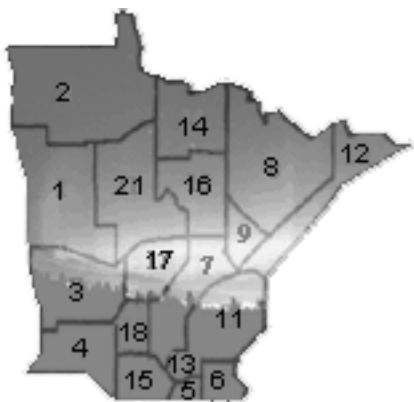


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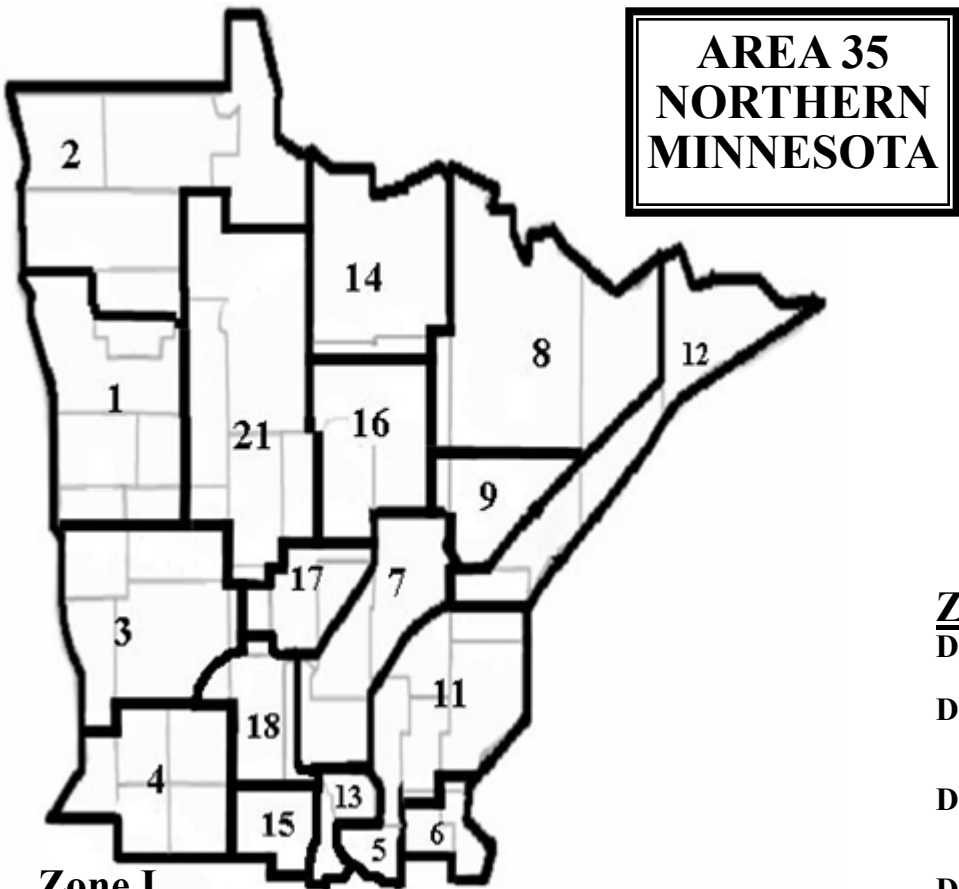
Deadline for the next  
*Northern Light* is  
**January 21st, 2014**

This is YOUR Newsletter.

Please send your questions or comments for publication to  
Rodney S. at [NorthernLight@area35.org](mailto: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



Zone I

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

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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

**District 2**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Odd Months, 2:00 p.m.  
First Lutheran Church  
210 Park Ave. N.  
Middle River, MN 56737

**District 3**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Month, 10:00 a.m.  
Alano Club  
827 Summit Avenue  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

**District 4**  
3rd Saturday of Month, 5:30 p.m.  
Contact DCM for location (It Rotates)  
Potluck at 6:30 p.m.  
Round Robin at 7:00 p.m.

**District 5**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of Month, 7 p.m.  
Freshwaters Church  
12475 273rd Ave NW  
Zimmerman, MN 55398

**District 6**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of Month, 7:30 p.m.  
Spring Lake Lutheran Church  
8440 Erickson Rd. N.E.  
North Branch, MN 55056

**District 7**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of Month, 7:00 p.m.  
First Congregational United Church  
415 Juniper Street  
Brainerd, MN 56401

**District 8**  
Committee Meetings at 6:30 p.m.  
General District Meeting at 7:00 p.m.  
Contact DCM for location “It Rotates”  
Cook, MN

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

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

**District 12**  
3rd Thursday of Month, 6:30 p.m.  
Contact DCM for meeting location (It Rotates)

**District 13**  
1st Monday of Month, 7:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.  
St. Cloud Alano Club  
127 7th Ave. NE  
Saint Cloud, MN 56301

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

**District 15**  
1<sup>st</sup> Monday of Month, 8:00 p.m.  
Albany Community Center  
741 Lake Ave.  
Albany, MN 56307

**District 16**  
1st Wednesday of Month, 6:30 p.m.  
United Methodist Church  
1701 S.E. 8<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
Handicap Accessible, Non-Smoking

**District 18**  
1st Tuesday of Month, 6:30 p.m.  
Long Prairie Alano Club  
21 2nd Ave.  
Long Prairie, MN 56347

**District 21**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 7:00 p.m.  
Bemidji Alano Club  
3802 Greenleaf Ave NW  
Bemidji, MN 56601

**District 17**  
Not currently active or unknown

AREA 35 COMMITTEE 2014

<b>AREA OFFICERS</b>		
<b>DELEGATE</b> MICHAEL “JAKE” J. <a href="mailto:delegate@area35.org">delegate@area35.org</a>	<b>WEBMASTER</b> SANDY H. <a href="mailto:webmaster@area35.org">webmaster@area35.org</a>	<b>DISTRICT 11</b> BILL C. <a href="mailto:dcm11@area35.org">dcm11@area35.org</a>
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<b>SECRETARY</b> ROGER R. <a href="mailto:secretary@area35.org">secretary@area35.org</a>	<b>DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBERS (D.C.M.s)</b>	<b>DISTRICT 15</b> MELISSA M. <a href="mailto:dcm15@area35.org">dcm15@area35.org</a>
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<b>PUBLIC INFORMATION</b> JEFF C. <a href="mailto:pi@area35.org">pi@area35.org</a>	<b>DISTRICT 2</b> MICHAEL H. <a href="mailto:dcm2@area35.org">dcm2@area35.org</a>	<b>DISTRICT 18</b> NEIL R. <a href="mailto:dcm18@area35.org">dcm18@area35.org</a>
<b>ARCHIVES</b> PETE B. <a href="mailto:archives@area35.org">archives@area35.org</a>	<b>DISTRICT 3</b> STEVE D. <a href="mailto:dcm3@area35.org">dcm3@area35.org</a>	<b>DISTRICT 21</b> IRV R. <a href="mailto:dcm21@area35.org">dcm21@area35.org</a>
<b>ARCHIVIST</b> BRAD I. <a href="mailto:archivist@area35.org">archivist@area35.org</a>	<b>DISTRICT 4</b> REY F. <a href="mailto:dcm4@area35.org">dcm4@area35.org</a>	<b>DISTRICT 17</b> NO INFO
<b>CORRECTIONS</b> SKIP D. <a href="mailto:corrections@area35.org">corrections@area35.org</a>	<b>DISTRICT 5</b> DEAN M. <a href="mailto:dcm5@area35.org">dcm5@area35.org</a>	
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<b>GRAPEVINE</b> ANTONETTE F. <a href="mailto:grapevine@area35.org">grapevine@area35.org</a>	<b>DISTRICT 7</b> CARL P. <a href="mailto:dcm7@area35.org">dcm7@area35.org</a>	
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<b>TREATMENT</b> PAUL M. <a href="mailto:treatment@area35.org">treatment@area35.org</a>	<b>DISTRICT 9</b> FRED H. <a href="mailto:dcm9@area35.org">dcm9@area35.org</a>	

**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:

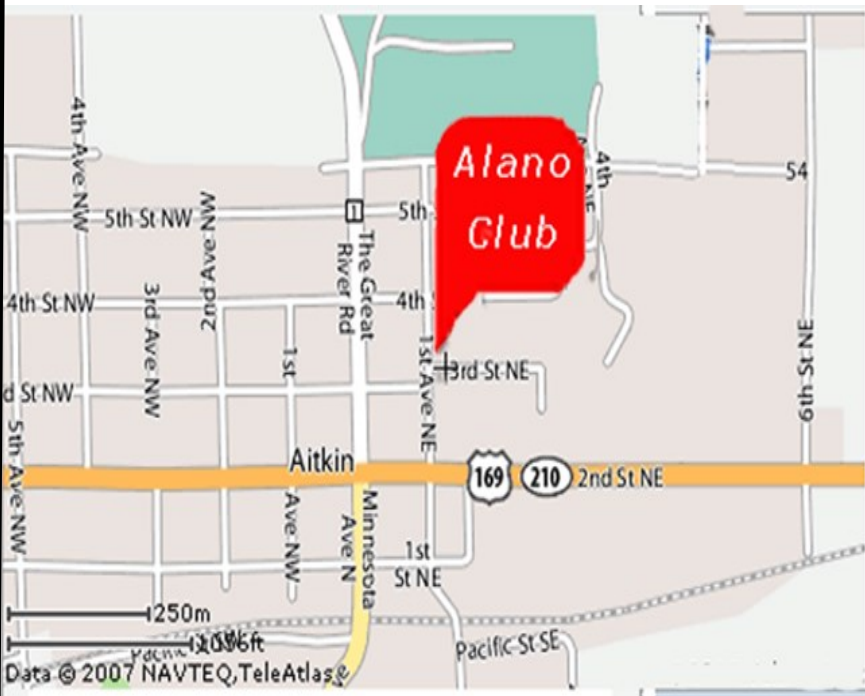
[GroupRecords@area35.org](mailto:GroupRecords@area35.org)

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

<b>Panel 62</b> Jim K.	<b>2012-2013</b>	<b>Panel 24</b> Gordon B. H.	<b>1974-1975</b>
<b>Panel 60</b> Jon C.	<b>2010-2011</b>	<b>Panel 22</b> Frank P. J. (deceased)	<b>1972-1973</b>
<b>Panel 58</b> JoAnne M. N.	<b>2008-2009</b>	<b>Panel 20</b> Clarence B. (deceased)	<b>1970-1971</b>
<b>Panel 56</b> Jerry S.	<b>2006-2007</b>	<b>Panel 18</b> Dave H. (deceased)	<b>1968-1969</b>
<b>Panel 54</b> Charlie C.	<b>2004-2005</b>	<b>Panel 16</b> Arno A. (deceased)	<b>1966-1967</b>
<b>Panel 52</b> Tim C.	<b>2002-2003</b>	<b>Panel 14</b> Donald F. (deceased)	<b>1964-1965</b>
<b>Panel 50</b> Tom A.	<b>2000-2001</b>	<b>Panel 12</b> Donna T. (deceased)	<b>1962-1963</b>
<b>Panel 48</b> Susie A.	<b>1998-1999</b>	<b>Panel 10</b> Bob B. (deceased)	<b>1960-1961</b>
<b>Panel 46</b> Bill P.	<b>1996-1997</b>	<b>Panel 8</b> Pearl N. (deceased)	<b>1958-1959</b>
<b>Panel 44</b> Bruce B.	<b>1994-1995</b>	<b>Panel 6</b> Waldo H. (deceased)	<b>1956-1957</b>
<b>Panel 42</b> Greg G.	<b>1992-1993</b>	<b>Panel 4</b> Wendell H. (deceased)	<b>1954-1955</b>
<b>Panel 40</b> Bob J.	<b>1990-1991</b>	<b>Panel 2</b> Arthur R. (deceased)	<b>1952-1953</b>
<b>Panel 38</b> Scott J.	<b>1988-1989</b>		
<b>Panel 36</b> Louie H.	<b>1986-1987</b>		
<b>Panel 34</b> Bob P.	<b>1984-1985</b>		
<b>Panel 32</b> Tom L.	<b>1982-1983</b>		
<b>Panel 30</b> Don M. (deceased)	<b>1981-1982</b>		
<b>Panel 28</b> Garfield (Duffy) S. (deceased)	<b>1978-1979</b>		
<b>Panel 26</b> Vern R. (deceased)	<b>1976-1977</b>		

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)



## **OFFICER REPORTS**

### **DELEGATE'S REPORT**

Hello again everyone.

It seems that we are writing a report every 2 months. Which we are. I hope that all the information from the assembly has been shared throughout the area by the GSR's and other group members that attended the assembly. Not much is happening since my last report. I have been welcoming incoming Panel 65 delegates as they are elected. I attended the Pike Sandy open meeting and listened to some great speakers. I had some time with my granddaughter that kept me busy which only has happened as a result of sobriety and A.A. I attended the Area 35/ 36 workshop and thought our officers sharing sessions shared the similarities and differences in our Areas. The workshop followed its original intention of sharing between areas. We talked about budgets, exchange of job information after elections, and other subjects. We enjoyed open sharing and camaraderie. I am getting ready for the start of the busy season which begins with the workshop in January and carries through till August. Hard to believe we are coming to the end of my first year.

I am currently drafting a letter to GSO in support of a nationwide meeting locator using the FMV data base. I have asked for input from Bob, our Web Technology Chair and Dennis from Area 36, so I can have some statistical background. I hope that the excitement and love that I have for A.A. has carried over to the members I have been in contact with. I believe in what we do and that the structure we have set up in the area will facilitate each A.A. member in carrying the message. 12-step work should always be our focus as a fellowship.

Thanks for all your support and don't forget to register for the International Conference in July. If you haven't been to an International, Atlanta should be a great time.

God bless and take care,  
Michael (Jake) J., Area 35 Panel 64 Delegate

### **ALTERNATE DELEGATE'S REPORT**

Greetings Area 35,

As the first year of this rotation comes to an end and we are moving into the holiday season, I would like to share with you an article from the *Box 459 Winter Issue 2013, November is Gratitude Month*. This article left me asking this question, "What am I doing or what more can I be doing to express my gratitude for the program of Alcoholics Anonymous?"

For A.A. members November is a "gratitude month." (In Canada, it's October.) This practice started in the 1940s, when the General Service Board held small "gratitude dinners," which were replaced in the 1960s by bigger and more elaborate "gratitude luncheons." These affairs, which Bill W. would address, were occasions for A.A. members to express their appreciation for the program. More important, it was A.A.'s opportunity to meet with members of the media to thank them for their sympathetic coverage. These luncheons were eventually discontinued.

Why November became Gratitude Month in the U.S. is uncertain. It may have something to do with Bill W.'s mistaken notion for a time that his sobriety began in November, instead of its actual start date of December 11. Or, it might be that Thanksgiving is in November. This is one of those A.A. mysteries shrouded in speculation.

Gratitude can be converted into any kind of action, big or small, individual or group. To celebrate gratitude, some groups will hold Traditions meetings in November to remind themselves of the rich heritage of A.A. Gratitude month is an ideal time to reflect on the Tradition of "self-support." Are we as a group, or am I as an individual, doing enough to support the services of A.A. as a whole? Other A.A. groups hold topic meetings on the sub-

ject of gratitude, send a gratitude gift of money to their local intergroup or to the General Service Office, or donate the A.A. Grapevine to someone homebound or in prison.

Almost any positive action is a reflection of gratitude — for example, a group may decide to make beginners kits available to newcomers and spend an evening stuffing envelopes with a meeting book, an address book and pencil, a copy of *Living Sober*, and a couple of A.A. pamphlets. Individual A.A.s may invite a sponsor or a sponsee out to lunch, or they may start a step or traditions meeting where there's an expressed need. Or they may make a private contract with themselves to always put out a hand to the newcomers and out-of-towners who show up at their home group. Of course, individual A.A. members express gratitude for their sobriety in quiet ways throughout the year. Showing up early to set up a meeting or taking a meeting into a detox are ways of demonstrating gratitude for a life-saving program of recovery. The A.A. member who takes a call in the middle of the night from an alcoholic who needs to talk is expressing thanks for Alcoholics Anonymous.

Gratitude. It's a weighty, high-dignity word, but in truth its close companions are humor and joy. As Bill W. observed early on in the Big Book (p. 132), "Outsiders are sometimes shocked when we burst into merriment over a seemingly tragic experience out of the past. But why shouldn't we laugh? We have recovered, and have been given the power to help others." What greater cause could there be for rejoicing than this?

This article also reminded me that I need to find more "humor and joy" in my recovery. By doing so it allows me to continue to feel the gratitude I have for this program. We often hear that we need to "have an attitude of gratitude" which I sometimes fail to remember when I get caught up in life and I think things should be a certain way. My gratitude often returns however, when I spend time with those that remind me to "Live and Let Live, One Day at Time and Let Go and Let God." Wishing all of you blessed holiday season!

In love and service  
Kelly D., Alternate Delegate

### **AREA CHAIR'S REPORT**

Hello Area 35;

First off I want to repeat the apology I made at the Fall Assembly regarding the budgets. I forgot the June distribution/ collection deadline and so the budget was not published in the July/August edition of the Northern Light as it should have been. This was a very unfortunate oversight on my part, and I am really sorry I let this happen. Although I sent out the budgets to all DCM's in mid-September hoping it would give the groups some time to discuss them before the assembly, based on assembly discussion I realized that this may not have allowed enough time for all groups to feel comfortable with the budget. For this reason, I want to make myself available to your districts/groups if they have any further questions or concerns about the budget that they would like to express.

Also, I did request an addition to the actions book based on our Fall Assembly discussion to reflect that the budgeting process should be based on actual expenses. I have also requested help from the Area Committee in revising their budgets to reflect actual expenses. The new document will not be official, nor need a vote, but it will allow people to see a more accurate picture of the area's planned expenses for 2015.

Finally, since the Fall Assembly I have been working on nailing down our upcoming event locations and responding to comments/concerns/questions from A.A. members about our area and it's processes. I also attended the Joint Area 35/36 workshop where I think it is safe to say the key words were "lively communication." It was an excellent collaboration and based on the committee reports, the breakout sessions were helpful. Many committees reported brainstorming better ways to meet the needs of both areas and alcoholics in Northern MN. Our Area Officers breakout session discussed the processes and procedures that are similar, like the fact that both area chairs review the budgets and revise them, and that it is important to remember to let vital ser-

(Continued from page 5)

vices lead our actions and money will follow. Some difference between the areas, is the fact that the Area 36 budget is created for actual expenses only (something our area discussed moving toward) and the area 36 chair uses an excel formula to further adjust the budget to reflect actuals. A Southern Minnesota DCM shared that their chairs created workshops/presentations and shared these ideas with the DCMs which was very helpful as sometimes DCMs don't know what possibilities are available. Southern MN also supports the expenses of past delegates to attend assemblies because they are viewed as valuable resources for the Area; much like our sponsors are valuable recourse in recovery, past delegates provide valuable experience and insight into service. We closed our breakout session by agreeing that the role of the service structure is to facilitate communication and make better 12th-Step work possible. All in all, an excellent event!

Thank you for letting me be of service to AA.  
Sarah

SECRETARY’S REPORT

I would like to express my continued gratitude to Area 35 for allowing me to serve as your Area Secretary.

I would also like to thank the area officers, action committee chairs and DCM’s who are sending me your area committee and assembly reports electronically. If you are unable to send me your report please remember to give me a hard copy of your report. If you are not able to attend an Area Committee Meeting or Assembly—you can email me a report that I will include in my minutes.

My recent service activities include the following:

I enjoyed working the Area 35/36 AA MN State Fair Booth on August 24, 2014. Although traffic at and by our booth was not as heavy as it was in past years.

I attended and presented at the Area 35 Zone 3 Forum. Per a request from Carl P. DCM in District 7, I developed and delivered a short presentation on why it is important for district chairs to attend Area Committee Meetings- at the District 7 September meeting. I would be happy to give this short presentation at your district meeting.

I moderated a CPC panel discussion with nine professionals, in St. Cloud, MN on October 25. 2014.

I completed 25 pages of minutes from the Area 35 Fall Assembly. I am looking forward to seeing you all at the upcoming Area 35/36 Workshop and at our Area 35 January Workshop.

In service,  
Roger

TREASURER’S REPORT

I have been in contact with Area 36 for collaboration for the upcoming Area 35/36 Workshop. They were interested in using some information from an article that I had written for the Northern Light with my permission. We also got an e/mail forwarded from Group Records, received from the Treasurer of District 2 in Area 36, asking what the process was to open a group checking account with the bank. They have encountered some problems with opening a checking account with the bank and stated that other groups are having some problems also. The bank requested information such as submitting an Article of Incorporation, Business Licenses, and certificate of good standing from the State of Minnesota. I referred him to the GSO website and to read the

A.A. guidelines on Finance which has information on opening group bank accounts and how to obtain a federal tax identification number and also referred him to the Office of the Secretary of State for information on how to obtain an “Article of Incorporation Certificate.” A lot of banks nowadays have stringent standards for opening a checking account for non-profit organizations such as Alcoholics Anonymous, so it is imperative that we try to provide them with the proper documents and information. It can be a tedious and complicated process for those groups that do not have the right documents and information or don't know where to get it. There are many resources for help and there are always people willing to help us and direct us to the proper information. Please read the information provided in the pamphlets “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix” and “AA Guidelines on Finance” and “The AA Group Treasurer.” There are also ideas starters on how to increase contributions for your group or district on the GSO website, Historical Background of Self-support Information Sheet.

Group Contributions for the year from Jan 1<sup>st</sup> thru October 4<sup>th</sup> are at 87.50% with a total income of \$23,971.99 for 2014 compared to 77.31 % from group contributions and total income of \$23,259.23 for the same period for 2013. Total expenses for January 1<sup>st</sup> thru Oct.4<sup>th</sup> were \$ 24,272.35 for 2014 compared to \$23,785.08 for the same period in 2013. Total group contributions for Period 5 are \$ 4,501 and total contributions year to date – January 2014 through September 2014 were \$20,975.26. Total Group contributions for the same period last year were \$ 4075.70 for an increase of \$426.00 from last year. Total assets from September 30<sup>th</sup> 2014 are \$24,113.11 which includes our prudent reserve of \$6,039.01; our checking account balance is currently at \$16,866.99.

Please feel free to read the financial statements on your own and share them with your Home Groups and please feel free to ask any questions pertaining to the Area Treasury, 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition, Group contributions, birthday contributions or anything on the reports as we will try to answer them to the best of our ability.

Yours in Service,  
Randy A., Area 35 Treasurer

Cash Basis		
Northern MN Area 35 Assembly of Alcoholics Anonymous		
Balance Sheet		
Period 5		
	Aug 31, 2014	Sep 30, 2014
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
1-4200 - Grapevine Cash Account	1,192.11	832.11
1-4250 - NL Mailing Flyer Cash	225.00	375.00
1000 - Area 35 Checking Account	13,875.59	16,866.99
1100 - Savings - Prudent Reserve	6,038.86	6,039.01
Total Checking/Savings	21,131.56	24,113.11
Total Current Assets	21,131.56	24,113.11
TOTAL ASSETS	21,131.56	24,113.11
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Equity		
3000 - Opening Bal Equity	27,413.47	27,413.47
Net Income	-8,281.91	-3,300.36
Total Equity	21,131.56	24,113.11
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	21,131.56	24,113.11

AREA COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC INFORMATION (PI)

In my preparations for the Joint Area 35/36 Workshop on November 1, 2014 I found myself reviewing the content of the Public Information Kit that Alcoholics Anonymous provides to Action Committee Chairs. It strikes me that there are two very important pieces included in that kit; the A.A. Fact Sheet, which includes a short list of what A.A. does and does not do, and the table of estimated membership from 1935-2013. Membership has not increased significantly worldwide since 1990 while the world population has increased by nearly 40%. The number of people who need Alcoholics Anonymous is not shrinking, but the number of people who are getting the message and joining the program has stagnated.

I was recently made aware of another book taking shots at Alcoholics Anonymous, "The Sober Truth: Debunking the Bad Science Behind 12 Step Programs and the Rehab Industry." I checked out a copy from the local library, but I haven't read anything except excerpts yet. I suspect I will find a misguided argument with no real relevant scientific facts and a lot of fallacious reasoning. I suspect that the author's knowledge of the program of Alcoholics Anonymous is sketchy at best. Why do people take shots at A.A.? I'm thinking most of them have had bad experiences with some of our groups, meetings or members. I hear a lot of people say "I tried A.A. and it didn't work"

Why has membership not kept pace or even grown as it did during the first 45 years? My hypothesis for the lack of growth and of public understanding of the program of A.A. is that we, its members, are doing a very poor job of staying on track with our primary purpose. We are sending out mixed messages about the program by not adhering in everything we do as individuals and as groups to the traditions of the program. We are not consistent in the application of the 12 steps, we are not united on the issue of singleness of purpose.

If we are going to be effective in discussing "Cooperation and Communication in A.A. in Minnesota; Reaching the Newcomer and the Still Suffering Alcoholic," we need to develop some clarity on what our message is. "Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism."

Yours in service,  
Jeff

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (CPC)

Since the last report I've been a little busy with personal events. On the good side, my oldest son's wedding and spending time with my grandchildren; on the not so good, the loss of my grandmother—although as I looked upon it honestly there were many blessings from that wonderful woman's life.

The St Louis County Health and Human Services Convention was a learning experience. We did manage to make several contacts and got a lot of meeting locator cards out along with some other pamphlets.

Once again my work situation has changed. I'm waiting to find out how this will effect my availability for service work.

Yours in service,  
Servando M., Area 35 CPC Chair

GRAPEVINE

All is well in the Grapevine world these days. I have placed some book orders and the Daily Quotes book is a hot item—can't keep them on the shelves.

I will have the stuff people ordered by the Aitkin meeting in December. Let me know if there are items you want and I will try to get them for you in a timely manner. I attended the workshop in October and continue to be in awe of the passion for Alcoholics Anonymous that continues. When I was new in sobriety, the

Grapevine helped me to stay sober and connected when I couldn't get to a meeting. My sponsor told me it was a good way to get my mind off me, and it worked! Do you have a subscription to the Grapevine? Perhaps a present for someone new in recovery. Christmas is coming. Thank you to everyone who supports the Grapevine and as Bill W. Said, "Pass it on".....

Thanks for allowing me to serve,  
Antonette

TREATMENT

Greetings! We met at the fall assembly in Grand Rapids. We had 7 in attendance including Districts 21, 13, 12, 6, and 9. We discussed singleness of purpose in treatment facilities. AAs are getting to be a minority—that's a problem! We went through all district reports which you will find in Roger's minutes. We came up with 2 more questions for the Area Committee Meeting in Aitken on December 7th. I also asked any districts if they would like to participate in a workshop in their district. We would like to thank the people who brought old grapevines to the last meeting. We still need literature and more old Grapevines. I look forward to the Area 35/36 joint workshop in St. Cloud on November 1st. There we will meet with Area 36 to discuss treatment facilities questions and problems in both areas. And of course we will focus on the solution. If any districts would like a treatment facilities workshop in their district please get a hold of me.

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

ARCHIVES

Greetings everyone. This has been a very busy month for my personal life, with not much time to devote to Archives business. I'm having some computer problems right now that hopefully will get fixed soon.

I attended the Area 35 / 36 Joint Workshop in St. Cloud. It was very informative and I got some good ideas on things to do with Archives. Area 36 has an "Archives Alive" program. It seems like we could do something similar in our area. I would like to go to one of their "Archive Alive" presentations in Glencoe in the near future to see exactly how it's done. I was amazed at the amount of time it would take to catalog all the Area 35 Archives material, implementing it into a searchable database.

I plan on attending the workshop in District 18 on November 29<sup>th</sup>.

See you at the December Committee meetings.

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

ARCHIVIST

Hello everyone. Since the Fall Assembly I had the display at the St. Cloud Round-up where it was enthusiastically received. I also gave 3 history talks in one day.

I attended the joint workshop and ran the P.A. at the workshop. At the workshop we talked about how we can better carry the message using the Archives. Area 36 is doing events at their repository which they call Archives Live. They have a long timers panel and a display. Space at our Archives precludes doing such an event but what we can do is go out to districts for workshops or events. We need to know where we came from to appreciate what we have and to form a cohesive vision of where we are going.

Brad I., Area 35 Archivist

CORRECTIONS

Hello All,

Well to start with, I owe an apology to all of you. In my report at



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the Area 35 Fall Assembly, I reported that there was \$1200.00 for the St. Cloud prisons literature. That was a mistake; I misunderstood what Chris H. told me. His goal was \$1200.00, which was not reached. He did place an order for 100 books to go into the prison, so the money that was raised was \$600.00- \$700.00 NOT the \$1200.00 I reported. I did talk to Chris H. on 10/30/2014 to verify this information.

I was also able to get a hold of the Pennington County Jail per request of Mike H. (DCM District 2) for in our breakout session at the Fall Assembly he was unsure if meetings were still going on in that facility; he did not think so. He was right. There are no meetings going on at this time, but the jail would like to have them back at their facility. That means we need volunteers to take meetings into Pennington County. In talking to the jail coordinator he mentioned that he has been there for about 15 years. It seems that the meetings only last for about 1 year at a time, then go away—then come back. Personally I feel to have this happen on a regular basis and to be welcomed back, there must be a need. So PLEASE if you are able to carry this message to the next suffering alcoholic contact Mike H. District 2.

The Statewide Corrections Committee did meet on Oct.13th. We went through the A.A.I. pamphlet that was created. I thank you all for the input on this new pamphlet and yes there were changes made—a new draft will be at the Joint Workshop in St. Cloud on November 1st.

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

LITERATURE

Hello Everyone,

The Joint Area 35/36 workshop is just around the corner. Since the Fall Assembly I have placed a large order of books that I will have at the December Area Meeting. If you have special requests please get them to me as soon as you can. Again, when placing an order include the item code and quantity needed. If you do not include both of these I will not be placing your order. Orders over \$300 will need to be paid at time of order or at least a check mailed in to cover the costs of the order. The reason for this is that individual orders for the Fall Assembly were so large I did not have enough funds left over to place an order for my own inventory. Thank you for your understanding. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Joint Workshop and again in December at Aitkin. Take care and see you soon.

Jim S.  
Area Lit Chair

GROUP RECORDS

Hello Area 35.

I attended the Fall Assembly in Grand Rapids. I got to show how the FNV database works and also update changes for some districts. I printed out inactive and unknown groups for districts also. I have been emailing DCMs with this information of active and inactive for them to go through.

I met with DCM Jerry B. from District 8 after the Fall Assembly to show that the information of the groups in the database does have all groups marked to be in the directories. This is something that is out of group records hands.

I am attending the Area 35/36 Workshop on November 1st in St. Cloud where I am meeting the DCM from District 7, Carl P. to make changes and corrections in their District. This is a good way for DCMs to see how the database works.

I am attending District 8’s District Meeting on November 4th to show the District the FNV database for a better understanding of how it all works. I am grateful to help any District by coming to visit and showing them more on how this works.

Also our committee is planning to have a workshop, on information of Group Records, Website, aameetinglocator.org and Northern Light. Looking forward to be of service.

Yours in Service,  
Rolene L.

WEBMASTER

Greetings Area 35, my name is Sandy H., alcoholic, Area 35 Webmaster.

Since my last report I have been adding flyers to the Area 35 calendar. We also got together and wrote up directions for having a flyer inserted into the Northern Light.

Here are the hits for the Area 35 website:

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	2,072	3,391	13,890	117,746	2.66 GB
Jun 2014	2,019	3,774	16,319	113,720	2.86 GB
Jul 2014	2,259	3,711	16,550	122,806	3.24 GB
Aug 2014	2,147	3,611	15,468	120,479	3.35 GB
Sep 2014	2,054	3,300	13,664	111,319	3.44 GB
Oct 2014	2,206	3,875	15,860	115,663	3.23 GB
Nov 2014	0	0	0	0	0
Dec 2014	0	0	0	0	0
Total	20,222	33,377	135,133	1,149,090	27.53 GB

I will be attending the Area 35/36 Workshop in St Cloud, Sorry to have missed everyone at the Fall Assembly.

Yours in service,  
Sandy H., Area 35 Webmaster

WEB TECHNOLOGY

Financial Responsibility:

At our Fall Assembly some DCMs questioned if the area was being financially responsible by sending all action committee chairs to all events. The WEB Technology is a temporary position. It was questioned if we should be sending the WEB Technology chair to all events. After reviewing the events WEB Technology Chair will not attend the Area 35 Service Workshop, the West Central Regional A.A. Service Conference, or the West Central Regional Forum.

Area 35/36 Workshop

The deadline for the Northern Light is the same day as our Area 35/36 workshop. I will ask that the following item get discussed at our breakout committee meeting.

- 1. Get agreement on how we handle meeting update reports.
- 2. Ask if we can use the domain name aaminnesota.org as an entry into AA in Minnesota
- 3. Discuss ways to answer general AA information questions.

2014 aameetinglocator Statics

www.aameetinglocator.org PC based

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
January	3,605	6,156	22,462	132,445	3.08 GB
February	3,120	4,803	20,800	114,870	2.65 GB
March	3,802	5,987	21,425	135,721	3.23 GB
April	3,618	5,621	21,562	130,439	3.09 GB
May	3,762	5,742	23,112	129,896	3.16 GB
June	4,050	8,255	29,394	154,681	3.43 GB
July	4,744	7,268	29,319	159,889	3.78 GB
August	4,896	7,480	33,665	163,006	4.06 GB
September	4,353	7,502	28,865	145,415	3.84 GB
Total	35,950	58,814	230,604	1,266,362	30.32 GB

(Continued on page 9)



(Continued from page 8)

m.aameetinglocator.org cell phone based

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
January	2,092	2,684	9,801	16,500	491.25 MB
Feb	1,829	2,283	8,947	14,819	471.59 MB
March	2,440	3,056	11,279	18,805	588.48 MB
April	2,042	2,613	9,555	15,994	491.55 MB
May	2,276	2,802	10,230	17,130	558.78 MB
Jun	2,656	3,375	12,551	20,752	636.90 MB
July	3,432	4,386	16,259	26,885	824.90 MB
August	3,239	4,065	14,510	24,335	782.49 MB
September	2,831	3,609	13,285	21,916	697.34 MB
Total	22,837	28,873	106,417	177,136	5.47 GB

www.aameetinglocator.org  
and m.aameetinglocator.org  
combined visitors

Month	Unique visitors
January	5,697
February	4,949
March	6,242
April	5,660
May	6038
June	6,706
July	8,176
August	8,135
September	7,184
Total	58,787

Definitions:

Unique Visitor:

A unique visitor is a person or computer (host) that has made at least 1 hit on 1 page of your web site during the current period shown by the report. If this user makes several visits during this period, it is counted only once. Visitors are tracked by IP address, so if multiple users are accessing your site from the same IP (such as a home or office network), they will be counted as a single unique visitor. The period shown by AW Stats reports is by default the current month. However if you use AW Stats as a CGI you can click on the "year" link to have a report for all the year. In such a report, period is a full year, so Unique Visitors are number of hosts that have made at least 1 hit on 1 page of your web site during the year.

Visits:

Number of visits made by all visitors. Think "session" here, say a unique IP accesses a page, and then requests three other pages within an hour. All of the "pages" are included in the visit, therefore you should expect multiple pages per visit and multiple visits per unique visitor (assuming that some of the unique IP's are logged with more than an hour between requests)

Pages:

The number of "pages" viewed by visitors. Pages are usually HTML, PHP or ASP files, not images or other files requested as a result of loading a "Page" (like js, css... files). Files listed in the Not Page List configuration parameter (and match an entry of Only Files configuration parameter if used) are not counted as "Pages".

Hits:

Any files requested from the server (including files that are "Pages") except those that match the Skip Files configuration parameter.

Bandwidth:

Total number of bytes for pages, images and files downloaded by web browsing. Note 1: Of course, this number includes only traffic for web only

(or mail only, or ftp only depending on value of Log Type). Note 2: This number does not include technical header data size used inside the HTTP or HTTPS protocol or by protocols at a lower level (TCP, IP...). Because of two previous notes, this number is often lower than bandwidth reported by your provider (your provider counts in most cases bandwidth at a lower level and includes all IP and UDP traffic).

Bob B.,  
Area 35 WEB Technology [support@area35.org](mailto:support@area35.org)

NORTHERN LIGHT

Greetings Area 35.

Our committee meeting at the Fall Assembly was especially valuable in that it helped to put a sense of finality on some of the things being worked on and an emphasis on others. Bob had been wanting for some time to get directions on the web for putting flyers in the Northern Light and to have flyers printed and sent out using another mailing list. The progress we had made was reported on and displayed to receive input from those A.A.'s attending the meeting. While it is great to have the directions in *black and white* and on [area35.org](http://area35.org) we don't want to take away from the value of personal interaction in these types of processes. Ray B. from District 3 made a strong point for this by sharing his personal experience with recently having the flyer for their Roundup Reunion inserted in the Northern Light, emphasizing how smooth the process went upon talking to the correct people involved.

After Rolene reported on her commitment and progress with updating group information for the FNV database, districts visited to or yet to visit, the open discussion that followed helped shed some light on problem areas. These were discussed further at the joint workshop in St. Cloud.

Much of the discussion throughout the assembly—both during agenda sessions and in my personal interactions during breaks—seemed to involve either finances or singleness of purpose. Despite the Assembly's focus on the Financial Oversight Committee and Area expenses, a considerable amount of that discussion involved low contributions.

The tone of the general assembly discussion took on an electrified, but negative feel due to the general sharing and questions asked regarding the proposed budgets, which in actuality are not *budgets* but *Statements of Financial Responsibility*—procedures for which were approved by GSR's two years ago at the Fall Assembly and reflect a worst-case, highest foreseeable cost by trusted servants, using data items such as no room sharing or car pooling and the most expensive dining habits. These trusted servants got to be trusted servants through sharing, consideration of others, and adopting the traditions to ensure our unity.

Out of the discussion and controversy it was suggested that three items be taken back to your groups for further discussion: 1) Decide which officers or chairs to send to the yearly WCRAASC and the Semi-Annual Regional Forum and give reasoning for that determination; 2) Revisit the Financial Oversight Committee to determine its purpose and scope—how often it should meet and when to report back to the assembly body on its findings; 3) How near to actual expenses does the assembly body want our trusted servants to be on the statement of financial responsibility, and are there consequences if reported incorrectly? What is the recourse for extending more finances if needed?

One of the most valuable resources of the A.A. program and organization is our experience so I did a little research, digging up a few articles and flyers on *singleness of purpose* and finance. They appear later in the paper. While the details of our problems and concerns change with time, the underlying causes are usually, if not always, the same or similar, and are often cyclical.

Yours in service,  
Rodney

## ARTICLES

### **Washingtonians: Where Are They Now?**

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Maybe I should have known I was an alcoholic when I went to school so drunk that I couldn't make it to class, and instead passed out in my high school's basement boiler room for six hours. Or when I misjudged the amount of 150 proof rum it would take to make my senior class retreat tolerable, and vomited all over the retreat director. Perhaps the bare fact of my daily drinking and the associated lies and theft it took to maintain it should have clued me in to the fact that I had a problem with alcohol. It didn't: my denial was etched in granite, and the well-intentioned teachers, parents, and coaches trying to divert me from the disastrous path I was on were easily ignored.

After several turbulent, painful years, I came to realize that the immense loneliness and despair that I felt related somehow to my drinking. Hoping to learn to "drink like a gentleman" - I couldn't comprehend a life without alcohol - I made a phone call one night that led me to Alcoholics Anonymous, via a local detox center. In the rooms of AA I learned the fatal nature of my illness, and in the Big Book and fellowship found a power that enabled me to stay sober one day at a time. I had just turned twenty-one years old.

The power that I found in Alcoholics Anonymous has kept me sober for nearly five years now, and has given me a life beyond my wildest dreams. Marriage, a house, an interesting job, an education - all of these things have come my way as a result of being sober and applying the principles I've learned in AA to my daily affairs. Even more importantly, I've developed a deeply satisfying spiritual life as a result of working the Steps as directed by the Big Book and a loving, caring sponsor. The past five years, however, have had a few "downs" as well as plenty of "ups" and a recent one of those "downs" has reminded me of the importance of the concept of singleness of purpose, both to my own personal recovery - and to the survival of our Fellowship.

The phrase "singleness of purpose" can be found in the account of the Fifth Tradition in the "Twelve and Twelve." Tradition Five itself reads "Each group has but one primary purpose - to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers." Our Preamble, printed in the grapevine, also discusses singleness of purpose: "Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety." The chapters on Traditions Five and Six in the "Twelve and Twelve" eloquently describe how absolutely essential this concept is to the survival of AA, stating "The very life of our Fellowship requires the preservation of this principle."

The "Twelve and Twelve" goes on (in the chapter on Tradition Ten) to describe the Washingtonian Movement, a nineteenth-century movement among alcoholics that was, initially, similar to AA in many ways. Over one hundred thousand alcoholics sobered up with the Washingtonians, before the movement self-destructed in the chaos caused by involvement in a myriad of issues unrelated, or only remotely related, to alcoholism. Lacking singleness of purpose, the movement collapsed. The experience of the Washingtonians provides compelling evidence for the importance of AA focusing

directly and exclusively on the issue of alcoholism.

My strong belief in the importance of the principle of singleness of purpose for the Fellowship of AA has some important consequences. It means that when I go to a meeting, I introduce myself as an alcoholic, period. Like many alcoholics (including Bill W - see page seven of the Big Book), my story includes drug use, ranging from pot to crack to LSD. I don't hesitate to share this at meetings when it is relevant, as it is part of the experience that brought me to AA, and a part of my story that many other young people, especially, can relate to. However, I think it is extremely important to emphasize that I am an alcoholic, and that in meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous we discuss the common solution to alcoholism that we share. If I'm an "alcoholic and an addict and you're an "alcoholic and a compulsive overeater and the person leading the meeting is an "alcoholic and a compulsive gambler we begin to lose our commonality. I become slightly different from you - an attitude that I believe is potentially fatal. Moreover, we've started down the slippery slope that doomed the Washingtonians. Our program is no longer focused on the single purpose of recovery from alcoholism, but instead is tackling the issues of drug addiction, gambling, co-dependency, etc. - very serious problems, undoubtedly, but outside the scope of Alcoholics Anonymous. A careful reading of Traditions Five, Six, and Ten has convinced me of how dangerous this is to the continued existence of our Fellowship, and it is my responsibility as an AA member to ensure that the hand of Alcoholics Anonymous is always available in the future to reach out to the suffering alcoholic.

I've found that the concept of singleness of purpose applies to my life in an even more immediate, personal way as well. When I got sober at twenty one, I didn't have an established career to return to, a family to reunite, or even all that much wreckage of the past to clean up. The future was a blank state, and the newly found freedom of sobriety made the possibilities overwhelming. I immediately jumped into school, work, and relationships - and suddenly didn't have time for meetings. Life would get chaotic and painful and I'd make my way back to the Fellowship and principles just long enough to soak up a little bit of serenity by osmosis, then head back out into the fray. Fortunately, some AA members were able to point out to me the insanity of my actions, and I was able to alter my behavior before it led me to the inevitable drink.

I discovered that in order to maintain any semblance of spirituality and serenity in my life, I needed to live by the principle of singleness of purpose. Like the Fellowship as a whole, I have but one primary purpose: to stay sober and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety. The same three reasons that support our group commitment to singleness of purpose underlie my personal commitment: (1) duty - I can repay those who have given me this gift by giving it away to others; (2) love - I've learned compassion for those still suffering and want to help others; and (3) self-preservation - I must help others in order to stay sober myself. I inevitably find that when I'm able to stay focused on my primary purpose, my "secondary purposes" (school, jobs, relationships) work themselves out quite satisfactory. For me, the concept of singleness of purpose has become the bedrock of my personal program of re-

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(Continued from page 10)

covery, just as it is the fundamental principle supporting the structure of our entire Fellowship.

Brad B., San Diego, CA.

**A Reminder And A Warning...**

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Alcoholics Anonymous was only ten years old when Bill W., AA's cofounder, wrote: "Those who read the July [1945] Grapevine were startled, then sobered, by the account which it carried of the Washingtonian movement. It was hard for us to believe that 100 years ago the newspapers of this country were carrying enthusiastic accounts about 100,000 alcoholics who were helping each other stay sober; that today the influence of this good work has so completely disappeared that few of us had ever heard of it.... "May we always be willing to learn from experience?" Bill cautioned.

The quotations in this article are from material in AA's archives.

Founded by six drunks in 1840, the Washingtonians had grown in membership to hundreds of thousands in a short twelve years, and then destroyed themselves as an organization and dropped out of sight. By 1852, all that remained of their spectacular power as a method of treatment was the Home for the Fallen in Boston.

They flourished when they helped one other

In a talk on the Traditions shortly before his death, Bill said that the Washingtonians had done things "which were very natural to do, but which had turned out to be utterly destructive. And it was this spectacle of the past, brought before us as our Traditions were evolving, that confirmed that we were probably very much on the right track in this matter of no public controversy; in this question of paying our own bills;

in this question of not becoming involved with other enterprises, and so on down the line. And above all, it confirmed the great protective guide of our anonymity Tradition."

Later, in the book Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age, Bill Wrote: "In many respects the Washingtonians were akin to AA .... Had they stuck to their one goal, they might have found the full answer. Instead, the Washingtonians and they died when they abandoned certain timeless principles, permitted politicians and reformers, both alcoholic and nonalcoholic, to use the society for their own purposes.... Within a very few years they had completely lost their effectiveness in helping alcoholics, and the society collapsed.

"The lesson to be learned from the Washingtonians was not overlooked by Alcoholics Anonymous. As we surveyed the wreck of that movement, early AA members resolved to keep our Society out of public controversy." And to a friend he wrote. "I wish every AA could indelibly burn the history of the Washingtonians into his memory. It is an outstanding example of how, and how not, we ought to conduct ourselves. In a sense, Alcoholics Anonymous has never had a problem seriously threatening our overall unity. Yet I notice that some AAs are complacent enough to suppose we never shall."

Bill also recalled the fate of the Washingtonians before 1,500 AAs gathered at the annual banquet in New York City on November 7, 1945. "In short, the Washingtonians went out to settle the world's affairs before they had learned to manage themselves. They had no capacity for minding their own business.... The negatives within them overthrew the positives.

"That won't happen here" Bill urged in closing, "if we remember, publicly and privately, our own simple principles of honesty, tolerance, and humility, and that we live only by the Grace of God."

Traditions! Words to remember! Thanks, Bill, Thank you, Washingtonians.

D. P., Ogden, Utah

**ARCHIVES QUIZ**

Presented by Archives Chair Pete B.

1. In what year was Area 35 established?
2. Who was the first nurse to help A.A.?
3. Who was the first patient to see her?
4. In what year did A.A. lose the copyright on the Big Book?
5. Who was the first woman to serve as delegate for Area 35?
6. Where was the first assembly for Area 35 held?
7. In what year was the A.A. International Convention held in Minneapolis?
8. Who was the first person to sober up in A.A. in Minnesota?
9. Where was he from?
10. What is the name of the oldest Alano club in the United States in its original location?

(answers at the bottom of page 21)



## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF SELF-SUPPORT

A.A.'s evolving Tradition of self-support was to move a long way from the financially desperate period, around 1938, when Bill and others around him wished silently and urgently that John D. Rockefeller would bestow the fledgling Fellowship with large donations.

In 1947, Bill said "Voluntary contributions or pledges of A.A. members ought to be A.A.'s principal support, and, eventually, its sole support." Although it was necessary in the beginning when A.A. desperately needed a little outside help (which, he noted, made possible the Alcoholic Foundation, the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* and the General Service Office) times had now changed. He sensed "...a very powerful feeling... spreading among us that A.A. ought not to be takers from society, any longer. Instead, let us be givers." Additionally, the news that every A.A. group had become self-supporting would create invaluable goodwill in the outside world.

The General Headquarters, predecessor to G.S.O., published a monthly newsletter for distribution to the Fellowship. In the February 1949 issue, the purpose of voluntary contributions was defined: 1. To meet the expenses of General Headquarters, which operated a plan of service to alcoholics the world over, in keeping with A.A.'s primary purpose (it was described as international Twelfth Step work); and 2. To meet those expenses of General Headquarters incurred in its operations as a coordinating center for all A.A. groups. The article emphasized the voluntary nature of the contributions; they were "not dues or fees." It also stated that such contributions would... "be used for A.A. operating expenses only."

In September 1950, lack of voluntary contributions led Bill to issue to the Fellowship a five-page plea for support, including a request that the group secretaries call a special business meeting for the purpose of reading his (Bill's) written plea. "Without A.A.'s Services we'd often fumble that new man or woman just coming in the door; without our Services, we'd certainly spoil the main chance of those millions who don't yet know."

In November 1957, Bill wrote a Grapevine article entitled "Respecting Money," in which he juxtaposed outside contributions and self-support: "Our spiritual way of life is safe for future generations if, as a society, we resist the temptation to receive money from the outside world. But this leaves us with a responsibility—one that every member ought to understand. We cannot skimp when the treasurer of our group passes the hat. Our groups, our areas, and A.A. as a whole will not function unless our services are sufficient and our bills paid."

Ten years later, as if in conclusion, Bill wrote in the A.A. Grapevine, "Both these principles we understand: that A.A. wants no charity; that we support our own services. We understand—but we sometimes forget."



**Area 35 Fall Assembly Minutes  
Oct. 4-5  
Sawmill Inn, Grand Rapids, 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., Bruce B., John C., and Jim K.  
Recognition of GSR's in attendance.  
Motion to Approve 2014 Spring Assembly Minutes ( Antonette ,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Neil) : Passed

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

**Delegate- Mike ( Jake) J.** Good afternoon! Welcome to Area 35 Fall Assembly. Did you know that we are blessed to have the openness and sharing that we have in Area 35? That we have people to serve that care more about Area 35 than their own agenda? If you stick around you will find that out, and if new, become one of those people. It is truly an honor to serve as your delegate.

Since my last report in the Northern Light I have attended a Zonal Forum in Ft. Ripley that was unfortunately sparsely attended. But as the people in my life have told me we serve those that show up and it is about what we do and present to those around us that will make a difference. I thought all the presenters did a wonderful job and I am sorry I was not able to stay for the old-timers panel. I have had interactions with other delegates and am currently trying to help get GSO to provide an easier system for sending out e-mails to all the delegates. My friend Homer who has been the "pass it on guy" brought this up to GSO and hopefully we can make access to each other easier and also make it easier for those delegates that may not have good computer skills. I have been receiving e-mails from the different areas that are electing their new delegates and sending out greetings from Area 35. There has not been much discussion any upcoming issues from groups or delegates. I finally received the final reports from GSO and will be handing them out.

Fall is usually the busy time so if you have need of me please check my schedule first. I plan on attending the 35/36 workshop, the area committee meeting, our workshop in January and from January 31 to February 2 and the board meeting in New York. Please feel free to bring concerns or ideas forward at the assembly. Take care and God Bless.

**Alternate Delegate- Kelly D.** Good afternoon Area 35. It is hard to believe we are in October already and moving close to the end of the first year of this rotation. It is great to be here with all of you and I look forward to a weekend of service and fellowship together. If I can be of any assistance to you at any time over the weekend please let me know.

This morning we Area Officers presented at the GSR Orientation. We had 36 in attendance and 13 were new GSR's. Again I would like to welcome them and thank them for their commitment to be of service. I have had a couple of busy months since my last report in August. I volunteered in the State Fair A.A. Booth on Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> which is always a highlight of service for me to do every year. The weather was very hot and muggy and it was the first year we did not have as many stop by the booth during our 2 hour slot. September 5-7<sup>th</sup> I attended the Heartland Round Up in Park Rapids. It was a relaxing weekend of camping with some great A.A. friends along with much fellowship over that weekend. Of course there was also some great food prepared by some very loving hands. The speakers that weekend left me with a feeling of more gratitude to be a part of this fellowship and most grateful for the loving God that I have in my life today. I then attended our Zone 3 Zonal Forum on Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> in Fort Ripley. We only had a total of 16 in attendance which included our 5 Area 35 Officers, two past Delegates and an Area Committee Chair. Out of the 6 Districts in that Zone there was only representation from Districts 7 and 13. We did however have 2 new individuals present. Thank you to District 7 for hosting this event and to everyone that attended. After the Zonal Forum, the Sleepy Hollow Group had a potluck and Old Timer's Panel that I attended. It was another great time of fellowship, speakers and of

course food. On September 27<sup>th</sup> I traveled to Thief River Falls to be one of the presenters at District 2's GSR School along with 4 others from the Area. A special thank you to Mike and that District for asking me to be a part of it. We had great attendance and a fun afternoon with plenty of fellowship. I worked on and completed my proposed Statement of Financial Responsibility for 2015. I also completed the Agenda for our upcoming January Area 35 Service Workshop that will be held in Superior, WI January 17-18, 2015 at Barkers Island Inn and Conference Center. I would like to thank the 8 Districts that were willing to present at this Workshop. It looks to be another great workshop and I encourage all of you here today to attend. I look forward to attending our joint workshop with Area 36 on November 1<sup>st</sup> in St. Cloud.

On an exciting note I have registered and reserved a room for the AA International Convention that will be held in Atlanta, Georgia over the 2015 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. I have not been to the International Convention since it was held here in Minneapolis in 2000. I will be traveling on a very long road trip there with two fun loving ladies and then meeting up with another A.A. member once we are there. The 4 of us will be sharing a room together. I cannot put into words how spiritual this Convention is. I believe that every A.A. should at least experience it one time to really grasp the true meaning of what it is like to be a part of our great fellowship worldwide.

Last, I would like to thank the Districts that continue to send me their minutes and encourage all Districts to do the same. Thank you all for the work you do in General Service and for allowing me to serve with you.

**Chair-Sarah K.** Early in September, I was pleased to participate in a District 2 GSR School in Thief River Falls along with four other area servants: Bob. B., Kelly D., Steve L, and Rodney S. We had great discussion on issues pertaining to the area service structure, traditions and concepts. In considering the traditions and concepts, we discussed the sobriety suggestions and I noted that like our steps are suggestions for how an individual can get well, and the traditions are suggestions for keeping the group well, the concepts (and service manual) are suggestions for keeping A.A. as a whole well. Thus, the axiom "the good is the enemy of the best" and so we must be guided by what is best for A.A. as a whole. The Traditions and Concepts both deal with our common welfare, putting individuals close *after*. Another question was why do we just spend money to send people places? In other words, what services does the Area provide? To which we responded that the sole function of the service structure is to help A.A. achieve an informed group conscience. In order to be fully informed, we must distribute information for discussion by the groups, and then meet with each other to discuss that information. These meetings (assemblies, committee meetings, workshops, preparing the delegate for the conference) take money just like group meetings do, and like the A.A. group, the Area is supported through the 7th tradition contributions of A.A. members, which is why the Area, District, and GSO need group contributions. We also discussed dealing with disruptive A.A. members and outside issues at meetings and I noticed that often what benefits one harms another, so we must be guided by our principles and not personalities (individuals). Overall, let the message be that the area committees and officers exist to serve the A.A. groups, traditions and concepts. I have also been setting up events for the next 3 years, and have established the following locations: April 11-12 Spring Assembly, Best Western in Fergus Falls MN. Fall Assembly, Oct. 3-4, 2015, will be at a St. Cloud location. The Area Actions book will be available for distribution at the December ACM and DCMs are encouraged to take multiple copies for their GSRs/groups. The document is also available on the area website. Finally, a bit of housekeeping from the August committee meeting: the June financial reconciliation report did check out, and according to our financial review committee, our finances are accurate.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to be of service to A.A.

**Secretary- Roger R.** Good day Area 35. Thank you for the opportunity to continue to serve Area 35. My recent service activity incudes the following I volunteered for two shifts at the Area

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35/36 State Fair Booth on August 24, 2014. I attended and presented at the Area 35 Zone 3 Forum. As an area we need to discuss how to increase participation from districts in zonal forums. Per a request from Carl P. DCM in District 7, I developed and delivered a short presentation on why it is important for district chairs to attend Area Committee Meetings at the District 7 September meeting. Carl P. reported to me that this presentation did yield greater participation from District 7 in the current assembly. I am informed that I will be receiving several boxes of Area Actions Booklets to provide to you all at committee meetings, workshops and assemblies. I am looking forward to seeing you all at the upcoming Area 35/ 36 Workshop and our Area 35 January Workshop. I am requesting all DCM's and Area officers and chairs to give me a copy of your report from today in hard copy or email by October 13, 2014.

**Treasurer- Randy A.** It has been a very busy month with lots of activities going on inside of A.A. and outside. I had the opportunity to speak at the Donovan Frank Treatment Center in Virginia, MN this past month and got the opportunity to meet some newcomers. What an honor and blessing it is to meet new people and watch them recover. Like it says in the Big Book “Frequent contact with newcomers and each other is the bright spot of our lives.” This past month, I also had the opportunity to attend some open meetings in District 8 and also the Duluth Round-Up and attended a District 12 history presentation by our Area Archivist Brad I. and past service representative Bob N. from Duluth MN. Bob is very knowledgeable and experienced about the history of District 12 with 42 years of sobriety. Both individuals did an excellent job. The workshop was very well attended with lots of participation.

Group Contributions for the year from Jan 1<sup>st</sup> thru Oct.4<sup>th</sup> are at 87.50%. With a total income of \$ 23,971.99 for 2014 compared to 77.31 % from group contributions and total income of \$23,259.23 for the same period for 2013. Total expenses for Jan 1<sup>st</sup> thru Oct.4<sup>th</sup> were \$24,272.35 for 2014 compared to \$23,785.08 for the same period in 2013. Total group contributions for Period 5 are \$ 4,501 and total contributions year to date – January 2014 thru September 2014 were \$20,975.26. Total Group contributions for the same period last year were \$4075.70 for an increase of \$426.00 from last year. Total assets from Sept 30<sup>th</sup> 2014 are \$24,113.11 which includes our prudent reserve of \$6,039.01. Our checking account balance is currently at \$16,866.99. Please feel free to read the financial statements on your own and share them with your Home Groups and please feel free to ask any questions pertaining to the Area Treasury, 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition, group contributions, birthday contributions, or anything on the reports as we will try to answer them to the best of our ability.

COMMITTEE CHAIR AND DCM REPORTS

**Webmaster – Sandy H.** Hi my name is Sandy H., alcoholic Area 35 Webmaster. I have been posting flyers to the Area calendar and we are working on how to add a flyer and how to have a flyer inserted into the Northern Light instructions to be added to the Area 35 website which they worked on this morning.

Month	Unique Visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Aug2014	2,147	3,611	15,468	120,479	3.35 GB
Sep 2014	2,054	3,300	13,664	111,319	3.44 GB
Oct 2014	217	272	1,071	7,789	212.68 MB

I hope you all have a great weekend and safe travels home. I am missing you all and impatiently awaiting my granddaughter's arrival. My love to all. See you in November! Yours in service.

**Treatment- Paul M.** We had seven in attendance in our meeting today. District 21 now has a meeting in the Red Lake Treatment Facility. Districts 6 and 21 report covering their treatment facility meetings. District 13 is very active in treatment facility meetings. District 9 puts on a meeting at Virginia Detox and Lake Place. We discussed communicating our singleness of purpose with treatment facilities. We are also requesting members to contribute old literature and Grapevine's to give to treatment facilities. Garret and Steve will be bringing topics to discuss at our December ACM. I am looking forward to seeing you all at the Nov.

1 Area 35/36 workshop.

**District 21 Irv R.** Good Afternoon. We currently have three open chairs: secretary, group records and corrections. We have established an A.A. meeting at the Catholic Church in Red Lake. This is an important development. Our treasury is healthy and our book sales are strong. 18 people attended our last district meeting. Corrections and treatment participation is also strong.

**District 6 Garrett B.** My name is Garrett and I'm an alcoholic—DCM for District 6. Greetings from District 6. Things have been going wonderfully for us the last few months even with all the busy schedules. We fulfilled our commitment to the state fair booth and had a good time doing it. We had our District.6 workshop on September 6. We had a really good turnout and covered a lot of topics. Jake C. from District 5 came to talk about safeguarding our traditions through the use of technology. He touched on hardware/software, cloud computing, and different forms of social media and we talked about developing policies for our district. Thanks to all the other groups that presented. I have been out visiting groups restocking meeting cards and aa meeting locator cards. The groups have been very happy to see someone from the district visiting them and I have had lots of fun seeing how all the other groups function. I plan on getting out to all of them. We have another new GSR party coming up in February and will continue planning it. Hopefully we will have another good turnout. I can't believe how fast this summer has gone. Yours in service

**PI Jeff C.-** We had 17 people in attendance at our meeting with representatives from districts 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, and 16. First topic was a debriefing of the volunteers who staffed the booth at the State Fair. There were some great suggestions to make things even better for next year. Thank you to all who stepped up from Area 35. Registration for the 2015 International Convention in Atlanta, GA opened on September 3. Although registration may not fill up, hotels near the convention center will. If you are planning on attending please make your arrangements sooner rather than later.

District PI committees are staying busy keeping group information sheets and district meeting schedules up to date. Phone lines are being answered in about 2/3 of Area 35 districts. Some of the more densely populated districts are working with A.A. PI materials for PSA's, Billboards and bulletin boards. Many committees are using A.A. literature to share the message especially F -2 Information on Alcoholics Anonymous.

Several districts are conducting A.A. orientation or beginners meetings. We talked about referring to the A.A. Guidelines for Public Information to help committees stay on task. We also talked about being champions for A.A.'s traditions and always being conscious about the distinction between cooperation and affiliation. Past Delegate John C. suggested that PI committees delegate specific tasks to specific people and get everyone involved in service.

**District 5 – Dean M.**  
Greetings! My name is Jake C., and I am filling in for District 5 DCM Dean M., who has been attending to his sister, who is severely disabled and now battling cancer. Please keep his family in your prayers as Dean has had to miss several A.A. events because of death, illness and surgery. We are busy in District 5! We were honored to be able to host the State Fair booth. Thank you to all who participated with that. We had a presence at an information fair hosted by a church in Big Lake, where one of our members hosted an A.A. booth. We present an Alcoholics Anonymous Orientation Probation meeting at the Sherburne county government center. We just started another session. These are done every Thursday for 8 weeks. We had an old treatment center turned halfway house turned into a treatment center again in Princeton. We are coordinating with the management to have a presence there. They are thinking of letting A.A. do some presentations on recovery, in addition to speakers. We are very excited to have EVERY committee chair now filled, and have an adequate bank balance to carry the message. Dean will be getting out to more groups, some of our committee chairs have been going out to different groups and as a result we have seen some new faces at our district meeting. We would like to ask the Area to consider offering a "How to set up a bank account in MN" guide for assisting

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groups. It should include which IRS tax identification number is needed, a letter template for the bank identifying the two members necessary to obtain a bank account. Any other information that would help obtain a bank account for a group would be appreciated. Your in service, Jake C.

#### District 4 Deb. H.

District 4 currently has a strong, dedicated group of committee chairpersons. Two of which are past DCMs who choose to stay involved and assist the rest of us “service newcomers” to the district and area service. Below are a few highlights from the 2014 year:

The district developed a GSR Statement which is read before the large group at each monthly Round Robin open meeting. The statement briefly explains the purpose of a GSR and encourages each group to support at least one member as their group’s GSR. The intent is to get more people interested in service work.

The district has an active rotation for our monthly Round Robin open meetings. The Round Robin consists of a GSR meeting, followed by a potluck and then A.A. and Al-Anon speakers. Each month a different town in our district hosts the Round Robin. This is our somewhat successful attempt at carrying the service message to the entire district.

District 4 Corrections Committee has coordinated with the Douglas County Jail to hold weekly A.A. meetings for both men and women. There is a roster of trained volunteers who put on a jail meeting every Saturday night.

The District Literature Committee has donated Grapevine subscriptions to various health facilities in the district, including the local treatment center. We are in the process of coordinating placement of literature racks filled with A.A. literature at the Alexandria High School, the Technical College, and other facilities willing to display our literature. We also supply literature to the Willmar, MN area since their district is without a literature representative. We also donated several Big Books, 12x12 books, and Daily Reflection books to the jail.

The District 4 PI/CPC Committee developed outreach “alcohol help” cards to provide to the various businesses and churches in the district. The cards read “If you or someone you know has a problem with alcohol or drugs, we can help.” Then it lists the District’s A.A. Help Line number and the Area 35 website. The PI/CPC Committee is very energized and ready to carry the message to our district.

The district has an abundance of cash in our checking account which means we are not very active. Our goal this year is to change inactive to active. We hope to send officers to area events and focus on a PI/CPC service project that will serve the A.A. community.

**NORTHERN LIGHT- Rodney S.** Greetings everyone in Area 35. It’s good to see all of you and to be seen by all. We can all pat ourselves on the back for participating and showing up—that’s enough; now we must move forward.

It has been a busy and fun summer. I have enjoyed visiting with everyone I came into contact with at the round-ups and service functions, sharing with the many of you who continue to carry the message of hope to those in treatment and correction facilities, those who work with professionals in those fields, or those who simply come into contact with alcoholism or its solution in our day to day experiences. I continue to learn from everyone and every experience and although I know, I too, am a conduit in that learning, I again know I must strive for a deeper understanding and effectiveness in helping others.

Nearing the end of writing this report on Thursday evening I suddenly felt like it wasn’t right for the assembly, that instead of the sentimental and emotional journey I had drifted onto *you* wanted to hear about the *Northern Light*, and when the hell I was going to turn it into the miracle working message carrier it could be, if only you were in charge of it. But then, like most of my writing projects I came up with the perfect fix—I usually refer to these as “intuitively knowing how to handle situations which used to baffle me.” I wrote the gist of this report in three sittings with the

first ending in the declaration of a recurring issue. Days, if not weeks passed, so that when I again began writing I addressed the issue in a passionate manner and with the life and death intimacy that connects us all. Since that second part addresses my feelings and experience with a subject that all of us face I decided to go ahead with all of the words I had written, but to first go back to where I am now and put in a few more details of the “mechanics” in preparing the current issue of the *Northern Light* along with this paragraph of explanation.

My biggest challenges this printing involved more of the same things I had been dealing with in acclimating myself to the new laptop and newer version of publisher, although I did have some tentative moments when the laptop locked up and I was afraid that if I let it go into sleep mode or a forced shutdown I would lose a lot of newly added text. This didn’t happen but whenever I started up again the screen was still in the same place with the pointer locked to the exact spot. After talking with Bob on the phone again, I reluctantly dug out my mouse and when restarting the laptop I was able to assure myself that nothing was lost, finish the issue and get it mailed off. Since then, whenever I attempt to use the touchpad instead of the mouse the pointer locks up after only minutes of use.

Other issues I have with the new software and with other committee members who also have new software, and how they are able to send documents to me were topics discussed by Steve and I on the way to Thief River Falls. Our sharing appears again in this report so I want to thank Steve for making the trip more than just a means to get from one place to another and to point out to others the value of time spent together.

I mistakenly sent the publisher version instead of the pdf to Bob which caused some additional confusion for a while, but which was also easily fixed. I found out later that I had made the same mistake when sending it to Mike at Cold Spring Record. I have been working with the committee on some instructions on putting flyers in the newsletter and guidelines for flyers to be put on the area website.

I will be discussing with Sarah and other committee members new deadlines for the upcoming year and whether we need to bump them up or not.

I want to commend Mike H. from Thief River Falls on a fantastic job in organizing the GSR School in District 1. Not content to slack off in that commitment, he continued by doing an equally fantastic job of facilitating and chairing the event (possibly an Area Chair in the making). The allotted breaks occurring after 2 presenters was perfectly timed, not so much because we needed to move around and stretch—although I can’t speak for those listening to me—but because it gave presenters and attendees a chance to share one-on-one about issues specific to the topics just presented while fresh in our minds. The event was well attended with much group participation.

I started my report with the “pat on the back” idea because I would like to address an age old issue—that being lack of participation to serve in the General Service Structure. *Life gets in the way, I need balance, I have too much going on, What good is being sober if all my time is in A.A.? Been here—done that. I have to make time for me.* All these responses to service requests remind me of all the excuses and rationalizations that I came up with for my drinking and subsequent behavior.

People don’t like the way they look so they join fitness programs that take committed amounts of time—sometimes early in the morning, they take extra jobs, go in early or stay late at work to get overtime, but don’t seem to have time for something that they give lip service to as “being grateful to” or “saving my life.” No one knows better the warmth of the sun than the person walking under its beam. On the way to Thief River Falls this past weekend Steve said, “It’s easy to have a desire and the necessary willingness to stay committed to the heart of A.A. service when you’re homeless and don’t have a dime to your name, but when things get better it’s a different story.” I understand that, but when I am

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absolutely certain that the good things that I have going for me came explicitly from something more powerful than something I could have attained through jobs, money, or other people, why would I not turn *to* whatever I was doing to tap into that power instead of *from* it when events in my life get a *little shaky* —only to find a return of disillusionment in people, places, and things.

I like to make references and parallels to songs, movies, and books. The reason for this is because I believe that the singers and songwriters, screenwriters, actresses and actors, and authors are a way that the God of my understanding reaches out to a great number of people at one time or through one medium. My devotion and commitment to A.A. took on its fullest momentum for me in 2010, and a phrase took hold of me through the lyrics of a popular song coupled with the events occurring in my life at that time, and I realized not only how important it was to live in the present but also how fragile each moment is. The phrase, and name of the song was, “A Moment Changes Everything.”

At that time, whether knowingly or not, I made a decision to be in the middle of A.A. rather than the edge for however many more moments I get to have.

The next deadline for reports and submissions to the *Northern Light* is November 1st. In service.

**Literature – Jim S.**—no report

**District 3-Steve D.** I am pleased to be here. I would like to take a minute to recognize the District Chairs and GSRs from District 3 that have traveled here to help carry the message to alcoholics in District 3. District 3 has been very busy this summer and fall. We are moving our meeting from Perham to Detroit Lakes in October. We will be completing a District Inventory in October. Ted S. past West Central Regional Trustee will be moderating the inventory. Our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual District 3 roundup was held August 30<sup>th</sup> in Battle Lake. Our current delegate Jake presented his General Service Conference Report. We continue to visit dark meetings in our district. We have made new contacts at some of the meetings and hope to grow our attendance at district meetings. Our Round Robins continue to be successful. I want to thank the groups in the District that take the time to volunteer to host these events. We will be adding a quarterly fiscal evaluation to our treasurers report. We want to make sure we are being fiscally responsible for district funds. We are working on updating our District 3 website. Thanks to Bob B. and our District Webmaster Paul B. for their hard work on this. Yours in Service.

**District 1- Jon S.-** Our last District 1 meeting was August 10th, attended by the DCM, secretary, and five GSRs. I gave my DCM Report from our August Area Assembly in Aitkin, and described my positive impressions of my first Area event. I informed District 1 about the GSR School in Thief River Falls, and at least one of District 1's GSRs attended. Recovery Month was celebrated UM of Crookston by playing the movie, *Anonymous People*; a talk by the author of Broken, and *Now What, William Moyer*; and a concert by international blue grass singer, Mike Ferris (where I got this T-shirt). Between songs, Ferris told of his own serenity from A.A. Those events were very well received. We still self printing our Meeting Schedule. Our District's supply of flyers that we normally set out at our County Fair booth are still misplaced. Our annual potluck picnic this summer was fun, but as we have no treatment centers bringing clients, attendance was down slightly from the usual 100. Meeting attendance at our dozen meetings is fairly steady. The lack of meetings at our jail was again discussed. We discussed that our treasurer should attend most of our district meetings, though he does his job. Although only bordering our district, Grand Forks today is hosting the North Dakota State Roundup. Yours in Service, Jon S.

**Group Records –Rolene L.** I have been updating the FNV. I emailed DCM's in September with your group's information. I have heard back from some groups with changes. It is very important for a group to have a contact person or a GSR- or that group becomes inactive on the FNV. I have attended two district meetings in District 9 where I explained the importance of updating groups and information. My goal is to attend district meetings that are close to me: 12, 14 and 16. Please let me know if you would like me to attend your district meeting. I can show any in-

terested how your group information appears on the FNV this weekend. Thank you for allowing me to serve Area 35.

**District 11- Bill C.** Attendance at our district meeting was down this summer- but we did have a new GSR attend. Our literature chair made up newcomer packets for groups. Our corrections chairs ensured that our commitments are being met. We also enjoy A.A. bowling.

**District 13 Christine G.** Greetings from District 13. We hold our district meeting the 1st Monday of the month at the St. Cloud Alano Club starting at 7:30pm. We would like to extend an invite to anyone who would like to come join us at our meeting. At last month's meeting we had 1 new GSR. Bob B. visited our district meeting in September to go over what our district web page could look like on the area35.org website and answer any questions that the GSRs may have and they will bring it back to their groups to see if this is something our district would like to approve. We also learned that it should be fairly easy to link our meeting information from FNV to show on this site.

We conducted our district inventory and will discuss the items on Oct 27<sup>th</sup>. All district positions are filled at this time.

District 13 will be hosting the Joint Workshop in November 1 and we have started gathering volunteers to help with setting up, greeting and clean up.

We are encouraging the GSRs to talk about the District 13 sponsored Beginner's Meeting at their groups, attendance has been down and we need to spread the word. We encourage Sponsor's to bring their Sponsee's. Some things that our chairs are busy doing:

**Alt DCM:** Attended Zonal Forum in September.

**PI** – Benton County Fair booth went well and all volunteers enjoyed manning the booth. New meeting schedules have been printed and are being distributed to all facilities.

**Treatment** – Commitments are continued being met in the facilities. We will be coordination efforts with Districts 5 & 15 to carry the message into the many facilities. We have also been asked to bring in the Beginner's Meeting format to Passage's Half Way house.

**CPC-** Is visiting churches and giving them information about A.A.

**Corrections** - Continues to recruit volunteers to bring in meeting to the local jails and prisons. We voted to add the St. Cloud Prison as an Ad-Hoc committee to ensure that we are in communication and providing volunteers when needed. In Service.

**Grapevine – Antonette F.** Time flies when you are having fun and I am having fun! I have been busy celebrating the Grapevine's 70th birthday. I had the pleasure of attending the delegates report at the Battle Lake picnic, met some new folks and had a great day of fellowship, the Grapevine had some exciting new books and the new Daily Quote book is a best seller and is a great way to start your day. We had an excellent Fall Assembly in October and the passion and dedication to Alcoholics Anonymous never ceases to amaze me. I am looking forward to the joint workshop in November and will have more Grapevine materials as promised. Thanks for allowing me to serve.

**District 8- Jerry B.** Hi, I'm Jerry and I'm an alcoholic. Currently serving as DCM for District 8. Our district meetings are held the first full week of each month on a rotating basis as to the meeting location and day of the week. Our next meeting will be held at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Gilbert, hosted by the Gilbert Tuesday Night Group on Mon. Oct. 6th beginning with our committee meetings at 6:30 and regular business meeting at 7:00. You are always welcome to attend our District 8 business meetings as an observer. It's got to be the water up North because the coffee's always good along with some excellent A.A. fellowship. Butch R. was elected as Alternate Corrections Chair which leaves us with the alternate Treatment Chair position to be filled. We had 2 last minute resignations, the Grapevine/Literature Chair resigned as she is moving out of state and also the alternate Grapevine/Literature chair. because of a conflicting work sched-

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ule. In August we had a literature rack set up at the Veterans Stand down in Virginia put together by our PI/CPC Chair Mary M. A little later this Monday we will also have a literature rack put together by Mary M. and Butch R. who will also set it up at the Community Connect Program, also held in Virginia on Oct. 15th from 11 until 2 at the Miner's Memorial Building. At our last district meeting September 12th attended by 22 members representing 13 groups our treasurer reported that District 8 is financially stable. We also ordered updated meeting schedules. We in District 8 are always willing to serve A.A. in any way possible. Butch R. and myself are speaking at Sandstone Federal Prison on 10-14-2014.

**District 15-Melissa**—Congrats to Melissa on her marriage this weekend from Area 35. The following report was mailed in:

Hey Everyone,  
I am so sorry that I was not able to attend the assembly! I heard that it was an amazing time and wish I could have been there with all of you. My Alt DCM (for the assembly) reported stating that she was in the Grapevine/Literature Committee. She had a wonderful report back that really helped out our district. We are in the process of putting together a Traditions Workshop, the date for that is February 21<sup>st</sup> 2015 from 11am to 3pm. We are looking for people from other districts and the area that would be willing to help educate members from our district on the 12 Traditions. We are going to be figuring out all the details at the next district meeting. If anyone is interested on presenting or helping with the workshop please, please, please let me know, we could use all the help we can get.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service!  
God Bless,  
Melissa A. , DCM 15

**Corrections-Skip D.** Good day all,  
We had 10 people in attendance this morning, Districts 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, and 16 were represented. It sounds like all commitments are being met. There are a few changes though, the contact person for NERCC, Jim, has stepped down and has asked Servondo to step up and coordinate the meetings there and to be the outside contact. Thank you Servondo. I was at Moose Lake on October 2nd, they made a statement that they would be looking at more outside facilitators for their meetings at the prison. So we will need more volunteers. I would like to welcome Bukko District 12 and Michelle District 5, for they are new Corrections Chairs for their district. I have gone through the Minnesota contact program and the G.S.O. correspondence program with them. I do plan on attending the joint workshop in St. Cloud on 11/01/2014.

I have met up with Area 36 on a few different occasions, I will talk more on that in the Statewide Corrections Committee report. Thank you for allowing me to serve,

**District 2 Mike H.**

I am happy to report that the GSR School put on by District 2 was a success. There was a lot of good information given and discussion spread out among various topics from different presenters. There were around 20 people in attendance, also I would like to thank those who traveled to present at this function, and everyone who attended. With this event over, and seeing how well it turned out It will be nice to have more service functions put on by District 2. At our last business meeting held on September 14th we had 6 in attendance. The district talked about what to do with the Archives, because the same person has had them for quite some time now, and would like to pass them on to someone willing to be Archives Chair. Although he is still willing to hold on to it until a new archives chair is found. Also brought up was lack of having district chair positions filled and the enthusiasm behind that and the district. Currently we have many chair positions open, and low attendance. Thoughts were to invite members to ride with to the district meeting, and to tell them how much fun it is remembering attraction not promotion. We also talked about updating our meeting lists to get all the information as current as possible. Our next District 2 business meeting is will be held on November 9th in Middle River at the Church.

**District 9 Fred H.** The district is coming out of a low point

due to unwarranted concerns about our treasury. We now have an assistance line and volunteers who answer the line. We are looking into a beginners meeting at a treatment program in the Perpich Building. We are meeting our other treatment and corrections commitments. The district is helping groups with literature orders. I will not be able to attend the December Area Committee Meeting due to a family commitment.

**CPC Servando M.** This mornings meeting with Public Information was attended by 17 members. Ideas were shared on presenting information at non A.A. events, the F2 flier, information on Alcoholics Anonymous and the beneficial uses of that form. Some ideas were shared on different ways the individual A.A. member could possibly share information with professionals they might have contact with. We also discussed briefly the upcoming St. Louis County Health and Human Services Convention which will be held at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center Oct 9th and 10th. District 12 has done a great job in finding members to sit the booth for this event. On a personal note, I was able to sit the aa booth at the Minnesota State Fair along with a sponsee. We both enjoyed this opportunity to serve and look forward to participating again. I also highly recommend this type of service work to everybody. If there is anyway that I can assist your district with any type of CPC work please do not hesitate to contact me.

Once again thank you for allowing me to participate and serve in this wonderful fellowship.

**District 16-Griffin M.** Our Treatment, alt DCM, and Secretary Positions are all open.

- Attendance at our last District meeting was 8.
  - We continue to carry the message to two of the treatment centers in our district thanks to Dan and Mary.
  - Weekly Jail meetings are happening thanks to our corrections chair Tike S and local member Mike J.
- Our literature/ grapevine chair Dave C. will be attended our community connect event next week.

I've yet to attend all the groups in our district; my goal is to visit each group by the end of the year.

On August 7<sup>th</sup> our past DCM Gene V. passed away at the age of 71. Gene was very dedicated to A.A. service and his home group here in Grand Rapids. Gene, along with other members, have been instrumental to me in getting more active in service work. Yours in Service.

**District 7 Carl P.** Hello from District 7. My name is Carl, DCM of District 7 and an alcoholic. Currently, all our service positions are filled. We did replace our Treatment Chair with a new gal who seems ready to fulfill the job responsibilities. We had had 12 GSRs at the September meeting, along with all of our district chairs.

I've been busy going through the group information sheets. We found we had groups on our district web site that are not on the aameetinglocator.org site. I just found out today that if a group's contacts mail gets returned to GSO, the group assumes inactive status and is no longer on web site. This is a good reason to keep your group contacts up to date.

We recently had our area 35 secretary, Roger, come to our district meeting. He gave a short presentation on the importance of district chairs attending area meetings. Thanks again, Roger! This was very evident today. We had four people in our August PI/CPC meeting. We had 17 today. We had a much better discussion today and learned what each district is doing to carry the message.

I attended the Zonal forum at Sleepy Hollow. The attendance was poor. I had attended the one in Bemidji earlier this year. In my opinion if we are going to continue spending area finances on these events, we need to figure out how to get more people to attend. They are very informative. Yours in service.

**Pete B. Archives** District 12, 18, 5, 7 and 14 were represented at our meeting today. Brad and I so attended. District 7 is putting everything on acid-free paper. District 12 enjoyed Brad's archive talk. District 14 is planning old-timers interviews. District 5 has two totes of archive material to go through. We discussed how to

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preserve archival material at our meeting today. Use heavier archival paper and manila folders. When sending material to the area make sure you put dates on flyers, etc. We recommend using a Sony digital recorder for recording interviews. We also came up with history questions for the next Northern Light.

**District 12 - Rillis E.** no report

**District 18- Neil R.** Greetings all from District 18.

We currently have all committee chairs filled with the exception of CPC/PI. Our Literature Chair has stepped down due to college and the Grapevine Chair has been willing to combine grapevine with literature. There is still an issue with commitment at the district and I hope with the upcoming workshop that it will inspire those in service to suit up and show up. Jail meetings are going well. We've started our second rotation of four for the year. I have finally got the group records updated for District 18. Upcoming events for District 18 are Long Prairie round Robin at the Trinity Lutheran Church on October 18 and the responsibility workshop at the United Methodist church in Clarissa.

Yours in service.

**Archivist- Brad I.** Since the August committee meeting I brought the Archives display to Duluth for the Duluth Round-Up. I was in a very visible space between the speaker auditorium and the coffee so I had a huge amount of traffic. I had multiple in-depth conversations with several people and the display was well received. I also gave a talk on how Alcoholics Anonymous came to Minnesota.

I have been trying to work on the data base of the Archives collection but lack of time has precluded any serious progress. I am also writing essays to accompany the photo tour of the display to put on the web site.

The next display is set for the St. Cloud Round-Up in October. I am giving a tour of the Archives and also doing a two part history talk.

I submitted my proposed budget and plans for the next year. I also have a bunch of stuff that I want to bring to Publications Director Greg T. at the January workshop. For brevity I won't go into those items now.

Please make sure I am on your mailing list for minutes in your districts.

**District 14 Deb A.** No report

**General Sharing Sessions- Roger R.** Answers reflect comments made by assembly attendees.

Sarah K. read rules from Service Manual. Everyone has a chance to share their experience strength and hope.

Q. Carl DCM District 7 District 13 has plan for getting GSR's into district committees. How to make this happen in our district?

A. Christine G. - We have our Alt DCM ask what GSR's interest is and also look at committee needs.

Bruce. Introduces sponsees to service after they have been through all 12 steps.

Helps when DCM's spend time with GSR's after the district meeting.

Jake. Starts in Service Manual. Sit down with people and start with the traditions.

Spend time with GSR's.

Q. Can you represent your home group as a GSR and also be a committee chair.

Neil District 18 DCM. Ok if not in conflict in voting.

Skip. GSR most important.

Roger- best to not have 2 service positions because you are denying someone an opportunity to have a position- if you have two.

Q. ACOA

A. Not AA- separate organization. Outside issue. Close relationship with Alanon and ACOA but are separate organizations. OK to give information on other fellowships by PI and CPC.

Q. Does anyone know about starting a youth AA group. Young people in AA? How to start a group?

A. Primary purpose is to carry the message. Start with the traditions. We are all similar from neck up. DULIPAA and MINIPAA may be good contact points.

Meetings labeled as young, woman's etc. restrict attendance.

Meetings for young people can do well, especially if at their base they follow traditions.

Meetings labeled as young peoples are must names...

Jake If this going to be an AA group we ask if they willing to follow our traditions.

ICCYPA being discussed by delegates.

Q. What do we do when a GSR is not fulfilling his/her duties ?

A. Have a group conscience meeting. Elect a GSR A. to guide the GSRs. Elect an alternate GSR. Have a group conscience meeting and vote people out if they are not following what the group conscience dictates. However it is best to allow a learning curve – talk to them and if you need to- vote them out. SM s28 Ask service member to resign if he/ she is not able to fulfill the responsibilities of a position. Important for sponsorship and service sponsorship – to help new service members. GSR is guardian of the traditions for 2 years- that is their only job. If no-one else is willing to step in- what can you do- so why get rid of the one you have? We replaced our treatment chair, who did not do his job in last rotation. Better to vote person out if he is not doing the job.

Q. Our group is a closed meeting and we decided to read the closed meeting announcement. This has pushed away newcomers.

A. As long as someone has a problem with alcohol it does not matter what they call themselves. Agree with closed meeting announcement. Ask to keep comments relative to alcohol in meetings. Each meeting is autonomous. OK to open meeting. If problem is not alcohol- they are not welcome to attend A.A. meetings. Jail meeting- no one would come if we turned away addicts. Stick with singleness of purpose. Alano boards should not impact group meetings. NA meetings are good option to hold at your club.

Traditions- our groups welfare should come first, unity, singleness of purpose- why we have been here for nearly 80 years is alcoholism. One reason we are still here is singleness of purpose. If members have a desire not to drink- would you consider being an alcoholic with us for one hour. When newcomers come in they may need time and attention to realize they are an alcoholic. Singleness of purpose is the biggest threat to A.A. Important to be welcoming, ok for addicts to attend if they talk about their alcohol problems. OK to have a general recovery group- just do not call it AA. Important to identify with other alcoholics. Tendency is to help, best of intentions, makes it hard to tell what is AA and is not. Open meetings are for non- alcoholics to observe. Court ordered folks have to be at our meetings. Don't tell newcomers to leave- give them a chance to figure out what they are- explain to them what alcoholism is. Some meetings are having a problem with newcomers attending.

Singleness of purpose is not about kicking everyone out who is not just an alcoholic. Need to explain what we do to outside entities that send people to us. There are few garden variety alcoholics left. AA is really not doing very well. Long form of third tradition- we are losing because we are trying to be everything to everyone. I knew I was an alcoholic from the first AA meeting I went to. I was directed to focus on one 12 step program. People first come in and say there are an addict- later they are alcoholic addicts.

If we violate the traditions we are affecting other groups and AA as a whole. AA groups need to be healthy so people can find recovery.

Q. Financial Oversight Committee (FOC) Why is committee meeting all the time.

I was on committee last rotation- we only met at ACM's. Cmte Chair- FOC first year met at Workshop and ACM's. Went well so decided not to make it to assemblies. This is the first year of the rotation, were some pitfalls, all is well now. Budget is for 3 people, chair, past delegate and one other person. Last year expenses were around \$1000.00. Area needs to decide if this is worth the continuing expenses for FOC. Statement of Financial responsibility says frequency of reviews can be changed. Question on DCM expenses on FOC, area has asked this DCM to be there... Is this any different than regular DCM committee assignment in area?

Q. Question – our meeting lists are no longer up to date. If GSO gets meetings returned they delete the group. If there is no contact person GSO removes the group from FNV as inactive. Area Group records is not notified before GSO deactivates a group as inactive. Rolene and Bob are working on a solution.

Q. S33 DCM, method of election at district or area should be decided by the entity?

Q. How can GSR's receive agenda items in a timely manner to bring to their groups?

Agenda items don't come out until GSO Board meeting-Jan 15.

Agenda items and background information are available to DCM's at February Area Committee Meeting, DCM's forward this information to groups in their districts. Conference Report does have leads and info on items that are going to be discussed

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and brought back to the conference. Board Meeting Minutes should also be sent to DCM's and area officers in a timely manner. Board minutes are also indicators of what will be conference agenda items.

Q. On Lavina. Was change on sponsorship pamphlet done before conference- Jake – no.

Additional committee considerations are likely to become agenda items. Don't just look at advisory actions.

Jake-GSO budget report. GSO is a million dollars ahead of last year.

Q. Where are we on the agenda. In sharing session.

Q. Problem that Conference Reports just came out 3 weeks ago. Not time to take them to groups...Board minutes will be out more timely.

Q. How do groups split up funds. Have a business meeting. Split between 3 entities.

See pamphlet on options. Ask entities what are they doing with this money to carry our message. Need to have group conscience meetings to make these decisions.

**GSR Sharing Session Report**

Fall Assembly GSR Sharing Session Oct 4, 2014

5:00PM GSR Sharing Session chair Leslie opened the session with the Serenity Prayer.

Previously elected GSR secretary Shane was not present. Ben was elected secretary for the GSR sharing session.

Question developed at Spring Assembly:

*How do we receive agenda items in a timely manner?*

Vickie moved to save the question for tonight in a larger sharing session instead of just us GSRs. Seconded by Mike. Passed with overwhelming majority.

A 2 minute speaking limit was agreed upon.

*Aaron: How do you go about getting people to do the service work, when you've got a group of 40 that attend a meeting, and the same few always end up doing the service work?*

Vickie: If sponsors push service to the sponsees, it gets done.

Justin: When going through the steps with my sponsor, a gift was freely given to me and I feel a duty and obligation to give back. Is unrecovered alcoholism the problem?

Myron: Myron sets up the meeting and is the treasurer and GSR. There has been only one year medallion to one person once per year. Don't let service work turn to resentment. Do the best you can and hopefully set an example for someone else. If you force people into service, you get bad service. I can only help people who ask me for help, same with service. I can't expect people to constantly thank me, I just do my best.

Mike: Explain what service is about to your group members. Hold a workshop. Its hard to get someone with many years sober to become a GSR, hopefully one day that newcomer will come in. Don't try to make service look terrible! A workshop might attract others to join your group.

Carl: I had to go through the steps, go to different meetings. Step forward and help. Start with making coffee and chairing meetings, and ease into district positions. GSR schooling helps teach service work, how to be a GSR. Workshop/seminar to help with different groups. We need a sponsor to help us through it.

Jim: Our program is one of attraction rather than promotion. I've gotten a lot out of service in AA. Its helped me in my sobriety. If we're trying to fill these positions that need to be filled, mention how its helped you out and suggest positions that need to be filled. A newcomer can start service in AA starting simply with cleaning up, coffee, eventually went through steps with a sponsor, actually starting from service. Helps to feel like you belong.

Ann: Experience with my home group is with strong sponsorship and welcoming the newcomer. An opportunity to be part of the group. It was explained at the beginning of the meeting what service opportunities were available on a clipboard. Sponsors made it clear you need to sign up on the clipboard for something to get involved. Peter: When you are rotating positions, the people that previously held them should be there to back you up. There should be confidence that the people around there are there to help you.

Aaron: To clarify my question, my sponsor a year and a half ago said I was taking on too much, and now nobody wants to step up. I like doing service work, but have obligations to family, too. I don't want to leave all that open and have it not get done.

Steve: My sponsor had me doing service work before my hands were done shaking, had me be a greeter. "Can you help me do this?" Then transition them to doing it and teaching others. Service work has helped me immensely. Let people know that it is fun.

Kathy: Sometimes a sponsor knows best if you've taken on too much. Let go and see what happens. Somebody else will probably do it.

Michelle: If nobody is stepping up, if you don't make the coffee, some one will step up the following week to make the coffee. Ask for volunteers! Don't be afraid to use your mouth. We may feel responsible for doing this. That group is so large, somebody will step up to the plate.

Roxanne: The DCM has said they can come see how your meeting is going. Let the DCM talk about different service areas that need to get filled.

Dave: I had every position there was. My sponsor said to tell them your going to shut it all down if nobody steps up to the plate, and it worked. Let go and let God.

Myron: When my rotation is done, it is done. Still go to the meetings and remind people about open positions. But, I can't save the whole world. My responsibility if someone asks for help is to help them. I can't stay awake at night and worry about if someone is making the deposits, taking out the trash, etc...

Chuck: Nobody wanted to be GSR, after a year, I quit, but nobody stepped up. But I went back to being GSR, since nobody stepped up. Tough to get people in the district, too. Going to let them go without again when term is up.

Tammy: Aaron, If you weren't to make the coffee, would someone else make it? Service work is the best thing in the world. After going to spring assembly as alternate GSR, I understood, and took over for the GSR. I wanted to get involved, so I did. I love it. I wouldn't be doing anything else.

Stub: It's the same old thing every year. No alcoholic wants to do a thing. I'm the same way. Let the others do it. But they don't do it right! After 20 years, the same officers are still running the show. GSRs don't know they are supposed to guide the officers. The GSR is the most important person in AA, the guardian of the traditions. If people want to go against the traditions, tell them "No!"

*Roxanne: Is a business meeting and a group conscience meeting the same? In my group, I have no control of these meetings, I'm lost.*

Leslie: They're usually not, but our group has the business meeting and then the group conscience together.

*Roxanne: How do you take control of it? Past GSRs and old timers just take over. Who leads the meeting?*

Leslie: In our group, the person that chairs the regular meeting chairs the business meeting.

Mike: We have group conscience and business meeting together. The chair is technically in charge, but the treasurer and GSR do most of it. Occasionally, the GSR needs to bring the discussion back to the topic or call a vote.

Aaron: For our meeting, we don't have somebody that is the chair every time, it rotates, you sign up for it. We have the treasurer or the GSR, we have the group conscience together, the GSR runs it and the treasurer, so we don't have a chair.

April: We have between 30-35 women. If you work it let it work. We have a chair person that keeps everybody on task. As far as the GSR report, we go by a structure. It gets really heated, but everybody loves everybody. If there is an issue to be discussed, we announce the group conscience. There are elected people. If you don't have structure, maybe you need to find another meeting.

End of questions. No new questions brought up for January Workshop.

Passed the basket for printing funds. We collected \$62.25. Printing compliments of Country Inn and Suites. All collected funds contributed to Area 35.

Next GSR Sharing Session will be at the January workshop.

**DCM Sharing Session Report**

Attended by (Name and District): Griffin 16, Christine 13, Angie 13 Alt, Irv 21, Harry (Deb) 14, Eric 7 Alt, Rich 12 Alt, Steve 3, Michael 2, Rillis 12, Neil 18, Jake 5 fill in, John 1, Garrett 6, Jerry 8, Marlene 15 alt, Carl 7, Bruce 4 lit chair.

Total of 18 in attendance; 11 DCMs, 4 Alternate DCMs, 1 District Literature Chair, 1 District CPC Chair, and 1 other member.

Angie 13 was nominated by Jake, seconded by Karl, all in favor of her serving as secretary since Deb is absent.

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Christine DCM Dist 13 read ‘sharing sessions’ from the AA Service Manual.

Topics Presented by DCMs:

Are the groups in your district listed correctly in the 2014-2015 Western United States AA Directories? – Jerry 8

What to do when your district does not have the money to send elected servants to the service events. – Michael 2

How do you delegate district action committee duties? Discussion on filling action chairs and who does what? – Jake 5

District workshop ideas and formats. Harry 14

I.

- Sometimes GSO sends letters to ensure groups are accurate (one district got a letter in May from GSO for example). If GSO sends communication and it is kicked back even one time, then the group is marked as “inactive”. A suggestion was made by District 5 CPC Chair Jake to take an Area Action by requesting there be a grace period of 1 year before a group is kicked out of the Fellowship New Vision (FNV) database AND notify the district or area of the inactive group. This would give DCMs time to review and verify contact information.

- There have also been issues with Rolene’s internet service and if the information was not loaded on the FNV website, it was not included.

- Steve DCM District 3 said the key is to get groups to be responsible to update their group information.

- Garrett from District 6 reports he sent a post card to each meeting in his district at the beginning of his term requesting a response; the first groups he heard from were the first groups he visited. He went to the groups and updated the info himself. Reports he found groups in the district that were not actually in Area 35 too.

We cannot fix the current directory (print version) but we can do our best for the next directory. We can ask the alt DCM for help. We can do what we can to help the next incoming DCM too. Michael 2

II.

- Use the phone if your district does not have the money to fund for transportation cost. Carl 7

- Request contributions for specific services. Bruce 4 Literature Chair

- Encourage groups to contribute by highlighting and emphasizing the services that are being funded by their contributions; share about the costs of meeting directories, and new comers meetings. Christine 13

- After sending post cards to meetings we got more contributions. Garrett 6

Remind people at your meeting that the district is short and needs money. Eric 7

III.

- Jake District 5 talked about the importance of delegating and organizing the work instead of relying on one person to do it.

- Christine District 13 stated she has to remember she is there to fulfill the DCM purposes, and collaborate how to assist the chairs to do the jobs there too.

- Mike District 2 added that he hopes for more enthusiasm for service within the district and it is difficult to fulfill chair positions. Jon District 1 said his district has the same issue with participation.

Jerry District 8 said to clarify that if a person serves part of a term in a position they are eligible to be elected to that position at the next rotation. Also suggested that if a person has two positions, one as GSR and one at the district, then the district pays half of the expenses and the home group pays the other half.

IV.

- Mike District 2 commented on district functions because he just set one up. Make a flyer and email and postal mail the flyer to all possible contacts.

- Eric District 7 suggested to include food.

- One member asked if a workshop on Primary Purpose could be advertised in the local newspaper. Jake District 5 responded that this workshop would only be open to alcoholics and listing it in a newspaper would attract the public.

- Rillis District 12 said food is a good idea and flyers can be distributed as much as possible.

- Jon added that a catchy name and making an event annual can help.

- Irv District 21 Encourage controversy with the topic or the events services. Get people interested by pissing em’ off; Give out door prizes. After giving out door prizes, at a district sponsored event, new people who had not been to the district meeting before attended to express their disapproval of door prizes. Get excited about your success in attracting new members to the district meeting.

Rillis District 12 Ask GSRs to hand out fliers at all meetings they attend not just their home group.

Closed with the Statement of Responsibility

## Area Officers and Chairs Meeting Report by Roger R.

We discussed Area officers and chairs reports at assemblies and committee meetings. Seemed to be consensus that we limit our reports to our activities as trusted servants in service activities.

## OLD BUSINESS

Area 35/36 Workshop

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

Sarah K. welcomes suggestions for format.

Financial Oversight Committee Report

Bruce B. and Steve L. report everything is correct. Only discrepancy is labeling one expense treatment instead of corrections. \$313.00 owed to area for Duluth Roundup who used our bulk mailing permit. Area literature is in a separate account and will start reporting to Area Treasurer. Area Literature Chair will be reporting at December ACM. Round-ups owe Area 75.00 for insert fees for flyers in the NL – new procedures discussed by Web Tec Ad Hoc Committee.

Web Tech Ad Hoc Committee Report Bob. B.

Area Group Records Secretary needs equipment- recommended replacing for hardware and software for \$575.00 This expense is part of budgeted expenses for Group Records Secretary. Web Tech Update- Bob

Letting Other Areas into AA Meeting Locator. 7-8000 visitors July-September each month.

MOTION- Jin GSR District 13, Vicki GSR District 3 2<sup>nd</sup>. Allow areas in West Central Region to join AA Meeting Locator. Discussion Motion Passed

Move Area Websites to Wordpress. Easier to pass on in rotation. No need for webmaster to know CSS or HTML.

Vision for AA MN.org. Similar to new GSO website aa.org

Motion- Develop new website for AAMN.org at no additional costs for Area 35. Myron GSR District 2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Joan GSR District 7. Friendly amendment accepted to: Allow Bob to begin Development of new website for AAMN.org- with approval and collaboration by Area 36. Motion Passed

Statewide Corrections Committee Report-Skip D. Not sure of printing costs on temporary contact form. Area 36 wants representative from Area 35 to attend all statewide transitions fairs. Draft form of brochure for Area35/36 statewide corrections committee. Area 36 wants to have Area 35 pay 30% of costs for literature for St. Cloud Prison. St. Cloud Prison is doing okay on literature.

January Workshop Report

Kelly D. Kelly D. Districts presenting: 3, 7, 9, 15, 16, 21, 6 and 13. Using letter from Jerry S, on where to go to get information you need for presentations. Guest for weekend is GSO Publications Director. Agenda will be up on Are 35 Website by the end of the week.

WCRAASC Sarah K. Norfolk Nebraska. Important for Area Committee members and GSR’s and DCM’s to carry conscience of Area 35 to the event and communicate back to the area/ districts and groups. Last year Area Committee members were invited to groups and districts to present what were learned at conference or talk/email with area too.

## NEW BUSINESS

Statement of Financial Responsibility( Budgets)

*(Continued on page 21)*



(Continued from page 20)  
Total Proposed is: \$63,366.02  
Discussion Motion: Jake-Acting DCM District 15: I motion to approve the 2015 Budget as amended- 2<sup>nd</sup> Griffin District 16 DCM Discussion Several participants suggested the area engage in a more realistic versus worst case/ theoretical budgeting method. Vicki GSR, Carl DCM Called the question. Motion: Approve the corrected 2015 Area 35 Budget for \$ 63, 366.02. Motion Passed  
Minority Opinion Christine G. Area budget needs to reflect more real numbers or my district goes ballistic.

\_\_\_\_\_ Agenda Items- GSO searchable web meeting database  
Bob B.  
Motion- For Area 35 Delegate( Jake) to compose a letter of support from Area 35 for a national AA meeting locator, searchable database. John S. DCM District; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vicki GSR District 3 Motion Passed

\_\_\_\_\_ Web technologies- National AA Web Technologies Workshop Report Bob B. PPT report to assembly.

\_\_\_\_\_ Zonal Forums Kelly D. Read origins in Area Actions. Last forum not well attended. Discussion pro and con Suggestion to place this on agenda for spring assembly. If we do want them we need to support Zonal Forums physically. Please discuss this with your groups.

\_\_\_\_\_ Calendar of Events. Rodney. See page 23 of NL. If you have any changes please contact Rodney.

\_\_\_\_\_ Ask it Basket ( Past Delegates)

Jim K. Is there a process in place to review the accuracy of guide-lines in the Area Actions Book? If it is in the Actions Book it was approved by the area. Book may have practices that we are not doing and need to adhere to. Book is also historical, current practices should be in there.

John C. Is it ok for area officers to include activities such as Round-Ups and Round Robins in their reports? Yes, makes them accessible to the body.

Jerry S. Do we really need an area Could district take care of AA on local levels. We have 17 districts, how would we get a group conscience. How would we pass on information? In SM Bill out-lines why we have areas, since 1950’s. How would we have and prepare a delegate for a GSC?

Tom A. Is the area supporting any past delegate? Yes we do for one on the FOC. He did room share- this weekend.

Susie A. What happened with Area 35 meeting search? It is still there. Yes.

Who is best looking past delegate? I pick Tom.

Bruce B. Panel 44, 20 years ago. Why is a GSR still allowed to introduce herself as an addict? Why has this not been dealt with at the assembly level? Love and tolerance is our code. Makes my hair stand up personally. Does affect AA as a whole. Covered this in a general session. Ok to ask him/ her to consider being one of us for an hour.

Bob J. Panel 40 Any chance we can get past Delegates to demystify board minutes, agenda items throughout the year? Yes we could do that, would need advance notice for planning, could do

small presentations during assemblies.

Jim K. How do we get the newcomers to assemblies to return? How do we get them to feel more welcome? I wound up at an assembly due to my home group. Lots of people came up to me at my first assembly and welcomed me. Make assemblies more like a home group where everyone is welcoming.

John C. Where are the board minutes and how do I get them. General Service Board is made up of 21 trustees. 14 drunks class B and 7 non alcoholics- class A. Meets 4 times a year in NY. Puts out a set of minutes that are sent to our Delegate. Ask Jake to put you on his mailing list for them.

Jerry S. Why don't we as an area have paypal? We tried this for contributions and it was not used much by the fellowship.

Tom A. There is also is a GSB quarterly report. Could we have a website for or a wiki type website. Not good if unmediated. ON AA GRAPEVINE.ORG we had a BLOG.  
Susie A.- At this assembly how many officers and chairs are room sharing. We just ask that they are prudent.

Bruce B. Why do the past delegates sit in the back of the room away from the body.? For the protection of the body- to keep us away from the mics? Why do they talk amongst themselves when others are talking? We will try to hold this down.

Bob J. Is there disapproved literature. Such as reading a 24 hours a day at meetings. Does this violate anything? Conference approved literature has gone through a conference approval process. There are no disapproved literature.

Jim K. What is your favorite AA joke. From Bruce- What is the most common type of underwear worn by past delegates- depends.  
John C. Budget is 21\$ per member. Is this correct? We should make our budgets more accurate. Should do this in the future.

Jerry S. People say they do not want to get involved in politics. How do we get more involved in service? If this were political I would not be here.

Tom A. We need to bring people back to our clubhouse. I wont answer this as it is an outside issue. See relationship between A.A. and clubs in our Service Manual.

Susie A.- How do we get our groups more involved? Bring back your enthusiasm. We pass information on here from the conference and GSO to DCM’s and GSR’s, conduit also goes the other way.

Bruce B. How can we find replacement GSR’s? Personal sponsorship is the answer to every problem AA has. Take someone along to a district meeting. Make district meetings good meetings.

Bob J. Can you say a few words about your conference experience? Would you do anything different if you went again? Hard to answer. I was a little nervous at that first conference. Loosened up later in the week. Was taking things way too seriously.  
BEST TO SAY AS ONE CHAIR FROM ZIM- LETS HAVE NO REGRETS AT THE END- IF WE ARE DOING OUR JOBS.

\_\_\_\_\_ Adjourn

**Celebrating 80 Years of Recovery, Unity and Service —  
The Foundation for our Future  
2015 West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous  
Service Conference  
February 27th, 28th, and March 1st, 2015  
Divots Conference Center and Norfolk Lodge  
and Suites  
4200 W. Norfolk Avenue — Norfolk, NE 68701  
Call (402) 379-3833 for all reservations**

**ANSWERS to ARCHIVES QUIZ (page 11)**

- |                                 |                                                 |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 1) 1950                         | 6) Brainerd                                     |
| 2) Sister Ignatius              | 7) 2,000                                        |
| 3) Walter B.                    | 8) Berry C.                                     |
| 4) 1989                         | 9) Minneapolis, MN                              |
| 5) Pearl N., Panel 8, 1958-1959 | 10) 2218 Club, Minneapolis, MN— started in 1942 |

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 in-

clude 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><b>Editor</b> - 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><b>Desirable qualifications:</b> 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><b>N.L. Committee</b> - 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><b>N.L. COMMITTEE MEETINGS:</b> 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: <a href="mailto:northernlight@area35.org">northernlight@area35.org</a>. 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. Northern Light Editor</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

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

**Area 35 January Service Workshop—Jan. 17– 18th, 2015**  
Barkers Island Resort & Conference Center  
Superior, WI

**Northern Light Deadline—January 21st, 2015**

**Area Committee Meeting — February 22nd - 9:00 am**  
Aitkin Alano Club  
322 First Avenue N.E.  
Aitkin, MN

**WCRAASC —Feb 27 – Mar 1, 2015**  
Divots Conference Center and Norfolk Lodge and Suites  
4200 W Norfolk Avenue  
Norfolk, NE ,68701

**Spring Assembly — April Apr 11 – 12, 2015**  
902 Frontier Dr,  
Fergus Falls, MN

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

November						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						
Phases of the moon: 6: ☉ 14: ☾ 22: ● 29: ☉						
Holidays and Observances: 11: Veterans Day, 27: Thanksgiving Day						

December						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
Phases of the moon: 6: ☉ 14: ☉ 21: ● 28: ☉						
Holidays and Observances: 24: Christmas Eve, 25: Christmas Day, 31: New Year's Eve						
HAPPY HOLIDAYS						

Upcoming Events in Areas 35 & 36 note: Area 35 events take precedence !

**8th Annual Gratitude Dinner-November 22nd**  
Baptist Church Trailside Center  
Old Highway 371  
Pequot Lakes, MN

**District 7 Potluck & Helpline Training—December 4th**  
6:00 pm, all A.A.’s Welcome  
1st Congregational Church  
415 Juinper St.  
Brainerd, MN 56401

**Area 36 Committee Meeting—December 6th, 2014**  
Best Western Hotel  
1111 Range St.  
Mankato, MN

**Superior Round-up — April17-19th, 2015**  
Superior Curling Club  
4700 Tower Avenue  
Superior, WI

**2015 International Convention — July 2nd-5th, 2015**  
80 Years — “Happy, Joyous and Free”  
Atlanta, Georgia  
Pre-registration (\$100) available until May 12, 2015  
On-site registration (\$110) — Georgia Work Congress Center  
In Atlanta

**RECURRING 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.

**A Few Words on Social Media**

Social media websites such as Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn provide unique opportunities for colleagues to get to know each other, share experiences and keep in contact. It is important to be aware of the risks associated with using these sites, to act in a manner that does not embarrass yourself and to refrain from sharing your private information publicly. Despite site privacy settings, you should always assume that anything you post online can never be removed and can be viewed by anyone with an Internet connection, including cyber and traditional criminals as well as identity thieves. Not only does this present a risk to you personally, it can also be a risk to Area 35, AA, and any members on a "friends" list.

**DECEMBER 7 ACM AGENDA**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 9:00 A.M. Action Chair Committee Meetings (9:30 a.m. Financial Oversight Committee)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10:30 A.M. Area Committee Meeting
- \_\_\_\_\_ Call to Order Open With the Serenity Prayer
- \_\_\_\_\_ Recognize Past Delegates
- \_\_\_\_\_ Add to Agenda
- \_\_\_\_\_ Aug. 2014 Committee Minutes

**OFFICER REPORTS**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Delegate – Michael J. GSC Report
- \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Delegate – Kelly D.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Chair – Sarah K.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary – Roger R.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Treasurer – Randy A.

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS**

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

- 12:00 P.M. Lunch
- 12:45 P.M. Reconvene

**OLD BUSINESS**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Financial Oversight Committee Report

**NEW BUSINESS**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 2015 Statement of Financial Responsibility
- \_\_\_\_\_ Joint Workshop Evaluations
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fall Assembly Evaluations
- \_\_\_\_\_ Area Chair workshops/presentations
- \_\_\_\_\_ Northern Light Mailing dates
- \_\_\_\_\_ Calendar of Events
- \_\_\_\_\_ Adjourn

**Area 35 Area 35 January Service Workshop Agenda  
Jan. 17– 18th, 2015  
Barkers Island Resort & Conference Center  
Superior, WI**

**Saturday, January 17, 2015**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 8:00 am Registration Begins
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9:15 am Opening and Announcements
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9:25 am Meet Your Area Officers and Action Committee Chairs
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9:30 am **Safety and Respect – Practicing the Principals Begins in Our Home Group** – District 15
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10:10 am **Our Archives – Using the Past to Chart the Future** – District 9
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10:50 Break
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11:10 pm **Safeguarding Our Traditions Through the Evolution of Technology** – District 6
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12:00 pm Lunch on Your Own
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1:30 pm **Are We Living the A.A. Preamble?** – District 16
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2:10 pm **Singleness of Purpose – A Guarantee of Inclusiveness** – District 7
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2:50 pm **Inventory - Looking Back to Move Ahead** – District 21
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3:30 pm Break
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3:50 pm **Sharing Session – Is Literature A Service?** – Greg T., GSO Publications Director
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5:00 pm Dinner on Your Own
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6:30 pm **GSR Sharing Session and DCM Sharing Session**
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8:00 pm **Open Speaker Meeting** – Greg T., GSO Publications Director
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9:00 pm **Ice Cream Social**

**Sunday, January 18, 2015**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 7:00 am **Big Book Closed A.A. Meeting**
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8:30 am **Diversity in A.A. – Our Heritage in Action** – District 13
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9:10 am **A.A. Legacy of Service – Are We a Society of Alcoholics in Action?** District 3
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9:50 am Break
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10:10 am **Our Common Welfare Through Gratitude in Action**– Greg T., GSO Publications Director
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10:45 am **Ask-It-Basket** – Past Delegates
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11:30 am Adjourn

***\$10.00 Registration fee to strive toward the area action of making the Area 35 Service Workshop self-supporting.***

**Be sure to send all individual and group Area 35 contributions to:**

**NMAA  
PO Box 411  
Hoyt Lakes, MN 55750**