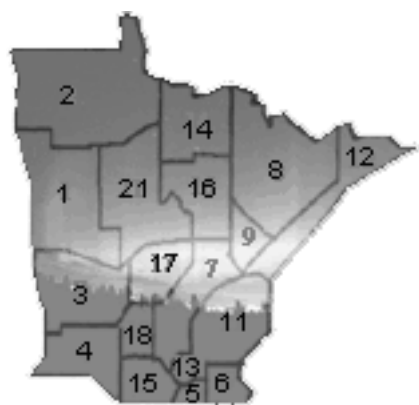


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Deadline for the next
Northern Light is
May 3rd, 2014

This is YOUR Newsletter.

Please send your questions or comments for publication to
Rodney S. 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 2013

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IRV R.
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DISTRICT 17
NO INFO

**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

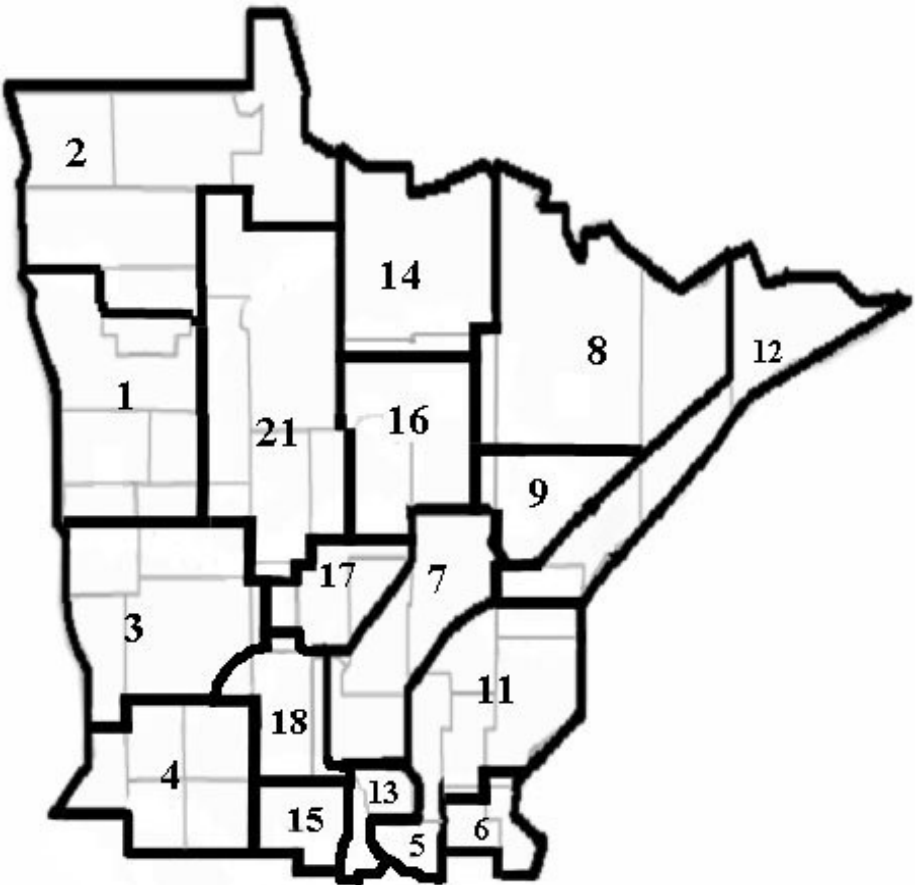
OUR PAST DELEGATES

Panel 62 Jim K.	2012-2013	Panel 28 Garfield (Duffy) S. (deceased)	1978-1979
Panel 60 Jon C.	2010-2011	Panel 26 Vern R. (deceased)	1976-1977
Panel 58 JoAnne M. 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		

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, Mahnomén, 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, Effie, Grand Rapids, Hill City, Lawrence Lake*, Longville, Remer
- 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, Rush City
- 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, Clarissa, 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, Nett Lake, 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** - International Falls

** 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 14
2st Tuesday of Month, 5:30 Committee Meeting
6:00 p.m. District Meeting
Alano Club
410 5th Ave
International Falls, MN 56649

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

District 17
Not currently active or unknown

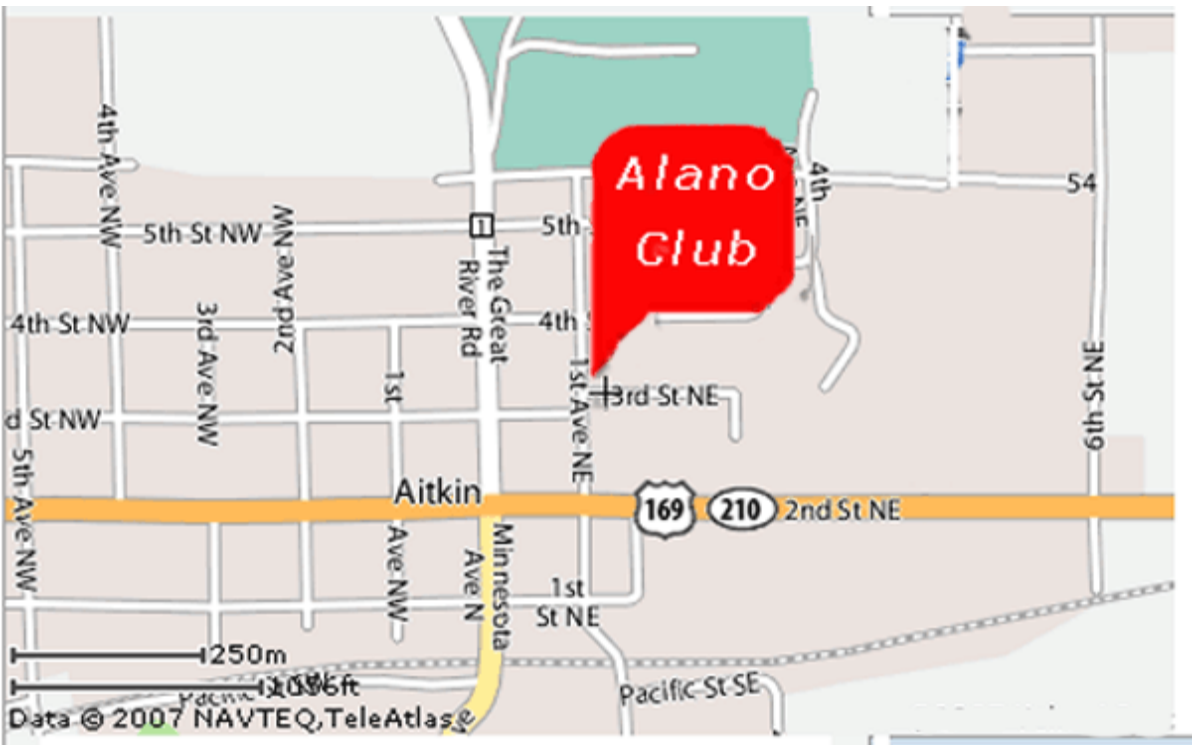
Inclement Weather Procedure For Area 35 Events

- 1. Area Chair calls to cancel and/or re-schedule.
- 2. Based on DOT report, national weather service, individual safety being paramount
- 3. Chair asks for weather reports from all DCM’s from respective districts either by email or phone for those that don’t have computers.
- 4. Chair notifies the Alano society in Aitkin on food preparations and possible re-schedule to following Sunday.
- 5. Chair contacts webmaster results put on Area 35.org and reschedule date and time.
- 6. Districts contact their DCM in inclement weather for updates on cancellation.
- 7. Post procedure in Northern Lights.
- 8. Chair remains available and in close contact as he or she is the focal point and main contact he or she must make the decision, and be available for calls.

Where is the Aitkin Alano Club?

Area 35 holds committee meetings in February, June, August and December at the Aitkin Alano Club
322 1st Ave. N.E.
Aitkin, MN.

Come join us!



Submissions to the Northern Light

General submissions to the *Northern Light* are very welcome! Feel free to send letters or articles that are pertinent to Alcoholics Anonymous. However, please note that if space is limited, first priority will be given to reports from Area Officers, Area Standing Committee Chairs and D.C.M.s from Area 35.

Submissions are preferred electronically using a Word or WordPad document to the Area’s newsletter e-mail address: northern-light@area35.org. Most other file formats can also be accepted. You may also send articles or letters to my postal address, listed on page 2. The deadline for each Issue is printed on the front page.

Letters to the Editor or opinion articles should have a title. They also can not be anonymous please include the first name, last initial and name of the city where the author is from. If you have any questions regarding submitting an item for the *Northern Light*, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you!

Rodney S.
Area 35
Northern Light Editor

DELEGATE'S REPORT

Wow! What an adventure I am on. Lots of work but never boring, getting a big package from GSO with agenda items and getting reprints and recording discs for our area servants so they can participate with me at the General Service Conference by sharing their ideas and opinions. We are in this together. I hope to learn much from the drunks in our area that will empower me to vote with our area's conscience. I have spent some time sharing and listening at different events. Through various open meetings and spending time with you I find what is important to AA members in area 35 and throughout our Region. I am blessed by the fact that Tradition 2 is strong in Area 35.

I attended the WCRAASC in Minneapolis and my first Delegates meeting. Our trustee shared some of the news from the last board meeting he attended. Andrew informed us that the initiatives that have been put into action such as having board members from both the Grapevine Board and the General Service Board attend each other's meeting and sharing minutes have brought some clarity and understanding. Also, finding a new home for the Grapevine offices on the 11th floor is underway. He shared that instead of the projected loss by GSO of 611,000 we had a profit of 93,000 which allowed us to put money towards our pension debt which in the long run will save us money. Also, Grapevine had a healthy profit of 300,000+ while the LaVina had a loss of 143,000. This is the 70th anniversary of the Grapevine so let's celebrate the magazine that has been so crucial to many of us in early sobriety. I have found it amazing how judgmental we get the longer we are sober, but the new people in AA still enjoy reading the Grapevine and that is probably where we need to focus, instead of entertaining those of us with time in. We need to support unity in AA and that starts with our message. Andrew also shared on one of our Trustees from Canada, Marty, and how close they had become. We are sorry to hear that Marty passed on recently. Our prayers are with his family.

After the Delegates meeting came the past and present Delegates and Trustees meeting. I think there were around 25 or so in attendance and they shared things they had experienced at the GSC. They also talked of some of the issues coming up. I am glad that they are willing to come to these service events and share with us. One delegate from another region shared that the reason she comes to the West Central is because of the way we go over the agenda items and share so freely with each other. Praise for our region. Then came the tough stuff for me—standing before our region and nervously sharing my area service highlights. I had timed it earlier but went a bit over. I will have it right for the GSC. There was good sharing during our General Sessions where I think our presenters Garret (District 6) and Jake (District 5) did a great job. Many people shared with me afterward on how much they enjoyed our Session on "Inventory-A guiding tool to our Future." We had good breakout sessions, but once again ours stood out with our Grapevine Chair (Antonette) moderating and our secretary Roger taking notes. Bob did a quick job of presenting the AA meeting locator as his time was cut short. Thank you all for your service and dedication to Area 35. A member from another state mentioned how our area members seemed to support each other and paid attention to the presentations. The agenda items were discussed; some people thought the time allotted would be too short, but we managed to get through them all by 11:00 PM. I know many of you wished you could have been there but we had a good attendance of around 460 which also gave us a profit of about \$1300 for this conference. Area 36 did a great job of greeting and hosting this event. I love the way we pull together and handle diversity as a fellowship.

I had a great time even though my car wouldn't start when I went to leave. But I was not alone. Mark, the chair of the event, also had car problems. So even in this I was not alone. After about 3 hours I got my car started and headed home. I am looking forward to sharing at a couple of districts on the Agenda Items and at our Assembly in April. I also get to share with a group of Alanons at an upcoming open meeting. My calendar is filling up and I am only getting started. Thank you all for your support and well wishes. I plan to stay healthy but am comforted by the knowledge that Kelly is staying well informed just in case. If you have questions or just want to share ideas please feel free to call or email me. God has blessed me to be able to serve Area 35. Thank You!

Take Care and God Bless

Michael (Jake) J. Panel 64 Delegate

ALTERNATE DELEGATE'S REPORT

Greetings Area 35,

Here we are at another start of spring in northern Minnesota after a very long and cold winter season. That means our Spring Assembly in Duluth is coming up soon and we will be going over this year's Agenda Items for the General Service Conference with our Area 35 Delegate Jake. I got my first good look at them when I attended the WCRAASC held this year in Minneapolis the weekend of February 28th-March 2nd. I also attended the Delegates meeting Thursday night before the conference and the Delegates/past Delegates meeting Friday afternoon. It was nice to meet all the Delegates from our region, past and present, and hear some of their experiences and stories as Delegates. It was also wonderful to see so many AA's from Area 35 attend this conference.

Saturday morning I attended the **Archives/Newsletter Breakout Session moderated by Area 52-North Dakota**. Some of the questions and discussion in that session were: 1) History Talks, what do you do when the person is giving wrong information? 2) How do you use our Archives as a tool to carrying the message? 3) How do we communicate effectively using our Newsletter, Archives and Web? There was some good discussion and examples given by those present. A couple of suggestions were to put archive pictures on the web, give a master list to DCM's to get history on their groups and make your Archives available for individuals to visit. I attended the **Grapevine Breakout Session moderated by our Area 35- Northern Minnesota** Saturday afternoon. The topics and discussion were: 1) What type of letters can we write to the Grapevine, how do we submit them? 2) How do you get increased subscriptions

(Alt. Delegate's report)

from people? 3) Workshop ideas? 4) What is the Grapevine? Some suggestions were to send the Grapevine to our jails and prisons, adopt an inmate, get together as a group and write a story to send to the Grapevine and a workshop idea would be to pick a story and do a 15 minute presentation on it. I also attended the evening Delegate/Trustee Breakout Session moderated by Area 24-Iowa. Some questions for discussion were: 1) How do we promote unity between the Fellowship and Trustee's? 2) Perceived mistrust with Trustees, why is that? 3) Our elder statesmen, how can they be useful? What came out of this session is the importance of keeping communication open in Alcoholics Anonymous.

discussion were: 1) What type of letters can we write to the Grapevine, how do we submit them? 2) How do you get increased subscriptions from people? 3) Workshop ideas? 4) What is the Grapevine? Some suggestions were to send the Grapevine to our jails and prisons, adopt an inmate, get together as a group and write a story to send to the Grapevine and a workshop idea would be to pick a story and do a 15 minute presentation on it. I also attended the evening **Delegate/Trustee Breakout Session moderated by Area 24-Iowa**. Some questions for discussion were: 1) How do we promote unity between the Fellowship and Trustee's? 2) Perceived mistrust with Trustees, why is that? 3) Our elder statesmen, how can they be useful? What came out of this session is the importance of keeping communication open in Alcoholics Anonymous.

Just some of the “hot topics” discussed that weekend on the Agenda Items were: **Agenda Item D: Review the revised description of the Conference Agenda Committee in Chapter 8, Conference Committee in the 2013-2014 Edition of the AA Service Manual**. Some questions asked and discussed were why some items were not getting on the Agenda, why the Trustees are deciding what goes on the Agenda and why is the process not being followed from the Service Manual? **AA Grapevine, Agenda Item B: Review AA Grapevine Board proposal to the 2014 Conference Committee on the Grapevine to significantly reduce the LaVina deficit**. There is no actual proposal or anything in the background material so they cannot do it. **AA Grapevine Agenda Item E, Reconsider publishing the “Alcoholism at Large” section of the Grapevine**.

There was much discussion about removing this (the gray pages) from the Grapevine because it is not AA material. The Grapevine is AA's meeting in print. **Literature Agenda Item F: Consider the use of the circle and triangle as an unofficial A.A. service mark on Conference-approved literature**. The fellowship tried to protect this from 1970-1993 but lost the trade mark in 1993. The general consensus was yes, we use it on our literature. **Corrections Agenda Item B: Consider the development of a new video to replace “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell.”** There was discussion that this video is 25 years old and needs to be replaced. **Finance Agenda Item A: Review suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference**. In 20012 it was raised from \$1,200 to \$1,600.00. It was agreed that this item would come up every year. **Report and Charter Agenda Item D: Reconsider 2013 Conference Advisory Action regarding editing Area Service Highlights**. Some of the Delegates reports were cut, edited and had added comments. They would like to see their reports as written.

I would like to thank you, Area 35, for your financial support to attend the WCRAASC. I look forward to our discussion at the Spring Assembly with all of you on these topics and all the other Agenda Item's. I was also asked by my home District 5 to attend their District Meeting on March 17th when they go over the Agenda Items. I would like to thank them for their invitation and I look forward to the time with them to be of service in any way I can.

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service,
Kelly D.
Area 35 Alternate Delegate

38th Area 35 Service Workshop Report

Our 38th Annual Area 35 Service Workshop was held in Moorhead, MN January 18-19, 2014 at the Days Inn. We had 95 in attendance that weekend. District 3 was our hosting District and did a great job, taking care of registration and making (yes making) the coffee by bringing in their own pots and carrying the water to the meeting room. Coffee was only 50 cents a cup only because the hotel did not supply the coffee for our Workshop. Not sure this will ever be an occurrence in the future but those attending sure enjoyed the cost savings. A special thank you to District 3 for their service to all of us that weekend.

Our theme for our Workshop was “Communicating Our Legacies – Vital in a Changing World.” Andrew W. our West Central Regional Trustee was our guest for the weekend.

We started out Saturday morning with District 13 presenting on “Recovery, Unity and Service – Our Responsibility.” They presented by reading page 9 of the 2013 63rd Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous, The General Service Conference Takes Its Inventory-Our Solution in Action. Recovery – one alcoholic helping another. Unity – we need each other to recover. Service – we must carry the message. Action is the heart of AA, three sides to the triangle, three aspects of life. They did a great job summarizing our 3 legacies in their own words on why it is our responsibility and necessary to keep AA alive for the future through sponsorship, working the 12 steps and 12 traditions and carrying the message into our jails and treatment centers.

District 5 presented on “Inventory – A Guiding Tool to Our Future.” They spoke on the importance of Personal Inventory – they read from the Big Book on Step 4 but also added the importance of working Steps 1-3 first. The Group Inventory – they read from the pamphlet the AA Group and talked about what is the purpose of the group. How to carry the message. Sponsorship. District Inventory- they read the questions and answers from the District inventory they did a year before within their District. They talked about identifying the purpose and following that purpose. They did a great job and it brought a lot of lengthy discussion from the floor.

(service workshop report continued)

Some questions asked were how to get more involved in service, where do you get the questions for the District inventory and who do you get to moderate the inventory? Those questions were all answered by them and from member from the floor.

District 8 presented on the “Home Group – Purpose, Importance and Membership.” They started out their presentation by reading out of the Service Manual page S25 Chapter 2 “The Group and the GSR” and reading the long form of Traditions 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7. They shared how they are pertinent and important to the home group and also how the 12th Step is about all aspects of service. They shared their personal experience with their home group and stated that they of course are not a glum lot. Continue to give back what was freely given to them in their home group and continuing to help the alcoholic that still suffers. They read from the AA Group pamphlet Where it All Began, Daily Reflections – Helping Others and read the AA Responsibility Statement. They read out of AA Comes of Age, the 7th Tradition and giving back - AA’s Heartbeat and As Bill Sees It. They talked about the importance of group conscious meetings and how you can disagree, have it heated at times, but go out for a meal after and laugh together. They did a great job with their presentation and it brought a very lengthy discussion from the floor on a variety of statements and stories shared with our members on the importance of the home group and getting involved in service starting on the home group level.

We started out the afternoon with District 12 presenting on “Tradition 3 – Are You an AA Member?” They started out their presentation with a skit. The setting was in the Intergroup Office and a newcomer comes in asking what he needs to do to become a member, “how do I join up, do I need to fill out an application?” They read the AA Preamble of Alcoholics Anonymous. When asked many questions by the newcomer they again stated “the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking.” The skit brought laughter from the floor. They finished their presentation by reading the 3rd Tradition out of the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions book. This presenter wore pink glasses (if I recalled) and shared that he got them at Menards for only a \$1.29 a deal like the coffee he was able to get for only 50 cents a cup this weekend at the Workshop, this brought more laughter from the floor! They did a great job on their topic and it brought a lengthy and good discussion amongst our members from the floor on AA’s Singleness of Purpose along with some AA history on the 3rd Tradition from our Area 35 Archivist.

District 2 presented on “Does Our Structure Allow Each Member to Feel They Are Important in Carrying Our Message?” They started out their presentation by sharing with us how two different groups had answered this question when asked. One thought that we might ask too much of the newcomer. Sponsorship was important and anyone in the structure can carry the message, it is an individual responsibility. They read out of the chapter Working With Others in the Big Book page 89 and 92 and the Appendices 561. They read out of the pamphlet What AA Is and the pamphlet 44 Questions along with reading the AA Preamble. They also read out of the 2010-2011 AA Service Manual page S1. There was some humor than laughter from the floor when a joke was told by one of presenters because he was nervous and had not spoken before a crowd before. He read about what is our message and how do we carry that message? Chapter 2 of the Big Book. Also spoke about speaking at Open Speaker Meeting and carry the message into our jails and treatment centers. Have literature available in our hospitals. Tell others about AA and share positives about the AA program with probation officers. What is structure and how can I make a difference? The 12th Step was read and the importance of a smile, a handshake, or hug for the newcomer. Have confidence to share the program and not be ashamed to pass it on. There was sharing on the Pink Cloud and how not to take ourselves too seriously. Reminding us also to put principals before personalities. There was a lot of discussion from the floor. The Pink Cloud was described by a member as increased spirituality that brings peace and serenity to sobriety. Another member shared that he needs to carry AA message not his own and that he is only a grain of sand on a beach.

District 7 presented on “Participating in Our Common Welfare Through Contribution.” They started out their presentation by reading the Responsibility Statement and 3 readings out of the Daily Reflections with quotes from the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions page 160, AA Comes of Age page 234 and 12 Traditions Illustrated page 14. They mentioned the 3 T’s, Time, Treasury and Talent, the categories they based their presentation on. Where does our contributions go? Do we give to New York, our Area and our District? They talked about the reason why we give and referenced and read out of the pamphlet Self-Support Where Money and Spirituality Mix. How can we be become self-supporting? If each member gave \$7.00 we could be. Most of our money comes from literature sales. Give freely. They shared their personal stories and journeys on recovery and how they give back today by the service they do for AA. One example was picking up people in the “swell getting well van” to bring to meetings and another going into Detox Centers to put on meetings to carry the message of hope where it had been delivered to one of them there. Important to give of your time and talent and of course money to insure the message is carried. Comments and discussion from the floor was that they did a great job on their presentation explaining the importance of their topic and how it is not just about money in the 7th Tradition but how it is about our own individual responsibility to AA. Jim our past Delegate shared that the 3 T’s came out of a GSR School that was recently done.

We finished up the day of presentations and had a sharing session with Andrew W. our West Central Regional Trustee before dinner on “Inventory Questions From Last Year” from the 2013 General Service Conference. Andrew shared that there were 15 questions and answers that came out of the inventory and he would share some of his highlights with all of us. He touch on these inventory questions:

1. Reflecting on Concept 1, how well does the Conference ensure that it is the conscience of AA as a whole?
2. Reflecting on Concept X, how well is the authority of the Conference defined?
3. How well do all Conference members communicate to the Fellowship about why we have a Conference and how the committee systems works? How could we improve in this communication?
4. How could we improve the methods used to solicit trustees and directors to get the most appropriate people interested in the positions?
5. What more can be done to insure the General Service Board remains transparent and thorough in their reporting to the Fellowship?

(service workshop report continued)

He closed with his invitation for any of us to contact him either by email or phone with any questions we may have. He shared he loved to have discussion with us and to keep them open to insure unity within the Fellowship. This was a great sharing session and Andrew did a good job presenting and answering our questions about the inventory questions.

FYI - The questions and answers to all the inventory questions are all in the 2013 63rd Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous Final Report that everyone should have received from either your DCM's or from our past Delegate Jim K.

After dinner Andrew shared his experience, strength and hope with all of us by sharing his story at our evening Open Speaker Meeting. He started out by thanking Area 35 for inviting him to be there. He stated that it was always a pleasure when asked to do anything in Alcoholics Anonymous. He shared his sobriety date is December 4, 1983 and he just celebrated 30 years. He and his wife hosted a party of about 50 people and it was a wonderful time. He then took us through his journey from his first drink to his position now as the West Central Regional Trustee. He shared his experience with how he got a sponsor, worked the steps, and was able to make the amends needed to family members. He shared a couple of stories on how he was able to be there for his dad and able to tell him he loved him before he died, a gift that only came from being sober and a part of the AA program. And how he could be there for his wife when she lost her sister. He shared how he went back to college and got a degree something he was not able to accomplish when he was drinking. He shared how important the 12 Traditions became for him and how service was a big part of this sobriety early on by answering the phone at their Intergroup and speaking in treatment centers. At 5 years sober he was introduced to general service work. He later went on to be GSR for his group, Alternate DCM and then DCM. He held the position of Corrections Chair and Delegate also. He shared that 3 names went in the hat for trustee and his was pulled out. He shared concerns on how he was going to find the time to serve and he made this statement “make yourself available for service and God will find the time.” He talked about the wonderful gifts he received from the program of Alcoholics Anonymous and how he just needs to remain teachable. He did a wonderful job sharing his life with us before and after sobriety!

When closing for the evening after the Open Speaker Meeting with Andrew, I had a member come to the podium with a text he had received from a relative that worked at the hotel. I cannot remember the exact words but it said that there was a problem in the hotel with the sewer and it was possible that we would all have to evacuate. Before we had left our room that night for the evening, we had experienced water coming up through our bathtub so I knew that it could be a possibility so I shared that with everyone. We had some discussion around what to do if it were to happen and it was decided that we need to move on to the ice cream social because the ice cream was melting! One concern was what we were going to do without coffee in the morning! To make a long story short the only part of the hotel they ended up closing down that night was the swimming pool and kitchen. Andrew looked at me and said “what a way to end a speaker meeting!” So we went on with what we do when we have a ice cream social, great fellowship over a bowl of ice cream! Thanks again to Tom and Susie for making this available for us!

Sunday morning District 11 started us off on their presentation on “Passing It On Through Sponsorship.” They read from a 1980 Conference Report on Bridging the Gap and how that got started in Alcoholics Anonymous. They shared their personal stories on sponsorship and their experience with the program after hearing the message while incarcerated. They shared how their sponsors help them get involved in general service and carrying the message into our jails and prisons. One had asked his sponsor “how do I get others involved?” The answer he received was “continue with your gratitude for sobriety and your actions in service work will show others that they will want to be of service too.” There was sharing on how one presenter lost his first sponsor and his wife to a drunk driver on January 1st and just how much that sponsor did for him by keeping him busy working on a farm, truly a tragic story but an example of an individual that helped carry the message through sponsorship. There was lengthy discussion and stories from the floor on this topic. Some comments were that sponsorship is your way of staying connected to the fellowship. Doing what is asked of you. “Not having a sponsor would be like a tumble weed without roots.” “Read the Grapevine our meeting in print.” “My sponsor saved my life and then relapsed, I am grateful she showed me that I did not want the same and I pray for her everyday”. “I watched my sponsors life and routine and how he lived the program and we read the Big Book together.” “three suggestions given to me by my sponsor – find a home group that meets at the same time same place every week, meet with me once a week and call me before you pick up that first drink.” “Sponsorship is a spiritual walk together.”

District 14 then presented on “Fellowship vs. Meetings – What’s The Difference?” They gave a handout of their presentation and started by reading part of the Preamble and then sharing the definition from Webster’s Dictionary. They talked about our solution being in the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. They talked about how meetings and fellowship are all one but two different meanings. They shared examples (stories) of fellowship and meetings. Riding to District meetings together in District 8, giving someone a ride on the way here and talking about the fellowship. They asked that person what they thought was the difference between a meeting and fellowship. His answer was “fellowship is friendship, when I can call like I just did and get a ride.” Other examples they used was having breakfast that morning and enjoying the fellowship but not making the meeting, helping a fellow AA that spoke at a meeting that her husband hurt his back and how they needed wood cut. The fellowship (about 10 of them) husbands and wives went over and cut their wood for them when they were gone at an appointment. They talked about the ice cream social last night and the fellowship with the groups of people there. They also quoted Andrew, “I was so grateful there was a meeting to go to and I hung around to get to know the fellowship”. They asked us “if you had to pick one or the other which would you choose?” The answer was they both go together. They finished up their presentation by reading out of the Big Book Chapter 2, “we are normally people that do not mix...” and A Vision for You, “so where do I find these people?” They stood together, one held the Big Book another a big red heart and stated “this is a meeting and this is the fellowship.” There were sharing comments from the floor. “This is how it works” and “the work is in the meetings and happy hour is the fellowship.” A little history was given by our Area 35 Archivist that on this date on

(service workshop report continued)

January 19, 1964 there were no meetings in the Moorhead area, they had to use phone lists. That is the difference between a meeting and fellowship.

Andrew W. then finished up our presentations with “Communicating Our Legacies.” He started out saying that he enjoyed all the presentations and how each one was about our three legacies, Recovery, Unity and Service. He shared that communication does happen one-on-one and that sponsorship is important in communicating our legacies to others. He talked about our Traditions and how they set us apart from other organizations with our self-support through our own contributions. He talked about how they are not talked about in our meetings, the “secret side of AA” he called it. He talked about anonymity in our 12 Tradition, how to abide by it and protect it. Our 12 Concepts and how it is important for us to get the word out on service and our structure. How we have a clean public relations policy and how AA works in the professional field as well as on a personal level. In the spirit of service what should we be doing? Our book says that we need to be of maximum service to God and our fellows. He shared with us why he is in general service. By serving and communicating, AA will always be there for others that need it. He closed by saying that we need to put our energy, love and enthusiasm into service and ask questions if we need to. Take your sponsee’s through the 12 steps, the 12 traditions and then the 12 concepts. He shared how the benefits are amazing and only by becoming willing to do these things it changed his life.

We finish up our Service Workshop with our past Delegates and the “Ask-It-Basket Questions. Susie A. chaired the event since she was the oldest Delegate present “a scary thought” she said. Some of the questions that were asked of our past Delegates were:

1. Is our service structure the upside down pyramid make GSO seem unimportant?
2. Why is the Grapevine literature so good?
3. How do you get a newcomer in District chairs PI etc.?
4. Can we accept contributions at an Open Speaker Meetings from a non AA member and if not what do we do?
5. How can we help incoming chairs with their responsibilities?
6. Judges send us people who ask for signatures to show AA attendance. How did this start and has AA ever made an official statement about this issue? Doesn’t this sometimes conflict with tradition 3 among others?
7. Most current AA structure, how was the structure figured out? How long did it take to figure it out and does it work?
8. Is it frowned on to ask to give more money when the basket is passed?
9. How do you feel about gender specific meetings?
10. If our District is struggling for participation, what basic things should we continue to provide and what can we cut back on?

We closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Thank you all for your participation in our Area 35 January Service Workshop! It was a great weekend of presentations on service and fellowship together. A special thank you to Andrew W. our guest for the weekend. I hope I captured the essence of this Workshop in this report. The evaluations from our Workshop are also attached.

Grateful for opportunity to be of service,
Kelly D.
Area 35 Alternate Delegate

AREA 35 JANUARY WORKSHOP EVALUATIONS

Total in attendance - 95 Total evaluations - 36

In what way did (they) help? Meeting the Trustee, General Session Presentations, General Sharing From the Floor, Breakout Sessions, Saturday Night Speaker, Sunday Morning Speaker, Sunday Morning Sharing, Workshop Experience as a Whole and Other.

- ☐ Ideas, refreshed perspective.
- ☐ Sharing specific ways and examples in which all the things we learn are working in the everyday lives of those who are practicing them.
- ☐ The presentations gave me a different way of looking at things that is what has always help me stay sober.
- ☐ It is nice to hear presentations that address topics in a different manner i.e. self-supporting is more than just financial support, we have to look at how we are using time and talent.
- ☐ Some of the input questions and comments after the meeting were more informational than the presenters.
- ☐ I always get educated at AA events and it is nice to reconnect with people.
- ☐ Trustee provided information – background I had no knowledge of. Many AHA moments and ideas to share at our District.
- ☐ Fellowship
- ☐ So grateful for the 1:1 time w/our Trustee & to hear him share about service and his personal story. Really like it when people went to the microphone. The Jan Workshop is the one event you could get way with not attending but it is the last one on the list you would want to miss.
- ☐ Watching the newer people grow & take part – their excitement.
- ☐ Sharing, fellowship, getting my feet wet. It refreshed my experience from the Fall Assembly. It showed me the strengths &

(service workshop evaluations continued)

- ☐ The experience as a whole reinforced my commitment to AA General Service. I also needed to be with my people this weekend (fellowship) I'll try a bit harder to be the person God would have me to be.
- ☐ I received some information that I needed to do my part better.
- ☐ Increased acquaintance with others in service.
- ☐ Instilled in me that we are all the same, from members to Trustees.
- ☐ Experience, strength & hope! Good practical motivating inspirational information, materials, handouts, presenters and super yummy ice cream ☐
- ☐ Have a better idea about the service structure of AA. I will read the service manual for further understanding.
- ☐ Meet new people.
- ☐ Break out session with other area officers and chairs was helpful.
- ☐ Informative, with enthusiasm, lots of from the heart stuff.
- ☐ It was great to hear all the stories and sharing about recovery what works and how it works! Communication skills!
- ☐ To be here and be a part of the fellowship helps me immensely. If I did not have the willingness to be here it will always end badly, my head is a dangerous place to be alone.
- ☐ Gave me a clue as to what was going on! Helpful on the structure of service work.
- ☐ Reaffirmed my desire to serve. Hearing the wisdom and positivity from the floor,
=Action=
- ☐ It further expanded my knowledge on our program. It also helped me to be able to explain to others aspects of our program.
- ☐ Hearing the experiences of members from other districts with different situations from mine helps with perspective and hearing from those with more time in service helps me to understand current issues going on in GSO/GSC in content.
- ☐ Connectedness thru action.
- ☐ All good ideas that are shared.
- ☐ They helped by reinforcing what I have learned and getting the experience to have to listen to others experiences.
- ☐ Haven't seen in a long while.
- ☐ Light & informative & easy to follow & fun
- ☐ Education, motivation, relaxation. It let me have another opportunity to be of service. They showed up in spite of the weather, showed me the secret handshake.
- ☐ Workshop was fine with all run in orderly fashion, however it would have been nice to have an elevator for handicapped, hauling equipment upstairs etc. Sharing session should have been held in the same building.
- ☐ In talking to others I realized other districts have the same issues our district has.
- ☐ Just doing a group inventory (trying!) Great to hear/have experiences shared.

Do you have any suggestions for improving our Workshop?

- ☐ Open Saturday night sharing session with Trustee....Area was not prepared for the content. Perhaps there is a more relevant /approach for the sharing session, people were lost. I couldn't remember the content he was referring to.
- ☐ Make different rooms for sharing session a bigger priority than the cost of the event.
- ☐ All of you keep this on time & following the agenda – Thank you all!!
- ☐ Try to keep all the meetings on site. I understand that it was not planned to have the DCM Orientation someplace else.
- ☐ The presenters who read out of the Big Book or another book were not effective for me. I have the books, I can read them on my own. If we are to “participate in our common welfare through contributions” such as the T's – treasury, time and talent then maybe that is something that should be considered when choosing presenters. Also – not everyone learns best by only listening so perhaps asking people to use their time & talent by putting a power point together or other things along these lines. I came to this Workshop to learn. It seems all I heard was multiple people sharing their personal stories w/AA or these presentations. I understand we do lean & grow by sharing our experience, strength & hope but...the title of this event is Communicating are Legacies – Vital in a changing world. I guess I am incredibly disappointed because I didn't hear a lot of this. I guess I assumed by the title of the Workshop the topics of the presentations would be around the main title. Yay District 14 for providing a handout!
- ☐ Hotel selection process needs to weigh other criteria (create comfort, elevators, layout and services) and not just cost/room. Most are priced within a few dollars of each other!
- ☐ No. Thank you for all the work put in and a great event.
- ☐ Keep on doing what we are doing.
- ☐ The Days Inn Moorhead, MN service, appearance was poor/fair. The evening front desk staff used vulgar language and dressed sloppy. The cleaning lady staff was very friendly and pleasant. To be prudent w/fellowship \$ it's probably the best option.
- ☐ Keep encouraging more people.
- ☐ Should maybe have been a better run GSR sharing session. It was unorganized.
- ☐ Encourage folks to share their own experience and share about the things they are qualified to talk about and shy away from the position of a “teacher” use the first person when sharing. Also the DCM sharing was a bit of a cluster f_ _ _ _so we could have just met in the hallway or something. Oh my dinner Sat. night was rushed and the Days Inn was kind of shabby. I'm thinking we can raise the bar just a tad, but the breakfast was nice and the coffee @.50 was awesome. Thanks!
- ☐ Please have some @ GSR sharing to help new GSR's to get started.
- ☐ Better hotel, more space.

(service workshop evaluations continued)

- ☐ Presenting Districts need better advising. A service presentation should not consist of all personal experiences in service or recovery. Presentations need to also focus on our literature (books, GV, pamphlets) or the workshop becomes a call up meeting and not a workshop.
- ☐ Tell Carey A. to let go of the Grapevine. Lol!
- ☐ Continue the good work! Thanks.
- ☐ Only suggestion “better” facilities than what we had this weekend. Don’t get me wrong, I do appreciate all the hard work that goes into setting up these events.
- ☐ My only complaint I have is the noise level from other quests in the hotel.
- ☐ Break out meeting room on site. Hotel restaurant open during lunch.
- ☐ Some leadership for new GSR’s at their 1st Sat. nite meeting.
- ☐ I think the question on “opinion on gender specific mtgs” meant how do I feel about “Tues. Night Women’s group” or “Monday Morning Men’s AA.” I don’t see why anyone would need to ask their group how they feel about having a group or lesbians, any more than having you or me in your meeting.
- ☐ N/A
- ☐ None @ this time. Would love to see more Young People – they are so (word?) today.
- ☐ To provide a few experienced GSR’s to help facilitate the new GSR’s break out session/roles & expectations.
- ☐ You should not let me make suggestions!!
- ☐ Have an area map available to know where each district is located. Have the inventory questions available if it is a sharing session.
- ☐ Thank you for doing the coffee the way you did. Very affordable!

AREA CHAIR’S REPORT

As a representative responsible to Area 35, I have summarized most of the discussion I noted at the WCRAASC. This is only a reflection of my notes, it might not be complete, and others may recall things differently than I. I encourage you to read all of the Northern Light to see the reports of the other chairs to get a solid feel for the discussion. Feel free to use it as you see fit, and ask me if you have any questions.

Our weekend consisted of presentations by various areas on the current GSC topics, breakout sessions, general sharing on GSC agenda items, and sharing from our WCR Trustee, Andrew W. The presentations were informative, and sparked a lot of discussion, but concern was raised over the format of the weekend being focused too much on incidentals and not enough on the primary purpose for our event: the GSC agenda items. Nevertheless, I will provide a brief summary of the “incidentals” first and then provide the highlights of the agenda item discussion.

The first presentation was on recovery, unity, service by Area 63. I was reminded of our responsibility to support our 3 legacies by ***learning how to apply the traditions***. It is one thing to know the traditions, but true unity comes from knowing how to use the traditions to solve problems and guide our actions. It is no longer about taking from AA, but about what I can give back. The second Saturday presentation was by area 41 NE: passing it on through sponsorship. The salient quote here was, *I haven't been able to pass on the virus of service yet, but I'm a carrier*. There was a great story involving everybody, somebody and nobody doing service work, and they closed with Dr. Bob’s four reasons to be of service.

DCMs was the title of the first Breakout session I attended. Area 35 was well represented with 6 DCMs present. The session emphasized the role of the DCM in sharing information both to the groups and the Area. We need to inform and support those appointed to service positions and remember to be leaders-not directors-lead by example, and show how to rely on traditions to solve problems. A few districts mentioned sharing District minutes and visiting neighboring districts as a way to encourage a strong involvement in service. Then I attended the Grapevine breakout session where we discussed the need for increasing Grapevine subscriptions and various ways to do that, including buying subscriptions for facilities like jails and treatment centers and libraries.

The next presentation was by area 76: participating in our common welfare through contributions, through time, treasure, talent. It is great to know that the traditions are timeless-they are just as useful now as when they were adopted. The final presentation for the day was Recovery, unity, and service by Area 63, where again the need to rely on a sponsor for guidance in using the traditions to solve problems was emphasized. We closed the sessions with some discussion on the agenda items (see below) and a talk by a visiting trustee. Sunday morning opened with a presentation by Area 35 (whoop, whoop!) Garrett D6 and Jake D5 did an amazing job representing our topic: Inventory. There is an never ending need to take inventory individually, as a group, as an area, as a fellowship. It is a spiritual process that allows us to focus on the minority and not just to resolve disunity, but to look at problems: if we have a high turnover of GSR or committee chairs, why might this be? What can we do about it? Moreover, when inventory is completed, it is time for action and changes to be made. For example, the GSO inventory stated they wanted to see agenda committee involved in the agenda process all year long. But then the background information contains an agenda item stating the opposite...unfortunate.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve AA,
Sarah K.

WCRAASC GSC Agenda Item Discussion

Agenda

A. Review Suggestions for the theme:

(Area Chair's report continued > agenda items)

- It was recommended that we take theme selection seriously as it sets the tone for the conference, and that we make sure our selections embody and reflect the principles of AA.

B. 2015 GSC Discussion/Presentation topics

- There was some discussion that we reduce/avoid this component of the conference as they are seen as pointless and not in keeping with the purpose of the conference. There was a reminder to keep AA in the workshop topics (singleness of purpose).

D. Review the Revised Description of the Conf. Comm. on Agenda in Service Manual.

- This item was widely denounced as wrongheaded. The consensus was that the GSC should have input into its own agenda selection process, for the fact that it was the historic purpose of this committee to review GSC agenda submissions, and that it would be beneficial for AA to have this committee be involved in the process of agenda selection instead of the current process where trustees and GSO staff make those decisions for us. The thought was that it would allow the committee to be the filtering/direction location for proposals, and ensure that a clear process had been followed for what things end up on the agenda and what don't.
- We need a voice in the agenda item selection process that we don't currently have. We need the committee involved in the process Areas are sending proposals and not getting them on the agenda, and not being told what the agenda selection criteria are. No reasoning for what gets on and what doesn't.
- The sentiment was strongly expressed that this change is going the wrong direction, instead of making our committees consistent with our principles (and the service manual) we are trying to be consistent with a set of guidelines from the committee, but that isn't what should guide our changes to the service manual. There should only be changes to the service manual when those changes reflect will of AA, not to match some guidelines used at the conference committee.

Corrections

B. Consider developing a new video to replace "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell"

- It was generally agreed that remaking this old, outdated video would be a good idea. Some others felt the outdatedness led to bonding with people over the funny language used.

Grapevine

B. La Vina deficit

- Discussion generally centered around the fact that while La Vina is not self supporting, that is not the point. The goal of it is outreach. It is an important tool. It was planned not to be self-supporting.

D. GV book topics

- There was concern that these consisted of special interest books, which are problematic as they accent difference instead of similarities. Others said it was a good thing and that it is just compiling stories into one book, as we did with Big Book stories. Some suggested making it available as an electronic version first to see if there was demand that warranted a hard copy. \$2,500 ebook. \$25,000 hard copy

E. The Grey Pages.

- There was general disapproval of the grey pages because we are publishing outside views on AA in our meeting in print. It was felt this is not useful.

Literature

A-E & B. Spirituality pamphlet.

- There wasn't much discussion because no one had access to the pamphlet, but one person mentioned it was unnecessary and that this would be a rewrite of the Big Book without god.

F. Circle and Triangle on service material

- It was generally felt that the use of this symbol was a bad idea because many other organizations are using it and we can't enforce it's use only by AA, so that our using it crosses the dangerous line of implied affiliation.

G. Pamphlet for alcoholics with mental illness.

- It was generally felt that this was a bad idea as it is a divisive, special interest piece. It was also noted that this is an outside issue, on which we have no opinion, and that all necessary information is already included in several other pamphlets.

Policy and Admission

C. Electronic voting:

(Area Chair's report continued > agenda items)

- This is a good thing. It would save ½ a day at the conference, a lot of money, and would allow for the informed group conscience to be present, and not voting based on what others are voting. It would also help to take attendance, and see how much unanimity each vote has because abstentions could be recorded too.

D. Site selection.

- Concern was expressed over the cost increase of holding the conference in NYC.

Report & Charter

A-Changes to the AA Service Manual

- All changes are for your eyes only. The question was raised, how do AA principles apply to "for your eyes only?" It was felt that despite GSOs fear of copyright issues or concern that there will be confusion in AA if different changes come out of committee than were originally seen, that the current practice is being taken too far: We can know/respect changes might be made, but we should still be able to see the proposed changes for spiritual oversight.

B - Modify Article III of Conference Charter

- It was noted that this change violates traditions 2, 4, 9 and concept 4. The request was not vetted through the area, which it should be when making a change to the charter.

C. AA directories

- People shared that these are still useful, for truck drivers for example. It was also pointed out that a conference advisory action was violated when the GSO manager decided not to print them. They should know we are not happy with the decision. It is the GSBs job to carry out our requests and if they will stop, that it be because of / after our discussion. This is a symptom of a problem; LACK OF COMMUNICATION AND UPDATING GROUP INFO. We need to make sure we are doing this.

D. Final Conference report, reconsider the 2013 action authorizing editing of the Area Service Highlights.

- Request is to return to not "editing." It was Censorship. Past Delegate's pointed out that the 2013 motion was intended to just edit for grammatical corrections, but they edited it more, changing the tone, intent, and removing entire sentences/paragraphs. There is a bigger problem here, and that is lack of transparency and loss of accuracy. This is a trust issue. Like the directories. Like hope video. Deeply concerned about this. The listening. Doesn't feel like we are the most important people.

TREASURER'S REPORT

We attended the WCRAASC in Minneapolis on March 1st, 2nd and 3rd 2014. What a phenomenal experience with a total attendance of well over 450 attendees. On Friday evening we attended the presentation from Area 63 South Dakota, on Recovery, Unity and Service-Our Responsibility and then later in the evening we went over the conference Agenda items. There was plenty of discussion on the floor from the Agenda items with excellent participation from all 8 areas of the Conference. On Saturday, we attended a very informative breakout session pertaining to the Treasurer's responsibilities titled "Finance /Self-support": The topics inclusive to discussion were 1.) Prudent Reserve –the importance of having one. 2.) The Birthday Plan – other contributions 3.) Methods of contributions and general topics pertaining 7th Tradition. The rule of thumb for most groups are 3 months operating expenses for a prudent reserve. Some groups do not have a prudent reserve due to financial constraints/shortfalls in budgets. Despite some discussion that was not relevant to the topics there were some very interesting concerns. Some districts do not contribute to "Round-Ups" because they feel they are an outside entity and a violation of our 6th Tradition and it's not part of the Service Structure. There was also discussion on inactive groups that do not contribute and accumulate funds without no stated AA purpose which is the last part of the 7th Tradition long form. Our West Central Regional Trustee, Andrew W. report included: the importance of attending group conscience or business meetings within the Group, District or Area. Financially speaking he stated that we have \$ 93,000 at AAWS with an increase of 5% in contributions. December contributions were up the most in history. Grapevine subscriptions are still declining and are looking for ways to cut costs. A more accurate financial report will be forthcoming in future reports for these numbers. He welcomed the seven new Trustees to the General Service Board and stated how important it is to keep the lines of communication open with transparency. They are not afraid to talk about important decisions and whether they are based on the concepts and traditions and of the importance of the inverted triangle. Under the Agenda items for **Finance** we had two items which were: **A.** Review suggested area contributions for delegate expense for the conference. **B.** Review self- support packet. Although there was not much discussion on either topic some felt that the fees were excessive and were not needed. There has been a net direct increase in the budget that has increased over the years to \$ 471,700 for 2014. Net direct costs include the cost of the conference week and other items associated with the conference report but do not include overhead type costs such as rent, telephone, staff salaries, benefits, etc. Conference delegate fees have increased \$400 since 2005 when it went from \$800 to \$1200. There was no discussion on item B. Review of Self-support packet. In closing, it was an awesome experience being unified with fellow trustee servants especially those of us from Area 35. It was also good to hear new people go to the microphone and share their thoughts, opinions and ideas which was well received from the general audience.

Yours in Service,
Randy A.
Area 35 Treasurer

SECRETARY’S REPORT

Roger R.
Area 35 Secretary
Report of WCAARSC

General Session Reports

Session 1:

“Recovery Unity and Service-Our Responsibility, Area 63, South Dakota.
Bill and Bob passed the torch to us, the fellowship for permanent keeping of our three legacies.
They also knew that a vital link of unity between the fellowship, trustees and the conference would need to replace them in time.
It is not about what AA can do for me. It is about what I can do for AA.
Sharing: Circle around our triangle keep out unwanted spirits. We all need to do our piece to carry our message. Everyday I need to recover, unity one day at a time, service each day too.

Session 2:

“ Passing It On Through Sponsorship”, Area 41, Nebraska.
We have a daily reprieve, based on the maintenance of our spiritual condition. People in service positions unfortunately also may slip. A sponsor’s action speaks volumes.
Sharing: Invite and encourage sponsees to be in service. Sponsorship is not a one size fits all endeavor.

Session 3:

“Participating in our Common Welfare Through Contributions “, Area 76, Wyoming.
Step 12, common welfare, appreciate what AA did for me.
Our traditions are timeless. Share your time, talents and treasures.
Sharing: Main principle is to give. If one in five AA’s gave one dollar per week to GSO- we would be self supporting. Participation is the key to harmony. Dr. Bob encourages low bottom drunks to participate as much as possible.

Session 4:

” Inventory- A Guiding Tool To Our Future”, Area 35, Northern MN.
Presentations were based on personal experiences with inventories.
Sharing: Service Manual has nice coverage of inventories. Check your motives for contributing in service inventories. Be patient with others as they will be patient with you.

Breakout Sessions

Session 1:

General Service Representative. Session discussed three items: What does a GSR Do?; Group Conscience Meetings and How to take Agenda Items back to a group? Conduct GSR orientations for new GSR’s. Meet before the group meeting for 45 minutes to discuss agenda items. GSR’s role is to represent his/her group conscience unless the GSR receives new information (right of decision) at a district or area meeting. Session also discussed what to do when conflict arises in a group.

Session 2:

Grapevine. I served as the recording secretary for this session. I gave my detailed notes on this session to the Area 35 Delegate, as I was directed. We discussed: how to contribute articles to the Grapevine, who selects the articles published in the Grapevine, and how we might increase subscriptions to the Grapevine. I suggested that if members feel we should continue to have a Grapevine- then those members should get a subscription.
AA Speaker Meeting, Bill W. , Trustee at Large, US. Passing of Bill’s mother from this disease motivated him to do as much as he can for AA. AA is in 175 countries. Future growth is in international and in CPC and PI work. Don’t push people away from AA just because they also have a problem other than alcohol.

Agenda Items

1. Agenda

A. Take #3 and 51 off of the list. Flo likes 21. Items come from letter circulated by Delegates. Themes set the tone for a conference.
B. 4, 13 and 12 are not AA topics.
C. No comments
D. Item is to make service manual description of the Agenda Committee consistent with the Policy and Scope of this conference committee. Lots of comments suggesting that this delegates committee should have substantial input on the items that are selected to be on the conference agenda. This could be a sleeper item as this committee could vote to change the scope of this committee instead of changing the SM.
Current decisions on agenda items are made by Trustee’s Agenda Committee and other Trustees Committees.

2. CPC

A, B, and C. did not have much discussion.

3. Corrections

A. No discussion
B. Video “ It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell” is 25 years old. Lots of comments on how dated this video is. It does seem to evoke participation because it is so dated.

(secretary's report continued)

C. One relevant comment suggested that there was a time when we did not review the kits regularly. Now the pendulum has swung back so we are reviewing each kit at each conference.

4. Finance

A. Not much support for reviewing area contributions to send delegates to GSC. GSO would like to raise the area contribution for each delegate. Real issue is why do 56% of groups not contribute to GSO?

B. Price of a martini is now \$32.00. Our gratitude is expressed by what we put in the basket.

5. Grapevine

A. No discussion

B. Lots of discussion. La Vina is a service. Do we look to cut costs on our other service responsibilities?

This board proposal is not in our background information. Average GV is passed along 2 times. Average LaVina is passed along 7 times. LaVina is not for Mexico, is for Hispanic AA members in US and other US territories.

C. Mixed discussion. Some pro- some against.

D. Creating a GV book for groups such as special needs just creates more differences, we are all AA members. Produce the e-book first then if it sells move to a hard copy.

E. Lots of discussion. There has been a 25% decrease in GV subscriptions since the Alcoholism at Large section came back in 2007. My comment- if we need to disclaim something we shouldn't do it. Is it ok to tell my grandchildren they can smoke cigarettes if they read the disclaimer on the box?

F. Did this agenda item come from the Grapevine Board? We need a group conscience before a right of decision can be invoked.

G. The Grapevine is now referred to as Grapevine. There seems to be three different statements of purpose for the GV.

H. No discussion

6. Literature

A. No discussion

B. Draft of pamphlet is not in the background as it is for your eyes only. Lots of discussion against producing this pamphlet that supports atheism.

C. Item is to change this pamphlet to be consistent with the Service Manual.

D. Most felt changes seem appropriate. One member comments that we spend a lot of time on language in our pamphlets that could be better spent on broad and important issues that affect AA's future.

E. Lots of discussion. Book states "...many of us have come to believe that our alcoholism is an addiction to the drug alcohol..."

Book seems too drug oriented. On east coast this book is widely used at meetings.

F. Circle and triangle was discontinued in 1994. Symbol is now in the public domain. GSO would like to use it on all conference approved literature. My comment is -that would seem to infer it is our official symbol.

G. Some in support and some against this item. Only 2% of new members come into our fellowship because of our literature.

H. No discussion

I. No discussion

7. Policy

A. No discussion

B. No discussion

C. Why does voting need to be anonymous? Need to be on record to facilitate a minority opinion response.

Savings in time at the conference could be much greater than the cost to implement electronic voting.

D. No discussion

8. Public Information

A. Include YouTube in media plan.

B. GSO is getting ready to launch a new website.

C. No discussion

D. E. F. G. H. No discussion

8. Public Information

A. Include YouTube in media plan.

B. GSO is getting ready to launch a new website.

C. No discussion

D. E. F. G. H. No discussion

*(secretary's report continued)***9. Report and Charter**

A. 1, 2, 3, 4 No discussion

B. Both 1955 and 1976 Conference actions state that for a change to be made in a Step, Tradition or Concept- 75% of responding groups need to be in support of that change. Some feel that this should be 75% of all groups notified- not 75% of responding groups, as we do not know how many groups will respond? One follow up comment was that if we do agree to a change with a small number of groups responding- then it is our mistake and will impact our future.

C. Directories are nice / critical for truck drivers and those who do not have smart phones.

The General Service Office decided not to print directories in a management decision. This change was not conference approved. Directory accuracy is dependent on FNV updating by groups.

D. A motion was passed at the 63 Conference not to edit area highlights. Despite this entire sections of delegate reports were taken out. This is closer to censorship according to one past delegate.

10. Trustees

A, B, C, D, No discussion

11. Archives

A. Several suggested adding subtitles and ASL if possible, to this video.

12. International Conventions

A. B, C, No discussion

Regional Trustees Report Andrew W.

Any structural changes in AA need to be initiated from the fellowship- lesson learned.

Board members from AAWS and GV are visiting each others boards. Plans are underway to move GV offices to 11th floor with AAWS. New board members have been added.

Last year was great for contributions that were up by 5%. AAWS budget to loose 600k but only lost 92k. GV was profitable, LaVina was on budget. Pension liability was paid down on and is expected to be gone by 2018.

COMMITTEE REPORTS**PUBLIC INFORMATION**

First, I want to thank Servando M. and Rey F. for covering for me at the February Area Committee Meeting.

Second, I want to thank all the members and groups that support Area 35 financially. I sincerely enjoyed the opportunity to attend the WCRAASC in St. Louis Park, MN. Service conferences can mean long hours, seemingly trivial debate, and emotional appeals, but they always mean seeing a familiar group of people dedicated to preserving the AA message and securing AA's future for those who will need it. "Why We Need A Conference" was read at the opening session each day. A clear and simple reminder that service isn't about those of us lucky enough to already be sober and happy in AA. Service is about the people who will need this message in the future. There were more than 450 people in attendance at the conference. The conference convened Friday evening February 28 and concluded Sunday morning March 2. The Format included Breakout sessions for each of the standing service committees, general sessions where different areas presented on topics central to the AA program and of course time to discuss the items presented for consideration on the agenda for the 2014 General Service Conference in New York.

I attended breakout sessions for CPC and for PI. The breakout sessions are conducted as sharing sessions as described in the service manual. General discussion included how to clarify the message of AA and how to target professionals and potential members. There was also a lot of discussion about what AA is and what it isn't. These conversations are important because they keep us grounded in the traditions and concepts so that we can be unified in our message of hope and recovery. "Sponsor a Professional" was an idea that I had not heard discussed before. The idea is that individual AA members can "sponsor" professionals who may come in contact with alcoholism. There was a general consensus that AA is not the first response of many professionals who are presented with potential alcoholics.

General Sessions were presented on the topics of Recovery, Unity and Service, Sponsorship, Self Support and Inventory. Each topic was presented by members from different Areas. Area 35 presented on the Inventory Process. Each of these topics was addressed by the presenters from their own experience tied to their own recovery, their membership in AA and their commitment to service in

(committee reports continued > P.I.)

AA. After each presentation was complete there was time for members of the assembly to make a personal comment about their experience with the topic. Did I mention that the room was full of people who are passionate about the AA program?

Discussion of agenda items can sometimes become burdened with an Us vs. Them flavor, pitting our local membership against the General Service Office or the Trustees or even other regions or areas. Some individual and groups even use this imagined or created conflict as a rationalization not to support the service structure of AA through time or financial contributions. In my mind that is like Dr. Bob when he said he agreed with all the ideas Bill presented to him except the notion of restitution. After his final bout with the bottle he accepted all the premises of the program and worked diligently to help other alcoholics for the rest of his life, ensuring his own continued sobriety. Individuals and groups are certainly afforded individuality and autonomy via tradition 4. I'm not sure autonomy absolves individuals or groups of the balance of the traditions. Here I refer to the responsibility declaration, "I am responsible."

There are several Public Information Agenda Items up for consideration at the General Service Conference. The first one, to update the Comprehensive Media Plan, really includes the other specific items dealing with updating public service announcements, informational videos and anonymity statements. The Comprehensive Media Plan address changing technology, social media, anonymity and methods to target the AA message to professionals, friends and future AA members. I would recommend that all AA members should be aware of the recommendations of this plan so that we can present a unified message to the public from each individual AA member to the trustees and general service staff in New York.

I would encourage individuals and groups to participate in the service process. Plan to attend or send someone from your group to the Area Spring Assembly in Duluth April 4-6, 2014. I would be happy to discuss my experience with the agenda process and with general service with anyone who is interested. If I can be helpful to your group or to your district please feel free to contact me.

In service
Jeff C., PI Chair

CORRECTIONS

Good day all. I would like to start by sending a BIG thank you to all who have made this possible; this was my first WCRAASC (West Central Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference). I have been to a few forums, and those were nothing like the WCRAASC. The WCRAASC was focused on the agenda items that will be discussed and voted on in New York at the General Service Conference.

I do have to say this was an eye opening and very informative experience for me. Or maybe it is that last year I did not go through the agenda items with any group or district, and it just felt good to be a "part of" again. The agenda items show me that one member is able to make a difference for the better of AA as a whole. In the break out sessions the agenda items were not discussed, it was like at a district, or committee meeting where we discussed where we were struggling and how we may be able to better carry the message to the one who still struggles. I do believe this has to be one of the shortest Agendas I have been through.

The agenda items on the floor, now that was an amazing experience for me, the love and passion these people have for the concepts and traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous is an experience that I am so glad I did not miss. On the floor with the open mic where any member is able to share their experience, questions, and comments on the agenda items had to be the highlight in my case. For I have been in the service structure for awhile, now (GSR, District action committee, and now Area action committee), it was the first time I heard that those items that say, *sent to committee members only* are available to us if we are willing to contact that committee to get the background information. And some of that was shared right there. If there is any question on who these people are, contact your Delegate, who can be found right here in the Northern Light.

Thanks to this weekend I do believe I have grown and have a much better understanding of AA as a whole.

Statewide Corrections Committee

Hello all. The Statewide Committee (Area 35 & Area 36) did meet up at the WCRAASC this past weekend. We were going to meet at supper, but when we were trying to find a place to meet there were other questions that were brought up, and after about 20 minutes of talking we choose to have the meeting right there.

We talked about how a committee works, and how we go about joining the two areas when it comes to the prisons in Minnesota. We also did an inventory of what was set up in the beginning of this committee, and what we have done. I was not on the committee in the beginning, and was happy to see, that of the list there were only two things that have not been accomplished, but they are in the works. I do feel this will be done and others will take their place.

Thank you for allowing me to serve,
Skip D.
Area 35 Corrections Chair

(committee reports continued)

WEBMASTER

Greetings Area 35. I attended the WSRAASC in Minneapolis March 1 & 2. Passing it on through sponsorship was the first session I sat in on. Discussion on this topic was: we all have a daily reprieve from alcohol. The story about everybody, anybody, somebody, & nobody really hit home for me. Every time we help someone or do service work we are taking out insurance on our sobriety. In the Archives Workshop some of the items that were discussed. Someone who continually gives wrong information even after it has been pointed out to them several times? Pray for them, we are not AA police, show by example. How should we use Archives as a tool to carry the message? Create an activity to get people involved, ask for advice and ideas, have a long timers panel, and encourage districts to send their minutes. What do we cover in newsletter / people are encouraged to submit articles, present a concept, and stick to primary purpose, more humor? How do we communicate effectively through newsletter, web, & archives, A digital tour of archives, area website, history in pictures, people want to be entertained and archives are very time consuming.

Self-support was another breakout session I attended, what is a good amount to have as a prudent reserve and what do you do with the excess money? Some say 60% District, 30% Area, & 10% GSO most Districts have a 3 month prudent reserve but area recommends 1 year, give more to the delegate, buy books, etc. Do you have a birthday plan and how do you Implement it? Once a month have a birthday night and give each person 4 envelopes 1 for district, 1 for area, 1 for GSO, and 1 for group, leave them on the table, give envelopes to sponsees Participating In Our Common Welfare Through Contribution. Contributing to groups is not just financial. This comment was made, please be open minded about young people on cell phones they could be looking at the Big Book! Much discussion was held on the Grapevine Agenda items many opinions and thoughts were given here especially on the gray pages many say this is a meeting in print. Literature had a lot of for the ‘delegates eyes only’ much discussion on many topics, the suggestive Policy & Admissions brought some discussion on the electronic voting systems & should they be used? Public Information much discussion was on the anonymity concerns, Report & Charter the discussion on the general service conference final report was interesting. It was stated that as much as a whole sentence was taken out the reports that were given. After working 16 & ½ hours the day before and only getting 2 hours sleep I had to excuse myself for the evening. The next morning the report from Area 35 on Inventory a Guide to Our Future was interesting and made me look at myself more than I wanted to.

I visited District 18 and offered my assistance with any thing they might need including the agenda items and they informed me they were fine. The WCRAASC was fantastic again this year, much information in little time.

Thank you for allowing me to serve,
Sandy H. Webmaster

Usage Statistics for area35.org

Month	Daily Avg				Monthly Totals					
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	KBytes	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits
Mar 2013	5056	3866	431	99	1605	1234240	1984	8629	77330	101122
Feb 2013	4881	3667	470	90	2204	1617340	2544	13160	102682	136694
Jan 2013	5621	4373	504	86	2229	2140520	2675	15653	135564	174273
Dec 2012	3401	3010	230	71	1725	1133158	2224	7145	93339	105456
Nov 2012	2093	1697	360	80	1760	904120	2420	10814	50921	62803
Oct 2012	2340	1980	270	87	1922	1003399	2722	8395	61396	72543
Sep 2012	2149	1804	248	81	1945	1002144	2446	7456	54122	64488
Aug 2012	2167	1843	217	79	2065	902081	2476	6750	57162	67202
Jul 2012	2089	1741	211	79	1906	895125	2452	6552	53972	64762
Jun 2012	1976	1626	212	77	1796	757130	2328	6368	48782	59298
May 2012	2257	1823	253	82	1668	930071	2549	7850	56521	69973
Apr 2012	2009	1669	279	77	1760	862962	2320	8392	50091	60294
Totals						13382290	29140	107164	841882	1038908

WEB TECHNOLOGY

Where is my group Number?:

Group numbers can be found using aaMeetingLocator.org. The Group Number is displayed on the group information page. If the group is not found in aaMeetingLocator.org, the group is not active in the GSO FNV database. Contact the Area 35 or Area 36 group record keeper to update the GSO FNV database.

2014 aameetinglocator Statics

www.aameetinglocator.org PC based

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
January	3,605	6,156	22,462	132,445	3.08 GB
February	3,120	4,803	20,800	114,870	2.65 GB
Total	6,725	10,959	43,262	247,315	5.73 GB

www.aameetinglocator.org cell phone based

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
January	2,092	2,684	9,801	16,500	491.25 MB
Feb	1,829	2,283	8,947	14,819	471.59 MB
Total	3,921	4,967	18,748	31,319	962.84 MB

I was able to attend the WCRAASC on the weekend of February 28th through March 2nd. Friday, I shared a room with Chris H. from District 13. We spent some time talking about corrections. I have a much better understanding of how Area 35 and Area 36 are working together. Our conversation focused on the contact program and how important it is to get in touch with an active AA member and get to a meeting when released from prison. We didn’t talk about the pink can, who should buy books, or creating new positions. Without the side issues I was able to see the value of Area 35 and Area 36 working together.

The WCRAASC has three sections. There are presentations, breakout topic sessions, and conference agenda items. I was under the impression that the main purpose of the conference was to learn about agenda items. Having expectations allowed for disappointments. Only one third of the members present had the conference background material. The time allotted to conference agenda items fell short of the time needed for agenda items discussion. We were in session late Saturday night getting through the agenda items. By the end of the night the mic was silent. We were stepping through agenda items without discussion. What I missed at this conference was the value that past delegates add to agenda items discussion. I site two examples below:

- * Under Finance; item A: Review suggested area contributions for the conference. We can really get sidetracked, here, reading into the agenda item. A past delegate speaks to this issue and explains that a past conference recommended that this should be reviewed every year. Being an agenda item does not mean this item is up for a change.
- * Under Grapevine; item F: Consider a request “to reaffirm the Right of Decision of the AA Grapevine Board to make formatting decisions for the AA Grapevine and LaVina maghazines.” These could be simple changes that we would never notice, like removing color or using staples. What is on the board’s mind? I’d like to hear more from our past delegates.

Saturday, I was scheduled to do a presentation on aameetinglocator. Time had become an issue and the 30 minute time slot was reduced to 10. I cut the presentation out and did a quick web site demo of aameetinglocator. Some areas felt that this was a Minnesota only item and should not have been part of the conference. Breakout session time followed the demo. An impromptu breakout session was held for aameetinglocator. There was an interest in what it would take to add other areas. The aameetinglocator website looks like a Minnesota meeting locator Web site — so far it really is a Minnesota locator web site. If we want other areas to join our locator we need to make the WEB site’s appearance more universal.

Sunday at breakfast I ran into Tom B. past delegate, Panel 42, Area 20, Northern Illinois. He was attending our conference to see how the WCRAASC worked. He was gathering information for the East Central Region. It was good to see Tom and share some memories from the past. My first area event as a GSR was a pre-delegate’s conference workshop. I was grabbed at that workshop and sponsored into service. In time I learned about past delegates, committee members, assemblies, and committee meetings. I benefitted from Tom sharing his experience, strength, and hope.

Leaving took some time, patience, and help from AAA. Cold weather got to my truck. The truck was towed to an electric outlet; I plugged it in, warmed it up, and it was running in an hour.

Bob B.
Area 35 WEB Technology

(committee reports continued)

LITERATURE

I attended the WCRSCAA in Minneapolis this past weekend and had a wonderful time. I couldn't believe how many dedicated members of AA were there. It is truly awe inspiring to see how far members traveled to participate in this event. I attended a number of breakout sessions in addition to the talks. The first breakout sessions I attended was the CPC breakout. We discussed how to better get our literature out. Some ideas that came out of that were to talk directly with the facility directors to ensure we can bring in literature and how it should be done. Bringing in a literature rack for the facility so they have a place for literature. Put your hotline number on the literature you are bringing into the facility. Bring in subscriptions of the grapevine into facilities. Also, AA.org has a nice power point presentation on what AA is.

The second topic we discuss was developing relationships with professionals. Some ideas were: if you have enough support to get one AA member to focus on one professional and develop a relationship from there, ensure that the current CPC chair is keeping accurate records of who the contact person is for each facility and ensure they are passing that on to the next chair; coordinate with neighboring districts to ensure you aren't doubling up on a facility; ensure the professionals we are talking with know we aren't paid and that we are filling a termed position so that when the next person comes in they understand our position on rotating.

Lastly, we discussed how do we engage people into getting involved with CPC? Some ideas were that one gentleman does it with his sponsees when they go through the Big Book in the chapters "To The Employer" and the "Doctors Opinion" to ensure we make people comfortable regarding the anonymity.

In the self support breakout session I attended we discussed what has other area's decided on what a prudent reserve is, most everyone agreed a prudent reserve would be 3 months expenses and that when donating taking a 1/3, 1/3 and a 1/3 perspective towards district, area and GSO is most used. We then discussed the birthday plan, at one group, sponsors give their sponsees an envelope to donate a dollar for each year to district, area and GSO, to discuss birthday plans at steering committees and one group leaves a birthday plan envelope in the basket as it goes around, the last topic was making it easier for groups to donate to GSO, some ideas were to make sure that your group is properly registered with GSO so there is no confusion when receiving your donation, talk about the self support pamphlet at steering committees.

The last breakout session I attended was the literature breakout, where we discussed the following questions: Why do we create pamphlets to make them feel special? That when we work with people from different backgrounds we are better able to communicate with them effectively and to help eliminate reasons for them to justify leaving. Why do we pay so much for shipping, if we increased our donations directly to GSO we could help decrease the shipping costs as well as literature costs. What do district literature chairs do to carry the message of literature in their groups? One district asked groups if they would sponsor a literature rack at a location and they would incur the expense to maintain the literature inventory was the main point of the discussion.

In Service,
Jim S.
Area 35 Literature Chair

TREATMENT

Greetings, I attended the WCRAASC in St. Louis Park last weekend. The theme was communicating our legacies vital in a changing world. First session was area 41 Nebraska presenting on sponsorship. One of the strong points for doing service was the listing at the end of "Doctor Bob's Nightmare" on the four reasons why he did service: a sense of duty, a pleasure, to give back what was given to us and insurance against taking the first drink!

I attended the archives break-out session and we talked about history talks and being the cheerleader not the archivist ! Then I went to the treatment break-out session where we talked about the best way to contact a treatment facility and remembering that we go by their rules. Also, how the temporary contact program works in different areas and the similarities with the corrections contact program.

We met as a whole again and discussed our common welfare through contributions, how important it is to use our time, treasures and talent in service work, remembering traditions 1 and 7. It matters what our spiritual condition is; that our program is a design for living that works! Then a member spoke up as to why we weren't focused on the agenda items so we refocused on discussing them. It was explained that the La Vina was set up as a service and not expected to be self-supporting. Our current Grapevine is showing a profit.

Then our trustee at large spoke; what a busy man and great message! We finished up the rest of the agenda items.

On sun morning area 35 did a great job on inventory at various levels; personal, district, area and GSO! Area 35 was well represented! Andrew W. spoke next, giving a regional trustee report; contributions are up 5 percent. Keep up the good work!

Yours in service,
Paul M.
Area 35 Treatment Chair

ARCHIVES

Greetings everyone. I attended the WCRAASC in the Twin Cities March 10th. I sat in on the Archives and Newsletter breakout session. There were three questions that were discussed:
1) When we hear Archives Histories that are incorrect do we correct speaker or sit there quietly? One answer was, we may need to take the person aside and show them the correct information and let them decide, we are not archives police.
2) How can Archives better carry the AA message? One answer was that we need to do group histories so groups know how old they are and why some groups folded so we can learn from our experiences.
3) How can we carry the message effectively using the Web, Newsletters, & Archives? One answer is by having the archives display on line so people can look it up and put a face to the person.

I learned that there is a National Archives Workshop every year on how to preserve and display archives material. I also learned that the Saturday Evening Post in which the article that Jack Alexander wrote appeared was a magazine like Time, not a newspaper.

(archives report continued)

I was not able to attend the whole weekend but, did sit in on the discussion of the Grapevine Agenda items, there was very interesting debate on the LaVina as usual. I did attend the District 15 meeting on March 3. They are struggling to fill positions; I offered my help in anyway. I am planning to attend District 1 Spring fling and talking to their DCM to see if there is anything they need that I can help with.

Yours in service,
Pete B.

ARCHIVIST

Thank you for supporting my attendance to the WCRAASC.

There was some spirited discussion on Agenda item D. My take is the tail is wagging the dog. Corrections item B had suggestions about adding an ASL window, the age of the current video, getting inmates involved, and the question of full faces was brought up. In Finance Andrew reported that since contributions were up a one time shift of 1 million dollars was made from the reserve fund to the pension fund to save on pension insurance. There was discussion of groups talking more about the birthday plan. Grapevine item B the board did not find any method to reduce the La Vina deficit. On Grapevine item F the ambiguity of the wording of the proposal met with a large amount of concern and being construed as Concept 10 vs. Concept 3. Literature had a huge amount of discussion but I will focus on one item here. Item I. The forward has been incorrect since day one. This should have been fact checked before publication. I am one of several people who sent emails about this at the time to publications. I got a polite mail back that it would be looked into. This has been 14 years. In my dictionary this is malfeasance. Since the forward falls under an editorial aegis, this correction doesn't need to be a conference action. If we are going to correct this forward we need to correct the forward to the Second Edition also. The date of the founding of the Cleveland Group was incorrect through all 16 printings of the Second Edition. I have on good source that this was a ceaseless source of irritation to the founder of the Cleveland Group who made several heated phone calls and sent several nastygrams during the 20 years of publication. This error could have been corrected as an editorial change. When the Third Edition was published in 1976 this correction was made but sometime in late 1990 or early 1991 between 30-ish printings this incorrect forward was added back. This was done as an editorial change by publications since there was not a corresponding Conference action. When the Fourth Edition came out this incorrect forward was used in stead of the early corrected one. This forward failed to be fact checked. In 1966 a substantial change was made to the text of The Big Book. Where the phrase "Program of Recovery" appears in "How it Works" and "Working with Others" it was capitalized. The 1966 change removed the capitalization. There is not a corresponding Conference action to this change so it had to have been done as an editorial change. In summation; If Publications is not fact checking published items, yet making substantial changes to the text capriciously they are not following the scope and responsibilities of Publications. In my dictionary this is malfeasance.

I think I have taken up enough space here. Everything else I will cover at the Assembly.

Brad I.
Area 35 Archivist

GRAPEVINE

Greetings from northern Minnesota.

It has been a fast and furious start to my new rotation. I am excited to work with a new group of folks with a commitment to service work. I was able to attend the WCRAASC and I want to thank the Area for that opportunity. I met a lot of people who are committed to service work in Alcoholics Anonymous and work very hard to make sure AA will continue in its singleness of purpose.

"Why do we need a conference"? This writing is very moving and reminds me of the importance of these conferences and the need for Alcoholics Anonymous to always be there for the still suffering alcoholic. I attended breakout sessions on archives and literature. We talked on the importance of preserving the history of the groups and discussed that the literature most used needs no changes. I also had my first experience moderating a session on the Grapevine. Thank you, Roger for your help. The Agenda items were discussed and the process of notification was a topic at hand.

Our Delegate will have a big job to do as he brings our concerns to New York. I can tell you it was a weekend filled with all levels of passion for Alcoholics Anonymous. We talked a lot about being a "cheerleader" for service. We are responsible for the effort, not the outcome.

I am available to any group who would want grapevine representation and I encourage everyone to participate in your districts to discuss the agenda items. Talk to your DCM's. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve. On a lighter note, I have added some purple shirts to my wardrobe...

Thanks for allowing me to serve,
Antonette

COOPERATION WITH THE
PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY
(CPC)

This past weekend I was able to attend my very first WCRAASC and despite the almost school-like atmosphere of taking notes and trying to figure out how I would be able to remember all of the great ideas and view points, I had a blast!

I am now positive I will do everything in my power to attend the next one. My only real complaint other than the hysterical laughter coming from our adjoining motel room was that I couldn't attend all of the breakout sessions. On the bright side, though, I was able to get notes from each, thanks to our delegate.

I was able to learn so much from the discussion on the agenda items which will hopefully allow me to be of service with others and with the districts that I am able to visit.

I was also able to meet the Trustee-at-large for the U.S. and hear his story which gave me such inspiration as service and AA as a whole is concerned.

Seeing all the people from Area 35 who were present, and all

(CPC report continued)

those who traveled so far to attend gave me feelings of gratitude and respect for all those that care so much for this program and the future of it.

As tired as I thought I would be after such a long weekend, I feel completely re-energized. Once again my spiritual bucket has been filled through service.

Thank you all for allowing me the opportunity to participate and grow in my own recovery,

Servando M.

GROUP RECORDS

Hello Area 35. Group Records is moving along. Had our past webmaster, Bob B. clean up the laptop so it is working much better. I am working on updates. I attended the WCRAASC in Mpls. last weekend. Ride shared with another lady to keep cost down, also roomed with two ladies. I took some of our Northern Light papers with me so other areas could see how our Area 35 is doing. I enjoy learning more at these functions; they are a great experience. The presentations were very good. There were 4 of them done with different areas from the West Central Region. First, was Area 63 South Dakota on “Recovery, Unity, and Service-Our Responsibility.” Second, Area 41 Nebraska on “Passing It On Through Sponsorship.” Third, Area 76 Wyoming on “Participating In Our Common Welfare Through Contributions.” Fourth was our Area 35, Inventory-A Guiding Tool To Our Future.” It was interesting to hear how all of us truly do what is best for Alcoholics Anonymous in keeping our Service in AA alive no matter where we are from.

We had breakout sessions, also, throughout the weekend. I wasn’t sure which ones to sit in on, so I went to the Archives/Newsletter. Area 52 North Dakota was the moderator with all the discussion. I took notes and learned how important our history is. They came up with questions that we went through. However, I didn’t write about this in my report because I think our Area Archives will be covering these topics. But our history is important and we need to continue keeping our history. Other areas talked about where and how they store their archives. Our Area Archivist shared about Area 35’s archives, where ours is and how much we have in storage.

I also attended the Public Information Breakout Session moderated by Area 76, Wyoming. They came up with questions also. Most important was how to we reach the public about Alcoholics Anonymous, what we do and do not do. All the different places we can go out and inform about our fellowship.

On Saturday our Area 35 Web Tech chair Bob B. did a demo on MN Meeting Locator. He did a great job other than the internet wouldn’t keep running. A lot of people left to go sit in on other presentations. Bob B, Sandy H. and I have looked at the Group Records FNV (Fellowship Newest Version) and how important that we get the Group Records and the meeting locator working together by making sure the groups information is correct and updated; this is a big responsibility. One of the things I am learning is that it is very important and helpful when filling out the change forms to have the group registration number and district on this form.

(group records continued)

Agenda Items: We started going through these starting Friday night. I took a lot of notes on these. What I learned on this was that most on the agenda items they are going to review Revised Conference agenda form. How the conference should be included when revising this 2012-2014 edition Service Manual. The Trustee Committee is deciding what makes it to the Conference. Corrections item of discussion on changing pamphlets and updating videos. Grapevine was another agenda item with a lot of discussion about the Grey pages. There was much discussion on *for committee eyes only* when going through Agenda Items. More on pamphlets and removing a paragraph on page 5 of the Living Sober book. Policy and Admission items about the minority voice and what happens. How that would work is something to consider. This should be anonymous. Report and Charter items mostly concern on changing reports, not just editing. They have done this. Consider not editing, but leaving reports at they are. Treatment and Special Needs: not a lot of discussion. Trustees: Not a lot of discussion. Archives: Not a lot of discussion. International Conventions/Regional Forums: No discussion.

About a month ago District 8 DCM Jerry B. asked me to help on March 15th at their special agenda item meeting, so I will be attending that, to be of service. I will inform District 8 on our Agenda Items with the information I have on all agenda items. This report I made brief comments and info being as this will be in the Northern Light and I am sure others will have long reports.

I am grateful to be on this journey and will continue to do the best I can in getting all your information of your Districts and GSR’s in the FNV.

Yours in Service,
Rolene L. - Group Records.

NORTHERN LIGHT

Greetings Area 35. Being the editor of the newsletter, I took liberty and made the mistake of putting off writing my report until now, at *crunch time*, instead of immediately after attending the WCRAASC when excitement and gratitude pulsed through my body.

I am grateful for the chance to experience the passion during the general presentations. One of the first things that stood out for me happened in the opening session when a man spoke at the mic about how he just missed going to the regional conference two years ago, reminding me how I had missed the same chance when I moved up from KS. The *everybody, somebody, anybody, nobody* story on service, and the personal experiences like that of Jake from District 5 struck chords with me that remind me why I not only desire to be in service, but also why I need to be in service for those to come.

I took a lot of notes on the agenda item discussions for use at my district and other district meetings to help them come back to the Spring Assembly with an informed conscience for our Area 35 Delegate to take to NY. For the same purpose I attended the archives / newsletter, self-support, and remote communities breakout sessions. In all of these I heard how I get to have fun, and to be responsible to others at the same time, with a sense of purpose in something that matters to me.

Thanks for allowing me to serve,
Rodney S.

**Area 35 February Area Committee Meeting
February 23, 2014
Minutes**

Sarah K. Called meeting to order and opened with the Serenity Prayer

Recognition of past delegates in attendance: Tom A. Panel 50; Susie A. Panel 48, Bruce B. Panel 48.

Minutes from December Area Committee Meeting were approved with one correction; past area action approved starting with \$1,000.00 in Grapevine and Literature accounts, not \$750.00 (Motion by S. Lere, second by R. Adams)

Sarah K. Please follow up with Rolene L. if you did not get your Northern Light

OFFICER REPORTS

Delegate-MIKE J. Greetings from your Panel 64 Area35 Delegate. That's a lot to remember. Thanks again for electing me to serve Area 35 as your contribution to The General Service Conference, may I follow God's will thru the next 2 years and carry our areas thoughts and hopes in carrying AA's message to those who still suffer from alcoholism. That I believe is our most important mission. The rest is all gravy. It has been busy right off the bat. Sharing with other delegates on things our area does and how other areas handle things. I have been busy brushing up on concepts and studying our literature to get a good understanding of our background before making decisions at the conference. I took part in a conference call with our West Central Region delegates and our trustee. We talked about the possible move of the Grapevine offices to the same floor as our other offices. Discussing that we first have to make sure we will still be located in the same building before putting a lot of money into remodeling as our lease is up in 2017. Our request to change the way shipping costs are distributed will not be on the agenda but instead a subcommittee will look into it and hopefully come up with a better way to share these costs. I have been busy copying discs with agenda items and trying to sort thru the 400 plus pages of agenda background materials. May God have mercy on my brain. The good part is that I know you all will give me insight and wisdom on all this material at the conference. I have attended several open meetings and continue to ask that if I can help that you let me know of what service I can be. May we grow in fellowship and allow God to be our deciding voice. Take Care and God bless!

ALTERNATE DELEGATE-KELLY D. - Good morning everyone, Here we are at our first Area 35 Committee Meeting of the 2014-2015 rotation. It is good to see everyone here and it is exciting to see some new faces in service. I truly am grateful for the life that has been given to me through our program of recovery and service. I would like to thank each and every one of you here today for your commitment to serve Alcoholics Anonymous through the service you do. We have all heard many times that we only have to be willing and leave the rest up to God. Well as we start a new journey together in service, may God continue to be our guide in all that we do in Area 35 to carry our message of hope to the still suffering alcoholic.

As you know we had our January Workshop in Moorhead on the 18th & 19th. We had 95 that registered that weekend. I will have a full report on the Workshop later on under old business. I have typed up the evaluations from that weekend also, there were a total of 36 of them. Thank you to everyone that took the time to fill one out. Along with my report from the Workshop they will be posted in the next addition of the Northern Light. If anyone would like to see them before then let me know, I do have some copies with me today.

Our next January Service Workshop will be held the 17-18th, 2015 in Zone 4. I have been busy looking for space for that event. There is not a lot available in that Zone, I spent a lot of time on researching. I did have the Park Hotel in Hibbing almost booked (a place we have held Assemblies in the past) but a week later before a contract could be signed, I received an email that that weekend had already been booked by another employee there. They were hoping I could change the dates. Although disappointing I am happy to report that I was able to find another place to hold our Workshop. It will be Barkers Island Inn Resort and Conference Center in Superior. We had our Fall Assembly there back in 2009 so some of you are already familiar with that establishment. I am waiting to sign the contract and Kim that has been most gracious there gave me her guarantee that it is a done deal in an email. Shannon, the lady that sets up the block of rooms was on vacation this week. So with that being said I feel confident that I can announce it to all of you before the final contract is signed. I have the flier complete and will have it at the Spring Assembly. I have also been in touch with Greg T., our Publications Director from GSO and he has agreed to be our guest for that weekend. I will be working on the Agenda and will be in contact with the Districts that will be presenting sometime this fall to allow plenty of time for them to prepare on their topics so stay tuned DCM's. This will be another great Workshop so please plan ahead to be there. I know right now you are thinking Spring not a winter Workshop!

I have also set up our first Zonal Forum that we the Area Officers will be presenting at this year. It will be in Zone 1 which are Districts 1, 2, 16 and 21. It will be on Saturday, May 17th from 12:00-4:00 pm at the Bemidji Alano Club which is in District 21. Thank you to Irv and Erin and District 21 for setting up and agreeing to host this event. I have the fliers done for that event and I would like to also thank Tom A. our past Delegate for helping me with the history of Zonal Forums. The flier explains what they are all about and why we have them. I also emailed our general format and flier to the DCM's in that Zone and asked them to discuss it at their District meetings and also have their GSR's take it to their groups for any ideas/suggestions/topics they would like to discuss with us. Our Zonal Forums were set up in 2001 so that the Area Officers could visit the District's, get to know everyone and make ourselves available to help and be of service in any way that is needed. My hope is that the DCM's get the word out to all their AA's within their Districts (whether in service or not) and stress the importance of attending the Zonal Forums. Also if you are an Area Committee Chair and the Form is held within your Zone why not attend? Together all of us serving on the Area can be available and helpful to those Districts at that time!

I look forward too and will be attending our WCRAASC next weekend in Minneapolis. It will be a long weekend as we all know going over the Agenda Items for this year's General Service Conference but will be an exciting time. It is always a great time to get together with all our WCR AA friends and discuss the issues and business surrounding Alcoholics Anonymous. I will also be attending the Delegates only meeting on Thursday evening. I'd like to thank Area 35 for the financial support to attend this conference and allowing me to be a part of it. I also look forward to attending our Spring Assembly in April in Duluth. A little history, the last time we held an Assembly in Duluth was in the spring of 2001. I look forward to seeing you all there. Thank you to the Districts that send me their minutes. It is great to hear the service that you are all doing. I encourage all Districts to send their minutes to all us! If I can be help or service in anyway please let me know.

In love and service.

AREA CHAIR -Sarah K.

This is an informational piece on the responsibilities of the Area Committee (Officers, Action Committee Chairs and DCMs) at the WCRAASC, which are two-fold:

First, we are there as **Representatives** of Area 35, and as such we are responsible to be present at every event throughout the week

(minutes continued)

end, with actions and attitudes that would do credit to Area 35, and to have read (at least our committees, but preferably more) background information so that we can participate meaningfully in the event. You should plan to attend the breakout session that corresponds to your committee (if there is one). If your committee doesn't have a breakout session, you can pick whichever one you think would most benefit the Area to know about. *(We should try to cover every breakout session so the Area gets a full picture of the information from this event. I wish I could go to every event, but I can't. You all are my ears. I will learn from your reports.)*

Second, we are **Resources** for Area 35. We are conduits of information, and we are responsible for carrying the essence (essential points) of the weekend back to our Area for their benefit. This is a huge part of what the money to send us all here goes to, and so it is vitally important that we show our value by sharing the information we have received far and wide. First, share it in a detailed, thorough, meaningful report in the Northern Light. The DCMs expect this from us and we don't want to disappoint. Second, share it by being an invaluable resource to the Districts at their District meetings and the Spring Assembly, both in general session and in leading breakout sessions. You should expect to be asked to chair a breakout session on (at least) your committee, but maybe more. So, you will want to pay close attention to what is discussed as important points as it pertains to your committee.

DCMs were given a list of items to discuss in their districts prior to the Spring Assembly. They are as follows:

1. Zonal Forum Format: Districts 1, 2, 16, 21: consider the zonal forum and discuss with your districts anything or any questions they might like the Area Officers to address. The intent is to allow AA's (and GSR's in particular) who haven't had the opportunity to attend an area event see something of the Service structure and to improve communication and education of the AA Service Structure within the districts.
2. WCRAASC : attend if possible. Read GSC background information in preparation for this, and for district meetings. Provide a detailed report of the discussion throughout the weekend for your district / area.
3. Make sure your groups have the current Area Treasury address: NMAA, PO Box 411, Hoyt Lakes, MN 55750.
4. Share district minutes with Area Officers, Committee Chairs, and other DCM's.
5. Spring Assembly preparation :
 - I. Districts 8, 9, 12, 14: coffee and registration responsibilities. See Rillis, DCM 12.
 - II. Consider holding a district meeting in March specifically to discuss the GSC Agenda Items. Feel free to invite an Area Committee Chair / Officer to attend the discussion as a resource.
 - III. Review the Area budget included in the Jan. / Feb. edition of the Northern Light; it will be voted on.
 - IV. Review and discuss the district inventory sample Bob B. provided. Contact Bob if you need another copy.
 - V. Consider how to make the Area website for CPC/PI, Corrections, Treatment, etc. professionals.

DCM's should also be seeing a few other emails in the upcoming weeks: a "Hot Topics" list of GSC Agenda items from the Delegate, Mike J. and the Period 1 treasury reports from the Treasurer Randy A.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do to assist you. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Secretary-Roger R. As far as my recent activities, I attended the 38 Annual Area 35 Workshop in Moorhead MN on January 18-19. I would like to thank the presenting districts for interesting presentations that evoked a lot of discussion and comments from participants.

My first announcement for Area Officers, Chairs and DCM's is a request for you to send me your reports from today, via email, as soon as you can, if you have not already done so. I have a pretty short time frame in which to complete the minutes from today.

My second announcement is for anyone present who wishes to be on an area email list to receive minutes from Area Committee Meetings and other area function's, to please sign a list that I will be passing around shortly.

My third announcement is that I will be passing out a packet of flyers to DCM's, on our upcoming Spring Assembly on April 5-6 in Duluth MN., for you to share with your district. Please note that the cut-off date to receive our group rate for lodging for this event is March 5.

I will be attending the WCAARSC in St. Louis Park, MN this coming weekend. I am looking forward to discussions on agenda items that I hope to share with our area at our Spring Assembly in early April. I will also be the recording secretary for our area's breakout session on the Grapevine at this conference.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Area Secretary.

TREASURER- Randy A. First of all, I would like to apologize to the Area for not being able to complete the written reports in a timely manner for Period I (Jan 1st thru Jan 31st 2014) as we had a very trying and busy past couple of months. The Reconciliation detailed reports for Period I have been completed for our Savings- Prudent Reserve, Grapevine Cash Account and our Area 35 Checking Account. The written reports will be sent out ASAP when completed. I am still in the learning process of the job and have not had ample time to review the procedures without the help of the past Area 35 Treasurer Steve L. Steve also has a very busy schedule and responsibilities besides his General Service duties. He has been a very instrumental and integral part of our Area Treasurer's responsibilities and obligations. His work as past Area 35 Treasurer will be hard to duplicate and a many thanks for his dedication and time for assistance in helping me learn the essentials of the job. As you have read in the "Northern Light," we have re-established our Area Bank Account with Wells Fargo and are in good standing; everything is in order. Our upset with the Bank has had no ill effects on our account and we had no overdrafts on our account; we had one check go in for \$ 188.00 but it was reversed because our account was closed. Several deposits were made towards the end of January including one for \$1494.15 for the January workshop and several contributions were made in early February and will be available for period II (Feb. thru Mar.). We have also received a late bill for the January workshop for Function room and equipment fees for the amount of \$413.75 will also be included in the next report. We attended the District workshop held on February 22nd, 2014 in Virginia MN. There was a total attendance of around 41 and the presentations were done by the Groups of District 8. One of the topics was on the 7th Tradition - where does our money go? And was done by the Biwabik Sunday Night group and was phenomenal with plenty of discussion and feedback. There was plenty of fellowship and participation from the floor. I have gotten lots of emails regarding change of address and have promptly returned with the correct address as the mailbox was switched over at the beginning of January. The Area 35 Treasures job can be

(minutes continued)

quite challenging and exhausting at times but is worth the effort as the rewards are exceptional, I do not look upon the job as a chore but as a service and an opportunity for spiritual growth. Yours in Service.

ARCHIVIST-BRAD I. I would like to thank the Area for sending me to the Winter Workshop. Loading in was not a treat due to the facility lacking an elevator but I got help from several people and got everything up the stairs. I emailed the recordings to the Alternate Delegate and did several flash drives for attendees. The weather was fine for Morehead in January. I did not attend the Area 36 Workshop in Glencoe due to timidity about the weather. I didn't think I could get home before the blizzard hit.

For upcoming events I am attending the WCRAASC in St. Louis Park next week. The next week I am bringing the Archives display to Fargo for the Winter Warm Up. The next week I am going to the Range for the Winter Wrap Up and running the sound system. The next week I am bringing a display to St. Anna for the Stearns county Round Up. I have an open weekend before the Spring Assembly. If anyone here knows the date of the Superior Round Up please let me know. I figure it must be the week after Easter. I am continuing to build a searchable data base of the Archives collection and write essays for the digital Archives display. These are a couple of very time consuming projects. I digitalized a long-timer interview per a member request. I emailed the files and I am burning them to CD's. Please make sure I am on your district meeting mailing lists.

Archives – Pete B. Our meeting had 11 in attendance, representing districts 8, 3, 12, 7, and 18. We are planning a celebration of 65 years in Ely. Our suggestion to districts is to put materials on MPS files as tapes go bad over time. District 12 put together an Actions Booklet. District 7 has lots of material to work on. I am still figuring out my new position and am looking forward to attending the WCRAASC on February 28.

DISTRICT 12- Rillis E. We had a good turnout at our January meeting with 21 people in attendance. A decision was made to continue rotating locations of our district meeting. All of our committees have chairs with the exception of our Literature Committee. We look forward to hosting the Spring Assembly in April. Thank you for letting me be of service.

CPC- Servando M. We met this morning with 10 in attendance representing districts: 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 16. Discussed several items including using district email settings similar to the area and using name tags at area committee meetings. District 5 has an upcoming PI luncheon and District 7 will be hosting a CPC luncheon in May. I look forward to serving in this rotation and improving the lines of communication in our committee and between districts. Thank you for the opportunity to be of service.

DISTRICT 7- Carl P. Greetings from District #7. Hope everyone had fun at the Winter Work Shop in Moorhead in January. We had fun preparing and presenting there. I got to meet some people there. I am happy to see some younger people getting involved with AA service work. I believe the future of AA is looking good. Thanks for your service. I am looking forward to attending WCRAASC at the end of February and the Spring Assembly in Duluth. I hope it is Spring by then. Hope to see you there. We are fortunate to have all our service positions filled. I look forward to working with them. Our plan is to have someone from the district visit each meeting over the next two years. We are busy planning a CPC luncheon for May 15 at Grandview Lodge. Yours in service.

DISTRICT 16 - Griffin M. - Our Treatment and Secretary Chairman positions are open; all others are filled.

- Attendance at our last District Meeting was 9.
- Last month we started to have someone read from the Traditions Checklist and discuss their experiences and thoughts on the tradition.
- On March 19th at 6:30 pm at the United Methodist Church in Grand Rapids we will be hosting a bonus Potluck District Meeting to go over Agenda Items.
- We have 23 meetings in our district; 15 of them (65%) contributed to the District in 2013.
- Our PI/PCP Team is putting together a PI Luncheon on May 2nd at the Saw Mill.
- We are bringing speakers to the Northland Adolescent Treatment Center, Northland Adult Programs, Rapids Counseling Outpatient Program.
- We are bringing weekly meetings to the Itasca County Jail.

So far this year I have attended 2 groups in our district, 2 open speaker meetings, and 2 meetings out of state. I have also tended to service commitments within our district, the Area, and speaker commitments at the jail and treatment centers. I plan to attend more meetings in our district before the next Area Committee Meeting.

It is a gift to service District 16 as DCM. I look forward to the growing experience ahead of me.

CORRECTIONS- Skip D. Good day to all. We had nine people in attendance this morning. Districts 2, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 18, and 21 were represented.

District 18 Todd County is trying to get meetings back up and running, after being kicked out for breaking the rules of the jail (no physical contact), they are having trouble finding volunteers. District 21 the women's meetings are going well; it was brought up that the orientation to go in and put on meetings is done by the jail.

District 11 Moose Lake has allowed some to volunteer within the 150 mile radius once a month. District 9 NERCC is still going on the 2nd to last Sunday of the month. North Home unsure if it is considered corrections or treatment. District 13 Stearns County has cleared 6 people to take meetings into the facility. Benton County is going well. District 5 Sherburne County has added another pod that the men need to fill, so it went from 4 to 5, need 5 volunteers for the men on the 1st and 3rd Thur. of each month. I do plan on attending the WCRAASC this weekend 02/28/14.

Statewide Corrections Committee:

Well, not much to report; our last meeting was on 11/12/2013, we decided to wait until after the Area 35 Committee meeting in February to have our next meeting (Area 35 new rotation), we will meet the weekend of 02/28/14. Mary and I did attend an informational meeting for the treatment program in the Moose Lake correction facility on 01/06/2014. We do have access to Area 36 data base for the contact program, so if you would like to be a contact you can let me know or fill out the blue contact program form.

(minutes continued)

DISTRICT 9- Fred H. All chairs for district are filled, with corrections and treatment having two chairs. We are working on setting up a phone line for the district that will forward calls to volunteers. We feel we will better serve the district with a person taking calls instead of a machine. District 9 is working on setting up commitment for one more corrections place and speakers for treatment facilities.

DISTRICT 2- Mike H. We have not had a lot going on in District 2. At our last district meeting we had 4 in attendance. We hope to have two new GSR's at our next meeting. We have several district positions open as well. I attended the January Service Workshop. I also plan on attending the Spring Assembly in Duluth MN. I attended a meeting in St. Stephen to share information on the district and area.

GRAPEVINE – Antonette F. We met this morning with nine present representing districts: 9, 14, 8, 12, 6, 11, 15. Districts are starting this rotation with a flurry of Grapevine ordering activities. Grapevine will turn 70 in June. It is also a great present for sponsees, and Birthdays etc. Grapevine has been an important part of my recovery. I encourage everyone to try it if you haven't so far. I attended the workshop in Moorhead and my batteries are charged. Will be attending an upcoming young peoples conference. Will also be attending the upcoming WCRAASC in MPLS, MN. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

DISTRICT 15- Clint J. January's meeting was postponed by one week due to weather. We met and rotated positions. We donated a case of books to CARE in Willmar and St. Cloud Prison. The Stearns County Roundup is on March 22 at the Landing in St. Anna. District 15's meeting is at 8:00 at the Albany Community Center. Thank you for the opportunity to be part of carrying AA's message.

DISTRICT 8- Jerry B. We held our district meeting on February 5, 27 attended representing 16 groups. . Our alternate corrections chair was elected as corrections chair. We have two open chair positions- Alt. Corr. and GV/Lit. I attended the area workshop in Moorhead, MN. and Butch R. and I did a presentation for our district. We held our district workshop yesterday that 41 people attended. Next time you are up on the range feel free to stop by. Thanks, yours in service.

GROUP RECORDS-Rolene L. I have been updating the FNV database with new GSR's and learning how this all works. I would like to thank Sandy H. for traveling all the way to Cook to help me learn how all of this works. Please pick up a Northern Light at the back table. I also have a stack of NL's for DCM's. Disrtict 8 has invited me to attend their Agenda Items meeting on March 15.

DISTRICT 13- Christine G. Greeting from District 13.

We have our business meeting on the first Monday of the month at the St. Cloud Alano Club at 7:30pm. Please stop by and join us if you are in town. January's meeting had 22 in attendance with 4 new GSRs and February's meeting had 28 in attendance with 5 new GSRs. Roger R. came and visited our meeting in January, we always like to see Area officers at our meetings. It has been a busy couple months as we are all getting "trained" on our new positions. We have been out visiting groups to let them know about the District and that we are here to serve them. Al K., our Treasurer, mailed out letters to all groups thanking them for contributions and listed what they are being used for. Chris, our Alt. DCM, led a GSR workshop prior to the February District meeting to inform new GSRs about their positions and answer any questions or concerns that they may have. We are also working at getting all GSRs involved in an action committee. We also encourage any individual who wants to get involved in service at the district level to get involved on a committee regardless if they are a GSR.

At our February District meeting, we approved our 2014 Officer/Chair budgets and we scheduled an additional meeting on March 24th at 7:30pm to get groups conscience on the agenda items for the Spring Assembly. I have reached out to Roger to see if he is available to help facilitate review of Agenda items. Mark, our PI Chair, had a AA Phone Line informational meeting on February 16th. I had the pleasure to attend the meeting and hear the commitment and service that goes into making sure that our phone line is manned. This is another example of where our contributions go and how important that service is in carrying the message to the still suffering. There are 20 people that are committed to answering the phone through out the week.

Denny J, our Corrections Chair, has been busy gathering volunteers for Stearns and Benton Jails. We have training coming up at Stearns County in March that all people, who are approved to volunteer, will need to attend. We are pleased to announce that we have a new meeting in our district. MONDAY EVENING CLEAR LAKE AA GROUP, meets at 7:30pm at Living Waters Church in Clear Lake.

DISTRICT 11 – BILL C. Our district meeting is held on the first Tuesday of each month. I put an AA booth at the Grand Casino Hinchey Wellness Expo for employees. As casino employees are now allowed to drink while working at the casino, I asked if I could put a booth at the employee wellness expo and got permission to do so. All of our corrections commitment are being me thanks to Gary.

LITERATURE- Jim S. As the new incoming Area Lit Chair, the first thing I was able to do was attend the Annual Service Conference in Moorhead, MN. Being the conference was 5 minutes from my house it was tough to miss this event. The one thing about the event that really stuck in my mind was the presentation on Meetings VS fellowship. I have found for myself that "fellowship" has such an important role in my AA life. The connectedness that I gain with others through fellowship is key to my desire to attend meetings and other AA related events. Although I can learn the lessons of AA from anyone I open my mind up to, it's those people that I have a connection to that really motivates me to always be in attendance at meetings/events. As I look at my life and the people that are in it, service in addition to meetings has helped me to grow my circle of friends.

DISTRICT 1- Irene J. District 1 met 2/9/ 14 at 7 PM with new GSR's being present. Finances are good with a balance of \$978.00. We added one new meeting and have lost two meetings in our district. Our winter roundup in Mahnomen was a success with over 300 attending. Our Spring Fling will take place on March 8. Yours in service.

DISTRICT 3-Steve D. Good Morning, District 3 holds its monthly district meeting in Perham, the 3rd Sunday of the month at the Perham Alano Club. Our January meeting was cancelled due to a winter storm. The February meetings was held February 13th and was chaired by our Alternate DCM, Ray B. Ray did a fantastic job. Thanks Ray, District 3 appreciates your dedication. District 3 is continuing to host monthly Round Robins. Our next Round Robin will be March 8, 2014, hosted by the Moorhead Thursday

(minutes continued)

Night Group. Clancy I., will be the speaker. We installed the new District Officers for 2014. We have one open position, our Web-master. He resigned due to personal reasons. We wish you well, Dave. We have a person interested in the position and will bring it to the meeting in March. Contributions from groups remains strong. We have been sending thank you cards to groups in the District that send contributions. Yours in Service.

NORTHERN LIGHT-Rodney S. Greetings everyone. We had some problems with missing data within the budgets after I entered them into the first issue. This may have been due to the document being opened by a different program version than the one used to create it. The first time I added the budgets, I made a screenshot of each file and copied it as opposed to saving it as an image, which is what I did the next time. Whatever the cause, it would be best when sending charts, tables or graphs to send a screenshot if at all possible. I didn’t have any issue with the tables that Bob sent, so it’s still somewhat of a mystery.

At any rate, I said in my first report I would be relieved when I saw the first hard copy, and despite several goof-ups I was! Thanks to everyone who helped point out my errors (seriously).

I’ve been working on getting a jump on the March / April issue of the Northern Light. I would like to do something with it that would work as an aid in attracting new A.A.’s to get them involved in service. I’ve been seeking input from other members as far as any changes they would like to see with the newsletter. Please feel free to talk to or contact me about anything involving the Northern Light.

In an attempt to create better reports I am offering a few of my thoughts, ones that I find helpful. Those of us here are participating in our recovery at a level that almost ensures that even in times when we may not feel there is much going on—usually because we are not taking some type of new action—we are still participating on a consistent basis with the basics, like going to meetings and at least listening to those that are doing new things; as such we are aware of what’s working, what’s not, and what things may be lacking in our own small corner of the world. We can, and should, report on these things even if our only active role is as observer. I find it difficult to remain an observer once I am made aware of some issue or need—especially when I tell someone about it.

The next Northern Light deadline is March 8th. Yours in service.

PI- Rey F. for Jeff C.

Consideration of our meeting Agenda Items

1. How can we improve our communication with the Districts on our 3 legacies?

A. Make oneself available to be of service...i.e. offer to drive

B. Attend district meetings. Communicate with other district servants.

C. Use a variety of methods to communicate...text, email, phone, etc...

D. Make announcements re: district meetings and district position

E. Get the Northern Lights publications out in visible/high traffic areas. Encourage people to read them.
2. How can our committee use the website as a resource?

A. Create a list of willing speakers for PI luncheons.

B. Meeting locator
3. What would our committee like to see on the Area website?

A. Create a list of willing speakers for PI luncheons.

B. Create a filter so you can search by district in the meeting locator.
4. How can we help support the districts? What needs do they have?

A. Have chairs contact districts monthly or bimonthly as a friendly reminder of what we should be doing/how to be of service.

B. Make ourselves available to be of service.
5. How can we support Districts in updating their group records?

A. Visit meetings.

B. Provide the form from the Area 35 website for groups to facilitate the update process.
6. How can this committee help/support other Districts?

A. Districts share with each other about services provided.

B. Communicate with neighboring districts to avoid duplicating services.
7. What needs does our committee have?

A. Name tags at committee meetings.

B. Be made aware if AA is going to any professional organization in order to know of any opportunities to share the message statewide.

PI Reports

Time was very short. District 7 was the only one to report:

District 7: CPC Event on May 15th from 4:00 – 6:00 at the Grandview Lodge (North of Brainerd)

Good Time to Visit the District Meetings

Dist. 7:	3-27-14	Agenda Items	415 Juniper Street, Brainerd, MN
Dist. 16:	3-19-14	6:30 pm	Potluck District Mtg
			New Methodist Church 1701 5 Ave S Grand Rapids, MN
Dist. 16:	5-2-14	Noon	PI Luncheon
			Sawmill Inn, Grand Rapids

(minutes continued)

DISTRICT 5 - Jon S. Acting as DCM as DCM is experiencing health and family issues. District is looking for chairs in Treatment, Corrections and GV/Lit. CPC/PI chair has updated meeting schedules. Need both men and women volunteers for Sherburne County Jail. Beginning a new series of meetings for Sherburne County Probation. District has a new women's 12 and 12 Meeting in Elk River.

TREATMENT- PAUL M. We had 9 in attendance at our meeting today, representing districts 14, 13, 9, 6, 18, 21, and 12. Each district reported on treatment activities. I passed out forms for district chairs to get to treatment centers for patients getting out to request contacts in A.A. I have been working with the Area 36 Temporary Contact Program for patients moving back to our area. We also discussed several relevant treatment topics at our meeting today. These topics included: what works in bringing in treatment meeting's, what does not work and what concerns are there?

DISTRICT 6- Garrett B. We are off to a busy start. I attended the area workshop and got lots of information to bring back to the groups. We have planned our agenda items discussion meeting for March 15. We are having a pot luck before this meeting. We have started planning a GSR School for April and are expecting lots of GSR's to attend. I plan on visiting groups in the district with the help of Ranell. Yours in service.

DISTRICT 21- IRV R. District 21 has been busy over the past quarter. 7-11 GSR's are attending district meetings. All of our action chair positions are filled with the exception of treatment as this chair just stepped down. Our secretary, Erin is stepping down after 4 years of great service and is helping to break in Carol for this position. Our January meeting ran for over two hours due to great enthusiasm of new chairs. Bemidji Alano is hosting the May 17 Area 35 Zonal Forum. More information of this event will be revealed.

WEBMASTER- Sandy H. There were seven in attendance at our meeting today. We discussed updating the group/GSR/ name change/ meeting form. We also discussed how we can improve our website for all newcomers. I will also be contacting many of you for input on this. I attended the January Workshop and look forward to attending the WCRAASC. I have been under the weather since the workshop. I visited with Rolene a couple weeks ago to assist her in transitioning the Group Records position. I would also like to thank Bob for his continued work on the web. Bob and I met for several hours at the January Workshop. At this meeting it was decided that my computer is not compatible with the web format, so he has been doing double time work for me. I copied all group records to a jump drive and gave this to our Archivist Brad I. Yours in service.

OLD BUSINESS

PERIOD 7 REPORT- Steve L Total Area 35 income in 2013 was \$31, 824.90. This resulted in a shortfall of \$140.00.

A question was asked as to why the budget is two times greater than actual expenses. Steve L. answered that the budget is a plan for maximum expenses for area chair's and officer's expenses.

Financial Oversight Committee Report-Steve L. Committee approves report by treasurer Randy A. His report is consistent with bank records.

WEB TECHNOLOGY- Bob B. We would like to add Tom A's district inventory to our WEB site. We will ask the assembly for approval on adding this to our website. I have a scheduled interview about our use of technology in Northern Minnesota. Most of the discussion will be about [aameetinglocator](#). There will an [aameetinglocator](#) presentation at the WCRAASC. Our committees top priority is to simplify the area 35 group change form. We would like to add public facing WEB pages for CPC, PI, Treatment, Corrections, and the New Comer to our WEB site. The WEB team will take care of formatting. All we need is content. I have a Jet Pack Hot spot. We are available to do presentations through out the area. Some topics might be [aameetinglocator](#), Social Media and AA.

Sarah K. requested an accurate inventory or area hardware and software. Bob will head it up this ad hoc committee and Bob is asking for volunteers for this committee. Bob is doing minor cleaning up of area computers so officers can do their work.

Statewide Corrections Committee Report- Skip D. Meeting of Area 35 and Area 36 was held on Nov. 13, 2013 in Maple Grove, MN. The next meeting of this committee will be held at the WCRAASC. Area 35 can now put volunteers directly on the temporary contact list.

January Workshop Report- Kelly D. Submitted a 6 page report, copies are available. Report will also be published in next Northern Light along with evaluations of the workshop.

New Business

Conference Agenda Items- Mike J. Delegate Provided an overview of the items on the agenda for the 2014 General Service Conference. DCM's have received requested printed and CD copies of the background information for these agenda items.

WCRAASC- Sarah K. No break out meetings on items like we do as an area. Jake will be sending out a hot topics list for DCM's. Area Committee Officers and Chairs expected to attend. Acting like little sponges. Gleaning ideas for how they will address these issues at district meetings. Area expects a detailed summary from each chair on key points. Area officers and chairs are uniquely positioned to attend district meetings on agenda items throughout the area. Garret and Jake will be presenting on inventories on Sunday morning.

Area 35/36 Workshop- Sarah K. Need confirmation from Missy, Area 36 Chair on tentative date which is Nov. 1, 2014 from 10-2 PM, in St. Cloud at Calvary Community Church.

Calendar of Events- Rodney S. Summary of future events published in Northern Light. WCRAASC Feb 28-March 2; Spring Assembly, April 5-6, Duluth MN; Area Committee Meeting, June 1, Aitkin MN; Area Committee Meeting, August 3, Aitkin, MN; Fall Assembly, October 4-5, Grand Rapids, MN.

Reminders- Sarah K. - Zone 1, for first Zonal Forum. DCM's in districts 1, 2, 16 and, 21, give feedback to Kelly D. on what you would like in forum content. Spring Assembly, encourage groups to talk about agenda items as a resource. Budget for area is in Northern Light and will be voted on at Spring Assembly. Do your district want district inventory format on area website? Please send your reports to Roger via email. Consider PI, CPC and Treatment content for professionals on our website. Should we keep Paypal as a means of getting contributions to our Area?

Meeting Adjourned with The Lords Prayer

2014 — AREA 35 SCHEDULE

You can find more about events on area35.org

Area 35 Spring Assembly—April 5th & 6th, 2014
Holiday Inn
200 West First Street
Duluth, MN 55802
(218) 727-7492

Zonal Forum — May 17th
Zone 1,
District 21, Bemidji Alano Club

Area Committee Meeting --June 1st - 9:00 am
Aitkin Alano Club
322 First Avenue N.E.
Aitkin, MN

Area Committee Meeting — August 3rd - 9:00 am
Aitkin Alano Club
322 First Avenue N.E.
Aitkin, MN

Area 35 Fall Assembly -- October 4th & 5th, 2014
Saw Mill Inn
2301 Pokegama Avenue
Grand Rapids, MN
(218) 326-8501

Area Committee Meeting — December 7th - 9:00 am
Aitkin Alano Club
322 First Avenue N.E.
Aitkin, MN

March						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
Phases of the moon: 1: 8: 16: 23: 30:						

April						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			
Phases of the moon: 7: 15: 22: 29:						
Holidays and Observances: 13: Thomas Jefferson's Birthday, 20: Easter Sunday						

Upcoming Events in Areas 35 & 36

note: Area 36 events take precedence!

32nd Annual Spring Fling
Sat. March 8th, 2014
Community Center,
101 S. Mill Street (old Hwy 32)
Fertile, MN

35th Annual Winter Round-up
March 14-16th, 2014
Coats Plaza Hotel, 502 Chestnut St.
Virginia, MN

Area36 Assembly
March 22nd, 2014
1005 Hwy 15 South
Hutchinson, MN

Area36 Delegates Workshop
April 5th, 2014
St. Johns Lutheran Church
Northfield , MN

Zim Open Meeting
April 12th, 2014—7:00 pm
McDavitt Town Hall
9042 Zim Road (HWY 27)
Zim, MN

Iron Range Get--Together
May 2nd, 3rd, & 4th, 2014
2301 S. Pokegama Avenue
Grand Rapids, MN
218-326-8501 * 1-800-667-7509

Gopher State Round up XLI
May 23rd ,24th, and 25th, 2014
Double Tree Hilton Bloomington Hotel
Bloomington, MN

Area36 Assembly
June 28, 2014
Maplewood Community Center
2100 White Bear Avenue

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 tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.
- VIII. The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.
- IX. Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.
- X. Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.
- XI. The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.
- XII. The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

AREA 35 SPRING ASSEMBLY
April 5-6, 2014
Holiday Inn, Duluth, MN



AGENDA

- 9:00 a.m. Registration
- 10:00 a.m. GSR Orientation & Action Chair Committee Meetings
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch (On Your Own)

1:00 p.m. Assembly Convenes

- Call to Order-Open with the Serenity Prayer
- Why We Need a Conference
- Recognize Past Delegates
- Recognize GSRs
- Add to Agenda
- Approve 2013 Fall Assembly Minutes

OFFICER REPORTS

- Delegate – Michael (Jake) J.
- Alternate Delegate – Kelly D.
- Chair – Sarah K.
- Secretary – Roger R.
- Treasurer – Randy A.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS

- WEBMASTER – Sandy H.
- TREATMENT – Paul M.
- District 21 – Irv R.
- District 6 – Garrett B.
- PI – Jeff C.
- District 5 – Dean M.
- District 4 – Ray F.
- NORTHERN LIGHT – Rodney S.
- LITERATURE – Jim S.
- District 3 – Steve D.
- District 1 – Jon S.
- GROUP RECORDS – Rolene L
- District 11 – Bill C.
- District 13 – Christine G.
- GRAPEVINE – Antonette F.
- District 8 – Jerry B.
- District 15 – Clint J.
- CORRECTIONS – Skip D.
- District 2 – Michael H.
- District 9 – Fred H.
- CPC – Servando M.
- District 16 – Griffin M.
- District 7 – Carl P.
- ARCHIVES – Pete B.
- District 12 – Rillis E.
- District 18 – Neil R.
- ARCHIVIST – Brad I.
- District 14 – Deb A.

2:30 p.m. Break

2:40 p.m. GSC Agenda Item Breakout Sessions

- Agenda & Policy and Admission
- Grapevine
- Report and Charter
- Literature

3:50 Resume Reports & General Session: GSC Agenda Item Sharing Session I

- Agenda
- Cooperation With the Professional Community
- Corrections
- Finance

4:50 p.m. BREAK

- 5:00 p.m.
- GSR Sharing Session
- DCM Sharing Session
- Area Officers and Area Chairs Meet

6:00 P.M. Dinner (On Your Own)

7:30 P.M. General Session: GSC Agenda Item Sharing Session II

- Grapevine
- Literature
- Policy and Admissions
- Public Information
- Report and Charter
- Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities
- Trustees
- Archives
- International Conventions/Regional Forums

SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2014

7:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. Big Book Meeting

9:00 a.m. Assembly Reconvenes

- Business Not Completed Saturday
- GSR Sharing Session Report
- DCM Sharing Session Report

OLD BUSINESS

- Area 35/36 Workshop
- Financial Oversight Committee Report
- Web Technologies Ad Hoc Committee Report-District inventory, area technologies inventory
- Statewide Corrections Committee Report
- January Workshop Report

NEW BUSINESS

- 2014 Budgets
- MN State Fair Booth
- Discussion of web revisions for PI/CPC/Corrections
- Consider removal of Paypal from Area website
- Calendar of Events
- Ask It Basket (Past Delegates)
- Adjourn