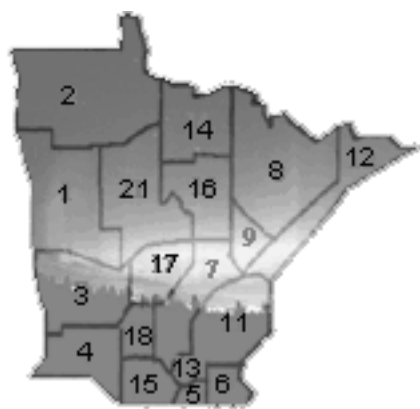


NMAA

Change Service Requested

NONPROFIT
ORG
U. S. Postage
Paid
Permit 381
St. Cloud, MN
56301



Deadline for the next
Northern Light is
January 24th, 2013

This is YOUR Newsletter.

Please send your questions or comments for publication to
Jana M. at NorthernLight@area35.org

Please bring extra copies to share with your group!

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

AREA 35 COMMITTEE 2012

AREA OFFICERS

DELEGATE

JIM K.
delegate@area35.org

ALTERNATE DELEGATE

MICHAEL “JAKE” J.
Alt_delegate@area35.org

AREA CHAIR

KELLY D.
areachair@area35.org

TREASURER

STEVE L.
treasurer@area35.org

SECRETARY

MARY S.
secretary@area35.org

AREA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

PUBLIC INFORMATION

ROBERT (BUTCH) R.
pi@area35.org

ARCHIVES

ANTONETTE F.
archives@area35.org

ARCHIVIST

BRAD I.
archivist@area35.org

CORRECTIONS

JEFF E.
corrections@area35.org

LITERATURE

SEAN D.
literature@area35.org

GRAPEVINE

CAREY A.
grapevine@area35.org

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

ROGER R.
cpc@area35.org

TREATMENT

RANDY A.
treatment@area35.org

WEBMASTER

ROBERT B.
webmaster@area35.org

GROUP RECORDS

SANDY H.
grouprecords@area35.org

NORTHERN LIGHT

JANA M.
northernlight@area35.org

DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

(D.C.M.s)

DISTRICT 1

IRENE J.
dcm1@area35.org

DISTRICT 2

KIM B.
dcm2@area35.org

DISTRICT 3

JIM S.
dcm3@area35.org

DISTRICT 4

JIM T.
dcm4@area35.org

DISTRICT 5

HEIDI R.
dcm5@area35.org

DISTRICT 6

DAVE A.
dcm6@area35.org

DISTRICT 7

NEIL F.
dcm7@area35.org

DISTRICT 8

ROLENE L.
dcm8@area35.org

DISTRICT 9

JOHN F.
dcm9@area35.org

DISTRICT 11

BILL C.
dcm11@area35.org

DISTRICT 12

SERVANDO M.
dcm12@area35.org

DISTRICT 13

SCOTT B.
dcm13@area35.org

DISTRICT 15

PETE B.
dcm15@area35.org

DISTRICT 16

GENE V.
dcm16@area35.org

DISTRICT 18

NEIL R.
dcm18@area35.org

DISTRICT 21

DAVE G.
dcm21@area35.org

DISTRICTS 14 and 17

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!

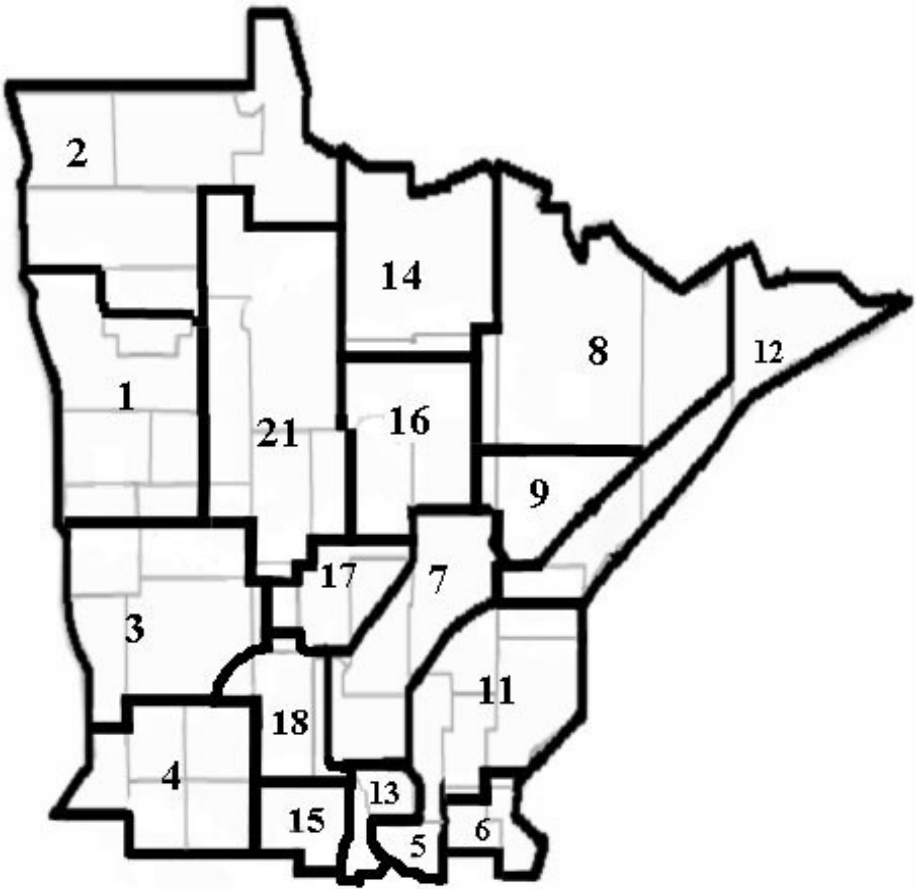
OUR PAST DELEGATES

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)



Area 35

Northern Minnesota

Zone I

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

Zone II

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

Zone III

- District 5** - Becker, Big Lake, Elk River, Milaca, Otsego, Princeton, Zimmerman
- District 6** - Braham, Bethel, Cambridge, Forest Lake, Harris, Isanti, Lindstrom, North Branch, Rock Creek, Stacy, St. Francis
- District 7** - Aitkin, Baxter, Brainerd, Fort Ripley, Garrison, Ironton, Isle, Little Falls*, McGregor*, Palisade, Pierz, Pilager*, Waukon
- District 11** - Finlayson*, Grasston, Henriette, Hinckley*, Lake Lena, Malmo, Moose Lake*, Mora, Ogilvie, Pine City, Quamba, Sandstone, 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
3rd Saturday of Month, 5:30 p.m.
Contact DCM 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

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 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 of Month, 6:30 p.m.
Contact DCM for meeting location (It Rotates)

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, 6:30 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 14, and 17
Not currently active or unknown

DELEGATE'S REPORT

Greetings Area 35,

It is hard to believe that we are nearing the end of our first year of this new rotation. It has been a great opportunity for me to gain a better understanding and appreciation for the work being done around the area to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. It has also helped me to realize that there is a great deal of work that needs to be done.

I want to thank the area for allowing me to attend the Fall Assembly in International Falls and for all of the members that participated in this event. One of the most notable events of the weekend was the Area Inventory. I want to thank Dennis Bauer for facilitating this process and for the insight that he offered. Although there was not a great deal of sharing from the floor during the large session, most members reported that they had great discussion in the smaller break-out sessions. I am looking forward to reading the committees report back regarding the inventory and appreciate their willingness to summarize the information. The process was helpful to me personally in looking at what activities I am currently engaged in and what activities could be altered and added to better serve the area.

Another major topic that came out of the Fall Assembly was the possibility of looking at the current district make up in Area 35. I have been in contact with Kelly, our Area Chair, and will be discussing the advantages and disadvantages of redrawing district lines with districts that could be affected. This is again a great opportunity for us to look at how are we fulfilling our primary purpose and I hope that this will be the driving force of any actions taken.

The theme for the 63rd GSC will be the General Service Conference Takes it's Inventory, Our Solution in Action. To assist in the inventory taking process, I will be handing out inventory questions to all DCM's at the December Committee Meeting to share with groups. Members will be encouraged to bring their thoughts to the Spring Assembly in April so that I can better care our Area 35 voice to the GSC.

The West Central Regional Service Conference is set for March 1st-3rd in Rapid City South Dakota. There are fliers available this weekend and reservations can be made by calling 605-343-8550. Special room rates of \$73 are available until February 15th, 2013. This is a wonderful opportunity to gain a much better understanding of the background material to be covered at the 63rd GSC and network with other AA members from across our West Central Region.

I want to encourage districts to begin contacting me regarding delegate reports back after I return from the GSC this spring. This was the highlight of my rotation this past year and I am looking forward to the opportunity once again to get out and visit all the districts and provide information back from the GSC. Please contact me as soon as you can to schedule a report back.

Thanks again for this opportunity to serve Area 35.

Yours in Service,
Jim K.
Area 35 Delegate

ALTERNATE DELEGATE'S REPORT

Wow another report another month and getting close to the end of the year. Fall is leaving and winter is trying to establish itself this is the gratitude season. I love what the old timers including bill wrote about November being a special time for our country and AA. That we should try even harder to express our gratitude for sobriety and all that we have been given and are yet to receive. By the Grace of God we have been granted sobriety and nothing we did except destroying our lives prepared us for this gift. We are truly blessed as a Fellowship and be thankful toward each other and those yet to join us.

I have had the opportunity to share at a treatment center a couple of times. Sharing my story and then doing a talk on my experience with sponsorship with my sponsor. Always a humbling experience realizing how little I have done to be sober and how much others have put forth so I could get a chance. I also had the opportunity to share in the District 21 workshop. Jake from District 5 did a great job sharing his experience on the GSR and service work. I always enjoy the opportunity to learn more about service and more about the people I serve with. Thank you District 21 for inviting me and the 2 young guys I brought with survived. We all need to encourage each other and those around us to participate in recovery by showing the effects on our lives. I also attended the district 9 meeting and enjoyed a robust group of AA's.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

We are coming into the busy holiday season and I am behind on Zonal Forums. I may have to try to get 3 in next year. Please encourage your groups to support the workshop in January. This I hope will be a great learning experience and lotsa fun.

God Bless
Michael (Jake) J.
Area 35 Alternate Delegate

AREA CHAIR'S REPORT

Greetings Area 35,

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the end of 2012 and will be moving into our second year of this rotation. It has been a busy year and we have accomplished much work together in service here in northern Minnesota carrying AA's message of hope to the still suffering alcoholic. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to serve and look forward to the upcoming year with all of you.

We had our Fall Assembly in International Falls October 5-6th with 120 in attendance. I typed the evaluations from that weekend and they are in this addition of the Northern Light, please take the time to read them. Thank you to everyone that took the time to fill one out, again your comments and feed back are important to Area 35. All in all it was a great Assembly and I also felt that the Area Inventory was worth our time. A special thank you goes out to Dennis B. past Delegate from Area 36 for taking the time to moderate the inventory for us, I felt he did a great job. I would also like to thank the 4 DCMs Rolene, Jim, Heidi and Neil for moderating the breakout sessions and District 8 for hosting this event. I look forward to the results and recommendations from the Inventory Committee once they get everything together for us. I would like to thank Heidi, DCM District 5, Sean, Area 35 Literature Chair and Neil, DCM District 7 for agreeing to be on this committee and handle this task for us. My plan is to address the items from this inventory and also get some of them added on the agenda's for discussion if needed throughout 2013 so we can better serve you as an Area.

I was asked to do a brief presentation for District 6 at their Workshop on October 27th. I would like to thank Dave, DCM for inviting me to be a part of it. This Workshop dealt with using our AA Service Manual and although the attendance was down, those of us present enjoyed the reading and discussion.

I left from there and headed to St. Cloud for their annual Round Up. It was a great night of speakers and fellowship and it is always great to run into old AA friends there too.

Again thank you to the Districts that send me your monthly minutes. I also continue to receive emails through our website and respond or forward them on where necessary. This month I have received a few from professionals and several from individuals inquiring about meetings which is always a good thing. If I can be of service in any-way please feel free to contact me.

In love and service,
Kelly D.
Area 35 Chair

TREASURER'S REPORT

The IRS tax snafu is still ongoing. The IRS sent me another notice requesting more information for processing the late return. The requested information was faxed to the IRS.

Since the Assembly, the IRS has assessed our delinquent return and assessed a penalty for being late in filing our 2010 990ez tax form. The penalty is \$1992.90. I have submitted a letter of explanation for our delinquency and asked for removal of the penalty. This is not a surprise. I am jumping through the hoops as they show up to correct the snafu.

Four years ago there were some misappropriations of area funds. An ad-hoc committee was formed to investigate the misappropriation. The committee's findings were that Beth owed \$2020.16 and there should be a finance oversight committee to audit the area's books. During 2010 Beth repaid \$1700 and she recently repaid another \$50 leaving an amends balance owed of \$270.16. Beth is continuing to make her payments.

I was able to attend District 6's service workshop in Cambridge on Saturday October 27. Unfortunately it was light in attendance. I believe everyone attending learned something. I certainly did. Thank you district 6!

The balance sheet shows the Area's Year to Date expenses as \$ 14,275.97 or 42% under budget. Our Group

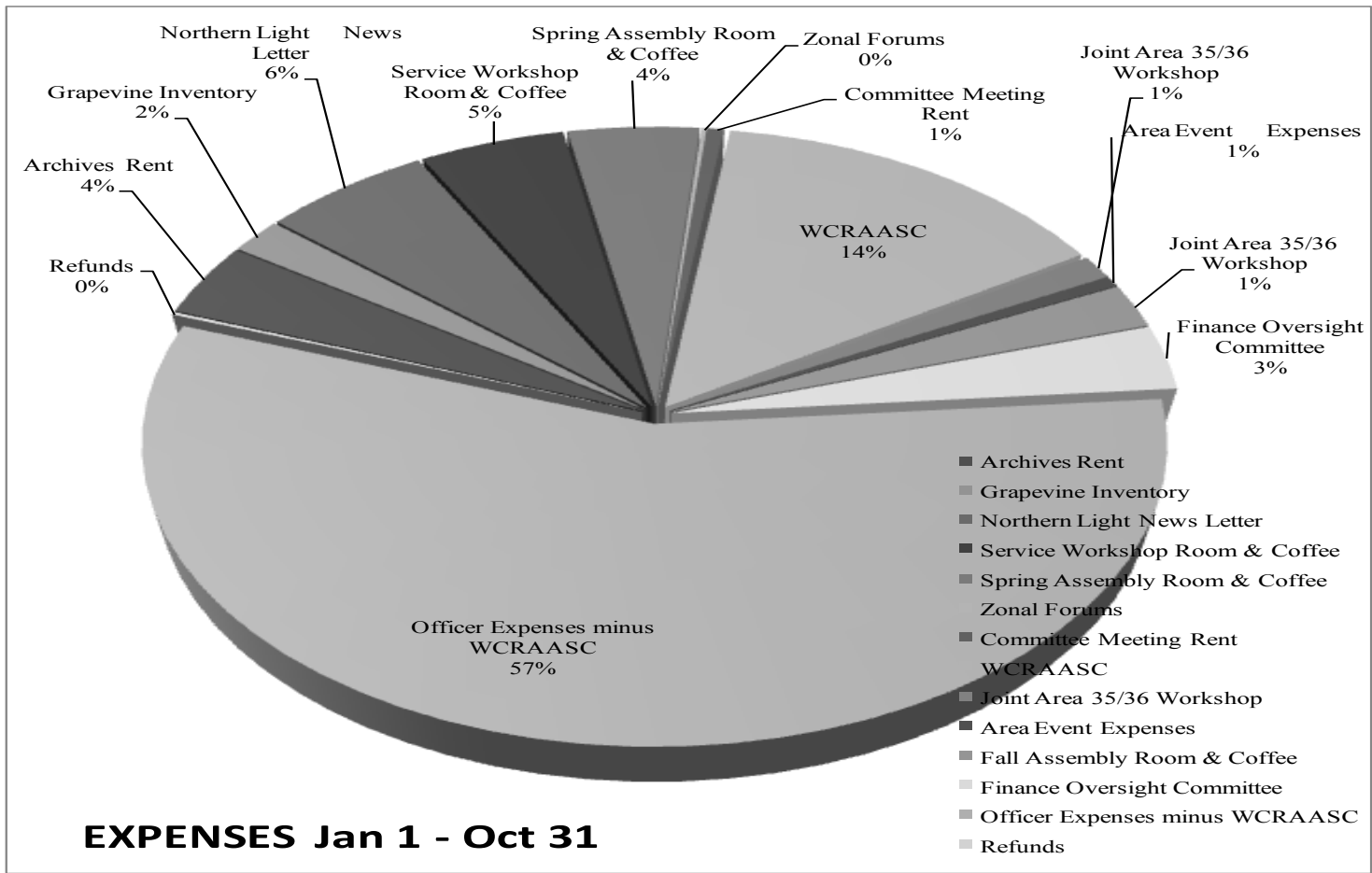
(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

Contributions are also under budget by \$ 10,450.25 or 29%. Our Assets are staying flat; we have neither excessive growth nor extreme loss of cash. Most groups do a terrific job about giving the correct information to receive proper credit for their contributions. They give the group’s service number, the group’s correct name and the group’s district number on their contribution. Unfortunately some groups do not. If your group doesn’t know its service number, you can obtain it from Sandy, our Area Group Records Secretary. The USPS will be stopping the address forwarding service soon so please use the new envelopes with the new correct address or go to our web site and get it.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Treasurer.

Humbly in service,
Steven L.
Area 35 Treasurer



Expense	Amount	Percent
Archives Rent	1,000.00	3.87%
Grapevine Inventory	479.00	1.85%
Northern Light News Letter	1,502.00	5.81%
Service Workshop Room & Coffee	1,275.06	4.93%
Spring Assembly Room & Coffee	1,148.94	4.45%
Zonal Forums	40.00	0.15%
Committee Meeting Rent	150.00	0.58%
WCRAASC	3,592.93	13.90%
Joint Area 35/36 Workshop	323.21	1.25%
Area Event Expenses	144.00	0.56%
Fall Assembly Room & Coffee	600.00	2.32%
Finance Oversight Committee	889.55	3.44%
Officer Expenses minus WCRAASC	14,658.70	56.72%
Refunds	40.00	0.15%
Total Expenses	25,843.39	100.00%

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Greetings!

The Fall Assembly has passed and the minutes have been typed up and AA is alive and well in Area 35! I was pleased to see the turnout in International Falls, Minnesota. I enjoyed hearing the Committee Reports, DCM Reports and Officer's reports. The Area completed a lot of business, as well as an Area 35 Inventory. We reviewed and accepted the 2013 Budget. We voted for our Area 35 Trustee at Large Representative and ended the Fall Assembly with my favorite part of the Assembly which was the Ask It Basket and we received answers to the questions placed in the basket all weekend long. I learn so much about AA as a whole at the Fall and Spring Assembly and enjoy seeing many of my favorite people, too. Thanks for being involved in the great program called Alcoholics' Anonymous.

Yours in service,
Mary S.
Area 35 Secretary

COMMITTEE REPORTS**CORRECTIONS**

Thank you for letting me serve as Corrections Chair/Area 35, and thank you for your 12th Step work in Correctional Facilities in Minnesota.

I was privileged to attend the GSO Workshop - *Bridging the Gap* held Sept. 7th, 8th and 9th, in Bloomington, MN. It was a great workshop hosted by Area 36 and presented by the GSO and the Minnesota DOC. Also at the workshop were the District 8 and 13 Correction chairs, and the Area CPC Chair. Thank you all for attending and also anyone I may have missed.

I was also privileged to attend two meetings with parole and probation officers in Crow Wing County and Benton County with Larry F. and Mary M. from Area 36. This was a brief informational meeting with professionals in the corrections field. The more we can educate the professionals in Correction and Treatment programs in Minnesota about the Temporary Contact Program and what AA can and cannot do the better chance we have of reaching the still suffering alcoholic. Many of the probation and parole officers were not familiar with AA's programs and they expressed interest in what AA has to offer. If any District would like assistance in presenting to PO officers in your area, let us know.

The Rush City MCF Transition Fair will be held in April of 2013, the final date is yet to be set. The Moose Lake Transition Fair was held October 4th. Denny J. from District 13 and I manned a table for AA. Moose Lake did an excellent job at holding a Transition Fair. We received 31 requests for an outside AA volunteer and handed out request forms to many more inmates with discharge dates more than a year away. Denny and I were happy to meet several inmates that had attended AA meetings at the St Cloud Correctional Facility. Some interesting facts came from the presentation at lunch:

- 90% of offenders in MCFs are diagnosed as chemically dependent.
- CD treatment in MCFs reduced recidivism by 17 to 25 percent.
- Treatment most effective when continuity of care went from institution to community.
- 50% of inmates go untreated in prison and community.

The Fall assembly was one of the best I have attended. We need to thank Kelly for the great job she did putting it on. I received a lot of input from the District Chairs and others attending the breakout sessions. Just a reminder - if you need assistance from myself or the Area CPC Chair, we are available - let us know.

The St Cloud prison continues to need donations of Big Books and Daily Reflections. We go through almost a full case of each every month. Of late we have not had books to distribute. Being the intake unit for all of Minnesota we get ten to fifteen new attendees every week with most of them needing our books. If you can help out please email me at jeffleverson@yahoo.com. This problem is one that may be corrected by the implementation of the second suggestion mentioned below.

Our Area Chair, Kelly and Area 36 Chair Lisa are working to set up a standing committee for Corrections to solve several difficulties we have working with the State of Minnesota and with the DOC. There are 3 points I want people to consider and ask the committee to take action on:

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

1. The work of Corrections Committees deals with a state-wide population. We need a permanent joint Action Committee composed of Area Correction Chairs and non-rotating members of Area 35 and 36 to address state wide issues. Please support this suggestion by encouraging the Area Chairs to establish such a committee.
2. The cost of providing books and literature to MN Prisons has in Northern Minnesota fallen on the Local District. This practice is unfair and cannot be sustained. Area 36 has a separate fund for Corrections and I believe the simplest and best way to support our prisons is for Area 35 to establish a fund for this purpose.
3. There already exists a state wide data base for inmates requesting an outside AA volunteer to help them. The more times a request is passed along the more chance for error. It would be better if the request was passed directly to the District Corrections Chair in the District to where the inmate is being released.

This last point is probably the most important thing facing not only Corrections but all of Alcoholics Anonymous. There is a great need in most of our Districts for AA volunteers to carry the message of hope to suffering alcoholics. The biggest problem we face today is getting volunteers to bring meetings into jails and prisons and to become temporary contacts for inmates being released from correctional facilities. We have the blessing of belonging to an organization that saved our lives and it is hard to believe there are so few who are willing to share this gift with our still suffering brothers and sisters. I beg you, please go back to your local groups and recruit volunteers until we fill the needs of our jails, prisons and treatment centers. I know that the rewards they receive will be much greater than the fears they have of doing this type of 12th Step work.

Yours in Service,
 Jeff E.
 Area 35 Corrections Chair

GRAPEVINE

Just was wondering where are the districts grapevine representatives? Fall assembly combined meeting with Literature, 7 in attendance including the Grapevine and Literature chairs. Would like to have district DCM's either encourage your representatives to attend functions and send me your Grapevine chairs name address!

Received the order that was placed for books and pocket & wall calendars really thought they would all be gone but lucky for you will have some for Area committee meeting in December! That order totaled \$479.00. Sales at fall assembly were \$502.35 not bad for not promoting. At fall assembly was asked about the new Grapevine Book Young & Sober, will have some at the December area committee meeting and workshop. Few request for old and sober sent those request to the Literature Chair! Had some requests for hard cover book, Language of the Heart so will place and order for them. Need anything else?

Attended Area 35 treatment workshop on October 20th great topics for discussion tried, being it was a treatment workshop tried not to promote the Grapevine but the Grapevine could be a good tool for treatment facilities! I also attended the District 6 workshop in Cambridge October 27th again great topics and sharing. Thanks to all that would be willing to set up these workshops. Would encourage all to start attending!

Just a update on the progress of our retired past delegates dressing up in purple and doing a skit or something, might be called a cluster of grapes promoting the grapevine. Had a few smirks so will see where that goes!

At the fall assembly in discussion at our committee meeting neglected to go around and ask what is happening in the districts with Grapevine. Apologize!! With that said would encourage all Grapevine representatives to use this Northern Light and write an article, remembering this is our news letter!

Really believe we can make a difference in what becomes of the grapevine as we have it to day. If we would just renew our subscriptions and write articles or if art is what you can do submit it have the guidelines for all that. I would be more than willing to share just let me know.

Thanks for letting me be part of area 35!
 Carey A. Grapevine Chair for Area 35!!

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1980, the GSC reaffirmed the recommendation "that groups make every effort to introduce newcomers to the Grapevine as one of our best tools in sobriety."

I would add next to our Big Book maybe in addition to! Check out [**AAGrapevine.org**](http://AAGrapevine.org)

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

As we approach the end of the first year of this rotation I would encourage all DCM's and CPC Chairs to reflect on what we have done and what we would like to accomplish in terms of carrying our message to professionals.

I enjoyed attending the Fall Assembly from Oct. 6-7 in International Falls. For me one of the highlights of the assembly was engaging in our area inventory. Many people participated in assessing different dimensions of our area from communications to how we conduct our assemblies to how we are all performing in our roles as trusted servants.

If your district does not currently host PI or CPC breakfasts/luncheons maybe this is a good time to plan one for next year. Please feel free to contact me on planning a CPC event.

I am working with Rita from District 5 on assembling packets for professionals who are in early contact alcoholics. We will provide this information to other District CPC /PI Chairs at the December Committee Meeting and at the January Workshop. I look forward to seeing you all at the December Committee Meeting and/or January Workshop.

Thank you all for the opportunity for me to continue to serve Area 35 as your CPC Chair.

In service,
Roger R.
Area 35 C.P.C Chair

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Time is flying and much to do or should I say catching up. We got through the inventory and need to fix a few things. I am still trying to get PI Luncheons going in the Districts. I handed out several packets on how the Winter Rap-Up Committee held theirs and organizing, presenting and the outcome. For years it had been a success. Hats off to the Districts that have had or are planning to put one on. Contact me. I may be able to assist. This is time consuming to set up, follow through is a must. We found that getting Groups and or individuals to Sponsor individuals they know personally works well. Workshops are in order and will be working on that in the near future. I will have more information at the Dec Committee Meeting. Seems as though winter is almost upon us and things slow down but we have to keep going. Before I close I want to Thank Everyone for their Thoughts and Prayers when my Son passed away. It's God, you and the Fellowship that gave us the life we shared.

In Service
Butch R.
Area 35 PI Chair

TREATMENT

We had our Area 35 Treatment Workshop on Saturday October 20th. We had approximately 23 people in attendance. Despite the lack of attendance we had an excellent workshop and great participation. The topics were quite enthusiastic and were well presented. Special thanks to those who participated and to the District Treatment Committee Chairs: Mary C. and Gene V. From District 16, Scott M. and Stephanie H. from District 8, Christine G. from District 13, Diane J. from District 9 and Area 35 Grapevine Chair Carey A. and to District 8 Literature Chair Sally T. and Area 35 Grapevine Chair Carey A. for setting up their displays. We also had numerous pamphlets, placards, flyers and literature on display set up by the

(Treatment report continued)

Treatment Committee. We also had a newcomer in attendance that was introduced to her very first meeting. It is always a special occasion when someone new participates and is exposed to AA for the very first time. Hopefully we made a good impression for her to keep coming back. We had a total of \$ 17.51 in income from coffee and goodies in our kitty that was donated to the church as a free will contribution. There were no other expenses for the use of the facilities or participant expenses.

Yours in Service,
Randy A.
Area 35 Treatment Chair

LITERATURE

Season's Greetings to all:

Many have asked about when the minimum order amount of literature qualifies for free ship changes to \$500.00. I spoke with AAWS and there isn't a date set. This change will go into effect when the website has the ability to process online orders. I have plenty of copies of *Experience, Strength and Hope* that would make a wonderful addition to any group or home. This book contains fifty-six retired stories from the first three editions of the Big Book. For other orders, please send me an email by November 19th so I can order from New York and have them at the December 2nd meeting in Aitkin

Yours in Service,
Sean D.
Area 35 Literature Chair

GROUP RECORDS

Greetings Area 35

Hi everyone. I hope all of you are enjoying the beautiful fall weather. I want to start off by thanking everyone for your patience with me. Life has gotten in the way is all I can say. I just gave my son his 30 day medallion. So the last few months have been very busy. We are also remodeling. My brother had open heart surgery and is doing fine and my brother-in-law has spine and liver cancer.

I have been busy trying to update Northern Light Mailing List and also FNV (Fellowship New Vision). I just did an update to AA Meeting locator also and have been doing so every two weeks.

If you would like to have your flyer placed in the Northern Light please send me 600 (as now we have 590 Northern Light we mail out) and a check made out to Post master for \$75 this is to help with the mailing cost of the Northern Light. Right now the account has a little over \$200.00 in there which will be enough for the next mailing. I will update at that time.

I hope this finds everyone safe and enjoying the beautiful Minnesota weather and once again I would like to thank you all for your patience.

Sandy H.
Area 35 Group Records Secretary

COMMITTEE REPORTS CONTINUED

WEBMASTER

The Newcomer and our WEB:

Website area35.org is about AA service in Northern Minnesota. When a newcomer to AA lands on our WEB site how should we help them find information newcomers need. Should we direct them to aa.org and the tab “Is AA for you?” If they are looking for meeting should we point them to area35 meeting lists and/or point them to aa.org “How to find AA meetings? A newcomer may also be able to use the phone numbers on our contact AA page.

Heard Around the tables:

I was listening to AAs share telephone help lines experiences. Many calls were about finding meetings. One person explained how they were using our WEB site, area35.org, to help others find meetings. In many cases they were able to give the caller our WEB site and the caller had the information they needed. By using area35.org they were able to help callers outside of their district find meetings in Northern Minnesota. When asked if they used aameetinglocator.org their answer was No. They had been to aameetinglocator.org and did not feel the site was user friendly and questioned the reliability of the meeting information on aameetinglocator.org. Are you using aameetinglocator.org to find AA meetings?

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
May-2012	1292	2043	8683	53,773	962.36 MB
June-2012	1316	1,930	7,612	46,591	765.17 MB
July-2012	1,485	2,137	8,165	51,478	905.95 MB
Aug-2012	1,539	2,302	8,663	54,544	915.81 MB
Sept-2012	1,395	2,089	8,065	51,202	993.77
Oct-2012 (1-29)	1,448	2,190	9,008	55,759	930.77

Our highest viewed pages are our meetings followed by our calendar.

www.AAmeetingLocator.org

An ad-hoc committee with members from area35 and area36 was formed. Area 35 will be represented by our record keeper and webmaster. Dennis B., area36 webmaster, will chair the ad-hoc committee. Dennis attended our area assembly. We discussed steps to bring aameetinglocator.org up to date and the future possibilities for AA meeting locator. In July, at our joint workshop many defects with AA meeting locator were identified. Four months later and no progress has been made to correct A meeting locator’s defects, no ad-hoc meetings are scheduled, and no work is planned to update AA meeting locator. I need to learn to accept the things that I cannot change.

Bob B.
Area35 webmaster
admin@area35.org

ARCHIVES

Greetings from beautiful northern Minnesota!

It has been a busy past few months. I am still working on my computer skills and missed the last deadline for a report. I apologize.

I attended the Fall Assembly in International Falls and continue to marvel at the working system of Alcoholics Anonymous. The discussions included dark districts, inventory, how we continue to spread the message of Alcoholics Anonymous, and how we can agree to disagree and then have dinner together. We are hoping to have a joint Archives workshop with Area 36, so save some time for us in July 2013. I am working on visiting groups and finding out what I can help and what I can learn. We can ensure our future by learning about the past.

Thanks for allowing me to serve.

Yours in service,
Antonette F.
Area35 Archives Chair

ARCHIVIST

Greetings every one

I had the full Archives display at the Saint Cloud Round-Up. I gave a slide show tour of the display. I have been invited to Brainerd in December to give the same slide show. I am working on a minutes search for 2 districts so they can write district actions books. I am also writing captions for pictures I took of the display in Duluth. Please add me to your mailing list for District minutes.

Brad I.
Area 35 Archivist

NORTHERN LIGHT

Greetings Area 35

We had a good inventory at the last Assembly. One thing mentioned was only having an online version of the Northern Light. Nothing came of it there, but since this is YOUR NEWSLETTER what do you think? There are many people who don’t have the internet and wouldn’t be able to get the reports on what there money they donate is going for and what the action committees are doing. Communication came up in the Inventory as important of course, and this is one of those means of communication about what is happening. I am always asking in my reports in the Northern Light and at the Assemblies and Committee meetings for articles. Are your DCMs and GSRs passing on the information? Are your groups getting the Northern Light from your GSR? The DCMs bring them back from the Assemblies and Committee meetings to be passed out to your Districts. You can email me at northernlightarea35.org, with your viewpoint. I would like to see how many groups in the area are getting the Northern Light.

Yours in service,
Jana M.
Northern Light Editor

ARTICLES

Providing Information
Or
Extending an Invitation?

Having attended many, many AA service functions/meetings in my 30+ years of service, I have yet to attend one in which the comment is not made that “we need to get more people involved.” In one form or another, that yearning is always expressed. And very often it also provides the ‘reason’ why a greater effort cannot be made by the group hosting the meeting.

Just to be clear about this – I have made the same comment many times in my service life, lamenting that we could have done more had we enjoyed greater participation.

Over the years I have pondered this question, trying to see how and where we could encourage more of our fellow AA’s to get involved. It seems almost incomprehensible to me that they wouldn’t want join in with those of us already here to carry out those wonderful plans we have. Surely they also want AA to grow by leaps and bounds.

A few years ago I found my answer. Interestingly it was during a meditation on the Third Step – turning my life and will over to the care of God, as I understand Him. Not exactly where I thought I would find that answer.

I realized that when we provide information about service opportunities, either on a bulletin board, website or flyer distributed at our groups meeting – we are in essence asking folks to turn their lives and will over to us. This is because they truly don’t understand what is all involved – so to volunteer is really them acting on faith.

However, when we go to them and ask them personally – extending an invitation - that is a completely different matter. By extending that invitation we are asking that they join us in a journey. A journey that we believe will be both enlightening for us and productive for the still suffering alcoholic. Now that is something another person can get excited about!

Extending an invitation doesn’t convey a “go there”, or “follow me” attitude – it does far more than that. It indicates that we have faith in them, rather than expecting them to have faith in us. It acknowledges their dignity, rather than allowing for our own exaltation. It offers then fellowship, community and sharing – rather than demanding a sacrifice from them up front.

Thinking back on my own experience, I realize that every time I was willing to go out and truly extend an invitation I had little difficulty gathering the needed people to accomplish the task at hand. But when I tried to accomplish the same thing by merely providing information – they rarely came.

Reminds me of a story in another Big Book. There was a wedding and the father of the bride put out a lot of information about it – but everyone was too busy. So he went out into the street and extended a personal invitation to all the street people. They all attended and enjoyed the most wonderful and enormous feast of their lives.

Dennis B.
Area 36
Webmaster

**AREA 35 FALL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 6 - 7, 2012
AMERICINN INTERNATIONAL FALLS, MN
Minutes**

GSR Orientation & Action Committee Meetings

Assembly Convenes

Call to Order Open with the Serenity Prayer

Why We Need A Conference read by Stephanie H.

Recognize Past Delegates - Tom L, Panel 32, Scott J, Panel 38, Bob J, Panel 40, Susie A, Panel 48, Tom A, Panel 50, Tim C, Panel 52, Charlie C, Panel 54, Jerry S, Panel 56 and Jon C, Panel 60.

Add to Agenda: January Workshop, 2013 Area Budget Approval, District 14- Int'l Falls, vote for Trustee at Large.

Minutes from the Spring Assembly 2012 were approved

OFFICER REPORTS

Delegate-Jim K. It is kind of crazy to think that we are closing in the halfway point of this 2-year rotation. If I have gained any insight during this time, it is that there is a lot of work to be done and there is always room for improvement in how we are working to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. There is much to do to give back to this life saving fellowship and I thank you for the opportunity to serve in this capacity. I encourage all committee members and officers to continue to update your title descriptions and think about setting up a procedure to effectively pass information to the next person who rotates into the position. I realize that this is a long way off but this appears to be an area of difficulty much of the time and nothing prepares like preparation. I would like to start out by thanking each district that sends me there meeting minutes. It is truly a moving experience for me to hear about how different individuals and committees are working to carry the message to those who suffer. If I can be of assistance to any district, please let me know and I will do my utmost to serve in whatever way that I can. There is a great deal of information regarding our greater worldwide fellowship. Here is a list of items in no particular order. First of all, each DCM was sent copies of the final report from the 62nd GSC. If you have not received a copy of the final report, there are a number left for members and are available this weekend. I encourage you to look through reports as both a way to better understand what took place at the 62nd GSC as well as a tool to look at areas we need to address in the future. I again want to encourage groups and districts to consider bringing forth agenda items for the 63rd GSC. Proposals need to be received by January 2013 at the latest. The GSO is moving from a Defined Benefit Plan to a Defined Contribution plan for all new employees starting in 2013. This will help address the large amount of funds currently being spent to support past and current pension plans for employees. There will be a staff opening at the GSO as Valerie O'Neill, long time publications director, will be retiring at the end of the year. If you are interested in information regarding this position, please let me know and I will share with you the job duties and application process. Both the trustees' Committee on Public Information and Corrections are looking for a non trustee appointed committee member. If anyone would possibly be interested in either of these positions or if you know someone who might be, please let me know and I will get you a list of qualifications and information for the application process. Unaudited figures for 2012, through August, show contributions at \$3,710,194 and gross profit on literature sales at \$4,694,726. AAWS Board recently discussed that they are looking at 3rd party vendors to distribute eBooks rather than continuing with creating our own eBook applications and agreed to forward an agenda item to the 63rd GSC on the selling of eBooks through 3rd party vendors. The theme for the 63rd GSC will be the General Service Conference Takes its Inventory, Our Solution in Action. To assist in the inventory taking process, I will be handing out inventory questions to all DCM's at the December Committee Meeting to share with groups. Members will be encouraged to bring their thoughts to the Spring Assembly in April so that I can better care our Area 35 voice to the GSC. The West Central Regional Service Conference is set for March 1st-3rd in Rapid City South Dakota. There are fliers available this weekend and reservations can be made by calling 605-343-8550. Special room rates of \$73 are available until February 15th, 2013. This is a wonderful opportunity to gain a much better understanding of the background material to be covered at the 63rd GSC and network with other AA members from across our West Central Region. I thank each of you for your continued work with our fellowship and me and appreciate this opportunity to serve as the Area 35 Delegate.

Alternate Delegate-Michael J. It's been another busy couple of month trying to do the things necessary to keep our homes running. Family get-togethers and weddings and funerals were part of what recovery has brought me. I enjoyed the Heartland Round-up with my wife and a group of sober friends. I also spoke at the District 9 Alanon open meeting in Lawrence Lake. The food was second to none. Once again, enjoying great fellowship and a chance to listen to Esther K. one of my favorite Alanon people. I am working on scheduling topics for our Area 35 Workshop in January and also will be putting together a Zonal Forum before the year is out in Zone 1. Being sober has allowed me to be a part of life again and it has also encouraged me to continue to look after my health. Many things happen to people and I really encourage you to share your pains and joys with us so we can look after each other in recovery. I recently lost a friend from Big Stone, Les I. who had 50 plus years of sobriety and a big influence in the area he lived in. I continue to share my story at treatment centers and am a contact for people out of NERC.

Area Chair- Kelly D. The other Area Officers and I did the GSR Orientation Session this morning. There were 37 GSR's and 9 were new. I would like to thank them all for their commitment to be of service. I attended the Area 35/36 Workshop in July. The notes from that workshop are in the Northern Light along with the evaluations from some that attended. Please take the time to read them. Two important topics that came out of that Workshop were Corrections in Minnesota and our AA Meeting Locator. I have been working with the Area 36 Chair and we are currently working on a Statewide Correction Committee with guidelines for them to follow and I am happy to announce that the Adhoc Committee for the AA Meeting Locator will be resuming again. District 6 will be hosting a Workshop, "Communicating Our Third Legacy, Using the AA Service Manual" on October 27th from 1:00-4:00 pm and they have asked me to do a short presentation on the Area. I would like to thank them for inviting me to be a part of it and look forward to that time with them. I also look forward to our Area 35 Inventory this afternoon and again would like to thank Dennis, past Delegate from Area 36 for accepting my invitation this weekend to proctor this event. Your comments and concerns are important to the Area and I hope that everyone will be comfortable, open and honest about how we can better serve you.

Secretary- Mary S. Since we last met at the Area 35 Committee Meeting in Aitkin I sent a report into the Northern Light. I sent letters to welcome new groups in Area 35. I am sending minutes out to about 3 people through the mail since and if there is anyone else who would like to receive the minutes in the mail, please give me your address and I will do that. Also, if anyone would like to receive the minutes by e-mail, give me your e-mail address and I will add it to my distribution list. The January Workshop and Spring Assembly flyers are on the table out in the hallway. I completed my future budget for 2013 as best as I could. Please feel free to meet with me if you have any questions or concerns regarding the minutes.

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

Treasurer-Steve L. The tax snafu is still ongoing. The IRS sent me another notice requesting more information. The requested information was faxed to the IRS. 4 years ago there were some misappropriations of area funds. An ad-hoc committee was formed to investigate. The committee's findings were that Beth owed \$2020.16 and a finance oversight committee will audit the area's books. During 2010 Beth repaid \$1700 and she recently repaid another \$50 leaving an amends balance owed of \$270.16. Beth is continuing to make her payments. The Area's Year to Date expenses are \$ 14,275.97 or 42% under budget. Our Group Contributions are also under budget by \$ 10,450.25 or 29%. Our Assets are staying flat; we have neither excessive growth nor extreme loss of cash. Most groups do a terrific job about giving the correct information to receive proper credit for their contributions. They give the group's service number, the group's correct name and the group's district number on their contribution. Unfortunately some groups do not. If your group doesn't know its service number, they can obtain it from Sandy, our Group Records Secretary. The USPS will be stopping the address forwarding service soon so **please use the new envelopes with the new correct address or go to our web site and get it.**

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS

Grapevine-Carey A. There were 7 at our committee meeting. New books available through the Grapevine are: Happy, Joyous and Free, Into Action, and Young and Sober. We have our 2013 calendars and pocket calendars on the table for sale. We as a Fellowship if possible should visit "AA Grapevine.org". The site has a Quote of the Day and subscribers to the Daily Grapevine Daily Quote have climbed to 12,400. Have your groups register your Grapevine/LaVina Representative. Online Subscriptions Discussion - Possible - Spring Assembly 2013 presentation Heidi DCM Dist 5 will possibly put together issues with online subscriptions with different readers/nooks that would you're possibly need. Show of hands on who subscribes to Grapevine and what would it take to have you subscribe. Recycle your Grapevines/LaVina - at Treatment Centers, Correctional Facilities and Halfway Houses.

District 4- Jeff C. Not Present

District 15 Pete B. Stearns county fair results 10% of lit taken at our unmanned booth Going to check on giving hospital & clinics subscriptions to the grapevine The Stearns county roundup is march 23, 2013 at the landing in St Anna Visiting meetings trying to get them interested in district functions All district chairs not filled yet Upcoming events include December 6 is the 26th annual open speaker meeting at 8:30 pm in lake Henry January 5 Paynesville/lake Henry holiday party at the hilltop in Paynesville supper 5:30 cards afterwards.

Webmaster-Robert B. Our entire Web committee meeting was spent talking about AAMeetingLocator. We reactivated the adhoc committee. Dennis B. Area36 webmaster has been appointed the chair. Webmaster in area36 is a technical position and does not rotate every 2 year which will bring some Web experience, history with the locator, and past delegate experience. After introductions I was asked how I felt about the locator. My opinion has not changed. It was designed to help a new comer to AA find a meeting. At our area 35/36 workshop we had a demonstration. At best the locator is a good sample of what may be possible using our FNV database and mapping tools to locate an AA meeting. My opinion is that in its present condition should not be on the Web. I feel that the potential for is great. One meeting locator, one database for AA that can also be used as an input into locating meetings is Apps for our portable devices. I would have a list of AA meetings on my phone. Our local Record Keeper could update the AA FNV database and the locator would be updated on the Web. We talked about a 3 tiered approach. We need to get the locator fixed. Once it is working we'll ask if the area wants to continue supporting it and what it will take bring it to a professional state that others will want to join. The final step would be to have New York take over and support it. At the assembly it was asked if there was some way to use the Web to put people together that might share rooms at our Assemblies. I will have a plan at our next meeting.

Archives-Antonette F. Districts 21, 12, 8, 9, 2, 5, 13 were present. District 21 sent a written report about his continued work on restoring documents making frames, family obligations where he should be. District 12 reported that they purchased a digital recorder to record people. They are also working on converting donated tapes for presentation. District 2 is talking about long times who don't come to meetings anymore. District 5 is getting history of members is a process. District 8 is working on things with Pat. District 9 is getting recorder and will be working on a long-timers panel. Need more archives workbooks. I gave them all away. Brad has been very busy, works with Area 36 scanning documents.

District 2-Kim B. District 2 our meetings are going good. We have a good Unity Between the towns up there. We are putting together a new meeting schedule. I had the pleasure of calling all the contacts for each town to find out who the GSR's are, update, and visit to hear about how their meetings are going and attended. Most are going strong. We have a few new meetings and a few that have closed. We have more women coming into the rooms of AA which is awesome. When talking with a member from Stephen he mentioned that the Friday night meeting there has not been well attended in fact many times it's just him. That meeting had been going since 1962. We had all been talking about loading up our vehicles and hitting other meetings in the Area. So we loaded up the van and headed to Stephen that next Friday night. That's one meeting will be attending. Although District 2 is so spread out, on example Stephen being a 50 minute drive it's not the distance that's important because it's the fellowship we have when piling in vehicle together. Sharing, laughing and learning about each other. District 2 is going to start working on the District Inventory at our next meeting. That meeting is well attended and we are hoping more will show up. I know when I called and talked with different ones I asked why their GSR's haven't been attending the District and tried to encourage them to come. Hopefully the more we reach out to these towns we will be able to pull more people in to get interested and involved. We are also working on Revising the District 2 AA Round-up. We have a committee now and have reached out to surrounding places that have put on Round-ups. Mahnomen has been a very big help. All in all, AA is alive and well in Northern Minnesota.

District 12-Servando M. Our District meeting is a rotating meeting the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30. We are currently looking for a new literature chair as well as more committee members. We had a table set up at the Duluth Roundup where we shared what our district is currently involved with. We have PSA's running on TV and Radio as well as 2 Billboards that give our intergroup number if anyone is looking for help to quit drinking. Also we decided to subscribe to several Grapevine subscriptions for each of the correctional facilities in our district. We will travel up the North Shore for our November district meeting in hopes to keep those meetings a part of our district.

Archivist- Brad I. If I am reading this I had a safe trip up here. I got in late last night and hope this P. A. setup works. I was just here in May for the Round-Up. Since the Area Committee meeting I wrote an article for the newsletter, brought the full Archives display to the Duluth round-up, gave a brief talk at the St. Cloud Alano Society Anniversary dinner, looked up some past district 8 minutes, looked for district 14 information, continued to catalog and develop a searchable database of the Area collection, only set the alarm off once at the Archives Repository and Paul H. Archivist for Area 36 southern Minnesota is scanning several items for me. He has an 11 by 17 scanner now so he can do the large documents. I got yelled at for pitching the idea of me getting one for my place. Recent contributions to the collection are a 1934 Oxford Group book "I Was a Pagan" by V.C. Kitchen. I am sorry I could not bring anything to display this weekend because I ran out of room in the van. I have lots of pictures on my camera of the Duluth round-Up

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

display if anyone would like to see them. The next display is scheduled for the St. Cloud Round-Up at the end of this month. I am planning on doing a joint display with Area 36 for founders Day in St. Louis Park on thanksgiving weekend. I am spoken for Founders Day 2013. I will be speaking in Duluth. I am always open to speak at any local Function. I sent an April 1943 "True" magazine to the G.S.O. Archives. Michelle had never seen one and didn't even know the story existed she saw the one we have in Helena last year and when I found a second one for cheap I sent it to her. She was very grateful as this magazine has the first article written by an A.A. member in a national publication so the history timeline needs to be modified more.

Literature-Sean D. There were 7 at today's joint Literature/Grapevine action committee. The Living Sober - new updated version with verbiage changed to reflect modern terms or language is available. New Cover in Blue and White. AA Armed Services updated to include current or active duty soldiers as well as Veterans. It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell which was updated to fit into literature racks. EBooks: A link at AA.org (purchase eBooks) will take you to eps.aaws.org. There is a FAQ link that will answer any questions. Currently you can download the AA eReader app for iphone, ipad and ipod. Other formats will follow. There is currently a discussion about a spiral bound Big Book with blank pages after each chapter for notes. The majority of the literature committee did not feel this was needed.

District 13-Scott B. We have a new secretary. Our PI and CPC chairs are still open. The Beginners meeting is looking for Big Books. That's always a good sign. Our AA assistance lines have all 24 shifts filled. Our Corrections is going well. Treatment put on a Workshop on Aug 9th at the St. Cloud Library. That workshop was well done with lots of information. District 13 is looking to hold a Service Workshop. This workshop would highlight district positions and job descriptions. Our hope is to spur interest in AA service. We are hoping to have plans to hold this workshop sometime this winter.

District 5-Heidi R. Our CPC/PI Chair, Rita, has updated and printed new meeting schedules for the district, brought Big Books to schools and libraries, scheduled the next rotation of the probation meeting, and updated newspapers. Our Literature/Grapevine chair, Paul, has a supply of books and pamphlets available for groups to purchase. We have also purchased a subscription to the Grapevine for District 5. We are still bringing meetings into the Mille Lacs and Sherburne County Jails. Thanks to Jeff, Area 35 Corrections Chair, for getting us a contact from Area 36 to help get more volunteers to go into the Sherburne County Jail. The Sherburne County Jail requires us to have 4 to 8 male AA members for each meeting which is on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month. The Treatment Chair, Jack, is still finding volunteers to speak at the two treatment centers one time per month. We also have been working on getting group information updated with the Area 35 Group Records Secretary and on the Area 35 website. Finally, in the past month, our district Treasurer had to step down due to medical problems. We are hoping to have a new Treasurer elected at the next district meeting.

Treatment- Randy A. The Area 35 Treatment Committee will be presenting a workshop on Saturday, October 20th in Virginia, MN at the Holy spirit Catholic Church - Social Hall. The cost of this workshop is a freewill contribution to the facility. There will be literature displays and various books and pamphlets for sale. The presentations will be made by the various districts of the Area. We had 5 Bridging the Gap requests this past month with 3 responses. We had 9 at our committee meeting. District 13 hosted a workshop in August and had 18 members in attendance. There was excellent feedback and discussion on the district reports which included what to do on use of profanity by AA members carrying the message into Treatment Centers and by clientele at the meetings; Bridging the Gap and Apathy and enthusiasm. How can we get new or more people invited. Thanks to the districts willing to participate and carry the message.

District 1-Irene J. Our next district meeting will be 10/14/12 at 2:00 pm located at the Fertile Community Center. The district is doing good financially with some chairs not being filled. Current events coming up are Winter Round-Up, Wild Rice-Mahnomen, MN January 11-13th, 2013 and 31st Spring Fling March 9, 2013. Recent events held were the 5th Annual Wild Rice Round-up at Sand Hill, Fosston, MN. The 30th Annual End of Year Celebration with low attendance.

District 7-Neil F. Our next meeting will be on October 18th. We've been averaging about 15 with approximately 10% of our meetings represented. Our district chairs have been active in Literature, Corrections, and Treatment and our Grapevine Chair enlightens us with excerpts from At Wit's End so we always enjoy a good laugh at the meeting. The district finances are healthy and we are grateful to the groups for their support. Open positions are Alternate DCM, CPC/PI and Archives. We'll continue to get out to meetings in our district to visit them, seeking their input and welcoming them to participate. We decided to create an Actions Booklet to keep a log of business conducted as a reference for current and future members. In addition, guideline for the District meeting and scheduling of events were recorded. We hope this will be useful and believe it will be based upon our experience. We are planning for a CPC luncheon to be held in the near future. Butch R. has been helpful in sharing his experience and information about luncheons he has been involved with. We have seen attendance by professionals drop off in recent years and we hope to get a good turnout.

PI-Robert R. The CPC committee meeting this morning had Districts 2,3,6,11,12 and 14. We are doing work with schools, libraries, rest stops, up to date meeting schedules, phone line information, books and other literature. One way to accomplish this is to have groups to sponsor a facility and regularly check them. District 12 has their two Billboards up and people are taking notice. I have packets on the procedures and a sample outcome from a PI Luncheon put on by the Winter Wrap up Committee in District 8. Remember these projects take time, dedication, action by Districts and individuals in those districts. It seems we sometimes rely on people sending them to us rather than us attracting them. I fully support our participation on the State Fair booth. It's a very worthwhile function that I look forward to next year. With your approval when the time comes to feel the pain that mothers, fathers, wives, children and others go through with a loved one suffering from alcoholism.

District 3-Jim S. It looks like our district will have a surplus at the end of this year. We are looking at our prudent reserve as to whether it should be increased or not. We are also considering using some of this surplus to fund other district committee members or chairs to help with visiting dark meetings. We have gone through our meeting list and found physical addresses for each meeting. Now we are looking at a new format for the meeting list. Currently, we list meetings by days and we are looking T listing meetings by community. We have continued to search for a webmaster with no luck so far. We are meeting our correction and treatment with few hiccups. Our district meets every 3rd Sunday of the month at the Perham alano club @ 10am. We generally have about 18 to 23 people at the meeting and lasts about 2 hours.

District 6-David A. We have one Group that may have dissolved in January but I was unaware of it until just a few weeks ago. Then we have people working to start new Groups. The Rush City Group became active again this year. Also it looks like we may have a new Group starting in Spencer Brook soon. I went to visit the Bethel Group a couple of weeks ago and the building was dark. I then found out that they had moved to St Andrew Lutheran Church, 1450 237th Ave NE in East Bethel, MN. I visited them and found that they are doing well and now our meeting cards have been updated. Our district is planning to hold a Service Workshop on the 27th of October 2012 in Cambridge at the Cambridge Medical Center in the Foundation Room. This will be a Saturday afternoon from 1:00 PM until 4:00 PM. I brought some fliers today and thanks to Bob, it is also listed on the Area 35 web calendar. We are still short of action committee chairs and officers in our district and hopefully more interest will be developing soon. We are still

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 16)

considering having a district phone service. We now have an ad-hoc committee working to see how much help we can develop for phone answering and also standby contacts for First Stepping and other services.

Group Records—Sandy H. I have printed off all group records that FNV has for area 35. DCMs please make sure you get your copy. I have been working on updating FNV & AA meeting locator as well as the northern light mailing list. I have added area 36 officers to our mailing list. For flyers or inserts in the northern light, send 600 along with a check for \$75 made out to postmaster. I need name & mailing address for GSR changes. I have just been getting names and cities if you have any questions please get a hold of me.

Northern Light-Jana M. Reports, articles and minutes should be sent in word format. Either open office or microsoft works. I need to be able to manipulate size, since the page numbers of the Northern Light have to be in multiples of , and remove last names for the online version. If you want a flyer in, contact Group Records. Past Delegates, if you are not getting the Northern Light contact Group Records. DCM's - please check your information to make sure it is correct and up to date, and that your district meeting location information is up to date.

District 21-Dave G. Our last meeting was on 9/12. We are not doing well with participation. On 10/20/12 we are putting on a GSR workshop in hopes of inspiring a new outlook on service work.

District 16-Lynne L. We meet the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm (note the time change from 5:30 pm on the directories) at the United Methodist Church, 1701 SE 8th Ave, Grand Rapids, MN. Our Grapevine and literature chairs have resigned so we are looking to fill those positions. We had a secretary position to fill also, and at our last District meeting on October 3rd we were able to fill the secretary position so we should be able to fill the rest. District 16 is hosting a Workshop on Saturday, October 13th called More about Alcoholism. It's a potluck and will be held at Grace House in Grand Rapids.

Corrections-Jeff E. Thank you for your 12th Step work in Correctional Facilities in MN. I was privileged to attend the GSO workshop - Bridging the Gap. It was a great workshop hosted by Area 36 and presented by the GSO and the Minnesota DOC. Also at the workshop were the District 8 and 13 Correction chairs and the Area CPC Chair. Thank you all for attending and also anyone I may have missed. I was also privileged to attend two meetings with parole and probation officers in Crow Wing County and Benton County with Larry F. and Mary M from Area 36. The more we can educate the professionals in Corrections and Treatment programs in Minnesota about the Temporary Contact Program the Better. Many of the probation and parole officers were not familiar with AA's programs and they expressed interest in what AA has to offer. The Rush City MCF Transition Fair will be held in April of 2013, the final date is yet to be set. The Moose Lake Transition Fair was held October 4th. Denny J from District 13 and I manned a table for AA. Moose Lake did an excellent job at holding a Transitional Fair. We received 31 requests for an outside AA volunteer and handed out request forms to many more inmates with discharge dates more than a year away. Denny and I were happy to meet several inmates that had attended the AA meeting at the St. Cloud Correctional Facility. Some interesting facts came from the presentation at lunch: 90% of offenders in MCFs diagnosed as chemically abusive or dependent, CD treatment in MCF's reduced recidivism by 17 to 25 percent. CD Treatment most effective when continuity of care went from institution to community, and 50% of inmates go untreated in prison and community. Area Chair, Kelly and Area 36 Chair Lisa, are working to set up a standing committee for Corrections to solve several difficulties we have working with the State of Minnesota and the DOC. There are two points I want people to consider and ask the committee to take action on: 1) The cost of providing books and literature to MN Prisons has in Northern Minnesota fallen on the local district. This practice is unfair and cannot be sustained. Area 36 has a separate fund for Corrections and I believe the simplest and best way to support our prisons is for Area 35 to establish a fund for this purpose. 2) There already exists a state wide data base for inmates requesting an outside AA volunteer to help them. I believe a better way is to bypass the Area 35 Corrections Chair when distributing the inmate name to the region where they will be released to. The Area chair can be notified and be responsible for follow up to be kept in the loop. This last point is probably the most important thing facing not only Corrections but all of Alcoholics Anonymous. There is a great need in most of our Districts for AA volunteers to carry the message of hope to suffering alcoholics. The biggest problem we face today is getting volunteers to bring meetings into jails and prisons and to become temporary contacts for inmates being release from correctional facilities. We have the blessing of belonging to an organization that saved our lives and it is hard to believe there are so few who are willing to share this gift with our still suffering brothers and sisters. Please go back to your local groups and recruit volunteers until we fill the needs of our jails, prisons and treatment centers. I know that the rewards they receive will be much greater than the fears they have of doing this type of 12th Step Work.

District 8-Rolene L. We have 30 to 40 in attendance at our District Meetings. There are 15 to 22 groups represented at our District Meeting. Our District has been going through some changes in officers. We've had many elections. I also did a group inventory for A New Foundation Group in International Falls, Unity and Communication are so important. Our District is discussing having a District Inventory. Inventories are a good thing. Helps us become aware of what is helpful in service and AA as a whole. Principles before personalities. October 20th is Area Treatment Workshop in Virginia, MN. We encourage members to attend. Also at our August District our District was asked to merge with the City of International Falls. A motion was passed to add the city of International Falls to our District. As DCM I let our District know a group can join with a contact person or GSR. At our Sept District meeting this motion was rescinded as this procedure was done incorrectly. Thank you Jim K and Kelly for your guidance on this matter. Being DCM is a journey I am learning from. How important we have Unity and Communication. Having disunity in our groups and district is not healthy for AA as a whole.

District 9-John F. All our obligations are being met. We did a review on whether to continue the AAA (Beginners meeting). There was some discussion about cell phone use, and what to do about it and how to attract more people to District Services

CPC-Roger R. PI/CPC meeting had 12 members. Districts represented were 3,18,12,6,5 & 11. Current Activities include the following: Planning CPC Luncheons with professionals, communicating with probation, law enforcement and middle school faculty, clergy and medical professionals. We also discussed: Anonymity breaking by AA Grapevine on their manila envelopes, CPC luncheon problems and opportunities, direct dissemination of AA information by Districts to Professionals, How we can stimulate more service activity in Districts which will lead to more carrying our messages through professional to still suffering alcoholics. My recent activities include: Chairing CPC Break-out session at the August Committee Meeting, Attending Area 35/36 Joint Workshop, Attended "Bridging the Gap" conference in Bloomington, MN.

District 11-Bill C. Becky has stepped down as DCM and I have been duly elected DCM. Our meeting in District 11 has been entered in the AA meeting locator. Thank you to the Webmaster. I attended the DCM sharing session and learned a lot. We hold our meeting on the first Tuesday on odd numbered months. We are meeting corrections commitments thanks to Gary.

District 18-Neil R. Doing well, had our district Round Robin on Sept 22 - good turnout with excellent speakers. Groups are doing alright, getting some new members finding their way to the fellowship. New application for members to go into the jail meetings are being filled out. We have a new literature chair member. Grapevine has formed a small committee to help distribute grapevine and LaVina. We still have no CPC/PI chair. New meetings cards distributed to groups and secretary is e-mailing copy to all DCM's.

(Continued on page 18)

(Continued from page 17)

Archives have started to put together packets for CPC/PI to go around to professionals in the community. District is in progress of putting a bookmobile together for at Round Robins and other special events for members to purchase and help carry the message. Motley has a new noon meeting on Friday at the Free Methodist Church.

AREA 35 INVENTORY PROCTORED BY DENNIS B. AREA 36:**Is the Area passing down and collecting information effectively for General Service Representatives, Districts and Actions Committees?**

- Clarify Roles & Responsibilities of Officers and DCM's
- How to get info
- What Area Officers and Committee Chairs should pass along

Do all Districts feel a part of the Area and receive equal attention and service?

- Generally good job in this area
- Need to clarify roles
- Ensure geographical balance when possible
- Officers should request sharing

How well is information regarding Agenda Items, Financial Reports, Archive Items and Grapevine materials being relayed to the Districts and Groups?

- Clarity on communication method needed
- Increased awareness of the above
- Conference Agenda Items needed earlier
- What distribution method to use for the above

How well are districts and Groups concerns, ideas and needs being addressed by the Delegate, Treasurer, Archivist and Grapevine Chairs?

- There are different expectations-need to clarify what the standard is
- Need reports on financial issues
- Ensure proper balance of duties between officers

Are the Action Committees doing enough to assist Districts in committee work?

- If there are failures at the District level - let Area Chair know
- More info about what Area Chair should be doing
- Concern about rotation

Are we spending money prudently as an Area? Consider the following:**Expenses - Committee Work**

- WCR attendance
- Hand in copies of reports

Communications (Northern Light, Mailings)

- Northern Light distribution
- Newsletter mailing
- Can improvements be made via technology?

Accommodations (Coffee, room rates at assemblies, workshops, area committee mtngs)

- Facility Costs
- Prudent expenditures

How well is information regarding Area Workshops, Group Records, Literature availability, and Public Information materials being relayed to the Districts and Groups?

- Rotation an issue
- Trusted Servant Responsibilities
- Workshop formats

How well are Districts and Group concerns, ideas, and needs being addressed by the Alternate Delegate, Group Records, Literature and PI Chair?

- Grapevine Reports
- Literature Reports
- Literature Ordering

When Area decisions are made, is there the correct balance between group conscience and the "Right of Decision?" (Concept III)

- Group Senators - Not Servants
- Timing of decisions
- Who Votes?
- DCM passing along information

Area Assemblies conducted expediently and effectively? Consider the following:**Length of reports:**

- Straw Vote
- Whole group discuss agenda items
- Saturday night Open Meeting or conducting business:
- GSR's are losing voice
- Recognize GSR's

Taking a lunch break of Sunday or ending at Noon.

- Losing people at lunch
- Keeping on time

How well is information regarding Area Assemblies/Committee Meetings, Northern Light distribution, CPC materials and Treatment Facility needs being relayed to the Districts and the Groups?

- Northern Light mailing incorrect

How well are District and Group concerns, ideas and needs being addressed by the Area Chair, Northern Light Chair, CPC Chair and Treatment Chair?

- Doing Well

(Continued on page 19)

*(Continued from page 18)***Is adequate opportunity given to all to speak and participate in Area Assemblies, Workshops and activities? Are Area Workshops worthwhile? How about the format?**

- May not have enough time after presentations
- Shutting off discussion too early
- Ask for opposing views
- Zonal Forum attendance

How well is information regarding Area minutes, Web Page updates, Correctional Facility needs and Archives information being relayed to the Districts and Groups?

- Friday workshops should be on their own
- Need better information
- Need clarity regarding Committee Chair roles in workshop
- Need to get more people involved

How well are District and Group concerns, ideas and needs being addressed by the Secretary, Webmaster, Corrections Chair and Archives Chair?

No comments

What other concerns do you have that are not addressed in this inventory?

- Leadership
- Promptness
- Breakout formats
- Is the Group Conscience lost?
- Reports on SCR
- Awareness of GSR responsibilities
- Location/Costs of meetings
- Emphasis on AA Structure
- Area Officer and Chair Meetings
- Responsibilities being “pushed up”
- Taking GSR’s seriously
- Action Plan
- District visits by Officers
- Budget Process/Reporting
- Reporting format
- GSO Quarterly reports distribution/discussion

GSR SHARING SESSION REPORT

How do we get more GSRs involved? Presentations to each group in a district led by DCM and other GSRs talking about how important GSRs are, what district does, etc. may give people information about the position. GSR orientation open house hosted by district for anyone who wants more information; another way to educate people about what a GSR does is to invite member to attend a district meeting; good attitudes are contagious. Forum workshops; encourage others to learn about service (not just about what GSRs do). Sponsorship is critical to service; without good sponsorship, service will suffer. Bring Alt GSR

to the assemblies and district meetings, encourage them to join action committees; this exposure will help get the next person up to speed when it’s their turn as GSR. Make going to district meeting a fellowship event; then take information back to group—sometimes, though, groups aren’t ready for making the decision

to be involved at district and doing service; you may need to start a new group to fulfill a need in the community (to replace groups that close or fill a service need); ask for volunteers to attend district and the new meetings that are service-oriented. Get involved in a smaller group-level service position first that requires less outside commitment (coffee-maker, meeting chair, greeter); take on responsibility gradually; groups should choose GSRs wisely—don’t fill a seat just to fill it.

Being a GSR is a way of doing service—you *have* to help other people to stay sober. Sponsors can bring sponsees to district and home-group business meetings and volunteer them for positions that the sponsees are ready for; actively ask members to serve—when asked to become part of service structure, they may say yes (especially if they’ve been taught to say yes to any AA request). Set an example for others; go to district meetings yourself; when you go, observe, ask questions, get information; be an active participant. Groups can provide job descriptions of their available service positions and give those descriptions to newcomers; when the duties of a position are defined, it may ease the fear of taking on the obligation. Previous GSRs (immediate and past) need to be involved in training incoming GSRs; go with them to a district meeting and help explain what is happening, what to do.

What are Regional Forums all about? Representatives from New York as well eight other nearby states—from areas and districts near and far—gather to talk about the problems that AA members, groups, districts, and areas have (or have had) and then share how those problems were solved. Excellent opportunity to meet GSO (General Service Office) representatives—learn what they do and how much they care about individuals and groups; they do the job because they love AA and alcoholics; you can share your ESH (experience, strength, and hope) with the GSO representatives as well; fun and good fellowship.

How do you fill your (committee) positions at the district level? GSRs need to step up after their terms are up and volunteer for action chairs and officer positions. Again, service is mandatory to survive and thrive in sobriety; a good attitude is required; forget about being afraid—ask questions; get involved with someone else’s concerns and you quickly forget your own; you don’t need to know everything about a position to get involved. GSRs can invite members to attend the district meeting, announce open chair positions at general and business meetings; show interest in someone by directly ask someone to step-up for a particular position who you think would be good; ask people who have served at district in the past to share at group’s general or business meeting about the positions they have held and the benefit they received as a result; spark that interest; again, enthusiasm is contagious. GSRs must attend the district meeting to get information about open positions, what the positions are about; without GSRs, groups may never know that district meetings are open to all members, that positions are available, etc. Getting GSRs to district meetings also allows them to be assigned to an action chair’s committee; being on a committee helps the action chair share the workload; GSRs who serve on an action chair committee help prevent chair burnout, become more involved, and may prepare a GSR to learn about a district position and then naturally step up to it when the next rotation comes. Consider where the district meeting is held; attendance may rise if the meeting place is centrally located and no group has to drive a longer distance than any other group (consider a time change as well).

(Continued on page 20)

(Continued from page 20)

What can be done to help or encourage groups to follow the Traditions? A group can alter its format (eg, dedicate a meeting once a month) so that members may learn the Traditions; groups fail because they do not make the Traditions a concern; show members that the Traditions are important by regularly talking about them.

Learn about the Traditions from the district meeting by doing GSR work.

Groups have the right to fail; groups are autonomous; as outsiders, we can't tell a group what to do; we can't preach to other alcoholics ("no lectures to endure"). Become an active member of a troubled group; take a group conscience during a business meeting and ask whether the group follows the Traditions; do a once-a-year inventory using the 13 questions from the pamphlet "The AA Group". Sponsors can help us learn what the Traditions are and how to practice them in ALL of our affairs so that we can learn to work well with others. Be explicit when sharing that the month of the year corresponds with the Step and Tradition; use literature in your meetings that covers the Traditions in this way. *Daily Reflections* cover these principles in their literature using this correspondence between the Step/Tradition and month. *The Grapevine* is another good resource for learning the Traditions. Teach people that the Steps are about saving our lives from ourselves; the Traditions are about keeping others from killing us.

DCM SHARING SESSION REPORT - Heidi Reported:

We had thirteen DCMs and one Alternate DCM in attendance at the sharing session. We started the meeting by coming up with three questions for discussion. The first question was on how to get GSRs involved in the district and area when they take the position. The second question was on how to get the focus back on AA service and the importance for sobriety. Finally, the third question was on how to explain to groups the intention of the money collected for the 7th Tradition. For question one a suggestion was to call GSRs if they miss a district meeting. If the GSR misses another meeting, go to the meeting and find out why. Districts members can also visit groups so they are getting a visit more often. When we speak at AA meetings talk about our experience with service, what service has done for our sobriety, and how we want AA to be there for future generations. Question two ended up being discussed during question one. With question three we had lots of discussion on what the money should be used for when we put in the basket for the 7th Tradition.

OLD BUSINESS

Financial Oversight Committee Report - The financial review committee met at the 2012 Fall Assembly, Saturday, Oct. 6, over lunch. After a thorough analysis of the Area's bank accounts and financial reports, we are pleased to announce that with reconciling a couple of discrepancies (inconsistent numbers), which we were able to do very quickly with Steve's help, the books are accurate and reflect the current Area 35 bank account balance of \$27,766.17. In detail: the first discrepancy involved \$4.15 in interest that was recorded in the bank's records, which didn't show up on the Area's treasury reports. It was verified that this had been remedied in the Area's accounts, but that the reports had been printed prior to this correction. The second discrepancy involved a \$0.50 data entry error pertaining to two action chair expense checks. This was also easily reconciled within the Area's records. The second matter of business the financial review committee addressed was balancing the prudent use of area funds to support the travel expenses of the committee members with the obligation to provide the best oversight of the Area's finances. On this issue, we discussed whether we should meet less frequently, and whether an alternative meeting format (computer) might work. The committee recognized that by meeting regularly (every period/every area event) the financial review committee has been able to quickly and easily catch and reconcile errors in the books. This resolution would have been delayed, and could have caused more errors, if meetings were less frequent. Additionally, while it is recognized that the current treasurer is extremely adept in matters of finance, it is not certain that all future treasurers will possess this know-how, and they would benefit from frequent contact and oversight by the committee. Meeting face-to-face seemed to be the best and easiest option to ask questions and get changes made, and doesn't assume everyone has computer access. As such, per the previous discussion, we recommend that at this point the financial review committee continue regular and frequent face-to-face meetings when each period report is presented at all of the Area meetings (every area committee meeting and assemblies). We also recognize the authority of the body of Northern MN, Area 35, and encourage the members to continue to provide additional recommendations and guidance to the committee.

Area 35/36 Workshop - Kelly mentioned that she had the opportunity to meet with area 36 on July 21st. Lisa and Kelly set up a meeting for next year. Kelly is not sure who the next area chair will be as they start their new rotation. Out of the workshop came concerns about corrections and the AA meeting locator. **Area 35/36 will meet again on July 20th, 2013 in St. Cloud.** It will probably meet in the same place. Scott was a huge help with the combined workshop.

January Workshop - Jake presented his information regarding the General Service Workshop which will be held at Chase on the Lake in Walker, MN. The facility is very nice. Dave from District 21 will talk to the groups in the area and Jake is contacting groups and districts to present the workshops. Please bring friends and sponsees and new people to the Workshop.

Area Assemblies 2013-2014 - Assemblies are arranged for the next two years. Kelly booked all the sights at very realistic prices for coffee and room rates - The Sawmill is booked in Grand Rapids Spring 2013 and Fall 2014. They arranged the reservations for the Area Assembly so that if everyone books their motel room at the Sawmill they will take the price for the meeting room off. So if you can, try to reserve your room at the Sawmill. The flyers are done and posted on the websites www.area35.org and you can download them and hand them out to your groups as soon as possible.

NEW BUSINESS

Area 35 Inventory Committee - Heidi R, Neil F and Sean D. will make up the Inventory Committee, review the results and bring a report back to the Area 35 Committee meeting in December.

2013 Area Budget Approval -

After much discussion a motion was made to accept the 2013 Area 35 Budget which was submitted to the Assembly by Steve L. The motion passed.

Motion on travel & lodging responsibilities for Delegates report

Motion made requiring Area 35 to assume responsibility in paying for the travel and lodging expenses for the Delegate, Alternate Delegate, or for a member of Alcoholics Anonymous action on behalf of the Delegate or Alternate Delegate, related to the "Delegate's Report Back" to a district, but limiting the expense of the venue where the Delegate's Report Back is being hosted, the hosting District, except in circumstances where the Delegate or authorized party, by the Delegate deems necessary."

This was proposed at the August Aitkin Committee Meeting so the DCM's could go back to their Districts and ask their GSR's to ask their group what they think of this idea. It would become clearer when the Delegate comes out to a District. For instance, should the Area pay the Delegates expenses or should the District pay the Delegate's expenses. It's easier when the Delegate is from central areas of the area, but the next Delegate could come from the far NE or NW.... some Districts might not have the money in their treasury to pay the all the expenses if they drove a long way and perhaps needed lodging as well.

(Continued on page 21)

(Continued from page 20)

Opposing Views: AA members are putting money in the basket for service work. Some would hate to see the local AA groups and Districts become too dependent on the area. It is part of the Delegate's position description to go out to the Districts in Area 35 and talk about his or her experiences in New York. It's

the job of the DCM to go out and talk the 7th tradition to the groups and review with AA groups in their district where the contributions go and how they are used. Contributions to the Area come from the Groups, the Area Districts rarely send money to the Area.

The question was called and put to vote:

2/3rds of the majority raised hands to cast the vote -

For the proposed motion: More than 2/3rds of the vote

Against the proposed motion: No count, but much less than the numbers of people who were for the motion. **Motion carried**

District 14 and International Falls - There was much discussion regarding issues around the fact that District 14 has gone dark. There is a group that elected to become a part of District 8 and have started to attend District 8's District meetings. There are AA groups meeting in the International Falls area that are not participating in District meetings. And there is a group in Effie that is on the edge of what used to be District 14. They could easily become part of District 16 if they wanted to. International Falls has 8 AA meetings, Effie has 1 and Nett Lake has 0. District 14 would like to become District 8 and dissolve the idea of District 14. 3 of the 8 meetings in International Falls are going to District 8's business meetings.

Motion made: to table this discussion so District 14 GSR's will discuss with their AA groups District 8 GSR's will discuss with their AA Groups and then discuss this at the Spring Assembly. **A vote was taken and the motion did not pass by a majority show of hands at the Fall Assembly. Motion Failed**

Motion made: to form a committee in Area 35 to look at our area map with the possibility creating new District lines and to bring a plan of action back to the Area Action Committee meeting in December. **A vote was taken - A show of hands passed the motion - 48 individuals supported the motion, 5 opposed. Motion passed.**

VOTE FOR TRUSTEE AT LARGE

Proctored by Scott J. - Past Delegate

First Ballot - Susie A. 23, Tom A. 37

Second Ballot - Susie A. 15, Tom A. 44

Tom A. was elected as the nominee from Area 35 for the Area Trustee at Large Candidate.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - Northern Light Editor, Jana M.

Area Committee Meeting - Dec 2nd 2012 at 9:00 am at Aitkin Alano Club

Area 35 Workshop January 19th and 20th, 2013 at Chase on the Lake, Walker, MN

Area 35 Spring Assembly, April 6th and 7th, 2013 at the Sawmill Inn, Grand Rapids, MN

Area 35 Fall Assembly, October 5th and 6th, 2013, Holiday Inn, Detroit Lakes, MN

Area 35 Spring Assembly April 5th and 6th, 2014, Holiday Inn in Duluth, MN

Area 35 Fall Assembly, October 4th and 5th 2014, Sawmill Inn, Grand Rapids

Other Events in Area 35:

30th Annual St. Cloud Roundup, October 26th, 27th and 28th

WRASSCS, March 5th in Rapid City, South Dakota

35th Winter Wrap-up at Coates Plaza in Virginia, MN March 15, 16th and 17th in Virginia MN

GSR Workshop, October 20th, Bemidji Alano Club, Bemidji, MN

120 People were registered at the Fall Assembly

Ask it Basket (Past Delegates)

Adjourn - Closed with the Lord's Prayer

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>AREA 35 COMMITTEE MEETING DECEMBER 2, 2012 AGENDA</div> <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 August Committee Minutes</div></div> <div>OFFICER REPORTS</div> <div><div>Delegate – Jim K.</div><div>Alternate Delegate – Michael (Jake) Jacobson</div><div>Chair – Kelly D.</div><div>Secretary – Mary S.</div><div>Treasurer – Steve L.</div></div> <div>COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS</div> <div><div>WEBMASTER – Robert (Bob) B.</div><div>ARCHIVES – Antonette F.</div><div>District 2 – Kim B.</div><div>District 12 – Servando M.</div><div>ARCHIVIST – Brad I.</div><div>LITERATURE – Sean D.</div><div>District 13 – Scott B.</div><div>District 5 – Heidi R.</div><div>TREATMENT – Randy A.</div><div>District 1 – Irene J.</div><div>District 7 – Neil F.</div><div>PI – Robert (Butch) R.</div><div>District 3 – Jim S.</div><div>District 6 – David A.</div><div>GROUP RECORDS – Sandy H.</div><div>NORTHERN LIGHT – Jana M.</div><div>District 21 – Dave G.</div><div>District 16 – Gene V.</div><div>CORRECTIONS – Jeff E.</div><div>District 8 – Rolene L.</div><div>District 9 – John Fl.</div><div>CPC – Roger R.</div><div>District 11 – Bill C.</div><div>District 18 – Neil R.</div><div>GRAPEVINE – Carey A.</div><div>District 4 – Jim T.</div><div>District 15 – Pete B.</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>Fall Assembly</div><div>January Workshop</div></div> <div>NEW BUSINESS</div> <div><div>Conference Agenda Items – February</div><div>GSR Ride and Room Sharing</div><div>Area 35 Projector and Screen</div><div>AA Meeting Locator Adhoc Committee Report</div><div>Area 35 Inventory Committee Report</div><div>Area 35 Committee Report on Possibilities of Redistricting</div><div>Calendar of Events</div></div> <div><div>TBA</div><div>Adjourn</div></div>	<div>37th ANNUAL AREA 35 SERVICE WORKSHOP “The General Service Conference Takes Its Inventory-Our Solution in Action” January 19th/20th, 2013 Chase on the Lake -Walker, MN</div> <div>Saturday, January 19, 2013</div> <div><div>8:00 Registration</div><div>9:15 Opening and Announcements</div><div>9:30 Meet your Area Officers and Committee Chairs</div><div>10:00 Primary Purpose- Carrying the AA Message</div><div>10:50 Break</div><div>11:00 Inventories at all levels-Why are they necessary?</div><div>11:50 Lunch</div><div>1:15 Delegate Areas/District boundaries when and how to change them</div><div>2:00 Break</div><div>2:10 Self Support- what does it mean to the fellowship</div><div>3:00 How important is a home group and sponsorship to our Service structure as a whole</div><div>3:50 Break</div><div>4:00 Sharing Session /Effectiveness of the conference process</div><div>5:00 Dinner on your own</div><div>6:00 GSR/DCM sharing session</div><div>8:00 Open Speaker Meeting</div></div> <div>Sunday, January 20, 2013</div> <div><div>7:00 Big Book Closed AA Meeting</div><div>8:30 Leadership at all levels / Concept 9</div><div>9:20 General service Board/ Corporate Boards Make-up, effective-ness, change?</div><div>10:00 Break</div><div>10:10 Triangle/ more than a shape</div><div>11:00 Ask-it-Basket</div><div>11:30 Adjourn</div></div>
---	---