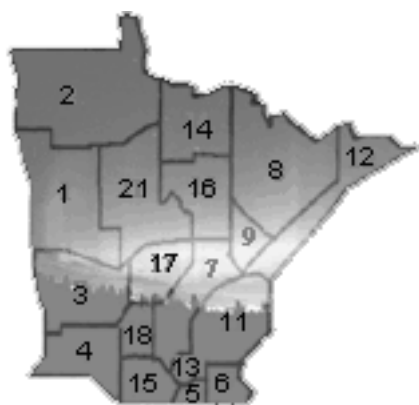


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Deadline for the next
Northern Light is
July 5th, 2014

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
NORTHERN
MINNESOTA

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Zone I

- District 1** - Ada, Crookston, Erskine, Fertile, Fosston, Mahnommen, Naytahwaush, Red Lake Falls, Twin Valley, Waubun,
District 2 - Badger, Baudette, Grygla, Hallock, Halma, Middle River, Rainy River (Ontario, Canada), Roseau, Stephen, Thief River Falls, Warren, Warroad, Williams
District 16 - Bowstring, Boy River, Cohasset, Deer River, 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, Wahkon
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, Littlefork

* 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	3 rd Thursday of Month, 7:00 p.m. First Congregational United Church 415 Juniper Street Brainerd, MN 56401	6:00 p.m. District Meeting Alano Club 410 5th Ave International Falls, MN 56649
District 2 2 nd Sunday of Odd Months, 2:00 p.m. First Lutheran Church 210 Park Ave. N. Middle River, MN 56737	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 15 1 st Monday of Month, 8:00 p.m. Albany Community Center 741 Lake Ave. Albany, MN 56307
District 3 3 rd Sunday of Month, 10:00 a.m. Perham Alano Club Hwy 34 Perham, MN 56573	District 9 Last Sunday of Month, 6:00 p.m. Hibbing Alano Club 3725 1 st Avenue Hibbing, MN 55746	District 16 1st Wednesday of Month, 6:30 p.m. United Methodist Church 1701 S.E. 8 th Ave. Grand Rapids, MN 55744 Handicap Accessible, Non-Smoking
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 11 1 st Tuesday of Month, 7:00 p.m. Peace Lutheran 2177 Hwy 18 Finlayson, MN 55735	District 18 1st Tuesday of Month, 6:30 p.m. Long Prairie Alano Club 21 2nd Ave. Long Prairie, MN 56347
District 5 3 rd Monday of Month, 7 p.m. Freshwaters Church 12475 273rd Ave NW Zimmerman, MN 55398	District 12 3rd Thursday of Month, 6:30 p.m. Contact DCM for meeting location (It Rotates)	District 21 2 nd Monday, 7:00 p.m. Bemidji Alano Club 3802 Greenleaf Ave NW Bemidji, MN 56601
District 6 3 rd Thursday of Month, 7:30 p.m. Spring Lake Lutheran Church 8440 Erickson Rd. N.E. North Branch, MN 55056	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 17 Not currently active or unknown
District 7	District 14 2 st Tuesday of Month, 5:30 Committee Meeting	

AREA 35 COMMITTEE 2014

AREA OFFICERS

DELEGATE
MICHAEL “JAKE” J.
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dcm18@area35.org

DISTRICT 21
Irv R.
dcm21@area35.org

DISTRICT 17
NO INFO

MOVING? ADDRESS NOT CORRECT?

Please help us keep our Northern Light mailing address accurate and up-to-date. It costs the Area (you) \$.50 for each piece of returned mail.

Please contact our Group Records Secretary with your new or changed address:

GroupRecords@area35.org

AREA 35 EVENTS
INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURE

- ◆ Area Chair calls to cancel and/or re-schedule.
- ◆ Based on DOT report, national weather service, individual safety being paramount
- ◆ Chair asks for weather reports from all DCM’s from respective districts either by email or phone for those that don’t have computers.
- ◆ Chair notifies the Alano society in Aitkin on food preparations and possible re-schedule to following Sunday.
- ◆ Chair contacts webmaster results put on Area 35.org and reschedule date and time.
- ◆ Districts contact their DCM in inclement weather for updates on cancellation.
- ◆ Post procedure in Northern Lights.
- ◆ 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.

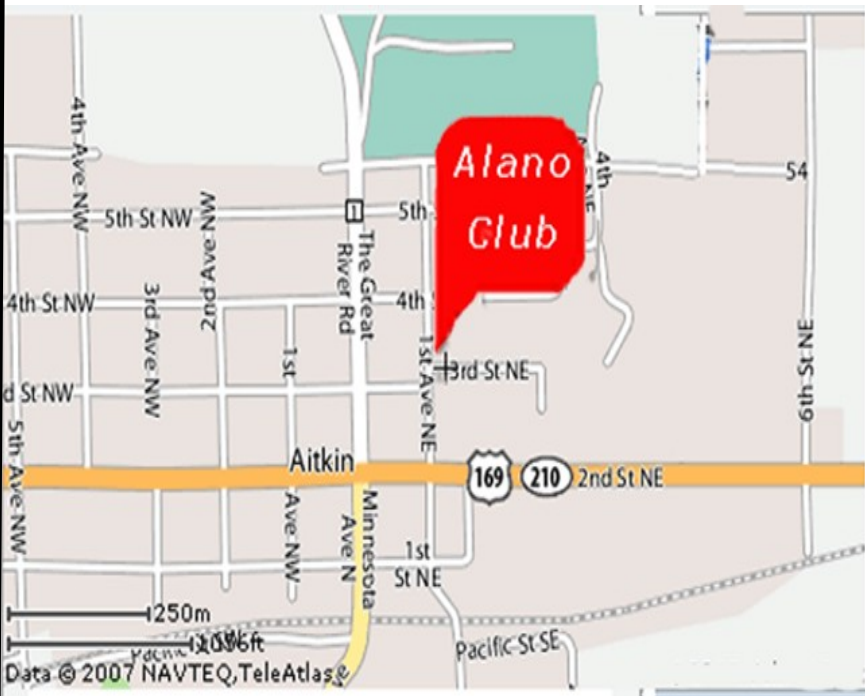
AREA 35 EVENTS
COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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!



OUR PAST DELEGATES

Panel 62 Jim K.	2012-2013	Panel 28 Garfield (Duffy) S. (deceased)	1978-1979	Panel 4 Wendell H. (deceased)	1954-1955
Panel 60 Jon C.	2010-2011				
Panel 58 JoAnne M. N.	2008-2009	Panel 26 Vern R. (deceased)	1976-1977	Panel 2 Arthur R. (deceased)	1952-1953
Panel 56 Jerry S.	2006-2007	Panel 24 Gordon B. H.	1974-1975		
Panel 54 Charlie C.	2004-2005	Panel 22 Frank P. J. (deceased)	1972-1973		
Panel 52 Tim C.	2002-2003	Panel 20 Clarence B. (deceased)	1970-1971		
Panel 50 Tom A.	2000-2001	Panel 18 Dave H. (deceased)	1968-1969		
Panel 48 Susie A.	1998-1999	Panel 16 Arno A. (deceased)	1966-1967		
Panel 46 Bill P.	1996-1997	Panel 14 Donald F. (deceased)	1964-1965		
Panel 44 Bruce B.	1994-1995	Panel 12 Donna T. (deceased)	1962-1963		
Panel 42 Greg G. (deceased)	1992-1993	Panel 10 Bob B. (deceased)	1960-1961		
Panel 40 Bob J.	1990-1991	Panel 8 Pearl N. (deceased)	1958-1959		
Panel 38 Scott J.	1988-1989	Panel 6 Waldo H. (deceased)	1956-1957		
Panel 36 Louie H.	1986-1987				
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)

“If you want to keep something from an alcoholic, put it in the Big Book.” old A.A. saying.

OFFICER REPORTS

DELEGATE'S REPORT

Good morning everyone. I am writing my report last minute from the General Service Conference in New York. What an awesome experience. Everything that you have done as an area in contributing to my preparation for this journey has all come forth. From Sponsorship, to my home group, my district and my area it has all made this trip an experience I will never forget. I hope as I come visit you that you will feel a part of what I was able to experience. Sometimes tired, frustrated, but never alone in this journey; what a ride. The old timers would say, "Hold on to your ass, you're in for the ride of your life." They did not lie. Many of you will never get (or want) this experience but those of you that get the opportunity and say yes to serving AA may have the chance. At a conference I once heard that we may have a future delegate in this crowd. I never dreamed it would be me.

I spent the last month since the assembly preparing for my journey by studying background material and talking with people about our agenda items. I have attended Open meetings and communicated with DCM's by e-mail and phone. I have a few districts lined up for my reports and will be lining up the rest. I was very prepared at the conference and felt like I was with a group that cared about the new guy walking in the door. All of you know that is my heart in AA. I will see you soon at our June meeting in Aitkin or in your district. As I close I will be going to Stepping Stones and walking in the path of our co-founder Bill W. I am sure tears will flow as they have all week. God bless and take care.

Michael (Jake) J.
Area 35 Delegate

ALTERNATE DELEGATE'S REPORT

Greetings Area 35, hope this finds you well and you are enjoying another start of summer here in northern Minnesota after a very cold and long winter. I attended our Spring Assembly April 5-6th in Duluth. It was a great weekend of going over the Agenda Items for this year's General Service Conference along with some great fellowship. Thank you to Area 35 for the financial support to be able to attend. I also look forward to hearing Jake, our Delegate's report when he returns from the conference. Will you be attending his report back within your District? I would like to also thank District 12 for hosting our Spring Assembly this year along with any of the other surrounding Districts that volunteered their time to help out with making it a successful weekend.

As you know on May 17th the Area Officers will be presenting at our first Zonal Forum which is in Zone 1 and consist of Districts 1, 2, 16 and 21 at the Bemidji Alano Club from 12:00 – 4:00. Again I would like to thank District 21 for hosting this event. We look forward to meeting with those districts and to be of service to them in any way that we can, along any other AA members from surrounding districts that will be joining us that day.

I have also set up our fall Zonal Forum which will be held Saturday, September 13th in Zone 3 which consists of District's 5, 6, 7, 11, 13 and 18. It will be held at the Fort Ripley Town Hall from 12:00 – 4:00 and I would like to thank District 7 for hosting. I have been in contact with those districts and have asked them to take our format to their district meetings for discussion and have their GSR's also take it to their groups for any added topics or concerns they may have. We want to be of service in any way we can during our time at these forums. They are so important to have because they allow Area 35 to communicate directly with those districts and their groups. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend, we look forward to seeing you there!

As you also may know I have set up our Area 35 January Service

Workshop which will be held in Superior, WI, 17-18th, 2015 at the Barkers Island Resort & Conference Center. I will be working on the Agenda for that weekend and will be contacting districts to present on topics. I will have that information for all of you this fall so you have plenty of time to prepare. This is a wonderful service and fun event so I hope you plan to attend. All AA's are welcome to attend whether in service or not.

As always, thank you for the opportunity to be of service as your Alternate Delegate.
Kelly D.

AREA CHAIR'S REPORT

As I write this, not more than a month has passed since our Spring Assembly, and yet it appears I still have much to say!

First, I want to reiterate something stated at the Spring Assembly: the primary role of **all Area servants is to help perpetuate Alcoholics Anonymous in Area 35**. That is, to ensure that AA can continue to flourish and that AA groups can continue to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic. **To this end, we (the area committee) have the responsibility to the Districts and Groups to work toward the health of Alcoholics Anonymous through our specific committees or assigned roles.** There are many ways to ensure the health of AA in Area 35, among them: I have encouraged the Area Action Committee Chairs to make frequent contact with the Districts near them to see how we can assist them in building a healthy area. The DCM outreach and communication should include visits and phone calls to the districts. *If you are not seeing or hearing from an Area Committee member on a regular basis, please let me know and I will get you a contact.*



As the Area's primary duty is to look specifically at what we can do in Area 35 to strengthen AA for future generations, I have also asked all action committee chairs to consider and discuss how we can better meet the needs of AA in our respective positions. One specific way area chairs have been asked to meet this duty is to discuss with their committees how to utilize (or improve) the website (so that PI would come up with content and ideas for the website that might be useful for professionals treatment would consider how to better meet the needs of treatment facilities archives would consider interesting ways to encourage awareness of AA history, and so on.). I expect there will be some extensive and intensive discussions on this at the June Area Committee Meeting.

At the Spring Celebration of Recovery on May 2, I was able to touch base with several Area Committee members. Pete (Archives Chair) and I talked about things he could do to encourage awareness of the history of AA, and I'm looking forward to seeing what he comes up with! Paul (Treatment-Remote Communities chair) and I discussed the role his committee might play in reaching out to the American Indian populations in Northern MN. There is a vital need to reach out to the reservations and see if we can be helpful. I hope we can assist districts in making those connections locally. Please contact Paul or I if you have any ideas on this.

Due to the drop in contributions from previous years, Randy and I brainstormed some ways to encourage self-support in Area 35, including the creation of a Seventh Tradition flyer to explain the use of and need for contributions to the Area, and the need to emphasize the Birthday Plan. We also discussed the importance of sending thank you letters to every group that contributes, and you should expect to see those thank you letters soon. We also decided to put together Seventh Tradition packets with Area 35 envelopes and pamphlets about the Seventh Tradition to hand out to DCMs at the area committee meetings and assemblies. I shared these ideas (emphasizing the Birthday plan and the explanation of

(Officer reports > Area Chair continued)

what the Area money gets used for) with our Area webmaster for possible inclusion on the “Contributions” page, and I intend to continue working with him on improving this page. Stay tuned! And, if you have any other ideas on how to raise awareness of the Seventh Tradition, please let me or Randy know!

Per the discussion at the Spring Assembly about assisting District 17 in becoming active again, I visited the District 7 meeting (where District 17 members attend) and offered the Area’s assistance to the D17 GSRs present. They are a new bunch in service and currently busy working with District 7 on a Founder’s Day for June (which Brad will be attending with an Area Archives display), but intend to pose the idea of starting up the district to their groups soon. Of course, each group is autonomous and has the right to make their own decisions, including whether or not to be involved in the service structure. I’m hoping there will be some interest though, as it would be beneficial for the health of the AA groups to stay connected to the service structure.



I communicated with a member in the Florida area regarding how we structure our assemblies and whether or not we let the GSR’s make and second motions at Area Assemblies (we do, and I found out they currently don’t. Interesting). And, I did some good old Twelfth Step work made possible by the Service structure! I was put in contact with a still suffering alcoholic through the use of our Area website—thanks Jake for forwarding me her contact information! It is great to see the service structure lead directly to Twelfth Step work. **However, this also raises the question: how the Area can best meet the needs of the still suffering alcoholic through the Area website?** The Area Officers will be considering this issue at the June committee meeting, but I would also love to hear your suggestions or ideas.

After speaking with Neil R. (DCM District 18), who expressed a desire by his District to see an Area event near them, I reviewed the locations of past Area events and selected districts for upcoming events that haven’t hosted an event in many years. Hopefully we will be able to rotate events through the districts in the assigned zones, and get an Area event held in each district. Of course, that is provided the district has an event center that can hold us. This has been the reason some districts with smaller towns, like District 18, haven’t hosted Area events in awhile. I forwarded all this information to the event scheduling service recommended by the Area to set up events for the next 2-3 years and she’ll be getting back to me soon.

As always, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve and strengthen Area 35. Sarah K. In closing, here is a quote that summarizes our fellowship quite well: ***“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.” Henry Ford***

TREASURER’S REPORT

Greetings! It has been a long cold spring so far and I hope everyone is keeping warm. There has been much to do this month and also the upcoming months for service work in Alcoholics Anonymous.

We attended the District meeting up north in International Falls MN. in March and had a lot of participation from the groups there; needless to say, I was quite impressed. There were 16 in attendance for the meeting and we went over some questions and concerns that the district might have such as: What problems / struggles does the district have? Are there any 7th Tradition problems that the groups are encountering? Are the groups being visited by the DCM and / or Action Committee Chairs? They have filled all the positions with the exception of some alternates. One of the responses was “that the population up north is getting

smaller and participation is limited and some positions are harder to fill.” The DCM, Alternate DCM and Archives Chair attend and visit many of the groups to encourage participation in the District. We let them know that the Area would help out in any possible way for service activities, questions, concerns or problems they might encounter for future reference.

We also went over the Conference Agenda Items and assisted with items that they were not informed of stressing the importance of an “informed group conscience.” The DCM did an excellent job presenting the material.

There are still many Districts that need to be visited and informed of the “7th Tradition” – self-support and where the money goes and what services we provide. In my latest report, I stressed the importance of the groups stepping up to the plate to contribute to the area as our services have increased with the addition of some much needed equipment and software for the committees and the addition of an extra service position. Currently, contributions are down and services are up. So we need to make constant effort to encourage the 7th Tradition. It is not only the Treasurer’s duty and responsibility but all of our responsibility to encourage self-support.

The Birthday plan is also an essential service that is provided and should be utilized on a more frequent basis. In 1955 the General Service Conference approved the Birthday Plan, under which some members of the fellowship send a dollar a year for each year of sobriety they have in AA. Others use a figure of \$3.65, a penny a day, for each year. Some give more, but the amount cannot exceed \$3000.00 for any year. Please encourage use of the Birthday Plan in your Groups and Districts.

In addition, here are some notable Facts to think about: 42.4% of groups contribute to the General Service Office—Costs of Services provided by GSO are \$6.43 per member per year—Cost of Service per group per year is \$138.69—Contributions per member per year \$4.67—Contributions per group per year \$100.69—Costs of Services **NOT** covered through contributions (that must be made up by using literature profits) per member per year \$1.76; AA Literature sales account for 56% of GSO’s income.

Personal thought for you to think about: What is the value of your sobriety? The word “support” has to do with sharing, people, self-respect, gratitude, and what we are privileged to give—not take in material terms.

Yours in Service,
Randy A. - Area 35 Treasurer

SECRETARY’S REPORT

Thank you for the opportunity to continue to serve Area 35 as your secretary.

I conducted a CPC presentation, along with Jon D. from District 13, for 20 Army National Guard Chaplains on April 14 in Arden Hills MN. We presented on what *AA is and is not* and delivered personal stories. These 14 chaplains work with the 14,000 Minnesota National Guard troops and also have their own congregations. Feedback from this group was very positive.

Thank you for sending me to the Area 35 Spring Assembly on April 5-6 in Duluth, MN. I participated in the GSR Orientation by presenting resources available to GSR’s. I also chaired the break-out session on Agenda and Policy and Admissions. I was also on duty as recording secretary for this event. My minutes from this event are published in this Northern Light edition.

In the near future I will be participating in our first Area Zonal Forum on May 17.

In loving service,
Roger R.
Area 35 Secretary

AREA COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC INFORMATION

(PI)

Spring is always a busy time. I know, it didn't really seem like spring with the weather we had to deal with, but you could still pick your days and the seasonal Dairy Queens did all open up at the appropriate time.

I did attend the Spring Assembly in Duluth. Duluth is one of my favorite places to visit and it was good to get back there. The assembly was well attended and the discussion about the agenda items was conducted with diligence and respect. I am really proud to be a member of Area 35.

Area 35 continues to find ways to work cooperatively with Area 36 to make sure that the message of Alcoholics Anonymous is available to those potential members who need it and to those professionals who come into contact with us. We will again be staffing the State Fair booth the first weekend of the fair August 23 and 24, 2014. At this time there are still some open slots to staff the booth on those days. Please consider helping us make the message available through this opportunity. I will also be working with Area 36 to update the AA Information Sheet that was prepared and provided to staffed MN Travel Information Centers. These single page information sheets have regional hotline phone numbers and the link for www.aameetinglocator.org.

If the general purpose of service work in Alcoholics Anonymous is to promote the sharing of the message of hope and healing from one alcoholic to another, then a healthy and active Public Information Committee is crucial. According to the Comprehensive Media Plan that message is, "A.A. It Works."

- The AA message for individuals concerned about their drinking, "If alcohol is a problem for you, contact A.A. It Works."
- The AA message for professionals, "More than 75 years of experience, strength and hope. A.A. It Works."
- The message for members, "One alcoholic helping another for more than 75 years. A.A. It Works."

A strong Area Public Information Committee relies on strong district PI committees. I would encourage DCM's to make sure that they have representation at the committee meetings in Aitkin. This is the best place for people with an interest in PI service to collaborate and learn from each other.

In service,
Jeff C., PI Chair

**COOPERATION WITH THE
PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY
(CPC)**

After the WCRSCAA I attended the District 12 meeting and tried to relay the information I had received to the best of my ability.

I've also been in contact or attempting to contact individuals pertaining to two separate upcoming events. One is the October

Health and Human Services Convention which will be held in Duluth. Area 36 has decided not to participate as it is outside of their area. This weekend the body will decide if we (area 35) are willing to support and man a booth at the Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers (MACPO) which will be held in Breezy Point MN.

This mornings breakout session had 16 in attendance. There was much discussion on districts working with law enforcement, probation, judges, and clergy members. On May 2nd District 16 is sponsoring a luncheon for the professionals in their district. District 7 is having an event on May 15th.

If there is any way that I can assist any district please contact me. Thank you for allowing me to participate and enhance my own recovery.
Servando M., Area 35 CPC

GRAPEVINE

Greetings from northern Minnesota. I have been very busy the past few months. I want to thank you for allowing me to be a part of some extraordinary events.

I attended the assembly in Duluth and certainly learned a lot about the voting process and everybody's thoughts. I am proud to be on the cheerleading team for the Grapevine magazine; it has been a part of my recovery for the last 30 years. It is not without its share of disagreements, however, as Alcoholics Anonymous appears to be able to work out its differences. We were able to have healthy discussions and express our concerns for the delegate to bring to New York. I sold some books and CDs over the weekend and answered a lot of questions. If you have any questions on items available from the grapevine or subscriptions that you may want to order please let me know. I can be reached on the area 35 website: email the Grapevine Chair.

I also had the opportunity to attend the MNYPAA round-up the following weekend at the same event center; it was quite an experience. I just want to say that the enthusiasm and commitment to recovery was evident at any given time of the day. I was able to share with one person what the Grapevine magazine was, how it can help in recovery and how to order one, as she had never heard of it. If one person can get something out of it I believe that is a success.

They also invited me back to the Duluth Round-up in September and I am humbled by the invitation. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this wonderful organization.

Yours in service,
Antonette

P.S. Prayers for Rita

TREATMENT

Greetings from your area 35 treatment chair! I'm Paul, a very grateful alcoholic. I attended the spring assembly in Duluth on April 5th and 6th. We met as a committee in the morning with 2 members present from Districts 2, 14, and 22; also represented were Districts 5, 6, 8, 9 and 13.

We went through our 2 questions and came up with a lot of positive feedback. We also read 3 more pages in the workbook about traditions in treatment facilities and meetings. We came up with 2 more topics for our June meeting: 1) a good format for treatment facility out-patient meetings; 2) collecting unused literature from groups and members to bring into treatment facilities. If any groups or members have literature to donate please bring it to Aitkin in June and we will bring it into treatment facilities in Area 35.

We went through all the agenda items and Jake did an awesome job! I had lunch with Jake's sponsor Spanky from AZ. Yesterday he expressed his gratitude for Jake and is very proud of him! I also get calls from Area 36 regarding the treatment facility temporary contact program; thanks to all of you who help with this.

Yours in service,
Paul M., Area 35 Treatment Chair.

CORRECTIONS

Hello All, I would like to thank you all for this opportunity to serve. On April 23rd I was able to meet up with Mark (jail coordinator) at Sherburne County (which is a Federal and U.S. Marshal holding facility also) they had a volunteer appreciation meeting.

I would like to thank the volunteers that showed up on Thursday, May 1st so the jail was covered, allowing me to attend the Sandstone volunteer appreciation dinner at Sandstone prison, and to

(committee reports> corrections report continued)

meet with the warden and the staff there. We now have AA meetings at Sandstone prison once a month, after talking to the warden and staff they said the turnout is GREAT and they are thinking of adding more AA in the future. Thank you, Arden for allowing me this opportunity to be of service.

The St. Cloud Transition Fair is on May 14th; we do have four people to represent Area 35 in St. Cloud. Thank you all, who are willing to participate; it is the volunteers that make these things possible. I am looking forward to the Transition Fair.

I do plan on going to Todd County to meet with the jail coordinator at the workshop on May 22nd at 7pm. Thank you Todd for taking my spot at Riverplace Treatment Center to make this possible. What a busy month.

Yours in service,
Skip D., Area 35 Corrections Chair

LITERATURE

Greetings. Since the last Area Meeting I visited District 2 where we discussed Literature Agenda Items (for Spring Assembly). I visited District 3 where we went over the hot topics. I attended the WCRSCAA in Minneapolis and had a wonderful time. It's inspiring to see the lengths some people go to be of service. I had a large supply of books this morning (Spring Assembly) but they are going fast, so get yours while supplies last. We had 12 people in attendance at this morning's committee meeting. We went through the Grapevine and Literature Agenda Items during the meeting. I do have some 2009 / 2010 Service Manuals people may have for free. I have some 2011 / 2012 Service Manuals people can have for \$0.50. I will be ordering some 75th Anniversary Edition Big Books when they become available.

In Service,
Jim S., Area 35 Literature Chair

ARCHIVES

Greetings everyone. I was asked to attend the District 15 April Meeting which I did. Their DCM stepped down; the position was filled by the Alternate DCM.

I also attended the Sauk Centre open meeting on April 26th. I plan on attending the St. Cloud Celebration of Recovery this coming weekend on May 2nd. Other than that there is not a whole lot going on at this time. Sure wish some nice spring weather would get here.

Yours in service,
Pete B., Area 35 Archives Chair

ARCHIVIST

Greetings from New Ulm. The 75th Big Book Anniversary here was decently attended with enthusiastic participation. Scott and Carol J. were both presenters. Last week I was at the Superior Round Up which was well attended and had lots of folks touring the display. I have been *pedal to the metal* since the February committee meeting so all I have really got done is load and unload the van. A big shout-out and thank you to the repository landlord because we now have an actual desk for a work space. I am way too tired to be coherent so I am going to sign off. See you all in June or sooner depending on your District.

Brad I., Area 35 Archivist

NORTHERN LIGHT

Greetings Area35. I was fortunate to be able to attend two district meetings, 14 and 12, in preparation for the spring assembly. I was

impressed with the participation of the groups in both districts.

Alcoholic that I am, I was pleased on one hand to see so many A.A.'s in attendance at the Area 35 Spring Assembly in Duluth and on the other hand I was disappointed at not seeing as many of those from Duluth that I had hoped would attend to learn more about what goes on. I had the opportunity to moderate an agenda items breakout session on Report and Charter and was pleased to be able to participate in the general assembly as the voice for that group consensus. I want to express my thanks for the appropriation of funds to purchase a new computer with the latest software for my use in fulfilling the tasks of this position.

I attended the Minnesota Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous conference that took place just after the Spring Assembly in the same hotel in Duluth a week later. I was very impressed and touched by the enthusiasm of the young people and the spirit of acceptance and appreciation by older members. These young people appreciate and understand the importance, the indispensable need to adhere to our Three Legacies while implementing their unique style of expression in celebration of and gratitude for sobriety; the mutual respect of longtimer and shorttimer was nothing short of ecstatic to witness.

Not wanting to miss taking advantage of so many functions requiring little to no travel I attended the Superior Round-up on the last weekend in April for another great weekend of recovery and fellowship. All three of these events were great and while it may have just been my perception I felt a larger sense of unity taking place within them. I liked what Doug R. said about carrying the message to others—that if we only pass on what was passed on to us, there will be no growth; that we are supposed to pass on what was given to us, along with our experience.

This issue includes some major changes as well as some personal input and selection of articles. It is prudent to expect some type of response or reaction when I make or take action. My expectations regarding some of these changes are based on varied experiences and critique of my own recent endeavors and as I am accustomed to doing I will attempt to address what might be a few issues that to some and at least offer a different perspective. I have diminished the sizes of the images and tried to make some of the text of reoccurring items more concise without making the pages seem

too busy. This is basically a *no-no* in today's world, being geared to sights and sounds which are passive rather than reading which takes action. Over and over we come across this dilemma of what we can do or say to get the newcomer to *stick*, now that he or she has gotten here. This is not just a learning and knowing program but a *doing* program. Nice images are great for websites, but this newsletter is for the *actively recovered* or *recovering* A.A. member, and should reflect a sense of taking action, participating in recovery instead of just viewing the images and data. In response to this, I expect a lot of feedback—hopefully positive—but, again, as an alcoholic...

In service,
Rodney S., Northern Light Editor

WEBMASTER

Greeting Area 35. I attended the Spring Assembly, arriving Saturday Morning. I always come away from these learning something new; thank you for this opportunity to serve.

I attended the District 15 April Committee meeting and will continue to help out there where I can.

I met with Bob B. to go over uploading flyers, we have the 2003-14 Service Manual on the Area 35 page now, so we are making progress and I look forward to many more opportunities to learn.

(Committee reports> Webmaster report continued)

Here are the numbers:

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2014	1,812	2,982	11,329	121,180	2.17 GB
Feb 2014	1,681	2,741	9,704	100,831	1.98 GB
Mar 2014	1,973	3,080	10,474	116,300	2.43 GB
Apr 2014	1,999	2,912	11,875	109,046	2.15 GB
May 2014	253	323	1,104	12,694	307.13 MB
Jun 2014	0	0	0	0	0
Jul 2014	0	0	0	0	0
Aug 2014	0	0	0	0	0
Sep 2014	0	0	0	0	0
Oct 2014	0	0	0	0	0
Nov 2014	0	0	0	0	0
Dec 2014	0	0	0	0	0
Total	7,718	12,038	44,486	460,051	9.04 GB

District WEB Pages

Each District has a WEB page on area35.org. They can be found at <http://area35.org/district.html>. Information on the district WEB pages varies from district to district. These pages are for district use. It is up to the district to provide and review the information to display on the page. We will format the information to fit the WEB page. Districts can add minutes, newsletters, reports, meeting agendas, or other items of district interest.

The area35 WEB host allows sub hosting. We could give the Area 35 district web pages their own sub host domain name. A sub host domain name would look like: **district??.area35.org**. Entering the sub host domain into a WEB browser would take the user directly to the district web page.

Some districts choose to maintain their own WEB sites. In these instances the district WEB page on area35.org will transfer the user to the district WEB page.

Let us know your need and we will make it happen.

Sandy Hosch, Area 35 Webmaster

WEB TECHNOLOGY

2014 aameetinglocator Statics (as of May 1, 2014)
www.aameetinglocator.org PC 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
March	2,440	3,056	11,279	18,805	588.48 MB
April	2,042	2,613	9,555	15,994	491.55 MB
Total	8,403	10,636	39,582	66,118	1592.87 MB

m.aameetinglocator.org cell phone 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
March	3,802	5,987	21,425	135,721	3.23 GB
April	3,618	5,621	21,562	130,439	3.09 GB
Total	24,488	22,567	86,249	513,475	12.05 GB

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.

Posting Flyers on the area35 calendar

We were asked to post the following flyer on the area35 calendar. Take a good look at the flyer. What is missing? (The speakers names were removed)

The location for this event was left off of this flyer. This is a common item that is left off of a flyer. All of our flyers should have a location for the event. The location needs to be a full address. The US 911 system gave every location in the US an address. It's a good idea to test the address. Go to

maps.google.com and enter the address. When google finds the address check the map. Did google get the correct location? If google has the wrong location find and click the “?” on the map. Click the “Report a data problem” Answer the questions and google will fix the location. Events on our calendar will use google maps to pin point the location. To use this feature we need an address that includes street, city and state.

It is a good idea not to use local information for the location. Examples are “Debs, MN” or “The Bagley American Legion.”These places have addresses and full names. “Debs, MN” is really The GPS Roosevelt Town Hall, 25053 Debs Rd. NW, Shevlin, MN, United States. The Bagley American Legion” is located at 112 Main Avenue North, Bagley, MN, United States. By using the full address, all AA members will be able to find the event.

When possible include contact information on the flyer. The contact needs to know and approve of putting the information on the WEB. Contact information should never include a last name. Use an e-mail address that does not include a name or a private business name. Use a gmail.com e-mail address vs. mybusiness.com. Before allowing a phone number on the WEB it is a good idea to search the WEB for the phone number. Searching a phone number on the WEB may return full names and address including all family members. One can get a free google phone number. This is a good number to use for AA purposes. A google phone number can be forwarded to another phone. When I see my google voice number on my phone I know that the incoming call is probably about AA. If is not convenient for me to talk about AA I can let the call go to google voicemail. I only use my google phone number for AA. My google voicemail message can be set up for AA.

Here is the corrected Fergus Fall AA potluck flyer. All it took was one line an the meeting is findable.

Bob B.
Area35 WEB Technology
support@area35.org



DISTRICT 3
ROUND ROBIN

Hosted by: Fergus Falls AA

Co-Hosted by: Friday Week-enders

When: **Saturday, May 17th**

Time: 7:00 pm Speakers

8:00 pm Pot-luck

(bring a dish to share)

Sloppy Joes provided by: Friday Week-enders



DISTRICT 3
ROUND ROBIN

Hosted by: Fergus Falls AA

215 E. Junius, Fergus Falls

Co-Hosted by: Friday Week-enders

When: **Saturday, May 17th**

Time: 7:00 pm Speakers

8:00 pm Pot-luck

(bring a dish to share)

Sloppy Joes provided by: Friday Week-enders

(Committee reports continued)

GROUP RECORDS

Hello Area 35. I attended the Spring Assembly April 5-6th in Duluth. We went over the Agenda Items. Our Delegate Jake will have our Area’s input on these items. He has Area 35’s voice in New York.

Also, at the Spring Assembly I was able to print out hard copies and also email to DCMs their group information this way the FNV database can be current.

I have learned that I can not change a name of a group or city. I contact GSO with that information. Also, I can not take a group off the database, that goes through GSO. I can add new groups. But, I need to have a location for the meeting (building, etc.). So please make sure you have this information on the forms, makes this easier and I can get this done. Thank you for including your groups number that is so helpful as I am learning more and more. Work in progress. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Yours in Service,
Rolene L.

Editor’s note:

Recently at our committee meetings and in random discussions with Area Officers there has been much talk regarding the topic of putting flyers in The Northern Light, leaning toward doing this. I believe I received only 2 for this issue. I tend to hold back before acting, then when a decision is made I take on the whole process, making things difficult for me while depriving others of the opportunity to do their part; so when I thought about scanning all the flyers that I have picked up, I ran into the dilemma of where to draw the line. Therefore, I have decided to insert only flyers that you send to me at NorthernLight@area35.org if they are sent to me by the current deadline, provided they are A.A. functions, put on by A.A. groups or special committees, and there is no controversy surrounding them about whether or not they are A.A. sponsored events.

Initially I had wanted to have a special section for the flyers but I believe it will work best to insert them randomly, except possibly for service event flyers. My hope is also that in your search for specific flyers more A.A. members may be attracted by items that they normally might not read.

One final thing: if you feel you are reading too much of “*me*” please feel free to send in articles of your own.

ARTICLES

Does the Area 35 Committee, along with the current rotation of GSR’s belong in congress instead of Alcoholics Anonymous?

It would appear so, as the voting members of the Area 35 Spring Assembly continued to approve more spending despite the three-month decline in group contribution. At one point during discussion of a proposal to purchase a new computer and several software programs Steve L., past Area Treasurer and current Financial Oversight Committee Chair approached the mic to ensure that the voters understand that when they voted in favor of these various items they were also agreeing to shoulder the responsibility to go back to their groups and state their position that these various proposals were indeed, valid needs, and to encourage them to get their contributions up. For the most part, this is what inspired me to write this article.

I had been reflecting on our changing needs, problems, solutions and at times wondering what we seemed to be missing—although I am reasonably certain everyone ever involved with any type of service work has asked themselves that question. I was reading from Alcoholic Anonymous Comes of Age on AA’s Third Legacy (see accompanying story), when thoughts about our specific needs coincided with the words I was reading. I believe most of us are the most passionate about the program when we are “in the literature,” and further believe that the reason for this is our strong connection with anything involving our history and those who have come before us, and our gratitude and awareness of how difficult things were in the beginning and of the recognition of spiritual forces at our aid during those difficult times.

I am not alone in saying that I feel a lot better about spending money when I see where it’s going and that it is being used in the most efficient manner to fulfill whatever need it was intended for. Most of us have family members and friends who are in some way touched by the work we do—directly or indirectly—in jails, prisons, treatment facilities, hospitals, courts, health fairs and other venues throughout society, and because of that we are able to see the necessity for Area expenditures. I hope you read the adjoining article, and after reading I would like to challenge you to ask yourself two questions: “Am I really doing my part in sacrificing ‘time and money,’ no matter which of the quantifiers—little, some, much—I put in front of those two words?” and “Is it really a sacrifice, considering what I receive back?”

The first paragraph of my article, though completely factual, is worded in a farcical manner and as editor of the Northern Light, I

felt it was a good opportunity to express some of the Area’s needs and their validity. The minutes of the Spring Assembly (pages 13-21) contain details of services and their associated expenses—attendance and participation of several action committees events and the aforementioned technical items. As an A.A. member I am simply responsible to pass on information that I am aware of regarding those same needs.

Rodney S.

From pages 140-141, Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age:

...Regarding any particular service, we need to ask only one question: “Is this or that service *really needed*. If it is not, then let it be eliminated. But if it *is* needed, then maintain it we must or fail in our mission to those who want and seek A.A. For twenty years now we A.A.’s have been trying to determine what are needed services and what are not. As I tell the stories of A.A.’s services, I hope that the **vision** of our Third Legacy will come clear.

Let’s begin with my own sponsor, Ebby. When Ebby heard how serious my drinking was, he resolved to visit me. He was in New York; I was in Brooklyn. His resolve was not enough; he had to *take action* and *spend money*. He called me on the phone and then got in to the subway.; total cost, ten cents. At the level of the telephone booth and subway turnstile, spirituality and money began to mix. One without the other would have amounted to nothing at all. Right then and there, Ebby established the principle that A.A. in action calls for the **sacrifice of much time and little money**.

Now let us have a look at one of those little meetings we held that first summer in Akron. We gathered in Dr. Bob’s living room. Anne made her home ready for us, so we had shelter over our heads. There was some expense for coffee and Dr. Bob paid it. If Dr. Bob and Anne had not given these hospitable services, no meeting could have been held.

As the Akron meeting got larger, it moved over to the house of T. Henry and Clarace Williams. They purchased a lot of chairs, served many suppers, and stood for much wear and tear on their house too. We alcoholics did not pay a cent. T. Henry and Clarace **sacrificed** a great amount of **time** and **some money**. If they had not done so there could not have been any meeting.

In these obvious examples I think we can see what the test of an A.A. service really is. Whether it is a book, a translation, a service conference, or a twentieth anniversary convention, the principle is the same; the test is identical: *Do we need this particular service* or do we not. That is the only question.

ARTICLES

THE LONELY EMBER

A member of a certain AA group, who previously had been attending meetings regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, a home group member decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening. The home group member found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his AA friend's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a big chair near the fireplace and waited. The visitor made himself comfortable but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the play of the flames around the burning logs.

After some minutes, the visitor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet fascination.

As the one lone ember's flame diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and "dead as a doornail."

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting.

Just before the visitor was ready to leave, he picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the visitor reached the door to leave, his host said, "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery reminder. I shall be back next week."

The moral of the story: whether it be AA groups or individual alcoholics, together we burn brightly. Alone we die.

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From our Area Secretary Roger R.:

In working on a PI project with a reporter from the St. Cloud Times and Terry B., Chairman of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, I was asked to provide questions and answers on the concept of anonymity in the digital age. This article was published as a front page story on March 30 in the St. Cloud Times and also appeared on the newspaper's website. The questions and answers I provided for this story follow.

1. How big is AA today?

A recent estimate provided by the General Service Office indicates there are 114, 642 groups world-wide with an estimated 2,131,549 members. There is an AA presence in 170 countries. In the St. Cloud, MN area there are approximately fifty weekly group meetings and an estimated 1200 AA members.

2. The name of your fellowship is Alcoholics Anonymous. This suggests anonymity is an important aspect of your organization? For the past 78 years our primary purpose has been and remains the same: to carry our message of recovery to still suffering alcoholics.

Lessons learned by our fellowship, in our early years, lead to the development of twelve important traditions. These traditions serve to keep our fellowship alive and well. Tradition Twelve is: "Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities." Thus anonymity is a critical part of all of our important traditions.

While the individual AA member is anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous as a spiritual fellowship is not anonymous.

3. How is anonymity important for individual AA members? When current members and new members attend AA meeting, their anonymity is protected. Members do not talk about whom they see at AA meetings. This form of anonymity encourages attendance in meetings and membership in AA. At closed meetings

of AA members may, if they wish to do so, disclose their full names.

AA members do not need to be anonymous with friends, family or neighbors. At this level disclosing AA membership is right and good. AA members are often approached on an individual level by potential members seeking a solution to their drinking problem.

Before the general public i.e.: press, radio, films, television and books etc., individual members are strongly discouraged from revealing their full names and pictures.

This discourages individual members from the temptation to gain fame or monetary advantages as a result of their AA affiliation. Also, if an AA member publicly announces his/her AA affiliation and subsequently falls off the wagon so to speak- this occurrence could damage the good reputation of our fellowship.

AA has enjoyed a positive press relationship for many years. This relationship has assisted AA in attracting many members on the basis of positive press. The fact that AA does not publicize its leaders or members has lead to both media intrigue and positive press perceptions.

4. Has AA's tradition of individual anonymity at the level of press radio, film and television been extended to digital communication?

Yes, the theme of the 2012 General Service Conference of AA was: "Anonymity our Spiritual Responsibility in the Digital Age." This annual conference is attended by representatives of areas throughout the US and Canada, as well as AA board members and staff from the General Service Office. Presentations at this conference strongly suggested that communication on the internet is public and at the level of press, radio and film.

5. What about websites?

AA entities at local, regional and national levels maintain websites. In guidelines on internet published by the General Service Office these websites are discouraged from linking to non-AA websites. This protects the anonymity of AA members visiting these sites and eliminates perceptions of AA affiliation with non-AA entities and organizations.

6. How does AA address anonymity on General Social Networking Websites?

Communication on Facebook, Twitter and other social-networking websites is considered to be public. Although users create accounts and enter via usernames and passwords, these are public media in which AA members and non-AA members interact. Individuals are discouraged from identifying themselves as AA members on social networking websites. "Experience suggests that in keeping with the Eleventh Tradition, AA members are encouraged not do disclose AA membership on social networking sites as well as on any other website, blog, electronic bulletin board etc., that is not composed solely of AA members and not password protected, or is accessible to the public. (A.A. Guidelines, Internet, General Service Office, NY, NY.)

7. How does AA handle anonymity and E-Mail?

E-mail is used regularly as a service tool in AA. Many members find it best not to disclose direct AA affiliation in email subject titles. It is also important to consider the anonymity of recipients of messages. Thus it is a good idea to obtain an AA member's explicit permission before using his or her email address for AA correspondence. (A.A. Guidelines, Internet, General Service Office, NY, NY.)

(articles> from Roger R. continued)

8. What about anonymity of AA members on online audio, video such as YouTube and webcasts?

These media are also considered to be public. In these media AA members are also discouraged from showing their full picture and/or disclosing their full names as AA members?

9. What happens when AA members do break their anonymity at the public level?
If the General Service Office becomes aware of the anonymity breach, a staff member may contact a service representative in that member's local area, to contact the individual AA member with concerns about traditions. It is also likely that an individual in that member's local area will contact this AA member.

10. How do individuals who wish to contact Alcoholics Anonymous do so?
On a local level in St. Cloud, AA members maintain a 24-7 assistance line: 320-202-1895.

On a statewide level in Minnesota: aameetinglocator.org; area36.org (Southern MN); and area35.org (Northern MN)
On a national level: AA.org

Fear and Desire

I believe that all of us who come to AA were motivated by some degree of fear. Fear of losing our job; fear of losing our wife (or husband); fear of losing our health; fear of losing our security--fear of something. Each of us has our own conception of what we fear, and I believe that all AAs come to AA because of this fear of something. My fear brought me in, but actual desire kept me going. I began to realize just how sticking to the program will change fear into desire. You gain so much while the change is taking place without even realizing it. If one is sincere, the transition starts to take place and desire begins to predominate in one's thoughts. Then, and only then, in my opinion, does AA really take a hold. Desire brings boundless rewards, helps establish peace of mind and transforms the "hard way" into an easy way to enjoy the real fruits of AA living. For without peace of mind, AA remains a task, a duty performed to avoid repeating unwanted experiences. With it, AA becomes a happy way of living. At least that's my opinion, and I am deeply grateful that I have it. As I once heard at a meeting, "If I could be happier outside AA, I'd chuck it in a minute; but I know I wouldn't be, and that's enough for me." —Sept. 1953 Grapevine.

By Our Attitudes

A LITTLE clock in a jeweler's window stopped one morning at 20 minutes past eight. School children, noticing the time, stopped to play. People on their way to the train stopped to chat a little longer and all were late because one little clock had stopped. Never had these people realized how much they had depended on that clock in the jeweler's window until the day it failed them and led them all astray.
We AAs are very much like that clock. Day after day there are those who are looking to us for guidance and direction on the way of life. If our AA life is functioning properly, we are faithful guides to all who observe us. But if something has gone wrong with our AA way of life, we are stopped clocks, and unfortunate indeed is the man who permits himself to be misled by our example. We who have been helped by AA are as letters of God addressed to our friends and fellow men. By our attitudes, our speech and our behavior are we to show them the transforming power of AA's philosophy of life. —C. T. , St. Paul, Minnesota

Early Public Information Work

When in 1941 the *Saturday Evening Post* assigned Jack Alexander to scout A.A. for a feature story, we had already learned our lesson. Therefore nothing was left to chance. Had Jack been able to get to St. Louis for the convention he himself could have told how skeptical he had been of this assignment. He had just finished doing a piece on the Jersey rackets, and he didn't believe anybody on a stack of Bibles a mile high.
After Jack checked in with us at Headquarters, we took him in tow for nearly a whole month. In order to write his powerful article, he had to have our fullest attention and organized help. We gave him our records, opened the books, introduced him to nonalcoholic Trustees, fixed up interviews with A.A.'s of every description, and finally showed him the A.A. sights from New York and Philadelphia all the way to Chicago, via Akron and Cleveland. Although he was not an alcoholic, Jack soon became a true A.A. convert in spirit. When at last he sat down at his typewriter, his heart was in it. He was no longer on the outside of A.A. looking in; he was really inside looking out. As soon as the article appeared, 6,000 frantic inquiries hit our New York post office. Jack's piece made Alcoholics Anonymous a national institution, and it also made him one of our greatest friends and, finally, one of our Trustees.

The kind of help we gave Jack Alexander—our organized service of public information—is the vital ingredient in our public relations that most A.A.'s have never seen. But in the St. Louis pressroom the visitors did see one aspect of it, working this time for the convention itself. There sat A.A.'s Ralph, handling our contacts with the press. He was surrounded by phones, typewriters, piles of releases, clipsheets, telegrams in and out—all the gadgets of his trade. Now what was he doing and why? Could this be a ballyhooed promotion stunt, something quite contrary to A.A.'s Traditions?

Not a bit of it. Ralph was handling this job simply to help out friends of press, radio, and television. The whole world wanted to know about our twentieth anniversary. Newspapers and magazines wanted interviews and press releases. Radio and television broadcasters wanted to arrange for interviews. People wanted us to explain what we meant when we said A.A. had "come of age."

—A.A. Comes of Age

From the editor:
I know this is recent but I thought it an inspirational piece. It's from this April's Grapevine:

A Texas-sized Text

I bounced around treatment facilities and mental hospitals for seven years, until one day some A.A.'s brought a meeting into a detox in Plano, Texas, and I finally heard the message. After I got a year sober, I knew what I had to do. I joined that group of dedicated A.A.'s and started helping out. I knew I had found my calling! But soon I became a little disappointed. It seemed like none of the patients were interested in receiving the message. I even gave them my personal phone number if they asked. Within a few months, I went from being completely gung-ho to wondering if I was wasting my time.
The one day I received a text message from a former patient at the detox. She said she had once thought A.A. was stupid and not for her, but the caring way I looked at her and the love she felt convinced her to go to meetings and get a sponsor. She said I had made a big difference in her life.
I am now the treatment rep for my home group and go into at least two institutions a week to carry the message. I wish everyone in recovery could experience the fulfillment I feel while doing this kind of service.

Kristen K.
Farmers Branch, Texas

Area 35 Spring Assembly Minutes**April 5-6, 2014****Holiday Inn, Duluth MN****Roger R. Area 35 Secretary****Convened by Sarah K.**

Why We Need a Conference: Reading

Recognition of Past Delegates in Attendance: Tim C., Tom A., Susie A, Bob J., Jerry S., Tom L., Bruce B., and Jim K.

Recognition of GSR's in attendance.

Sarah K. introduced break –out sessions on agenda items.

Sarah K. reviewed voting qualifications for motions at assemblies: GSR's, DCM's, Area Officers and Chairs.

OFFICER REPORTS:**Delegate- Mike (Jake) J.**

Welcome to our agenda assembly. Thanks for your participation. Service is gratitude in action and the result of The 12 Steps of AA. I hope you are enjoying serving as much as I do. Am I too busy sometimes? Yes! Other times I search for those opportunities that continue to fill my life with wonder. I am looking forward to serving as your Delegate to the General Service Office and carrying our spiritual and traditional values to the conference. I hope you enjoy the weekend and realize that in order to learn their must be some confusion. It will bring you greater understanding. Ask questions of those around you. Utilize the past delegates and others that have been here, they will feel honored to share their experience with you. Remember to share from your heart we are not here to debate any individuals value or right to share. Believe it or not most of our agenda items are not life and death to newcomers; they are changes that new people will seldom notice.

I have been busy reading and discussing our agenda items with other A.A.'s and shared with 2 districts in their discussions. Thank you districts 9 and 16.

I have attended and spoke at a few open meetings, along with spending time at the Winter Wrap--up, enjoying good speakers and fellowship. I have participated in a couple of conference calls, one with our regional delegates and trustee and one with the Grapevine board and our conference committee. It is interesting listening to the other personalities that surround us, some that listen much and say little, others that talk a lot and those that have good humor. Just like a meeting! I hope that we all come together and carry Gods will to our General Service Conference. May we be blessed in thought and actions. I have started calling to the districts to offer assistance and listen to some of the problems going on, encouraging each in what they are doing. I hope to continue this regularly. From what I have read in the conference and what I bring to my own area is as important as what I will be doing at the GSC. Maybe more so I feel. I am encouraging districts to set dates for my report and hope that some can get together but as I travel I will be just as pleased to make many more acquaintances in your districts. May God bless each of our journeys.

Alternate Delegate- Kelly D.

Greetings Area 35.

It is great to be here with all of you at our first Spring Assembly of this new rotation. I look forward to a great weekend of business and fellowship with all of you. I attended the GSR Orientation this morning and presented on certain topics along with the other Area Officers. We had 39 in attendance and 20 of them were new GSR's. I again would like to thank them for their commitment to service.

We had our first Area 35 Committee Meeting in February and

were given the Agenda Items for this year's General Service Conference from our Delegate Jake. I have had the opportunity to go over these in detail twice already when I attended the WSRAASC in St. Louis Park, MN February 28-March 2nd and again with my home District 5 on March 17th. I would like to thank the Area for the opportunity that was given to attend this conference (my full report is in this issue of Northern Light) and District 5 for their invitation to join them. Little Jake, did a great job facilitating District 5's Agenda Item Meeting and I believe between the two of us we were able to pass on information on the items needed so they could form a group decision on how they will vote on those items here this weekend.

Our Area 35 Service Workshop was held in Moorhead on January 17-18th, I hope many of you were able to attend, it was a great weekend of service topics and fellowship. I have a full report on that weekend along with the evaluations also in this issue of the Northern Light. Please take the time to read them.

I have set up our first Zonal Forum of this rotation. It will be in Zone 1 which includes Districts 1, 2, 16 and 21 on May 17, 2014 at the Bemidji Alano Club from 12:00-4:00 pm. Special thanks to District 21 for hosting this event. I have been in contact with those Districts and have sent them our Agenda and have asked them to discuss within their Districts how we can be most helpful to them. The flier I have created explains what a Forum is along with a little history (with the help of Tom A.) on why they started, why they are important and who should attend. I believe this will generate more interest and participation. If you are a part of that Zone please plan to attend and bring your ideas and concerns to us.

I have also set up and signed the final contract for our next Area 35 Service Workshop. It will be held at Barker's Island Inn and Conference Center in Superior January 18 – 19, 2015. Our quest speaker for that weekend will be Greg T., Publications Director from the General Service Office. I will have the Agenda completed, the Districts that will be participating along with guidelines to follow on the service topics sometime this fall so stay tuned.

I would like to thank the Districts that send me their minutes and encourage all the District to do the same. If I can be of assistance to any of you in any way please let me know. Thank you for the opportunity to be of service.

Chair-Sarah K. Hello Area Committee. I am thrilled to see so many of you here this weekend ready to fulfill our responsibility pledge, and do the work that is needed to ensure that the fellowship will remain viable for all those to come. I have been working on perpetuating a healthy Area by trying to facilitate the communication and interaction between the Area Committee Chairs and the Districts. I have tried to connect the DCMs and Area Action Committee chairs. As a result, I was thrilled to see that many, most, nearly all Districts had Area Action committee chairs in attendance at the GSC agenda item discussions. I hope it was useful for the Districts. I welcome feedback on how we can better this process.

I anticipate that the action committee will continue to be resources for the DCMs in the ensuing months as they communicate with the districts to identify and meet the needs of the groups and Districts. DCMs and GSRs (all AA members) are encouraged to let the Area know of their concerns, successes, needs, suggestions and ideas for creating a healthy Area. As always the Action Committee chairs are encouraged to make sure they are knowledgeable on their guidelines and the expectations of their committee position, that they read their emails closely and respond promptly - taking action where necessary, and that they continue to innovate ways to facilitate a healthy area.

In other news, I have been working with Southern MN and

(minutes continued)

DCM 12, Christine, to establish that the Joint Area 35/36 Workshop will be held from 10-2 on Nov. 1, 2014, at the Calvary Lutheran Church in St. Cloud.

Finally, I have thoroughly enjoyed communicating with various action committee chairs about issues that have arisen as they are engaged in exploring their new positions, and am excited at seeing them get to work. Please know that I am always available for support and I love to hear from you! Together we can ensure that the hand of AA is there for the still suffering alcoholic for years to come. I am deeply grateful to have the opportunity to serve and support the Area in any way I can.

Secretary- Roger R.

I have been busy as Area 35 Secretary. Thank you for sending me to the WCAARSC in MPLS MN from March 1-3. My report on this event is in the current Northern Light.

Following the WCRAASC I completed minutes of the February Area Committee Meeting, which are also in the current NL. I was asked to present and lead a discussion of the Hot Topic Agenda items for District 13 on March 24. I prepared a Power-Point presentation of the Hot Topic Agenda Items for this meeting. Mike J. our Delegate is also going to be using this PPT in our area discussion of agenda items and hot topics.

I began working on a PI project last December with a St. Cloud Times reporter who wanted to write an article on anonymity in the digital age. I would like to thank Past Delegates Tom A. and Susie A, Bob B. our Technical Support Chair, and Terrance B. (Non- Alcoholic) who is Chairman of our General Service Board for their participation in this project. This article was published as a front page story on March 30 in the St. Cloud Times and also appeared on the newspaper's website.

For the current Spring Assembly I participated in the GSR Orientation by presenting resources available to GSR's. I will also be chairing the break-out session on agenda and policy and admissions. I will be on duty as recording secretary for this event. Area officers, chairs and DCMs- please send me your reports via email by April 13.

In near future activities I will be participating in our first Area Zonal Forum on May 17. I will also be participating in a CPC presentation to 20 Army National Guard Chaplains on April 14 in Arden Hills MN.

Treasurer- Randy A.

We attended the WCRAASC on Mar. 1, 2, & 3rd, 2014. There were over 450 people in attendance. On Saturday, we attended the breakout session on Finance/ Self-support with topics inclusive to the 7th tradition, prudent reserve, birthday plan and contribution methods. The general rule of thumb for most groups for a prudent reserve is 3 months operating expenses. A prudent reserve is an emergency contingency plan to help meet the group's needs in the event of an unexpected shortfall of the groups finances. There were also discussion on various methods of contributions which included the birthday plan: which are contributions for an individual's number of year's sobriety. Contributions for \$1.00 per year or as much as he or she wishes to contribute up to \$3000.00 annually. At the Area level, you can also request that your group be credited. In other business, group contributions have been on the decline the last 2 years as well as the last 2 periods of this year. Groups need to step up the contributions for this year to meet the needs of our services we provide. We all play an integral part and need to go to the groups and inform them of the importance of our 7th tradition. There are other contributing factors that play a part such as two new added expenses to the area: one is the new "Web Technology" position and the other is the "District Travel" expenses. We have also

added some much needed equipment such as laptops and computer software for committees to do their jobs effectively. Total Group contributions for the year were \$ 5,282.06. Total B-Day contributions were \$ 13.00, Current Assets: Area 35 Checking Account = \$ 11,329.11. Grapevine cash account = \$ 1,030.11. Northern Light mailing = \$75.00. Savings/ prudent reserve = \$ 6,038.10 for total current assets of \$18,472.32. Please feel free to e-mail or call for any questions or inquiries pertaining to our current Area 35 Account. Also, please share the financial reports with your groups to inform them of our current status.

COMMITTEE CHAIR AND DCM REPORTS:

Webmaster – Sandy H.

Hello everyone I'm Sandy H., alcoholic, currently serving as area 35 webmaster. I attended the WCRAASC in the twin cities, a very learning experience. I also attended District 18's committee meeting. My report is in the Northern Light. I have been in contact with Rolene L. helping where I can with group records. Hits on the area site include unique visitors for April 277 for the year 5,743 number of visitors in April 320 for the year 9,123. I went to Cold Spring & picked up the northern light, Thursday.

There were 9 people at our committee meeting this morning. Districts 3, 11, & 13 were represented. Rodney is busy working with publisher and doing some formatting. Rolene is learning FNY. Our goal is to get an accurate FNY data base. The busy part of the web is keeping the calendar up to date. Much discussion on district meetings, minutes, & flyers to post or not on the web.

Treatment- Paul M.

Greetings from your Area 35 Treatment Chair. We met as a committee on April 5, in Duluth. We had a very uplifting spiritual meeting. We had 11 in attendance including 2 from district 21, 2 from 14, 6, 8, 9, 13 and 5.

District 6 all treatment facilities are being met with their needs; also bringing a meeting to one out of their district. District 8 stresses the importance of sponsorship in their meetings, District 21 is bringing unwanted literature into their treatment facility. District 9 reports their 2 meetings are going fine. District 14 has a new Alternate Treatment Chair. Welcome, Mike. They are servicing 1 out patient treatment facility at this time. District 13 has 5 on his committee bringing meetings into 9 different TF and is going well. District 6 brought Spanish books into their jail. District 5 has a core group of speakers for the two treatment facilities they serve. We went through two questions about what does work bringing meetings into treatment centers and the second question is what doesn't work in bringing meetings into treatment centers. We came up with a lot of positive feedback. We also came up with two more questions for our next committee meeting which meets in June in Aiken. The first question is what's a good format for an outpatient program meeting and the second question is bringing used material into treatment facilities. We also went through a couple pages in the workbook discussing the 12 traditions and treatments facilities and how they apply. I also attended the West Central Regional A.A. Conference in St. Louis Park and sat in on archives and treatment agenda items. I thank Area 35 for sending me to this event. I attended all of the meetings and speakers. I want to thank Garrett and Jake for doing an outstanding job representing Area 35 in their presentation at the conference. I would also ask that any groups or districts that have unwanted literature, to bring it to the next area committee meeting in Aitkin so I can give literature out to my committee members.

District 21—Irv R.

District 21 has had a strong and enthusiastic start of the year. GSR (up to 12 attending meetings) and committee chair participation has been great (CPC, PI and Group Records showing improvement). New treatment meetings have been started. Literature has gone out to jails and jail meetings are going well. By

(minutes continued)

making our inventory of literature available we have increased our bank account balance. By doing this we have been able to order \$500.0 of the Anniversary Big Book issue.

District 6—Garrett B.

My name is Garrett and I am an alcoholic, DCM for District 6. I attended the west central regional service workshop and had a great time and got lots of good feedback on the agenda items to bring back to our district. We had our agenda items meeting on march 15th where we further discussed them so I could get a good idea of how the district felt about the agenda items; the turn out was good. We had 8 people there with some of our new GSR's present. Our treasurer has resigned so we will be looking to fill the position at the next district meeting. I'm going to continue to get out to the different groups in the district and assist them anyway we can. Participation has been great so far and I have had lots of support from the other chairs.

District 5 – Dean M.

My name is Dean and I am the DCM of District #5 and an alcoholic. Greetings from every one in district 5. First of all I would like to thank everyone that has kept everything going so well in our district. Some of you may know I had medical as well as personal issues. It is so cool how members of AA and the district step up to the plate when they are needed and for that I say thank you so much. At the service work shop in Moorhead, MN district 5 presented on the topic "Inventory, a guiding tool for our future," our Alternate DCM Jon, Shane – A GSR for The Way Out Group, and Joy – A GSR for Sunday Night Solutions did the presentation. From what I heard it went very well and lead into Jake our CPC/PI chair and Garret – DCM for district 6 presenting at the WRAASC. The district is still looking to fill the Literature/Grapevine chair, Corrections, and Archives. The district is currently looking for more treatment centers to carry the message in; We also have a group looking for a treatment center to in to and carry the message. We are still going into Sherburne and Milaca county jails. All of us from district 5 love to work hard to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholics and the newcomers to our meetings.

District 4—Ray F.

District 4 is off to a great start this year. All of our chair positions are full. Our groups are strong and fully self-supporting. We currently have a staffed AA hotline. District 4 has some wonderful members that are doing jail meetings. We have been invited into our Community Behavioral Health Hospital to lead meetings. We are very excited about this as there is tremendous need of our message.

One of our current district goals is to improve our PI-CPC relations. Jeff C. graciously accepted an invitation to our most recent district meeting to help steer us in the right direction. Jeff also answered some questions regarding the hot top agenda list. A big thanks to Jeff and all those who give of themselves and their time in the name of recovery.

NORTHERN LIGHT- Rodney S.

Greetings Area 35. If I appear to be hitching like an old man, wincing, or otherwise struggling it is the result of some bruised ribs caused by a slip I had yesterday on the way to an early meeting. Fortunately I was wearing a stocking cap, so I didn't bend my good hat all out of shape.

I attended the District 14 Meeting in International Falls on March 11th and also one for District 12 in Superior. I was happy to add anything that I could, from my experience of attending the NWRAASC in St. Louis Park. I was also able to give some input to District 14 from my experience of seeing the growth of District 12, in their approach to going over the agenda items in preparation for the Spring Assembly over the past sev-

eral years, and I brought some input from District 14 for possible future use in District 12. I was very impressed with the number of and quality of participation of groups in District 14, especially in the wake of having only a year and-a-half ago been on the brink of either merging with another district or going dark.

I was also impressed with various groups' participation in District 12.

I want to make a quick apology about the Sterns County Round-up information. I didn't put it in the Northern Light because the printed issue wouldn't come out in time; however the on-line version would have had it up for about 6 days.

I have made considerable changes with the May / June issue already and I have lots of room for your reports and articles.

I was asked to moderate one of the breakout sessions and doing so is a way to express my gratitude for being given the opportunity to play a bigger role as a part of Area 35.

PI – Jeff C.

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the WCRAASC in Bloomington MN. My report from that event is in the March/April Northern Light. I also had the opportunity to attend the District 4 meeting on March 15.

At the combined PI/CPC action committee meeting at the spring assembly there were 16 people in attendance representing 11 different districts.

We reviewed the agenda and format of the spring assembly. Specifically we reviewed the agenda process and the reason that this process is important for us as an area. We encouraged people to share their experience and informed opinion in the discussion of agenda items. We especially encouraged the sharing of minority opinions.

At the area level there are a few Public Information items that bear mentioning. Roger R. worked with the general service office and the St Cloud Times to get an article published discussing AA anonymity and the digital age. We will be voting at this conference to support and staff a booth with area 36 at the 2014 MN State Fair. I will be updating a contact sheet for use at staffed MNDOT travel centers throughout the state of MN. This sheet includes the address for the statewide meeting locator and hotline phone numbers from across the state. The purpose of the sheet is to help travelers in MN find A.A. resources.

District representatives shared their current Public Information activities. District activities include publishing and distributing meeting lists, district phone lines, distribution of AA publications, beginners meetings and PSAs. I appreciate the opportunity to be of service.

Literature – Jim S.

Good Morning, Since the last Area meeting I visited district 2 where we discussed the Literature Agenda items. I visited district 3 where we went over the hot topics. I attended the WCRSCAA in MPLS and had a wonderful time. It's inspiring to see the lengths some people go to be of service. I had a large supply of books this morning but they are going fast so get yours while supplies last. We had 12 people in attendance at this morning's committee. We went through the Grapevine and Literature Agenda items during the meeting. I do have some 2009-2010 Service manuals people may have for free and I have some 2011-2012 Service manuals people can have for \$.50. I will be ordering some 75th anniversary edition big books when they become available. I do have a sheet at the back table for anyone to place an order for something that I do not have.

District 3-Steve D.

Good afternoon and greetings from District 3. My name is Steve D. and I am an alcoholic. DCM for District 3. It seems

(minutes continued)

such a short time since the Area 35 Committee meetings in Aitkin. Much has happened in the interim.

District 3 continues to hold monthly district meetings the third Sunday of the month at the Perham Alano. We meet at 10:00 am. Group representation stays fairly consistent. We continue to have GSRs bringing new people to help them experience service at the district level. Our new chairs are in place and beginning to develop goals for the upcoming two years.

Here are some of the District 3 goals we will work on.

Technology utilization

By the end of July, the District will have a streamlined e-mail communication. This will allow us to get information out to our groups as quickly as possible.

By the end of 2014, we will have a written procedure for delivering and receiving information from Groups, districts and area members.

Group Participation

By the end of 2014, the District 3 chairs will attend 50% of the groups in our district. This will allow us to identify groups that are not active but would like to be.

It will give us an opportunity to carry the message of service to all groups in the district.

GSR Participation at the Area Level

By the end of 2014, we would like to have a 25% increase in GSR attendance at Area and Regional functions.

By the end of July, we would like to explore the possibility of using District funds to supplement GSRs whose groups cannot fully fund their abilities to attend some Area Functions.

By the end of 2014, develop a written procedure outlining how to use district funds for supplementing GSRs. (Based on the supposition that we approve the previous goal.)

Carrying the Service Message

By the end of September, District 3 will host a Service workshop designed to help groups understand the importance of Group Service.

By the end of July, determine if we can partner with District 6 in Area 52 and the FM Intergroup on hosting a past delegate/trustee panel focused on providing information on AA service at all levels.

We believe these goals will help us as groups and individuals to, “become of maximum service to God and the people about us.” We are excited about creating more enthusiasm in carrying the message to those who still suffer.

District 1 – Jon S.

Attendance at winter District meeting has been low. Treasury is sitting at \$918.65. Spring Fling on March 8 was a success. Jail meetings are problematic with request for attendance at a five hour class on how to tattle tail on inmates- in conflict with our traditions. Also a problem that we have only one inpatient treatment facility in our district. Next district meeting is on April 13.

Group Records- Rolene L.

Hello Area 35, first Assembly of this rotation. I have been working on updating groups and Districts information to the best of my ability. There is a lot of information. I have updated the

Northern light mailing list, I only received 6 back. If anyone would like to receive one or if you are not getting one, please see me this weekend.

And when you send me information to change your group information please make sure you have your group number on it, to be more helpful.

I attended District 8’s agenda item meeting March 15th, there was low attendance. But the members presenting information did a thorough job. I was there to give them any information I had from attending the WCRAASC.

DCM’s also see me after to pick up your Northern Light for your Districts. And if you would also let me know if you’d like a hard copy of your group records, I will also be emailing them to you.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service. I am a work in progress-slowly but surely.

District 11- Bill C

Our district has grown by one meeting. I was not able to attend the District 6 Agenda meeting. Gary continues to see that our corrections commitments are being met. Our CPC Chair is getting literature out to clinics.

District 13 - Christine G.

March has been a busy month with GSRs having extra meetings with their groups to discuss agenda items. We would like to thank Roger R., Bob B. and Brad I. for helping District 13 facilitate the review of the agenda items on March 24th. We had a good turnout of GSRs and committee members. I feel we had a good representation of the district. I did have the opportunity to attend the WCRASC on Saturday. It was a great experience.

Public Information has been busy with registering all our new GSRs with GSO. Mark is also making sure all our group information is correct with group records for the upcoming directories. All PSAs with Charter have updated and he continues to keep all our racks and the Alano Club filled with pamphlets and meeting schedules.

Corrections has been working with Stearns County Jail during their remodeling to ensure that meetings are still available. Our volunteers have adjusted their times and schedules to ensure that we are still carrying the message.

CPC had a booth for the Project Homeless Connect on March 6th at the Civic center. The booth went very well and Frank was able to connect with professionals about our AA program as well as with members of the community that may be struggling with our disease. He is also working with our Treatment Chair, Mike, to see if we can get meetings brought back in to Detox. He is also working with the VA to see how we can better serve them.

Treatment has been busy coordinating all the meetings we have being brought into the facilities. Mike is working at getting together a committee to help him with ensuring all meetings are being covered.

District 13 is working at getting all GSRs involved on an action committee so our Chairs have the support and help in making their committee successful.

Lastly, we continue to visit groups in the district to let them know that we are here to help in any way.

Grapevine – Antonette F.

We had 12 present for our morning session. Districts 1, 3, 5, 8, 9, 12,&15 represented. Literature and Grapevine combined meeting. We truly are powerless and our lives are unmanageable because we started discussing the "hot" topics and didn't realize we were supposed to have a meeting at that time. My apologies. What was clear to me is that everybody had done their home-

(minutes continued)

work. We had great discussions on grapevine topics and a couple of literature topics until we ran out of time. I am learning about "review" "consider" and "reconsider" and we talked at great length about things of importance. We continued in the afternoon breakout section and I believe we had a good idea of how we felt about "Alcoholism at large" pages, "special needs" pamphlets at the rights of the AA board to make format decisions to name a few. Everyone came together in the very long evening to pass our votes on to our Delegate to represent us in New York. I love Alcoholics Anonymous because the AA member is the power, we are but trusted servants. Grapevine material for sale as well as subscription information. The Grapevine will be turning 70 this year with no plans for retirement. If anyone wants me to help with anything, contact me on the area website or at antbob40@yahoo.com. Thanks for allowing me to serve. Loving my job.

District 8- Jerry B

Hi, I'm Jerry B. & I'm an alcoholic, DCM Dist. 8. At our latest District Meeting, attended by 21 representing 10 groups, we elected a new Grapevine / Literature Chair (Patti C.) & also a new Alt. Corrections Chair (Jonas P.) filling all of our committee chair positions. All's going well with our Beginner's Meeting & all our other commitments are being fulfilled. We held a GSC Agenda item meeting on March 15th; attendance was poor, however, there were a lot of questions, comments, & suggestions pertaining to the Agenda by those that did attend. Thanks to Rolene L. for rep. Area 35 & helping us out. I felt that those that presented various topics all did an excellent job with their research on the "HOT TOPICS" & other info. I attended the WCRAASC in Minneapolis where there also was a great discussion about the agenda held by the seven states in our region. It helped when it came time to discuss agenda items in our district. District 8 will be helping with coffee serving & registration at the Spring Assembly. Thanks to all who volunteered with this portion of service work. Gratefully yours in service, Jerry.

District 15- Clint J. Report was delivered at assembly.

Corrections- Skip D.

Good day all. Well to start, we had 9 people in attendance this morning. Districts 2, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 16, 18, and 21 were represented. It seems we are still having trouble getting volunteers into our correctional facilities in Northern Minn.

District 18 is going to start a meeting at Todd County Jail on June 5th 2014, nice work for this is a meeting AA was asked not to come back, we broke the rule NO physical contact.

Stearns County is no longer allowing people with a felony to participate in meetings at the jail. Sherburne County is no longer allowing people who have been incarcerated at Sherburne County within the past 10 years to volunteer.

The transition fairs in the prisons are beginning to fire up, so if it is in your District I will be asking for your help.

We do have AA back in Sandstone prison, THANK YOU ALL who have made this possible. Another thing that was brought up is, if you are taking meetings into a jails or prisons PLEASE let your District or myself know, so we know where the help is needed.

I did attend District 6 Agenda Item meeting, we were able to go through the hot topics and more. good food, good company. Thank you District 6.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

District 2—Mike H.

Greetings from District 2. On Monday March 24th I traveled to Middle River to attend there meeting and to share about business going on in the area and the district. Their group seemed to be

doing well despite low numbers in the winter season. I have traveled to several groups now, and plan on visiting every group at least one time within this rotation. Also we held our District Business meeting on March 9th with 7 in attendance and we were fortunate to have our area 35 literature chair in attendance. There has been a question about finding information on the duties of all the district chair positions, I called the GSO phone number and was told there was good info in the pamphlet the AA group concerning The secretary and treasurer, but as far as finding info on all the districts positions we are lacking a set duty list. During the business meeting we also talked about starting up our annual round up again. We have not had one now for 2 years, and we are looking for excitement to start it up again. Also I expressed the idea to have a second meeting in March to invite an area officer to help our district go over the Agenda items for the Spring assembly, the motion was put to a vote however all voting members voted against having a second meeting. Another thing discussed was the idea of having tear off system with an anonymous help line that we could hang at different locations within the district. Our next meeting is scheduled for May 14th in Middle River.

District 9—Fred H. All of our chairs are filled. Jerry G.'s home-made donuts are helping attendance. We are meeting our commitments for corrections and our beginners meeting is self-supporting. We are working on getting a phone assistance line. Our Delegate's Report will be on May 31.

CPC—Servando M. After the WCRSCAA I attended the District 12 meeting and tried to relay the information I had received to the best of my ability.

I've also been in contact or attempted to contact individuals pertaining to two separate upcoming events. One is the October Health and Human Service Convention which will be held in Duluth. Area 36 has decided not to participate as it is outside of their area. This weekend the body will decide if we (Area 35) are willing to support and man a booth at the Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers (MACPO) which will be held in Breezy Point MN.

This mornings breakout session had 16 in attendance. There was much discussion on districts working with law enforcement, probation, judges, and clergy members. On May 2nd District 16 is sponsoring a luncheon for the professionals in their district. District 7 is having an event on May 15th.

If there is any way that I can assist any district please contact me. Thank you for allowing me to participate and enhance my own recovery.

DISTRICT 16 - GRIFFIN M.

- Our Treatment and Secretary Chairman positions are still open – all others are filled.
- Attendance at our last District meeting was 11.
- Two weeks ago our Delegate Jake and his wife came to our District to talk to us about this year's agenda – 13 people attended – 2 of them had never been to a District meeting this year.
- Our PI/CPC Team has put together a PI Luncheon on May 2nd at the Saw Mill. The Iron Range Get Together Friday Speaker, Johnny J. from Winnipeg, will be speaking. Next week we are hosting another bonus district meeting – purpose is to encourage members to invite professional to the Luncheon – we are hoping to have 30-35 professionals attend. Thanks be to Mary S. and Dan H.
- We are carrying the message to four of the treatment centers in our district.

(minutes continued)

- Weekly Jail meetings are happening thanks to our corrections chair Tike S.

This year I have not attended as many AA groups as I would have liked to given my service position as DCM. I am aware that visiting groups may be the most important role of a DCM. Since our last Committee Meeting on 02/23/14 I've attended two different groups, the Virginia winter wrap up, facilitated our district meetings and bonus meetings, brought meetings to one of our adolescent boys treatment programs and went back to school. I did not attend the WCRAASC – I would have liked to have seen Garrett and Jake's presentation.

Reference to:

‘AA Comes of Age’ tradition four – *Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole.*

‘Grapevine Quote of the Day’ April 4th - *"I am responsible as a trusted servant to be informed -- my group expects and deserves that. That responsibility requires me to take action, to do some reading, and to find out what the principles say -- not what I think ... The beautiful thing about AA is that we don't have to reinvent the wheel. We have directions and guidelines that we can follow; they were hammered out on the anvil of experience by those who have gone before us."*

It is a privilege to walk in the footsteps of service Giants like those in this room. I am grateful, and learning from, the new friendships inside of District 16 and within area 35 as a result of service.

District 7— Carl P. Greetings from district 7. It's been a busy year. I was able to get to the workshop in January and the WCRAASC in February. They were great for gleaming some knowledge from our past service people and some of those who are in service positions now. We had a district pot luck for the GSO agenda items last week. Our past delegate Jim K. was able to attend. We are planning a CPC event for May 15 and also a group has come forward to sponsor a founder's day picnic in June. We are having a district 7 picnic on July 13.

We are fortunate to have all our district service positions filled. Our alternate DCM has been busy going to outside meetings and drawing up a district newsletter. I have been able to get to a few outside meetings. I was able to get to the district 18 meeting this week. I plan to visit several more district meetings to get ideas about how to improve our own district meetings.

I look forward to the challenges of this rotation as I am sure it will be a great learning and rewarding experience. Thank you for letting me be of service to you all.

Pete B.—Archives I attended the District 1 Spring Fling in Fertile and asked the DCM if there was anything I could do to assist the district. I chaired the Stearns County Round-up which 239 people attended.

There were seven of us at our archives committee meeting this morning representing districts: 8, 12, 13 and 18. Leslie M. from District 12 has received documents dating back to the 1950's. She is also going to visit the intergroup archives display in Akron, Ohio. Dave S., Alternate Archives Chair from District 8 has been setting up archives displays at district events. He also mentioned the Ely AA Group will be 65 years old soon. We also discussed archives agenda items.

I plan on attending District 15 meetings and offering whatever help I can and plan on attending the district 18 meeting some time in the near future.

District 12 - Rillis E.

District 18- Neil R. Hi all everything is going well. We have all

committee chairs filled except CPC-PI and Archives. Most of our groups are doing okay; there are two that are struggling with support but are hanging in there. We had a meeting on the 29th of March to go over background information. We are still having a problem with a lack of participation from GSR's at district meetings. Upcoming events—Aug. 26 Staples round robin.

Archivist- Brad I.

Since the workshop I have been very busy. I attended the WCRAASC in St. Louis Park, brought an Archives display to Fargo for the Winter Warm-up, brought a P.A. to Virginia for the Winter Wrap-up, brought a display to the Stearns County Round-up, went to my mother-in-laws 80th birthday and am now here. I have not had much time to work on the inventory this month. I also managed to set off the alarm at the repository.

There has been one recent contribution and I have it here. It is the framed Keeley cure ad from a 1890 something Minneapolis Tribune.

For upcoming events I will have the full display at the Superior Round-Up in 3 weeks and then the next week I will be in New Ulm for a 75th anniversary Big Book workshop.

I have been receiving minutes from several districts but not all. DCM's please make sure that I am on your mailing list.

WCRAASC Report:

I attended the Archives breakout session at the conference. One of the questions was "What do you do if a well known circuit speaker is giving a "History talk" that is full of misleading errors? Sit quietly and answer questions afterwards was the consensus. I also attended the self support session.

We discussed prudent reserves, birthday plans, contribution verification and too much money in group treasuries.

Regional trustee Andrew W. gave his report to close the conference. "The board learned a lesson from the interlocking board initiative and how items need to be brought to the fellowship. Both boards are working better with each other and finally are sharing minutes of each others meetings and unity is improving. The G.V. office is moving to the 11th floor and should be in place by August. The goal is to have both offices on the 11th floor by 2015.

2013 was the highest dollar amount in contributions and the Grapevine had a good year moneywise. The board moved 1.5 million from the general fund to the pension fund to reduce the pension insurance cost. Both boards are now being diligent about lines of communication Thanks again for this opportunity to be of service,

District 14—Deb A.

Business Not Completed Saturday

GSR Sharing Session Report

Leslie, Chair; Shane, Secretary; Serenity prayer
Vicki reads page S-40 of the Alcoholics Anonymous Service Manual.

Combining Agenda's here:

We have 5 previous questions from the January workshops.

1. Butch, District 8- Wants minutes printed ASAP after the meeting and collection is needed- yes or no?
2. Bob, District 9- What are some good ways to deal with per-

(minutes continues)

sonalities over principles?

4. Justin (For a closed meeting) - Singleness of purpose where do we draw the line with a newcomer that is in need of N.A. or an open meeting. Does that hurt my group? Are there resources? Where is the line? Are there references.

5. Jim (G.S.R.) They're not mailing and doesn't get the local area flyers/events and can't run a computer?

Bob-spin off 5- What is the policy to receive flyers and local info?

Todd- spin off 5- If you go to the round up, it's about signing up there to get flyers?

Jim-spin off 5- If you can or can't make the round up and your G.S.R. doesn't, no flyers?

Chip- spin off 5- Flyers are available over the internet.

Leslie questions, Open or closed about question #4

Mike GSR, District 14 said it's important to have maybe the treasurer in regards to question 4.

Myron- let's leave the table open for all questions.

Angie--Alcoholics 3 minutes a question 2 minutes limit for answering. All in favor—unanimous.

Angie will keep time.

What are some way to address principles before personalities?

Angie alcoholic she says stay to the script in meeting host structured meetings, find function.

Vicki states that there is no balance in any change on both sides it's ruining the meetings they would settle for NA instead of putting up with it. She asks for feedback?

Liz would suggest an informed group conscience to bring the AA's together terms wise.

Roman replies the group changes for each other as a whole.

Cassidy said he had the same issue and uses the blue card now.

Mike district 13 asked does the group do district meetings and group inventories and Vicki replies yes then mike said the only desire is to stop drinking.

Michelle district 15 Likes "Roberts rules" individual is always drunk a logs. And wastes the group's time.

Joe happy hour group backstabbing and mockery has tried to drain the positive out of our sober life's not to be a family or a brotherhood.

Kari Addict, doesn't bring up drug things in Alcoholics Anonymous just calls it using purposely.

2. Where do I get more flyers?

Cadence alcoholic secretary district anyone can write in Aaron print the flyers and when the GSR's get them at the groups.

Mike 14, literature chair help in all flyers unless the GSR's receive info and returns to the group.

Where do we draw the line if a newcomer that had issues outside of AA?

Vicki says the literature is available from the chair and in the pamphlet AA and other.

Doreen: ditto.

Butch, Virginia, MN- protect your principles by abiding in AA.

Bryce District 7 is a closed meeting says he has individuals that don't fit in the closed group.

Myron is dual addicted and keeps the drugs out of it and you live on AA's term. Period.

How do we share with are home group that we need funding to go to the groups.

Stress the 7th tradition explain in the business meetings to stay active by keeping with prudent reserve.

Butch explain to the group during the 7th tradition tell the meeting what your spending it on.

Justin, St. Cloud GSR reads the 7th tradition and lives by it small group 10- 15

Terry's group has a GSR fund and it only spends on trips

Jim district 9 explains total prudence it helps to save for the future

How do we insure continuity when nobody wants to be responsible?

Angie, GSR, District 6: lead by example and show enthusiasm.

Liz Important to continue service as its part of your individual

sobriety

Butch enjoys rotation of roles. Has a new sponsee prospect for GSR

Vicki adds showing shown positivity and stay on the helping side.

Mari Anna, GSR - tart by showing your members/newcomers to the business or district meeting

Eddi, Silver Bay says it's about rotation and willingness.

Justin Alcoholic, How can we better inform our groups and district to be able to understand?

Mike, Alcoholic concurs.

Motion to close, seconded, unanimous

DCM Sharing Session Report

Attended by (Name & District): Carl-7, Garret-6, Christine-13, Steve-3, Mike-2, Rey-4, Clint-15, Irv-21, Rillis-12, Dean-5, Scott (Alt DCM)-8, Jerry-8, Deb-14, Neil-18, Bill-11, Fred-9 and Griffin-16. Only missing one District representative

Opened with serenity prayer

Read the DCM sharing session guidelines from the Service Manual.

Nominated Positions:

Chairperson-Griffin District 16

Secretary-Deb District 14

4 Topics Presented and discussed by DCMs:

I. How do you encourage people to fulfill the duties of their service position? – Neil 18

The decision should be left to the district if chair met guidelines and/or meeting commitments – Dean D5

Three Strike Rule – if they miss three district meetings are not returning phone calls. The district may choose to fill the position with someone else. – Dean D5

Send out Agendas before the District meeting. – Carl D7 Phone tree reminders.

When you visit groups in your district give an announcement about the upcoming district meeting.

Talk about 'What's in it for me.' Leading by the example of telling people what we are doing not what they should be doing. – Steve D3

Focus on what commitment means some districts do not have enough people to remove chairs from positions

If "complainers" re issues-tell them to take the position

Beware of rushing people into service too quickly. Abide by the suggested length of sobriety time for service positions. – Mike D2

Question Deb D 14- Removing district (re 3 strike rule) only for officers not GSRs? YES

II. How to get more participation at the District.

Bring people to the district meeting who are not GSRs or District Committee Members. – Christine D13

Have GSRs who are not present give their reports via speaker phone. – Griffin D16

The most important job of a DCM is to get the groups in their district. – Carl D7

Make the minutes look cool and fun. Use color, unique fonts, graphs, tables and other tools to make it interesting. – Mike D2

It's the 12th Step-helping others

Attend meetings-explain about the "guy" getting out of jail

If DCM attends AA meetings be ENTHUSIASTIC

III. If you haven't seen someone previously serving call and ask if willing to serve again

Where do you find the district position(s) job description(s)? – Mike 2

Some districts have job descriptions in the back of their service manuals. – Christine D13

A.A. Guidelines Sheets and Chair/committee work kit – available through GSO

Googling can locate areas, other areas districts action booklets, guidelines

IV. How do we want the minutes distributed? – Christine 13

(minutes continued)

Email them to the DCMs who attended the sharing session, invite corrections and changes and then send them to the Northern Lite. Note: appropriate disposal of Northern Light-(shred or burn old versions).

Closed with the responsibility statement.

Area Officers and Chairs Mtg. Report by Sarah K. Important to communicate with districts- on-going. Past actions in 70's to have speakers on Friday night before assemblies. Area officers are available to districts for district workshops on the Friday night before an assembly in your district/zone. Also discussed importance of having area literature displays and inventory at assemblies.

OLD BUSINESS

Area 35/36 Workshop

Nov. 1, 2014 Calvary Church, 1200 Roosevelt Rd, St Cloud, MN 56301

Financial Oversight Committee Report

Steve L. All totals reconcile with bank statement, are true and correct.

Web Tech Ad Hoc Committee Report Bob. B.

Goal- committee, get FNV data base up to date. Flyers are reviewed. Discussed district pages on Area 35.org. Given out 6, 750 AA meeting locator cards.

Motion: That we put district inventory of Tom A. on Area 35 Website by Vicki GSR, Second Neal DCM.

Discussion: Pro's and con's.

Vote: Motion Passed by Substantial Unanimity

Minority Opinion by Skip.

Delegate, Group Records, Northern Light and Webmaster needs total \$509.00 for software and hardware.

Motion: Paul M. Second by voting member; To allow Bob B. to purchase software and one laptop for \$509.00.

Vote: Motion Passed Unanimous

Motion by Paul M., second by voting member; Purchase screen, to be installed at Aitkin Alano Club, for use at Area Committee Meetings in Aitkin.

Discussion: Sarah K.- committee chairs and officers can send PPT materials to her.

Vote: Motion Passed, nearly unanimous

Sarah K. : Complete inventory of area hardware and software will be in May/June NL

Statewide Corrections Committee Report

Met last at WCRAASC. Report is in Northern Light.

January Workshop Report

Kelly D. Complete Report is in NL. Presenting districts did an awesome job. 95 in attendance. TY to District 3 for hosting and making coffee on own. Also thanks to Andrew W. our WCR Trustee. Next workshop will be held Jan 17- 18, 2015 in Superior, Wisconsin.

NEW BUSINESS

2014 Budgets

Sarah: For chairs and officers to do their job, costs money.

Spiritual principle of self support.

Three years ago Area 35 took in \$8,000 in first three months, last year it was \$6600 and current year was only \$3900 in group contributions to Area 35. We all need get the word out to groups and districts to support Area 35.

Rodney: Reviewed past financial actions in 90's. Budget become a Statement of Financial Responsibility. In 2008-9 after area funds were missing- went back to calling it a budget. Requested we return to calling our budget a Statement of Financial Responsibility to be congruent with past area action.

Budget presentation by Randy A. Increased costs due to Web Technology and district travel. Why approving now? Past actions are to approve of Statement of Financial Responsibility (SFR) at an assembly. SFR total for 2014 is \$51, 675.45

Discussion: Steve L. if you approve this- you are committing your groups and district to funding this budget.

Vote: Motion Passed Unanimous except for one vote.

Minority opinion- what choice do we have?

Groups records is printing meeting information for groups in each district. Please check your meetings for accuracy in time, location, and contacts.

MN State Fair Booth

Jeff C. Since 2004 Area 35 has provided up to one third of booth costs, not to exceed \$500. Area 35 staffs volunteers in booth for first weekend, will be August 23-4, 2014.

Motion Butch R. Second Kelly D. Participate with Area 36 in State Fair Booth with Area 36, in 2014. Cost to Area 35 not to exceed \$500.00.

Vote: Motion Passed Substantial Unanimity, one person opposed.

Discussion of web revisions for Professionals

Bob B.- suggestion for area website to include pages for action chairs- CPC, Treatment, PI and Corrections,

Consider removal of PayPal from Area website

Steve L. Chair of Financial Oversight Committee (FOC). Set it up and was first treasurer to use.

Area has received 8 contributions, three were area tests, one from CA -needed to track down contributor to see if he/she was an AA member, one contribution was by mistake- and this contributor wanted money back. Each treasurer needs to open up new account every two years. Lots to set up within information needed. \$139.00 in last two years received on PayPal. Hasn't been operating since rotation 2014.

Motion: Dean M.; Do not maintain PayPal method of receiving contributions on Area 35 Website. Second Vicki

Discussion:

Vote: Motion Passed Unanimous

Bob. B. National AA Technology Workshop, August 2014.

Would like to represent Area 35 there. No increase in his total budget, however, event was not listed in his budget.

Motion: For Bob B. to represent area 35 at the National AA Technology Workshop , August 2014. by Christine G.

Vote: Motion Passed, unanimously.

Servando M. : Invitation of MN Association of County Probation Officers.

Booth cost: At Breezy Point- \$450. 00 Two days, booth- table top, includes registration for two to attend. 200 probation officers and other vendors attend. Good CPC opportunity.

Motion: By Neil R. for Area 35 to participate with a booth at the MN Association. of County Probation Officers Conference for \$450.00. Neil R. accepted friendly amendment to allocate up to \$200.00 for literature costs for this event. Booth will be staffed by District 7.

Discussion:

Vote: Motion Passed, Unanimously

Carl. P Discussed a Proposal to make a floor action that GSO make electronic meeting lists available and discontinue hard copy directories. No action taken.

(minutes continued)

Announcement from Jim S. Area 35 Literature Chair- please give him orders now for literature orders for June ACM.

Calendar of Events

Rodney S. Events are listed in the NL.

Ask It Basket (Past Delegates)

Tom A., Susie A., Jerry S. Bob J., Bruce B., Jim K., Scott J.

Jim K. Q: One new GSR introduced herself as an addict, at area GSR meeting. – how to handle? A: Need to be an alcoholic to be member of AA, an addict would not typically represent an AA group. Also need to be an alcoholic to attend area functions of AA.

Jerry S. Q: Why do we not do agenda items before area chairs and DCM reports? Agenda for assemblies is done by Area Chair and Delegate. Past area practice, chooses to use this time for reports because it is the only time that GSR's get to hear area officers, chairs and DCM reports.

Tom A. Q: Do we get ice cream? A: We should get as much as we want?

Bruce B. Q: What makes a person want to serve as delegate? A: It is not about wanting to be delegate. Area elects the person who has best served you, has skills and traits necessary and is willing to serve. Wanting to be in a position isn't part of AA service. If someone asks you – you need to be willing to serve.

Susie A. Q: Do late meetings on Saturday night become counter productive/ Late night meetings and input from the assembly is really appreciated by the delegate. Jake is very grateful that we talked about all the agenda items, so he can understand the area's feelings and thinking on the agenda items.

Bruce B. (Wartime Delegate). If you want to have last word- Try saying "you are right." Q: Did anyone else get a blank computer disc, yes (2).

Bob. J. Why would anyone want to be delegate? A: Need to have a willingness to serve.

Jim K. Q: Could we ask past delegates to do a concept workshop during the assembly? A: Yes

Jerry S. Q: Can we have our archivist to do a presentation during an assembly? A: Yes

Tom A. Q: Is the article in the St. Cloud Times violating traditions, is it on the edge/ A: Reporter wrote in SC Times on SC Round Up, on addicts attending the round-up. Asked reporter to come over to my office and discuss. Gave writer idea – to write a story on Anonymity in our current Digital Age. Reporter got ok to investigate story from editor of paper. Butch R., PI Chair brought up at December 2013 ACM. Roger R. (past PI Chair) was asked to meet with St Cloud Times Reporter. He met with reporter several times to orient. Reporter said he needed last names of AA sources, said we could not provide last name in press. We did say he could talk with Terry B., AA General Service Board Chair (non- alcoholic). Publication of our first name and last initial is consistent with our traditions. A new service piece, on anonymity in digital age was shared with writer. We did everything we needed to do to ensure we were following traditions. Article was also about St. Cloud State Recovery Program and NA. Individual pictured was not identified as an AA member in the article. Our quotes followed AA traditions very closely. We were not anywhere close to the edge in breaking anonymity in this article.

Susie A. Q: Will GSO come out with a large print AA comes of age.

A: Not yet, don't know when?

Bruce B. Q: Why don't we pass an area-contribution basket at area functions? A: we pay for area functions through group and district contributions

Bob J. Q: What can we do to assist District 17. Yes an area can help a district to get up and running. Just ask an area officer for help.

Jim K. Q: On hair modifications required for past and current delegates. A: Spiritual growth- leads to major hair loss.

Susie A. Q: Got flyer from Gopher State Round-UP. Haven't ever attended. Did this come from area 35? A: No, may have come from other round-ups. Can't speak to how this happened. Need to check with Gopher State- don't know how they get names on their list.

Jerry S. Q: Why not start agenda items discussion earlier. Attempted this once but break out reports were not ready. This comes up from time to time- are open to suggestions. Tom A.- been coming since 1988- got done early last night. It is a good problem.

Tom A. Q: Are area contributions less than they use to be? For first three months- 2012 -\$8,800, 2013-\$6600, first three months of 2014 \$3,900. Yes they are down.

Susie A. Q: If clubhouse accepts more than one kind of group, how does this support singleness of purpose? A- Keep talking about the third tradition and singleness of purpose.

Bruce B. Can we use the three leg stool as our official trademark? See if its open legally- than bring it up.

Bob J.Q: Many groups don't have anything to do with district, area or GSO. A: This is the essence of service. Go to groups and talk about the importance of general service, also talk with our sponsees, get out to groups. Building of Northern MN Are Assembly began with a couple of people- we can get active in our districts. Invite someone to go to a district meeting or area workshop.

Jim K. Q: It appears our fellowship was confused or not informed on agenda items why? How to improve? Wording of items could be improved? What the item is asking for is confusing at times. A: Our job is to help with that process. Time for review is a challenge today. Ask area folks who attended WCRAASC to help with your group and district group conscience.

Tom A. Q: Can we get agenda items at fall assembly- no. Can get board minutes from committees that will give us knowledge of some of the potential items. Dec 15 is deadline for submitting items to GSO.

Closing remarks from Scott.

Jake can now go to the Conference, humbly knowing that he is not doing this alone.

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:	Northern Light Submissions
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>General submissions to the <i>Northern Light</i> 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.</p> <p>Submissions are preferred electronically using a Word or WordPad document to the Area’s newsletter e-mail address: northernlight@area35.org. Most other file formats can also be accepted. You may also send articles or letters to my postal address, listed on page 2. The deadline for each Issue is printed on the front page.</p> <p>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 <i>Northern Light</i>, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you!</p> <p>Rodney S.</p>

TWELVE CONCEPTS for WORLD SERVICE (Short Form)

- I. Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.
- II. The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.
- III. To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A.—the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional “Right of Decision.”
- IV. At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional “Right of Participation,” allowing a voting representation in a reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.
- V. Throughout our structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.
- VI. The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.
- VII. The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon traditional and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.

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

2014 — AREA 35 SCHEDULE

Zonal Forum—May 17th— Noon - 4pm
Zone 1, District 21
Bimidji Alano Club
3802 Green leaf Ave. NW
218-444-2535

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

Joint Area 35, 36 Workshop—November 1st
Calvary Church
1200 Roosevelt Rd.
St. Cloud, MN 56031

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

May 2014							June 2014						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
U.S. Federal Holidays are in Red.				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	4 Cinco De Mayo	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Flag Day
11 Mother's Day	12	13	14	15	16	17	15 Father's Day	16	17	18	19	20	21 Summer Begins
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26 Memorial Day	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					U.S. Federal Holidays are in Red.
Http://www.Printfree.com							Http://www.Printfree.com						

Upcoming Events in Areas 35 & 36

note: Area 36 events take precedence !

**BIWABIK SUNDAY NIGHT
OPEN AA SPEAKER MEETING**
May 18, 2014
United Church of Christ
Main Street Biwabik, MN

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

Founder’s Day Celebration
Saturday, June 14
30028 County Road 112
Pequot Lakes, MN 56472

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

Weekend with Bill and Lois
June 27-29th
Camp Ruby
Marcell, MN

Keep It Simple Weekend
August 8—10th
Camp Chicagami
Pleasant Lake (south of Eveleth, MN)

**BIWABIK SUNDAY NIGHT
OPEN AA SPEAKER MEETING**
United Church of Christ
Main Street Biwabik, MN

**SUNDAY MAY 18, 2014
7:00 PM**

SPEAKERS:
**AL-ANON ELAINE L. (Hibbing)
AA JESSI F. (Grand Rapids)**

COFFEE & GOODIES

**Bring A Friend
Or
Meet One There**

REOCCURRING EVENTS:

District 11

Mora Wednesday Night A.A.

Pot Luck—First Saturday of every month at Industries Inc. at 6:00 pm.

AA and Alanon Speakers at 7:00 pm.

“When Anyone, Anywhere...”

**GOPHER STATE
ROUNDUP XLI**
MAY 23, 24, and 25, 2014

A.A. with Al-Anon, Alateen Participation
www.gopherstateroundup.org

Activities and Accommodations at
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Highway 100 & 494, Bloomington, MN

MEETINGS • SPEAKERS • FELLOWSHIP • HOSPITALITY ROOMS • A.A. FILMS

REGISTRATION – \$15.00 Contribution (ages 13 & over) A.A., Al-Anon, or Alateen. Credit cards are now accepted on site. Visit www.gopherstateroundup.org for online registration via credit card by May 20. Onsite registration begins Friday, May 23, at noon. Registration badges provide admittance to all roundup activities and must be worn in hotel at all times. Parking rules will be enforced.

Guaranteed Special Room Rates
Make reservations by May 1 at www.gopherstateroundup.org
or directly with DoubleTree by Hilton at 1-800-222-8723
Mention Gopher State Roundup for special rate.

Gopher State Roundup is a special A.A. conference with Al-Anon participation. Gopher State Roundup is self-supporting. No contributions from A.A. groups are used to pay for this event. Expenses such as hotel fees, travel & lodging for the speakers, and printed material are paid through registration fees. No baskets are passed during this event.

SPEAKERS
FRIDAY, MAY 23
7:30 PM Butch M., A.A., Toronto, ON
10:00 PM Chris C., A.A., Coonsocket, OH
SATURDAY, MAY 24
9:30 AM Edna L., Al-Anon, Riverside, CA
11:30 AM Ami R., A.A., New York City, NY
2:00 PM Craig M., Al-Anon, Lincoln, NE
4:00 PM Clancy L., A.A., Singleness of Purpose
7:30 PM Beth H., A.A., Cary, NC
10:00 PM Howard P., A.A., Gilbert, AZ
SUNDAY, MAY 25
10:00 AM Clancy L., A.A., Los Angeles, CA

For the meeting listed above, ASL interpretation provided. CDS available in the Grand Ballroom foyer.

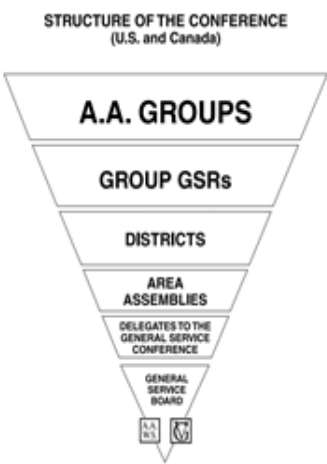
SELF SUPPORT FLYER



Where does the money go? Essentially Area 35’s purpose and responsibility is to perpetuate Alcoholics Anonymous. In its beginnings, our society expressed many needs of which were born many services. There were pleas for help, guidance, and support at the group level. We needed literature, updated meeting lists, good publicity, and cooperation with hospitals, legal entities, and treatment centers. And, we needed someone to facilitate all these services. It became clear very quickly to Bill that in order to ensure the health of AA as a whole, we needed a General Service Structure that could help meet the varied and ongoing needs of the group. Our ultimate goal in Area 35 is to ensure that AA groups in Northern MN (and worldwide) have the ability to continue to thrive, and carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic. To do this, it is obvious we still need many services: archives, public information, corrections, literature, Grapevine, Cooperation with the Professional Community, and treatment facilities.

This, then is the function of Area 35: to build a healthy environment, that AA may continue to flourish and meet the needs of alcoholics, for so long as we are needed. One way we do this is through providing a venue and opportunities for the groups (through their representatives) to communicate their wishes, concerns, and questions through the service structure, as well as addressing the needs of AA locally. In order to do this, the Area Committee (Area Officers and Area Action Committee Members) was formed and area events (Winter Workshop, four Area Committee Meetings, and Two Assemblies) were set up. (More about this can be found in the AA service manual).

Clearly we need people to oversee the successful and ongoing functioning of our Area Committee: a treasurer to pay bills and collect contributions, a secretary to record the minutes and Area actions, an Area Chair to set up and facilitate all the events, an Alternate Delegate to set up the Winter Workshop and Zonal Forums and be informed on everything the Delegate knows in case they need to stand in for the delegate, and a Delegate to carry our conscience to the General Service Conference once a year in NY to share our Area’s conscience and fulfill the responsibility given to us by Bill and Dr. Bob: *to be responsible guardians of our world services and Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.*



Then we have Area Action Committee chairs who also provide various services and fulfill duties that help the Area to function successfully as a whole. **The chairs’ purpose is to serve the groups by ensuring that AA, as it relates to their committee, is healthy.** The group records chair records all Area 35 group information and updates GSO as well as encourages groups to get registered; the webmaster updates and maintains the Area websites which list all the registered groups and events in the Area; the archivist maintains an awesome stock of archival materials for the Area; the literature chair orders and provides literature; and the Northern Lights editor compiles and edits our newsletter which we use to communicate with the groups. The Area also prints and distributes the Northern Light, a newsletter outlining the activities of the Area. Other Area Action Committee chairs regularly chair meetings with participants from the districts to discuss issues related to doing Twelfth Step work and meeting the groups’ needs. These include the archives chair, public information chair, corrections chair, literature chair, grapevine chair, CPC chair, and treatment chair. You will find these chairs meeting at the four area committee meetings

(located in Aitkin) and two assemblies. They also frequently hold workshops to assist and inform AA members.

Maintaining a strong service structure through self-support and participation is vital, for without it the groups become disconnected from the Area and from the General Service Office. Then, the groups can no longer communicate their thoughts, opinions or ideas to the Area or the General Service Office. When this happens, we are no longer responsible for our third legacy; instead of a fellowship, we have the seeds of a dictatorship or tyranny where the few govern for the many.



Perhaps one of our most important services to our groups is our role of the link to the General Service Office. It is our responsibility to ensure that the General Service Office and Conference remain committed to the Traditions and serving the fellowship, while never becoming the “seat of perilous wealth or power.” This is only accomplished through the sharing of our group’s consciences at Area events, which are only possible with the ongoing financial support received from the groups. So you see, all area chairs are there to serve the groups, but to fulfill our duties of service, funds are required.

If each registered group would contribute **\$1.00 a month to GSO**, our Office would be fully self-supporting. Similarly, in Area 35 if each of the 232 actively contributing groups (41% of the 555 registered groups) would contribute **\$12.88 a month or \$2.86 per week to Area 35**, it would fully cover the Area’s monthly financial needs of **\$2,900.00**.

THE BIRTHDAY PLAN

provides an opportunity for individual AA members to show their gratitude for their sobriety each year on their AA birthday.

AA members who take part in the **BIRTHDAY PLAN** send money on the anniversary of their sobriety as a way to show their gratitude.

Please share this wonderful plan with your group members, and encourage them to show their gratitude for all AA has given them by sending a

Remember, financial contributions to the Area are simply another way of extending the hand of AA to the alcoholic in need! So, I encourage each of you to discuss the importance of self-support at your groups and emphasize the **BIRTHDAY PLAN!** We certainly are so fortunate to have the lives we do, what better way to show our gratitude, than through a monthly group or **BIRTHDAY CONTRIBUTION!**