Committee was slightly in favor of this

Slightly in favor when the floor voted

Review contents of Public Information Kit and Workbook.

No Comment

IX Report and Charter

A. The AA Service Manual, 2012-2013 Edition:

1. Review revisions from the A.A. Grapevine Board.

2. Review revisions from the A.A.W.S. Board

3. Review revisions from the General Service Board.

4. Review list of editorial updates.

5. Consider suggestion for revising text on “Conference Panels,” on page S107, to clarify what is meant by the term “panels.” *Generally in favor of this*

6. Consider suggestion to add a section on the “spirit of rotation.” *Generally in favor of this*

7. Consider suggestion to replace the “Structure of the Conference” illustration on page S16 with a previous version.

Committee 100% in favor of this

B. Review draft of text to add to Article 3 in the Current Conference Charter that includes the principles of participation, petition and appeal. *No Comment*

C. Discuss A.A. Directories (Canada, Western U.S., and Eastern U.S.)

D. Discuss General Service Conference Final Report.

X. Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities

A. Discuss trustee’s progress report on the review of the video Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous.

B. Discuss a suggestion to develop a pamphlet for the alcoholic with mental illness.

discussion in committee was against this

From the floor it was discussed that AA needs to think about this and not to put mental illness on the back burner.

AA treats “one” disease and that is Alcoholism

This is an opportunity to reach folks with Alcoholism and Mental Health

There is literature with mental illness in AA already - it's a story and this discussion is about creating a new pamphlet

If we get into writing a pamphlet for mental illness, where would we stop and how can we be something to everyone?

“The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking.”

If we have other disorders, we see the appropriate professionals

Straw Vote - Majority of the Group Opposed this

C. Review contents of Treatment Committee Kit and Workbook.

D. Review contents of Special Needs/Accessibilities Kit and Workbook.

XI Trustees

A. Review resumes of candidates for:

1. West Central Regional Trustee

2. Western Canada Regional Trustee

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

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

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

E. Review report from the trustees’ Nominating Committee on the “Impact of the Conference Disapproving a Recommended Slate.”

XII Archives

A. Review request for changes to the Composition, Scope and Procedure of the Conference Committee on Archives.

The committee that meets don't have a regular time to meet and the committee thought they should have their very own time slot.

B. Review Archives Workbook.

XIII. International Conventions/Regional Forums

A. Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums.

B. Review 2025 International Convention Site-Selection Procedures.

General Service Board Motion: Restructure Grapevine and include it in the General Service Corporation as one instead of two separate entities. Jim brought this forth to the Area so what is going on in New York is as transparent as possible.

Discussion:

Concept 11, page 52 - Bill W. describes why the two corporations should not be incorporated.

The AA Grapevine has to bring new material to the reader monthly where the other is literature already written. This incorporation would work poorly. This would be double headed management.... Bill W already wrote 50 years ago why this would be a bad idea.

Vote - Fairly strong vote not in favor of incorporation of the two corporations by the Area 35 Assembly.

SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 2012

BUSINESS NOT COMPLETED ON SATURDAY

DISTRICT 12 - Servando M - We are finishing up our rotation in Superior and will be moving to Cloquet for 3 months. 3rd Thursday. Our PI/CPC committee is currently discussing different ideas on how to best carry our message to the greatest need. (Colleges, legal and public) We have also ordered PSA’s and connections have been made to run these on the air. Our Treatment Committee still has no chair but we do have a couple of volunteers gathering information . Corrections committee is also gathering information and has supplied literature for several jail meetings. Our district attendance is growing and I believe that is because of the excitement in the committees as well as the service sponsors that have started sharing their experiences with service work. It is great to be a small part of this wonderful experience. Yours in Service - Servando M.

(Continued on page 20)

(Continued from page 19)

TREATMENT - Randy A - We met as a committee this morning with 10 members present. We had 4 district treatment chairs, 2 GSR's, 2 DCM's and 2 AA members present. We had discussions on "singleness of purpose", "Bridging the Gap", open/closed meetings and informing the fellowship - communication issues. We also went over pamphlets contained inside the Treatment Facilities Kit. One of the pamphlets being utilized is "Speaking at Non-AA Meetings", a pamphlet which is not contained in the Treatment kit. All commitments are being fulfilled in the Districts and we have an energetic and enthusiastic committee. Keep up the good work! There was excellent participation and discussion and we took up the whole hour and half with not a minute to spare. We have compiled a list with names, email addresses and telephone numbers of committee members. We have also made a list of current "Treatment Facilities" that each district commits to for speaker engagements. This list will be updated frequently. On March 12 we attended the WCRAASC in Billings, Montana. On Friday evening we attended General Session I - in which the topic was "Legacy of Service" presented by Area 76 of Wyoming. We then went over Conference Agenda Items late in the evening. On Saturday we attended all the General Sessions on Agenda Items as well as the breakout session on Treatment. We chose 5 topics, but were only able to complete 3 of them. Area 35 did a presentation on social websites which was well received by the conference and generated much discussion. Congratulations to Area 35 for doing an excellent job. Yours in Service - Randy A, Area 35 Treatment Chair.

DISTRICT 15 - Pete B - unable to attend, report given by Sandra H. Our District decided to send out treasurer reports with our meeting minutes. So that all groups can see where our money is being spent. Went through our list of people, groups and GSR's who were getting secretary and Treasurer reports and found that we were doubling up on mailings by doing this. We cut about 8 fewer mailings per month. The District Averages about 10 people at each District meeting. Started going to groups who have no GSR to get these groups to participate. Still don't have all our chairs filled. Something unusual at our last District meeting was a newcomer came to our District meeting. It was his first contact with AA so we spent part of the meeting telling how we got into AA. Upcoming events in our District is a potluck open to AA and Al Anon Speaker Meeting in Sauk Center on the 21st of April. Stearns County Roundup which is this evening. We meet the first Monday of the month at Albany Community Center at 8:00 pm. At the Round-up, tickets were collected ... 236 meals served. We expected 244. The next Stearns County Roundup will be March 23, 2013

DISTRICT 9 - John F - Good Afternoon. My name is John F. and I am the DCM for District 9. At our last District meeting which we held on the last Sunday of the month, we discussed having a joint open meeting with District 8 for Archives. Tentatively scheduled for June 16th. We are also looking at joining with District 8 and 16 for the Delegate report which would be a great opportunity for a BBQ. All our positions are covered now. Thanks for allowing me to share. John F., DCM, District 9

PUBLIC INFORMATION - Robert (Butch) R - We met with CPC this morning and had a good turnout. Dist 3,4,5,6,7,8,9,11 and 13 were in attendance. After introductions, we shared what our committees were doing and shared some goals. Of the Districts polled, 6 had phone lines, 8 had beginners meetings and two had PI/CPC luncheons. All are distributing literature and providing updated meeting schedules. In discussions we discussed PI/CPC luncheons. With planning support of the home groups and plenty of footwork, they can and will be a success. There will be shaping among the District for establishing and operation phone lines. Some of the Districts are already planning Fair Booths. Lastly, I would like to thank the Area for allowing me to attend the WCRAASC in Billings, Montana. A great conference and it's amazing the amount of passion we alcoholics have for our fellowship. In service, Butch R.

GSR SHARING SESSION REPORT- Report presented by Cathy R

People really want to do a good job as GSR's - The level of service for the Groups in Area 35 is amazing. A sheet of paper was passed around for GSR's to write their e-mail or home address for the minutes to be sent out. Don't be afraid to talk to your DCM if you have questions. Each AA group is autonomous. It's important to read and review the service manual. There was a variety of suggestions and concerns. A GSR had concerns about a particular group using Hazelden Literature in their AA meeting. It was discussed a little and the question will be placed in the "Ask it Basket." The general consensus is that best practice is using AA Conference Approved Material but each group is autonomous. Someone asked what to do about GSR's that appear to be lazy or disinterested in the business of the District. It seems that this is a problem in a few groups in the Area - it helps if the DCM visits groups and when the District puts on Workshops.

DCM SHARING SESSION REPORT - Heidi R reported that 18 DCM's and Alternated attended the DCM Sharing Session. The following topics were talked about: When and how long the District meetings should be, on the average a District meeting lasts 1 to 1 ½ hours long. Some groups hold a potluck or have their meetings round robin to involve all areas of the District. How often should the DCM visit the AA groups in a district? What type of questions should be asked of each group, business meetings, is the group satisfied with the services that the District provides, if they are,, come to the District and if they aren't come to the District meetings. Some groups may not want the DCM to talk at the meeting. The committee chairs should work harder to involved the groups in a district.

OLD BUSINESS

FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE - Sara K., Financial Oversight Committee Chair - reported that the committee reviewed and audited the Treasurer's report and compared the report with the bank statements. The net assets matched the bank statements exactly. The profit and loss sheets matched the bank statements as well. There appeared to be errors in the ledger account but it was noted that the way the treasurer was entering the information in quick-books was wrong and with help it was determined that adjustments made were then recorded accurately. There was a payment in the Pay Pal account that wasn't noted and that was why the account didn't balance. The finance committee will send out new profit and loss sheets and e-mail the corrected reports to all DCM's. It was determined that the books and finances are in good order.

JANUARY WORKSHOP 2012 - Michael "Jake" J. reported that 170 people were registered for the January Workshop. It seems that the service part seems to be growing. The presenter's did an excellent job and it was obvious that they put a lot of time and effort into their presentations. Jake would hope that the workshop topics could be easier in the future as these took time to come up with how to present the material. He thanked everyone involved for their participation. He stated that the next Workshop will be in Zone 1. Jim will bring back the topics and will be announced at that time.

WCRAASC 2012- Jim K reported on the West Central Regional Conference in Billings, Montana. 13-14 attended from Area 35. The final report from Dan B. stated that they lost money which amounted to \$1,225.16. Aside from that, it was an amazing event. there was lots of sharing that went on during the weekend. The total number of registered attendees was 348 plus 3 guests. Jim has a full set of tapes that were recorded during the event and if anyone would like to listen to them, he would be happy to share them. The West Central Region account is passed on. The next event will be held in Southern Minnesota at the Double-Tree Motel in Bloomington, MN. Money moves onto the next Area hosting the event. It was questioned how the \$1225.68 shortfall gets made up and if that amount is in fact in the prudent reserve? Would they need to increase registrations? Perhaps raise the price of coffee or the price of rooms? A speaker from the floor stated that there was a surplus after the West Central conference in Northern Minnesota and they may have used that surplus to make up the difference. At one time there was a snowstorm in Nebraska which cut the attendance down significantly. By getting the delegates with more experience involved, there is a lot of negotiating that goes on to set reasonable prices as well as let the guests stay in the free rooms and the planners pay for their rooms. The areas may have to come up with the money to make up the difference. Coffee is always very expensive and it's difficult not to take a hit in that department.

AREA 35/36 WORKSHOP 2012- Kelly D. reported that she and Lisa G, Area 36 Chair for Southern Minnesota were able to come up with a date that both area's find agreeable. The dates will be Saturday, July 21st from 12:30 to 4:30 at the Calvary Community Church, 1200 Roosevelt Road, St. Cloud, Mn. They are now working on the format and the breakout sessions. Hopefully, a date can be set for the same time every year and people can just put it on their calendar. It should be a great workshop and Kelly is looking forward to it.

FALL ASSEMBLY 2012- Kelly D. reported that it's the job of the Chairperson to set up the Assembly's. The Fall Assembly 2012 will be held in International Falls at the American Inn. The last time an Assembly was held in International Falls was in 1996. This will be a great opportunity for growth in that district that has been dark for a few years. The Spring Assembly will be the first weekend in April in 2013 and it will be held at the Sawmill Inn in Grand Rapids, MN. They have committed to \$7.00 a gallon for coffee. Also, the Sawmill stated that is 50 rooms are booked, the Sawmill will take \$5.00 off for each person attending off the price of the Breakout Rooms. This could greatly reduce the price of the rent for the room used for the Assembly.

Kelly is in the process of signing contracts for the Fall Assembly 2013 in Detroit Lakes, Spring Assembly 2014 in Duluth and the Fall Assembly 2014 in Grand Rapids. The body indicated that it was ok to go with the Sawmill in Grand Rapids again, in the Fall of 2014 as Area 35 will meet in Grand Rapids in the Spring of 2013 and the Fall of 2014.

(Continued on page 21)

(Continued from page 20)

NEW BUSINESS

Area 35 budget Approval 2012 - Steve L. reviewed the yearly budget for 2012 as it was written up in the Northern Light. Jim K. reviewed how it is that the budget is presented at the Aitkin Committee meeting and approved at the Spring Assembly. There were no comments or questions and it is was previously written in the Area Actions Booklet. Steve asked for a motion to approve the budget for 2012 as written. The motion was approved and seconded, all were in favor and the motion passed.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - JANA M REPORTED ON THE AREA 35 CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Zonal III Workshop, St. Cloud Alano Club House, 127 7th Ave. N.E., St Cloud, MN

Districts 5,6,7,11,13,17 & 18.

Saturday, May 19th from 12:30 to 4:30 pm

Area 35 Committee Meeting - Aitkin Alano Club House, 322 1st Avenue N.E., Aitkin MN

Sunday, June 3rd @ 9:00 am

Joint Workshop of Alcoholics Anonymous with Area 35 of Northern Minnesota and Area 36 of Southern Minnesota, Calvary Community Church, 1200 Roosevelt Road, St. Cloud, MN

Saturday, July 21, 2012, 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Area 35 Committee Meeting - Aitkin Alano Club House, 322 1st Ave., N.E., Aitkin, MN

Sunday, August 5, 2012, Begins at 9:00 am.

Area 35 Fall Assembly, AmericInn Hotel and Suites, 1500 Highway 71, International Falls, MN

October 6 & 7th, 2012

Area 35 Committee Meeting - Aitkin Alano Club House, 322 1st Ave., N.E. Aitkin, MN Sunday, December 2, 2012 Begins at 9:00 am.

ASK IT BASKET (PAST DELEGATES)

1) What do you do about Groups using Hazelden Literature for their meetings?

Answer by Jerry S, Panel 56 ... Each group is autonomous. We can remind them that it is best to use AA conference approved material at AA meetings and that Hazelden literature is not approved.

2) Can GSR serve another 2 year term if no one is willing to serve?

Answer by Charlie C, Panel 54... In the Spirit of Rotation it is best to give everyone a turn. Once in my group it was time to rotate and we went through everyone in the group and then asked someone if they would do this again? Once you have been a Delegate, you can't serve again. The position might sit empty for a while, but eventually someone will step up.

Charlie also wanted to correct an answer that might have been misinterpreted at the 2012 Area Workshop and the question was "Is it right to put GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bi and Transgender) in your group name? AA is an inclusive group and it wouldn't be wise to place a title in your group name that would exclude an alcoholic from coming to the meeting. This would be the same with groups that single out women, Lutherans, policeman etc... AA should always be inclusive regardless of who we are. We come together with common problems and common solutions.

3) "LaVina is not self supporting but is widely read. I understand that each issue sent out is read by about 21 individuals on the average. Is its distribution US only or more widely? How can we make sure that this "LaVina" will continue to carry the message?"

Answer by Tim C, Panel 52...LaVina is not self supporting but is widely read. It is distributed in the United States only. How can we make sure it will carry the message? We voted to subsidize it in the spirit to carry the message. It is a good magazine which is widely read and passed around. It could end up across the border in Mexico, although Mexico has their own version of LaVina published too.

4) "Why is the Grapevine so Good?"

Answer by Tom A, Panel 50... Tom stated concerns about the Grapevine. The process that has been taking place regarding the Grapevine doesn't seem to fit the way agenda items are usually presented to the larger body of AA. Normally agenda items need to be proposed by January 15th. This proposal didn't follow the normal course and it seems odd that such a monumental change brought forth in AA was not brought about in the normal and proper way. If you look at History and the Concepts, Bill W would say this is not a good idea. The process is questionable. Bill W's vision has historically been very accurate. But the ultimate authority is here at the Area Assembly. We in AA need to support the Grapevine, we need to subscribe to the Grapevine. We need to purchase the Grapevine literature and books that are for sale and give there as gifts to those we are sponsoring.

5) "Do you need to be a past or present DCM to be on an Area Committee? If not, what are the qualifications?"

Answer by Susie A., Panel 48 - A chair position is usually acquired by attending area events and attending the meetings that discuss the topics you are interested in. By becoming involved on an Area and District level, you learn a lot. You can also go to the Area Chair that fills the positions and let them know what committee you would be interested in Chairing. But once you obtain an Area Committee Chair position, you would have to give up your district position as GSR or DCM.

And as far as the Grapevine question is concerned.... If the Grapevine were incorporated with the World Service Corporate Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, it would produce so much more confusion than there already is. All the Trustees would be on one board which would be very chaotic.

6) "The Area is divided into 4 Zones - Why don't we use the Spirit of Rotation for Workshops and Assemblies anymore?"

Answer by Bob J., Panel 40... Area 35 is divided into 4 Zones. In the Spirit of Rotation for Workshops and Assemblies we do rotate the Workshops and Assemblies in each Zone. That way all members can get exposure for the Assembly in all the corners of the Northern Area of Northern Minnesota. Experience has shown that an Assembly can revitalize the Area in which it is held. Our rotations are in different parts of the area when it's an election year. If you want to know when and where the rotations are, take a look at the Area Action Booklets which are published every two years and you will see the rotation schedules. And as far as the Grapevine is concerned... these problems have been around for a long time. The level of subscriptions were low back in time. It hasn't changed and yes, there are problems. Maybe this should be slowed down a little. We shouldn't jump too quickly to change everything about the Grapevine. Other magazines are being affected in our economy these days. The general interest in magazines are dropping. We can look at ourselves and ask... Are we subscribing to the Grapevine? Are we writing articles for the Grapevine? If we really want to know what the problem is, we can look in a mirror.

7) What is AA policy for signing of attendance forms for court ordered meeting attendees?

Answer by Jerry S., Panel 56...There is really no policy regarding signing court ordered forms. It is not a function of AA, but we do try to cooperate with the Professionals. Our group signs the forms at the end of the meetings, though.

8) "Is there an efficient way to have GSR's and district committee chairs put in an effort to come to workshops or assemblies?"

Answer by Charlie C., Panel 54...Well, some Districts don't have a lot of money and groups have even less. Groups and Districts can share expenses by car-pooling, paying one night each or dividing a room by the number of people staying in a room. Remember that we are a Spiritual entity that does business, not a business that does Spiritual Work. We need everyone's experience and opinions, minority opinions are just as important. No one is too little or new to offer what they have to the larger entity.

As far as the Grapevine goes, it's our magazine and it's our articles. We all need to participate with the Grapevine. In 1989 - 1990 the subscriptions to the Grapevine were 130,000. Today we have 2-3 million members and our Grapevine subscriptions are at 80,000. A huge difference.

Scott J. stated that if we change the Grapevine, then we are also changing the concepts, the charter and the structure of AA. He is against any discussion to make a motion to change conference structure. We, the body of AA need to be heard.

Applause for Charlie C who is our Candidate for the West Central Regional Trustee.

Applause and Send-off for Delegate, Jim K. as he heads towards New York to represent our Area!

It was also noted that this was one of the largest attended Area Assemblies in many years.

197 People were registered for Spring Assembly, 2012

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

2012 – AREA 35 SCHEDULE

You can find out more about events on area35.org

Area Committee Meeting - Sunday, June 3rd - 9:00 am

Aitkin Alano Club
322 1st. Avenue N.E.
Aitkin, MN

Area 35 Spring Assembly - April 6th & 7th, 2013

Sawmill Inn
2301 Pokegama Ave
Grand Rapids, MN
218-326-8501

Area 35 Fall Assembly - October 6th & 7th, 2012

AmericInn Hotel & Suites
1500 Highway 71
International Falls, MN
218-283-8000

Area Committee Meeting - Sunday, August 5th - 9:00 am

Aitkin Alano Club
322 1st. Avenue N.E.
Aitkin, MN

Area Committee Meeting - Sunday, Dec. 2nd - 9:00 am

Aitkin Alano Club
322 1st. Avenue N.E.
Aitkin, MN

June 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
U.S. Federal Holidays are Red					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	Flag Day 14	15	16
Father's Day 17	18	19	Summer Begins 20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<div>←</div> <div>http://www.Printfree.com</div> <div>→</div>						

July 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Canada 1 Day	2	3	Independence 4 Day	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				U.S. Federal Holidays are Red
<div>←</div> <div>http://www.Printfree.com</div> <div>→</div>						

Upcoming Events in Areas 35 & 36

Note: Area 35 events take precedence!

Gopher State Roundup XXXIX - May 25th, 26th & 27nd, 2012

Doubletree Bloomington
Highway 100 & 494
Bloomington, MN

Weekend With Bill & Lois - July 6th, 7th & 8th, 2012

Camp Hiawatha
Deer River, MN
billandloisw@gmail.com

Area 35 & 36 Joint Workshop - Saturday, July 21st, 2012

12:30 - 4:30 PM
Calvary Community Church
1200 Roosevelt Road
St Cloud, MN
(Corner of Cooper Ave South & Highway 75)

Keep It Simple Weekend - August 10th, 11th, & 12th, 2012

Theme: The Family Afterwards
Camp Chicagami on Pleasant Lake (South of Eveleth)

22nd Annual Heartland Roundup

September 7th - 9th, 2012
Beautiful Northern Pines Assembly Camp Grounds
Part Rapids, MN

NORTHERN LIGHT PRIMARY PURPOSE:

The *Northern Light* (N.L.), is a general service newsletter that serves Area 35 to facilitate bilateral communication between the groups, districts, Area and G.S.O. levels in the Northern Minnesota area. Its purpose is to:

- Publish an informative and attractive newsletter to the Area in a timely fashion.
- Encourage District reports and be available to work with Districts on communications. One or more of the N.L. Committee should try to attend area events to report on what’s happening in their areas. If they are unable to attend, encourage local members to write short articles about events and happenings to be published in the *N.L.*
- Provide encouragement for writing articles, particularly to D.C.M.s and Area Action Committee Chairs. This should include the strong encouragement to submit their reports for each issue, if no report is submitted it will be stated, example “Northern Light Report - NOT GIVEN” this is currently being done in the Southern Minnesota Area newsletter.
- Keep informed of activities and issues going on within Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. The N.L. Committee could subscribe the *Grapevine* or other pertinent A.A. news sources.
- Gather useful service information to publish from sources within the Area, Region and A.A. as a whole. Obtain, read and use other Area newsletters.
- Listen to comments from the Area on the content of the *N.L.*

EDITORIAL POSITION & N.L. COMMITTEE:

Editor - Editor - The Editorial Chair position is a two-year rotation picked by the incoming Area Chair and either approved or rejected by the Area Committee at the first Area meeting after the Fall Assembly Elections.

Desirable qualifications: Current or past working knowledge of the printing business. Knowledge of current computer printing programs. The person should also consider the time needed to complete the task required. The candidate should have a working knowledge of A.A. as a whole, i.e., prior experience in service work such as G.S.R., D.C.M., or related position.

N.L. Committee - The N.L. Committee consists of two D.C.M.s in Area 35. Currently, these have been picked randomly at the start of the new rotation. They also serve on a two-year rotation basis. They assist the editor in communications with other area newsletters, in recommendations on general improvements, and with general problems and implementations of new policies. They may also represent the editor at functions when the editor is unable to attend. Seek advice and help from former N.L. Committee members and editors.

N.L. COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

The Committee meets every other month before the start of the Area Workshop and at Spring and Fall Assemblies. Additional meetings may be called for if needed between these times.

Twelve Concepts for World Service (Short Form)

- I. Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.
- II. The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.
- III. To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A.—the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional “Right of Decision.”
- IV. At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional “Right of Participation,” allowing a voting representation in a reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.
- V. Throughout our structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.
- VI. The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.
- VII. The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon traditional and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.
- VIII. The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.
- IX. Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.
- X. Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.
- XI. The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.
- XII. The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

<div><div>9:00 A.M. Action Chair Committee Meetings</div><div>10:30 A.M. Area Committee Meeting</div><div>Call to Order Open With the Serenity Prayer</div><div>Recognize Past Delegates</div><div>Add to Agenda</div><div>Approve February Committee Minutes</div></div> <div>OFFICER REPORTS</div> <div><div>Delegate – Jim K.</div><div>Alternate Delegate – Michael (Jake) J.</div><div>Chair – Kelly D.</div><div>Secretary – Mary S.</div><div>Treasurer – Steve L.</div></div> <div>COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM RE-PORTS</div> <div><div>District 2 – Kim B.</div><div>District 16 – Gene V.</div><div>CORRECTIONS – Jeff E.</div><div>District 3 – Jim S.</div><div>District 4 – Jeff C.</div><div>CPC – Roger R.</div><div>District 13 – Scott B.</div><div>District 1 – Irene J.</div><div>GRAPEVINE – Carey A.</div><div>District 18 – Vern P.</div><div>District 21 – David G.</div><div>WEBMASTER – Robert (Bob) B.</div><div>ARCHIVES – Antonette F.</div><div>ARCHIVIST – Brad I.</div><div>District 5 – Heidi R.</div><div>District 6 – David A.</div><div>LITERATURE – Sean D.</div><div>District 8 – Rolene L.</div><div>District 12 – Servando M.</div><div>TREATMENT – Randy A.</div><div>District 15 – Pete B.</div><div>District 9 – John F.</div><div>PI – Robert (Butch) R.</div><div>District 7 – Neil F.</div><div>District 11 – Becky</div><div>GROUP RECORDS – Sandy H.</div><div>NORTHERN LIGHT – Jana M.</div></div>	<div><div>12:00 P.M. Lunch</div><div>12:45 P.M. Reconvene</div></div> <div>OLD BUSINESS</div> <div><div>Financial Oversight Committee Report</div><div>Spring Assembly 2012</div><div>Spring Assembly Evaluations</div><div>Area 35/36 Workshop 2012</div><div>Area 35 Assemblies 2013-2014</div></div> <div>NEW BUSINESS</div> <div><div>Approval of Grapevine Committee Chair</div><div>DCM Information Process</div><div>AA Financial Information On The Web</div><div>Calendar of Events</div></div> <div><div>TBA</div><div>Adjourn</div></div>
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