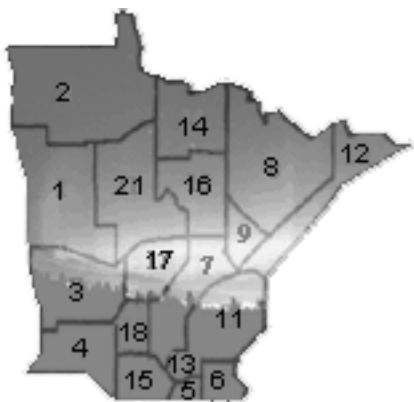


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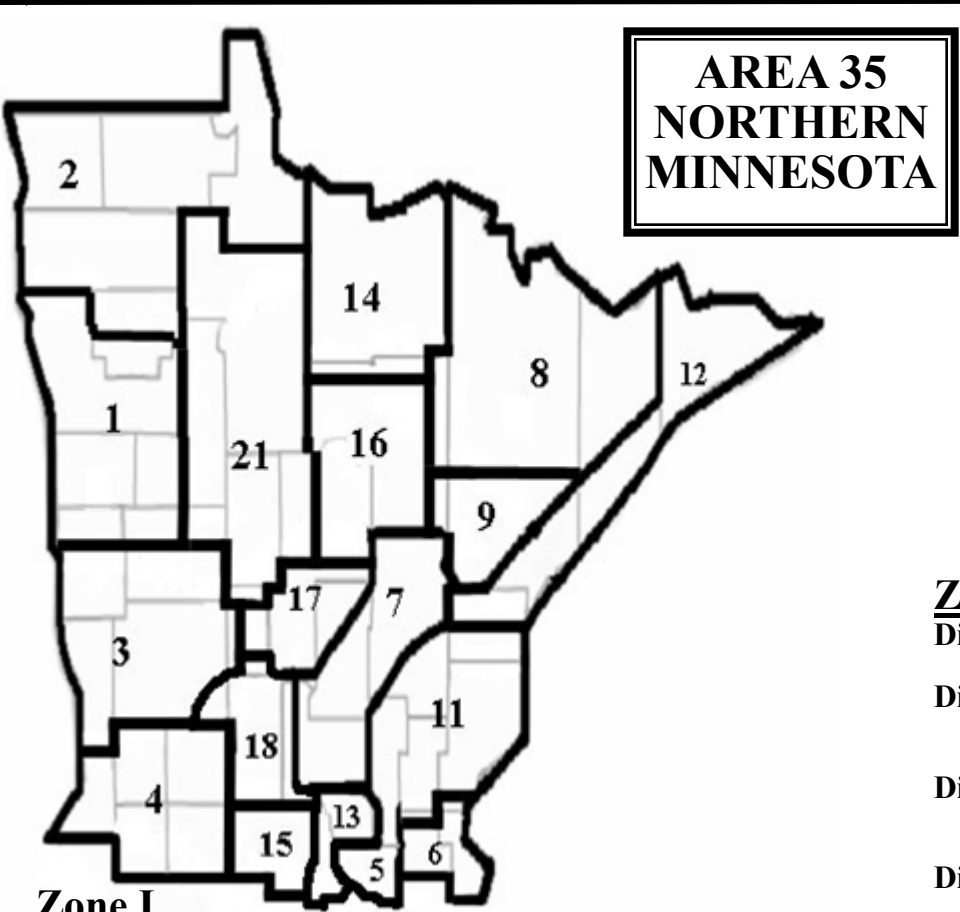
Deadline for the next
Northern Light is
May 1st, 2015

This is YOUR Newsletter.

Please send your questions or comments for publication to
Rodney S. at NorthernLight@area35.org

Please bring extra copies to share with your group!

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



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

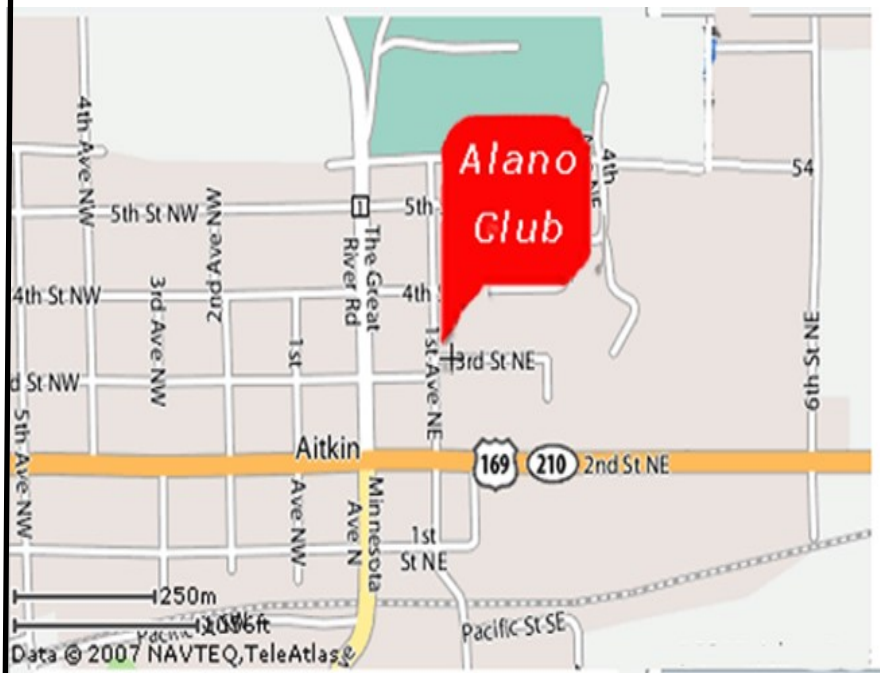
** In cities marked with an asterisk, some meetings consider themselves to be in one District, and some meetings consider themselves to be in another District.*

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**
2nd Sunday of Odd Months, 2:00 p.m.
First Lutheran Church
210 Park Ave. N.
Middle River, MN 56737
- District 3**
3rd Sunday of Month, 10:00 a.m.
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**
3rd Monday of Month, 7 p.m.
Freshwaters Church
12475 273rd Ave NW
Zimmerman, MN 55398
- District 6**
3rd Thursday of Month, 7:30 p.m.
Spring Lake Lutheran Church
8440 Erickson Rd. N.E.
North Branch, MN 55056

- District 7**
3rd Thursday of Month, 7:00 p.m.
First Congregational United Church
415 Juniper Street
Brainerd, MN 56401
- District 8**
Committee Meetings at 6:30 p.m.
General District Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Contact DCM for location “It Rotates”
Cook, MN
- District 9**
Last Sunday of Month, 6:00 p.m.
Hibbing Alano Club
3725 1st Avenue
Hibbing, MN 55746
- District 11**
1st Tuesday of Month, 7:00 p.m.
Peace Lutheran
2177 Hwy 18
Finlayson, MN 55735
- District 12**
3rd Thursday of Month, 6:30 p.m.
Contact DCM for meeting location (It Rotates)
- District 13**
1st Monday of Month, 7:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.
St. Cloud Alano Club
127 7th Ave. NE
Saint Cloud, MN 56301

- District 14**
2st Tuesday of Month, 5:30 Committee Meeting
6:00 p.m. District Meeting
Alano Club
410 5th Ave
International Falls, MN 56649
- District 15**
1st Monday of Month, 8:00 p.m.
Albany Community Center
741 Lake Ave.
Albany, MN 56307
- District 16**
1st Wednesday of Month, 6:30 p.m.
United Methodist Church
1701 S.E. 8th Ave.
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Handicap Accessible, Non-Smoking
- District 18**
1st Tuesday of Month, 6:30 p.m.
Long Prairie Alano Club
21 2nd Ave.
Long Prairie, MN 56347
- District 21**
2nd Monday, 7:00 p.m.
Bemidji Alano Club
3802 Greenleaf Ave NW
Bemidji, MN 56601
- District 17**
Not currently active or unknown



OUR PAST DELEGATES

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

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)

A Declaration of Unity

This we owe to A.A.s future; to place our common welfare first; to keep our Fellowship united. For on A.A. unity depend our lives, and the lives of those to come.

OFFICER REPORTS

DELEGATE’S REPORT

WCRAASC was a success! 357 A.A. members gathered to share, to encourage us in our search for ways to help the still suffering alcoholic. For the first time in a while Nebraska did not have a blizzard so they were able to add about \$1,000 to our regional fund. Norfolk and the Nebraska area did a wonderful job of hosting all of us. Even some friends from the Wisconsin Area stopped by to participate. Our Panel 65 Delegates glowed as they gave their area highlights. What an amazing a Region we have. For those of you that don’t know we have 8 Areas: Iowa, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Southern Minnesota and Northern Minnesota (that’s us—Area 35). Our Regional trustee Andrew W. was there to guide us with his sharing and to answer questions when needed. We had several other past trustee’s and delegates that added their experience to the mix. Phyliss H. the General Manager from GSO was our Saturday speaker and allowed us to know her better through her life experience. When asked how many people were there for their first WCRAASC it seemed that 40% of the hands went up. This has been the case at our regional events, which I believe shows that a new group of service workers are prepared to step in. I hope we enjoy the transition and do not bleed all over.

I would like to thank Sandy and Rolene for stepping in to do a breakout session for our area. Since I did not give them much info they stumbled a bit before getting on track and doing a wonderful job. I rode down with Roger, our Area Secretary, who was kind enough to take time off work to travel with me. We learned a lot about each other’s personal lives. Sometimes we don’t appreciate the sacrifices in time, vacations and finances that our trusted servants donate to our area. THANK YOU ALL! We had a nice turnout from our area with a few DCM’s and many area chairs and committee chairs. The things we all learn by listening and participating will strengthen our area for the future. Wish all our servants could attend.

We had many good presentations and breakout sessions with good participation and sharing from the floor. I attended the Trustees session and enjoyed listening to Andrew fielding questions from the crowd. He talked about the positions open at GSO. The General Manager is leaving, a staff position is open and Andrew will be done in a year. So we need to look for a replacement from our Area to nominate. If you have a prospective candidate for trustee please have him contact Sarah. Andrew talked about his thoughts on what to do when a trustee dies or cannot fulfill his term. The process we have now either leaves the spot open or allows for a person to be elected short term—removing his possibility to stand for a full term.

I also attended the Grapevine breakout and listened to good discussion on getting members to send in stories and how the Grapevine is important in correctional facilities and to newcomers in A.A. Libraries, doctor’s offices, and when traveling are all great place to use The Grapevine.

We went through the agenda items, much like we will this year at our Spring Assembly and had some good sharing. Although it is tough for some members to get past items from previous years and deal with those in front of us, our sharing would go much quicker and help our new members to keep up with us if we stay with our agenda as it is. I hope you all have had access to the agenda items through your district or on our password protected site. Bob B. did a wonderful job of setting this up. Thank you Bob. Participation from the groups is really the only way any of this will matter.

We need the groups to share with us what they want or need so we aren’t just making work for ourselves. I am now an outgoing delegate and will attend my second General Service Conference. I am constantly asking God to help me not screw this thing up and leave it in good or better shape than I found it. I will be asking for the DCM’s to set dates for my report and hopefully we can have them at events that will reach the most people. I love Alcoholics Anonymous and I love you. Thanks.

An infamous man once said:

“Who can’t stop drinking may get drunken three times a month. If he does it more often, he is guilty. To get drunken twice a month is better; once, still more praiseworthy. But not to drink at all - what could be better than this? But

where could such a being be found? But if one would find it, it would be worthy of all honour.”

— Genghis Khan

Yours in Love and Service,
Michael(Jake) J. Area 35

ALTERNATE DELEGATE’S REPORT

Greetings Area 35,

It is hard to believe we are moving into the month of April already. Time sure flies! I made it to Norfolk, Nebraska for the WCRAASC the end of February but unfortunately was not able to attend any of it. I caught some kind of a flu bug and spent the whole time in bed while there. It was quite disappointing but I am grateful we will be going over the Agenda Items again at the Spring Assembly coming up.

I am continuing to look for a place in Zone 3 to hold our next January Area 35 Service Workshop and also a guest for that weekend. I will then get the Agenda together and will be asking districts to present on certain topics. For those of you that don’t know we always use the title from the General Service Conference of that year and use their topics along with a few others that we come up with related to service. I am truly enjoying putting this workshop together. I would be happy to hear if anyone has any ideas or subjects they would like for this workshop.

I just wanted to also mention again we will be discussing zonal forums at our Spring Assembly. Do we want to continue to have these? If so, how do we get more people to attend and get involved?

I look forward to seeing you all at our Spring Assembly coming up. If I can be of service to any of you let me know. Thank you to the districts that continue to send me your minutes, I enjoying reading what is going on within your districts. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Kelly D., Alternate Delegate

AREA CHAIR’S REPORT

I attended the 2015 WCRAASC with an Alt. DCM from Area 35. It was a wonderful trip! I was present for all of the area presentations and agenda item discussions. I witnessed some good sharing on A.A. unity, the importance of leading with our traditions, and remembering that when I share, I should take care that my sharing supports our primary purpose and be clear that it is my experience, not A.A. talking. I was reminded that with great power comes great responsibility and had a wonderful discussion (after the presentation) on the traditions and Facebook. I sat in on the area officers/trustees breakout session where we discussed rotating positions, keeping unity at service functions, the election process for becoming trustee, why are the non-voting trusted servants non-voting? Why do we have so many trustees? (it provides a broader range of views.) I also attended the CPC breakout session and the issues discussed were: working with treatment facilities. What things is your area doing well in CPC, and what is your area's CPC committee having problems with? How do you encourage people to participate in PI/CPC work. I also participated in the agenda item discussion as well and have included some highlights below. Of course, all of this is my own perception of the events in question and may have no direct correlation with reality. If anyone would like my full notes, or my assistance with the agenda item discussions at your group or district, please don’t hesitate to call! As we began our agenda item discussion, our regional trustee, Andrew W., shared that the reason we go through the agenda item discussion is to get a sense of the region on these issues and allow for discussion. It provides us the opportunity to raise concerns, ask questions, start dialogue, and work toward a well informed group conscience. He also reminded us not to clap as it might discourage minority opinion.

I. Agenda, Item E. Members shared being pleased with GSOs response to an additional consideration from the last conference (one this area/region has been supportive of and working toward in the past) to look into the scope of the agenda committee. The subcommittee recommendation was that Conference committee chairs be allowed to participate in board meetings regarding agenda item proposals on which no action was taken and have a voice. This item is a huge deal! It addresses/brings the conference item back into the fold of the process as we’ve been asking.

(Continued from page 5)

Adding a review of the conference so the agenda committee will participate in the process and have some input on conference week schedule that has been missing in the past. This is a great opportunity to give the committee a voice to make recommendations.

IV. Finance, Item A: Increasing the annual individual contribution amount to GSO. Ken B. (past WCRAASC trustee) despite concerns about this being good for individuals or A.A. as a whole—the important thing to note is the trustees put this on the agenda to let the conference discuss/decide, which is a good change. Carl B. (past WCRAASC Trustee): Any time we allow individuals this right we weaken the power of the purse for the groups, as Bill intended, for the ultimate way for the fellowship to own the responsibility for supporting A.A. If you want to give away your groups responsibility to the power of the purse, just give it to individuals (let them put more money in).

General observations:

- It is reflected in the agenda items, that the trustees are bringing many more items forward for conference consideration—this is a hopeful, good move.
- They are now including supporting statistics in background information which is very helpful.
- Materials from GSO should be available in a format accessible to all and manipulable for translating/formatting/copying (not pdf).

Andrew W., Trustees Talk:

“I wanted to stop (service in A.A.), but it was good that this is going on.” He reminded us that Regional Trustee elections are coming up and we should be thinking of who would make the best WCR Trustee—this is typically a past delegate. Think, within our region, who might we want to stand for this.

General Sharing: Carl B. shared a story about Jack N. and substantial unanimity. The question was raised, when deadlocked on fourth ballot in an election, why not just skip the fifth ballot and go right to the hat. Jack’s response was, and I paraphrased, this not a direct quote of what Carl shared, that Bill was always challenged to find a way for us to have complete substantial unanimity in all our decisions. So we built it into everything we do, but had a hard time trying to build it into the election process with 3rd legacy. At area elections, we always ask if the person in the (clear) minority would like to withdraw, since it is obvious the area’s choice is the person with the most votes. But at GSO, the delegates can’t withdraw their names if asked, so you are asked to do that for them. The idea was always with Bill, if in the election of a trustee in where one was almost unanimously elected, but the other had only enough to stay in, the person with the most votes had the support and trust of the most people, so in keeping with the process of substantial unanimity this gives the minority the opportunity to change their vote and become united. If the elected people are close, like one has 60 and 40, then you should go to the hat because there is no clear favorite, but in a far spread, where one is barely hanging on, and then you go to the hat you are not achieving sub unanimity. When we find that we are in the minority then, it is up to us to make a spiritual sacrifice and step down to make it right for A.A., and substantial unanimity. You could always hold out and try to get your way even when there is a clear majority in support of one candidate/idea. If you think that is best of alcoholics anonymous, but you’re probably wrong. Don’t choose selfishly to ignore substantial unanimity and go to the hat. I don’t endorse or oppose any causes, but I do think it might behoove us to think about God’s will and get out of the way and not demand our way.

Thank you for letting me serve,
Sarah

SECRETARY’S REPORT

Since the February 22 Area Committee meeting I have attended the WCRAASC in Norfolk Nebraska and completed the minutes from the February Area Committee meeting.

I would like to thank Area 35 for sending me to the 2015 West Central Region A.A. Service Conference. I travel to the conference with Mike J., our Area 35 Delegate. Spending travel time with Mike increased my knowledge of the conference structure and process as he is a second year Delegate Chair for A.A.

I attended each of the general sessions on agenda items, presentations from areas and break-out sessions from Friday February 27 through Sunday morning on March 1, 2015 my notes on these sessions and presentations follow. For this report I have omitted agenda items for which there was no discussion by conference participants.

Friday Evening:

Opening and Welcome- Bill O. Nebraska Delegate

General Session I: Area 36 Southern MN Presentation highlights: Honesty, open-mindedness and willingness important in service. Early A.A. fears of diversity were not warranted.

Meet the Delegates—four new delegates shared their area reports

Discussion of General Service Conference Agenda Items

Andrew W.—Purpose of service conference is to develop a well informed group conscience for our delegates from our west central region.

1. Agenda:

C. Safety items is one of those things that are an outside issue in our traditions, should not be more important than our common welfare.

E. Recommendation of the subcommittee, conference committee chairs participate with trustee committees, during January Board Weekend—on items that were not moved forward by trustee committees. My thoughts are that this is a good move in the right direction. However, our conference agenda is still set by Trustees Committees and Boards. I suggested to Anne F. who is a delegate from South Dakota and on the Agenda Conference Committee that it might work to have a sub-committee with voting members from both a delegate conference committee and trustees conference committee decide on agenda items.

F. This and item E. are good opportunities for the Agenda committee to participate in the conference.

3. Corrections:

A. CCS awesome service – lets get it going. Important for facilities that do not have or allow meetings of A.A. Inmates are very grateful for any piece of contact outside with A.A.

B. People who qualify to go into institutions and can pass background checks are really needed. Contact GSO and they will send you a name of someone to write that is in another region. Don’t forget who governs A.A.—it is God. Taking meetings into a prison is not service but is step 12. They can get really high and drunk in prison. It is our responsibility to carry this message. Remind people that they can get sober regardless of this situation. May need to start small with one meeting a month—took nine months before meeting got going in a remote area. Lots of support for this item from group conscience. Prisoners need to be encouraged to submit to the GV and La Vina. We need to share information from those who have been successful in getting folks involved with corrections on how they did it.

4. Finance:

A. One district proposed this. With this minimal support Trustees Finance moved it forward to the conference.

Seems like a pretty high jump. Yet it is okay to think about raising it. What is the cost of gratitude? No big deal on 3 or 5. Issue is those that are doing it for recognition. Only 20 members gave the max of 3 last year. Amount is raised every 8 years or so. No limit on what we put in our baskets. If only 20 gave the 3 x max is it prudent to raise it to 5? \$7.29 per member to cover GSO expenses but we are at \$1.49 now. Should not be on members to give large amounts to keep A.A. solvent. When we allow individuals to give large amounts we weaken the power of the purse. Gives away groups power by allowing individuals to support A.A. and possibly bail, which the groups won’t do.

B. Difference in conference costs between Westchester and NYC is 200,000. Needs to be looked at before raising delegate conference fees. Groups send in money to GSO to help pay for the conference. This is raised periodically but there is no rationale for the need in background information. GSO currently covers some of costs of delegates going to conference. Areas do not cover all of the costs of delegates at conference. GSO covers costs for areas that can’t afford delegate expenses. After last years conference GSO started converting information into languages. All of the information given out at the conference needs to be in three languages. Volunteers in Canada translate background in-

(Continued on page 7)

formation. Canada contributes more per capita than the US to GSO. GSO has fifteen days to get background information done, once agenda is set—so can't translate due to a timing issues. GSO is working to get items that they can early. Some delegates have translators at the conference if they can't speak English. One participant asked, *Why aren't we using readily available translation software – easy to translate 1000 pages in seconds.* Phyllis from GSO does not agree that this technology is available for our purposes.

Saturday Feb. 28

General Session II

Safety and respect begins in our home groups. How can we make our home groups safe, what role can sponsorship play, how can groups address inappropriate behaviors?

Greeters are important in welcoming. Then the greeter passes on newcomer to a regular member. Be respectful to get respect. Refrain from forming small groups or cliques. Stay off technology/phones in meetings. Kindness and feeling of belonging. Show up early and stay late. Separate men's and women's meeting lists.

Sponsorship—let men handle men. Sponsors need to be aware of potential issues with male-female relationships. Differing opinions on one year, no dating rule. Keep primary purpose in forefront. People are in A.A. to recover—not to find partners.

Disruptive behavior can be preempted by chair reading guidelines. Meeting chairs have a responsibility to maintain order. Focus on Tradition 1—unity. Groups can set boundaries. Do what is best for group. Meeting chair is first line of defense. Escort our wet drunks by two or more members. Remind disruptive folks that they are not being kicked out of A.A.—only a meeting until they can be in order. Can call police and 911 if need be. Safety in meeting rooms should be taken seriously. We are not above the law in A.A.

Inappropriate behavior/13th-stepping. Targeting vulnerable new members—older members need to keep an eye out. Newcomers both male and female are vulnerable.

Don't hesitate to call 911 if a life is threatened. Consider safety measures when evaluating meeting places.

Value of having a home group. Problem if no one reaches out to a new alcoholic. So new alcoholic may walk out the door if insecure, frazzled. If someone reaches out, introduce member and others, others offer assistance and their phone numbers. Ask new one to sit with them. Respect of personhood. Everyone has a voice in the group.

Keep language respectful to all. When he worked steps and lived by them things changed—didn't 13th step and wasn't 13th stepped either. No choice—do A.A. or die. Came to love traditions and concepts.

We tolerate too much inappropriate language and behavior in meetings.

Poor sponsorship leads to unhealthy behaviors. Safety is freedom from fear and inappropriate behaviors.

Participation: We have a responsibility to live up to the miracle of A.A. Don't know anyone who got here out of virtue. No need for separate men's and women's meeting lists—we are all in A.A. Experience of Jenny is that there should be separate lists to avoid predatory behaviors. Difference between seeking relationships, 13th stepping, and actual predatory behavior. Problem when men lie about their sobriety and are predators. We are all the guardians of ensuring all are safe here and can recover. Go to police right away if member says they have bombs in their car and at home. Smoking is also a safety issue.

V. Grapevine:

B. Written by a trustee—problematic that that La Vina was misspelled.

D. 1. Need more fellowship; wide support and representatives for their two periodicals. Can purchase online versions of the periodicals too.

Working on getting GV into school libraries and hotels. Issue with gray pages causing loss of GV support. Need to focus on why GV is an awesome publication. Creates diversity awareness and is invaluable. Use it in corrections. GV literature is great for schools. Voice of our region on GV seems to not be heard. There are over 22 GV book titles available.

Get GV on TV screens in hospitals. GV meetings are a good idea and work. TV screens in hospitals is iffy on promotion versus attraction.

E. Nice to Give GV. Buy newcomer a subscription—if they stop coming the GV is still coming to them... Big purple box in club for people to drop GV in is a good idea. Can use old GV for doctor offices or for corrections. It is all of our job to spread GV's through town. Traditions saved my life. GV is our meeting in print, yet grey pages are a gross tradition violation. Our voice is not getting anywhere. Maybe we need to stop sharing so much so people get their own damn subscription. Jake—GV Committee was tied at 4-4 on grey pages items in committee last year. Conference decided to leave the grey pages in ... Gift certificates are a nice way around GV not able to take contributions. Andrew—goal is to get GV in the hands of incarcerated. One area bought subscriptions for all corrections institutions. Considering at GSO on what to do when a corrections institution asks for GV or La Vina—considering sending this on to delegates. Gift certificates are at prices of a GV subscriptions.

F. Two choices of working titles. Negative feedback from folks who lost their eyesight compared to minor life changing experiences of others. Flo—need to see something on the body part—weighing out the physiology of the disease and how that allergy of the body functions.

Need literature on how to sponsor someone with special needs. I come to A.A. to relate to people about alcoholism.

VI. Literature:

A. Considering a title change here. If we remove service agencies we do not need GV statement that it is not a service agency. Change service agencies to services.

C. Should state alcoholics before differences in sexual orientation

D. If we start talking about mental illness and differences then we aren't able to do our 12 step work. 50% of those with mental illness also have substance abuse. Supports the pamphlet. "I am dual diagnosis and am bi-polar—if it wasn't for that diagnosis that I learned in treatment ..." Newcomer might have other things going on—that pamphlet might get someone to a doctor. This went to the conference last year, did not come out of committee with a recommendation. Did not pass as a floor action too. Pamphlet on medications says that is between you, sponsor, doctors and God. Don't want A.A.'s opinion on my mental illness. See page 4 on motion from area 79. Seems to be a rationale for motion.

E. Comments ranged from leave it alone to this is really right on many levels. Make our current literature available in ASL and brail before we make more literature. Brie is blind and has been in service for three years but has not been able to get a brail service manual. Question on whether this will be a new book with new writing or a cut/paste of existing literature. Item says produce a book.

It would make it so much nicer to have this all in one place and it makes perfect sense. Why aren't the three all covered together? This came before Panel 63 Literature Committee. Did not feel that AAWS needs to do this. Weren't sure if AAWS has the copyright to the 12 x 12?

F. We already have too many pamphlets. Pamphlet is dated in material. Maybe we need to review all pamphlets on a cycle—A.A. for the Woman was published originally in 1951. There is a need to reach out to women alcoholics. Whatever gets new members in is valuable.

G. Full policy is in front of the Conference Committee on literature. Lots of confusion and discussion here. This is a very important item. Last year the committee saw only a snippet of this policy. Committee did not see the asterisk on Editorial Changes... (see Literature Item G.) There were changes in first 164 in Fourth Edition of Big Book. I suggested that editorial changes be limited to non-substantive, factual, statistical, capitalization, punctuation and spelling. That any other starts a second line to avoid a run-on sentence.

VII. Policy and Admissions:

C. Does not seem to be of harm to record a speaker and provide it to each member of the GSC. Question on what is the cost of this?

Area Officers and Chairs Break Out session

1. Non-rotating positions. Area 36 has five non-voting, not reimbursed. Voting on moving to four year terms and reimbursing. One non-rotating position for Archivist in Area 52. Webmaster is renewable. Are they reimbursed for expenses at Area Assemblies. Area 52 Archivist is four years and Pink Can Chair

was there for 8 years; are voting and reimbursed.

2. How to keep unity during discussions at area functions. If yelling and screaming is happening, chair has to step in. Job is to facilitate the meeting not to force your opinion. Unity comes from knowing when to stop. Need to manage the conversation. Inform that when we get done we need to still love each other. If you want the right to be you, you have to give them the right to be them. Leader says you have said your peace so it is time to stop. Sponsor said once your idea is out it is not yours anymore—it belongs to the group. They are just as passionate about what they believe as I am on what I believe.

3. Elections—Andrew—time for areas to be thinking about the next WCR Trustee.

8 delegates and then an equal number of trustees from trustees nominating committee and 4 other delegates from delegate committee on trustees. Third Legacy voting is followed and often goes to the hat. Different voting committee make-up for trustee at large.

4. Why are there non-voting chairs. Tied to non-rotating. Can't vote on motions.

5. Why do we have three boards and 20 trustees? Bill did not want too much power concentration in one board. Originally there were 5 trustees. In 1962 when Bill proposed new structure went from 18, majority being non-alcoholics to 8 regional and 2 from Canada, trustees at large and four general service trustees and 7 class A trustees. Experience on board by Andrew was that at times seemed like there weren't enough trustees to cover functions and conferences. Fellowship is large in numbers.

General Session 2 Safeguarding our traditions through the evolution of Technology

Area 40 Montana

Nice to Facebook folks who she meets at conferences and through service. Stay away from announcing anything related to A.A. on Facebook. Newcomers look up to us in how we communicate and what we communicate on Facebook and other sites.

A.A. Guidelines are a place to start on Anonymity in Digital Age. There is no anonymity on Facebook or smart phones. Need to be on private use in cites like Google.

Google drive and Google Docs can work for us. Can't fight technology.

Comments: Can refer to A.A. groups as Facebook groups. Lilian R. story. Drudge, TMZ and Twitter. Tradition is to protect the fellowship from us. Lets not forget the guy under the bridge. People look to us for leadership on technology. Issue is personal integrity. Lots of new media that isn't the way of Facebook to get our word out using technology.

VIII. PI:

B. Considering Instagram, Twitter and Google Drive

IX. Report and Charter:

A. 1-4 Limited background information

XI. Trustees:

E. Question on stratification. Changes to reflect what we do...how we do have committee and what we call members of those committees. Beware of additional considerations out of committees. Items are not approved by conference but are kind of passed back door

1967 recommendation of Bill approved to 21 trustees. So not sure where 22 came from. 21 is current number of trustees. Could be 22 in an unusual situation which does happen.

Report: Andrew W., Central Regional Trustee—Nearing end of his 4 year rotation.

Chair of Grapevine Board. Introduced the subscription challenge. State or area with largest subscription increase will get a GV issue written about them. See subscription challenge. Audio version of Language of the Heart soon available. Worked on what it means to have organization wide support for the GV. Whirlwind tour as a board member and then chair for a year. Served on ad hoc JITF (Joint Imitative Task Force) on how they operate as a board, how they communicate, cooperate. 14 different imitatives, ad hoc committee ensured follow through. Three on governance went to Trustees committee and it decided not to implement. Exchanging minutes between boards. Attended an AAWS Board meeting. AAWS Directors visited GV Board meetings. Large GSO office remodel planned so AAWS and GV will be located on same floor. Construction will start after

International Convention. GITF Committee recommended that their job is done. On three conference committees, Finance, Audit and Conference Committee. Recommended to Board that Delegate Chairs participate with trustee committee's and observe if they wish to. Saw new Doors PSA, snippets of stories that were called in to GV, appointed committee member on PI took story snippets and added animation- used members own voices. Good cooperation between AAWS and GV on this PSA spot.

Finances. AAWS 2015 expected on budget to break even. 2014 AAWS profits up about a million dollars- due to orders before price increases. 75 Anniversary, good initial sales, then went down so there is some overproduction. Financial situation is good.

Rotation. How does this process work for the next WCR Trustee. Each area will select a candidate. Typically a past delegate. Huge privilege and time commitment. Candidates need job flexibility – don't need to be retired. Get to serve A.A.

Our biggest challenge is our unity in A.A's future.

Carl B. asked to speak on substantial unanimity. Passing this message on from one generation to the next. Jack N. passed onto Carl thoughts of 3rd Legacy voting. In electing a trustee or area officer. If deadlocked on the 4th ballot—why not go to the hat then. Sitting with Dr. Jack N. who thought up the regional forum idea. Head of medical department for Kodak. Said Bill was always working for us to achieve substantial unanimity in all our decisions. But had a hard time to make it work in election and use third legacy; always ask person with much fewer votes if they want to withdraw to avoid going to the hat. At conference candidates are not there. So can't ask for candidates to withdraw. So this gives all an opportunity to change their votes to achieve substantial unanimity. We are going to the hat more than we should. Should change votes on 4th and 5th ballots, to support candidate who is ahead in votes—so we don't need to go to the hat and can achieve unanimity. Often candidates stay in an election when they have minimal support because they think they can come out of the hat. We need to get out of the way (egos) and let God work instead of going to the hat to much.

General Session 1V: Inventory –Looking Back to Move Ahead. Area 24 Iowa:

Presenters give experience with various inventories from personal to group to district and areas.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Greetings! It's been starting to get very busy with lots of events going on around this time of year. On Saturday, February 21, 2015 I attended the 12 Traditions Workshop in Albany MN., hosted by District 15. I was asked to do a presentation on the 7th Tradition, which went quite well. There was a very enthusiastic group of people present and had lots of participation and questions. It is great to see so many people involved that show a genuine interest in the Traditions. The presentation outline consisted of our 3 Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service, especially on our 2nd Legacy "Unity" – which is vitally important for our survival in Alcoholics Anonymous and how the long form of Tradition Seven relates to Unity. I also talked about the importance of group conscience, participation, contribution methods, prudent reserve, conference structure - pertaining to the upside down triangle, and where the money goes to each service provided, checks and balances and financial reviews.

On Feb 27th – Mar 1st, 2015 we traveled to and participated in the WCRAASC in Norfolk, Neb. The first presentation on Diversity in A.A. –Our heritage of inclusiveness was presented by Area 36 southern MN. They did an excellent job. I especially like the definition presented which stated: "The quality or state of being different by culture, or race in an organization—Inclusivity". There was very informative and interesting sharing from the floor from different areas. The topic brings awareness to the diversity in Alcoholics Anonymous and not how different we are, but how much we have in common. It also teaches the importance of our Third Tradition. There are some who believe that the two topics of Safety and Respect, and Diversity should not be on the conference agenda topics because they are outside issues and not in the realm of our Traditions. Although some sharing got off tangent from the floor on these two topics, most were well aware and were inclusive to our Spiritual Principles and Traditions.

On Saturday I attended breakout session I—Area officers and trustees. The topics were on 1. Non-rotating positons/ spirit of

(continued from page 8)

rotation. 2. How to keep Unity at Area functions 3. The Election process of Trustees—service structure of the Board. There were some very interesting examples on non-rotating positions of various areas. Some are set up for 4 years, some are indefinite, some are non-voting positions, and some are non-reimbursable. Positons include Area Archivist, Webmaster, Web Technologies, finance committees positions as well as remote communities.

The Trustees Report by our West Central Regional Trustee, Andrew W. was very well delivered and received. I especially liked the response he gave of the question “what is one of the most important challenges we face in the future”? He stated that our

“Second Legacy of Unity is vitally challenged in this day and age and we face many challenges to our fellowship”.

The Conference Agenda topics were quite intriguing and well shared from the floor with differing perspectives.

I would encourage every A.A. member to attend the upcoming Area Assembly and participate. It is how we will attain our Group Conscience from our area to the Delegate to bring with him to New York at the upcoming General Service Conference.

Yours in Service, Randy A., Area 35 Treasurer

Northern MN Area Assembly of Alcoholics Anonymous					
Profit & Loss Budget Performance					
Cash Basis		YTD: Jan.1 thru Jan.31. 2015			
	Jan 15	Budget	Jan 15	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					
4000 · Group Contributions	2,067.27		2,067.27		
4100 · Birthday Contributions	13.00		13.00		
4200 · Special Contributions	314.34		314.34		
4500 · Service Workshop Registration	763.00		763.00		
4550 · Service Workshop Coffee	248.50		248.50		
4555 · Service Workshop Speaker Bas...	183.00		183.00		
4570 · Seventh Tradition	12.00		12.00		
4700 · Grapevine Sales	98.05		98.05		
4750 · NL Flyer Insert Income	75.00		75.00		
4800 · Interest on Deposits	0.17		0.17		
Total Income	3,774.33		3,774.33		
Expense					
5100 · Committee Meeting Rent	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
5200 · Service Workshop	1,535.18		1,535.18		
Total Expense	1,535.18	0.00	1,535.18	0.00	200.00
Net Ordinary Income	2,239.15	0.00	2,239.15	0.00	-200.00
Other Income/Expense					
Other Expense					
6100 · Delegate	243.00		243.00		
6300 · Chairperson	163.01		163.01		
6400 · Secretary	244.07		244.07		
6500 · Treasurer	69.19		69.19		
7100 · Archivist	168.00		168.00		
7400 · Grapevine	190.00		190.00		
7500 · Group Records Secretary	489.99		489.99		
7600 · Literature	291.23		291.23		
7700 · Northern Light	376.00		376.00		
7800 · Public Information	70.00		70.00		
7900 · Treatment	200.00		200.00		
7950 · Webmaster	220.57		220.57		
8000 · Web Technology	193.64		193.64		
Total Other Expense	2,918.70		2,918.70		
Net Other Income	-2,918.70	0.00	-2,918.70	0.00	0.00
Net Income	-679.55	0.00	-679.55	0.00	-200.00

Northern MN Area Assembly of Alcoholics Anonymous	
Balance Sheet	
Cash Basis	
Jan. 1 - 31, 2015 : Period 1	
	Jan 31, 15
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1-4200 · Grapevine Cash Account	1,108.40
1-4250 · NL Mailing Flyer Cash	450.00
1000 · Area 35 Checking Account	14,684.23
1100 · Savings - Prudent Reserve	6,039.63
Total Checking/Savings	22,282.26
Total Current Assets	22,282.26
TOTAL ASSETS	22,282.26
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
3000 · Opening Bal Equity	27,413.47
32000 · Retained Earnings	-4,451.66
Net Income	-679.55
Total Equity	22,282.26
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	22,282.26

AREA COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC INFORMATION (PI)

I just returned from the West Central Regional A.A. Service Conference in Norfolk, NE. There were more than 350 passionate A.A. members in attendance and there was lively discussion about the service workshops and the agenda items presented for consideration.

Public Information items presented for consideration on the agenda dealt with two primary concerns, the membership of Alcoholics Anonymous and the spiritual principle of anonymity. The PI Workbook starts off with a simple statement about the role of Public information. "Like all of A.A., the primary purpose of members involved with public information service is to carry the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Working together, members of local Public Information committees convey A.A. information to the general public, including the media."

As A.A. members we walk the fine line of personal anonymity in order to make the message of hope and recovery available to the people in our neighborhoods, communities and social circles. At the public level we do not seek personal recognition because we do not want to take credit for the work that god has performed in and through us. We need to be particularly thoughtful in regards to this balance in our lives on social media. A.A. Guidelines on the internet are pretty clear that we ought not associate our A.A. accomplishments or work with a public profile. And it's pretty hard to keep anything anonymous on social media. Each individual and group must make these determinations for themselves. Those of us who strive to understand and practice the steps, traditions and concepts have to make an effort to set a good example.

This past weekend was my fourth WCRAASC so I am beginning to get pretty comfortable with the format and pretty tolerant of the process. In Area 35 we have always been pretty conservative about wanting to spend money on new PSA's and new literature. This conservatism is reflected in the opinions expressed at the regional meeting too. Many people including myself say that we have a program of action outlined in the pages of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous and that we don't need any other literature. There is a feeling that pamphlets for specific groups detract from the message that we have a primary illness and a primary purpose. Alcoholics Anonymous is for people who suffer from alcoholism.

While I completely agree that Alcoholics Anonymous is for people who suffer from alcoholism, and that we need to hold strict to the process of recovery as outlined in the Big Book, I believe that we need to be as accommodating as possible when it comes to making our message available to the still suffering alcoholic. There was a great deal of impassioned conversation about a proposed pamphlet for the alcoholic with mental health issues. Up until this conference I would have been against the development of such a pamphlet, however one comment from the microphone made me change my mind. One individual said, and I am paraphrasing, that when we create all these special groups within A.A. we are giving people the chance to talk about whatever they want in our meetings. Another individual quoted very eloquently from the big book all the passages that said we suffer from one problem, a spiritual malady. And then it hit me. I didn't know what was wrong with me when I first got to A.A. It was recommended that I go to five meetings. Okay; I was required to attend five meetings and report back to my counselor or I wouldn't make it through treatment. My point is, I didn't really know what alcoholism was. I wasn't sure that is what I had and I certainly didn't see any large blue book as the solution to my problem.

I went to A.A. because I had to. I stayed because I felt the empathy and love in the rooms. I stayed long enough to find people who knew the solution and were willing to share it with me. If a pamphlet for the alcoholic with mental health issues will make it easier for some people to stay long enough to hear the message of hope and recovery then I say we ought to have such a pamphlet. We need strong and compassionate leadership in our home groups, meetings and club houses. We need to keep our message clear and consistent on our primary purpose and maintain singleness of purpose. But we have a responsibility to carry our message to all who suffer from alcoholism even if they think their problem is different.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Fergus Falls for the

Spring Assembly in April. Thank you for letting me be of service.

Jeff C., Area35 PI Chair

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (CPC)

Work-life is still keeping me busy. I was unable to attend the Regional Service Conference in Nebraska. The main thing coming up is the Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers (MACPO) in Breezy Point, MN. I am in contact with others who will attend if I am unable to do so.

Servando M., Area 35 CPC

ARCHIVES

I have been extremely busy with my business. I wasn't able to attend the WCRSAAC. I definitely would like to hold a workshop-type program similar to the Archives Alive event in Area 36. I will see everyone at the Spring Assembly.

In service, Pete B., Area 35 Archives Chair.

ARCHIVIST

Hello folks: I just got home from Moorhead where I had had a display for the Winter Warm-up. On the way home I heard a segment on Public Radio about Hollywood and popular culture promoting Alcoholics Anonymous and the less than positive effects this was having on people, particularly women, finding recovery. Not to go into particulars, but the historical evidence she cited was flat out wrong. I went to the program's web page to read the comments there and the favorable comments are citing even more inaccurate information. Being of cooler head and sounder mind I am going to practice restraint of keyboard and not join the fray.

This year's WCRAASC was comparatively sedate to previous years. We also were done with agenda items long before midnight Saturday. I suffered from bronchitis through most of the conference so I listened from the outside to not disturb everyone. I did bring up Lillian R. when discussing anonymity breaks in the general session. I attended the Treatment breakout where Sandy and Rolene did a tremendous job. I also attended the PI/CPC breakout. There wasn't an Archives breakout this year.

I will be attending the District 13 Agenda meeting in Saint Cloud and look forward to continuing the discussion at the Spring Assembly.

Brad Iverson, Area 35 Archivist

TREATMENT

Greetings! I attended the area 35 Committee meeting in Aiken February 22 we had in attendance including district 5, 21, 12, two from 7 and 6. We discussed two topics at the meeting: one regarding approaching treatment facilities and bringing a meeting into their facility; second one was commitment of chair people being their responsibility. We read two articles in the treatment facilities workbook about bringing meetings into psychiatric wards and dealing with staff. We had great discussion on both of these. District 12 reported all meetings covered in treatment facilities. Some people would like to rotate out of their positions as they have been doing it for a long time. District 6 reported teen focus trying to get a meeting in there still; meetings at Dellwood are covered. District 5 reported Treatment Chair stepping down. They are trying to get a meeting back into Riverplace where they have issues with insurance and licensing. District 21 reported on meetings covered in the district. District 7 reported Treatment Chair stepped down; most treatment facilities in the district are covered. I also attended the West Central regional A.A. Service Conference in Nebraska. It was an amazing event! I attended the breakout session for treatment facilities. Two members from Area 35 chaired the meeting—thank you Rolene and Sandy for doing a wonderful job! One of the big things we talked about in that session was about being insured and licensed in bringing meetings into our treatment facilities. Other areas seem to have the same problems because of the HIPA act and confidentiality issues. Some areas visit treatment

(Continued from page 10)

facilities during regular visiting hours to carry the message. I also attended the special needs/accessibilities breakout session. We had a lot of discussion on wheelchair accessibility at meetings. I think as an area we need to look at this when listing meetings in our directories. We also went through all the agenda items once again! And survived. LOL! There seems to be a lot of the same people getting to the mic all the time. I think we need to look at this and only allow one person to get to the mic twice and then if they still have more questions, allow someone else to go to the mic. This would only make more participation during the agenda items. Our general manager from the general service office, Phyllis, told her story. It was a great story—a great talk. She is just one of us in the manager's position. I think Alcoholics Anonymous is in good hands. Andrew W. gave his trustee report. I think he did an awesome job. Our Grapevine seems to be in good hands and in the positive once again this year! Our committee still needs used Grapevines and literature that we can hand out in our treatment facilities! So please if you have them, bring them to the next event and give them to me. I would like to thank Area 35 for sending me to this event, and Jake and Roger for splitting the room! And all the members of Alcoholics Anonymous who attended this event! Any questions or concerns please contact me.

Paul M., Area 35 Treatment Chair

CORRECTIONS

Greetings, my name is Jacob C. and I am serving on your Area 35 Corrections Committee. I attended the 2015 West Central Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference (WCRAASC) in Norfolk, Nebraska. This is my fifth or sixth conference attendance. Approximately a third or more of the attendees were attending for their first time, and another poll had shown that only about a third of the attendees had received the full background material for the Agenda items. I am happy to report that all in Area 35's party had the background. Thank you to our delegate Jake, and to our Area's considerable combined work in sharing information. I am happy to report that I only approached the microphone twice during general sharing, and did not run over the allotted 2 minute time limit! That is spiritual growth. The same cannot be said for the two breakout sessions that I attended, one for literature and the other for corrections.

Jim S., our Area Literature Chair joined me for the Literature breakout session, where discussion ensued over the topics of how the Areas utilize their bank accounts and electronic payment options. Iowa reported to accepting credit card payments for literature, and passing the service fee on to the purchaser. Some Areas do utilize debit cards, linked to their bank accounts, allowing servants to not have to rely on the reimbursement system Area 35 enjoys. Some areas do have separate bank accounts for different committees, and so allow those areas more speed and transparency in utilizing funds during committee work. One big item of discussion was how areas perform inventory, with one Literature Chair using their inventory spreadsheet as an order form and instant tool for checking availability of stock. There were technical questions related to the literature ordering process, as well as which literature media is reproducible. Apparently, I was one of only two in the room, during the session, who has read the A.A.W.S.'s "Fair Use" declaration on www.AA.org's website, and questions of copyright law were asked and answered. A request was made, by an A.A. identifying himself as dyslexic, for A.A. to produce more literature on audio media. There was sharing by another A.A. who was legally blind, also requesting more audio media.

During the Corrections breakout session, we discussed the need for getting participation into institutions, and the difficulties arising from doing so. The discussion plateaued with an airing of difficulties, and only generalized answers, though it is worth mentioning how past servants can be of maximum aide to a body. Two former trustees spoke, and both did not drive the discussion, rather related experiences on the questions asked. They were both direct, humble and to the point. Chuck (T.?) spoke about how when approaching an institution that we are the first big book a person may see, and we are a representative of A.A. He said we should always be professional and kind, and remember that it is not about us as individuals, but what is good for the whole of A.A. This is a point that is often missed by A.A.'s out to save the world. I shamelessly promoted the Joint Committee for Corrections of Areas 35\36's corrections workshop, on October 10th. Several A.A.'s asked for more information after the session.

I attended all of the workshops during the conference, and attend-

ed all but one of the general agenda items meetings. I decided having a good discussion about corrections experiences was more important than continuing during some of the heated discussions of the Literature Agenda items. I have found the access to other A.A.'s and their experience is the largest benefit to the conference, followed by the sharing that happens during the discussions of agenda items. Being subjected to several past servants' seemingly resentful critiques of actions past, by A.A.s or service committees, is not what the microphones are for. It is almost the same people every year, and Area 35 isn't paying me to listen to the opinions of a couple of bleeding deacons. Either people are expressing concerns as directed by our creator or I'm grabbing a donut and talking up an A.A. from one of the far corners of the region, about the agenda items, or my committee. Consequently, I now know there is a considerable amount of Minnesota alcoholics serving time in North and South Dakota, and who will also be coming back here when released. Nebraska doesn't see many Minnesotan alcoholics, and finally, a homosexual couple from Sioux City Iowa doesn't care for the "I'm special and alcoholic" attitude they feel is prevalent in A.A. Rather, they both identify as alcoholic first, find it amusing how many are threatened by their lives, and are not interested in another pamphlet. If I can answer any questions about agenda items in your district, I would be happy too. Please call or invite me to a meeting.

Happy to be of service,

Jake

LITERATURE

Hi Everyone,

I wanted to thank all the people and the groups that made it possible for me to attend the WCRAASC. I hope that I have brought back information that will help you make your decision on this year's agenda items. The conference itself was a delightful experience as always. I have to admit though, I was getting sick at the beginning of the conference and I did not attend the ask it basket session which was about 30 minutes. Otherwise, I was in attendance to entire time. I attended the Literature breakout session and the corrections breakout session.

This year's agenda items did not appear to have the "controversy" that previous year's items had, but Literature had the most amount of discussion. There is a desire for a new pamphlet centering mental illnesses. This by far generated the most conversation. The interesting thing about this item was that it was brought up last year and did not get voted in. I am not certain why this item made it back onto the agenda and I did not get a clear reason from the GSO rep. when asked. I will do my best to provide whatever explanations for the literature items at the Spring Assembly as possible. I look forward to seeing you all there.

In Service,

Jim S. Area 35 lit chair.

GRAPEVINE

Greetings from Northern Minnesota! The Grapevine is alive and well, just ask anyone who has one.

I attended the workshop in January and I can honestly say I continue to learn from the people in Alcoholics Anonymous.

The Grapevine continues to look at different ways to promote the magazine. If you haven't checked it out lately, you should.

I did not attend the conference and I will not be attending the spring assembly due to work obligations. I will have someone there with the material along with calendars and planners and Daily Quote books.

Thanks for allowing me to serve, Antonette

GROUP RECORDS

Not given

WEBMASTER

Greetings Area 35

I'm Sandy H., currently serving as Area 35 Webmaster

Since the February Committee Meeting, I attended WSCAASC in Norfolk, NE. What another great service opportunity, thank you.

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We arrived Friday evening and the fun began. When the conference started there were 244 Registered—by Sunday there were 357 registered.

It is always good to see old friends and new. Area 36 did a great job on their presentation. Much discussion took place and I look forward to typing up my notes. We listened to the first year Delegates give their two-minute report and all did an awesome job; we are lucky to have this group of people representing our Areas.

Not much discussion was done on the Agenda items, none on the CPC. Much discussion was on Corrections, Finance, Grapevine, Literature. We stopped ½ way through literature as this was time to call it a night. When we came back to this there was literally very little if any discussion on the rest of the agenda items.

Area 52 put on a good presentation on safety and respect. Next we were back to literature which had much discussion as always. After lunch Rolene L. and I chaired the Corrections breakout session for the first time. If someone would like these notes please let me know I will send a copy of them to you. What a great experience thank you Jake for your confidence in us. Area 40 did another good session on safeguarding the traditions. It was a busy rest of the evening and the speaker was awesome. Our regional trustee did a great job as always with his report. All is all this was a great weekend. I will have a typed report of my notes (which are what only I heard) available for anyone who is interested. I can email this to you upon request.

Hits for the Area 35 Website are as follows:

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2015	2,299	4,215	11,633	115,677	2.60 GB
Feb 2015	2,046	3,666	10,268	110,959	2.91 GB
Mar 2015	528	662	1,572	19,952	476.43 MB
Apr 2015	0	0	0	0	0
May 2015	0	0	0	0	0
Jun 2015	0	0	0	0	0
Jul 2015	0	0	0	0	0
Aug 2015	0	0	0	0	0
Sep 2015	0	0	0	0	0
Oct 2015	0	0	0	0	0
Nov 2015	0	0	0	0	0
Dec 2015	0	0	0	0	0
Total	4,873	8,543	23,473	246,588	5.98 GB

Definitions:

Unique Visitor:

A unique visitor is a person or computer (host) that has made at least 1 hit on 1 page of your website 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).

#

If you would like a flyer on the calendar or have any questions please feel free to email me and they will get answered.

Yours in service, Sandy H.

WEB TECHNOLOGY

Here is an aaMeetingLocator help question from today: “I keep trying to find a meeting in Vermont, but it won't leave Minnesota. How can I change the location on that website? “

Hot off the press:

The TCS Committee met on January 29, 2015 and discussed your correspondence. The following is from their minutes:

The TCS Committee considered a suggestion from Area 35 Northern Minnesota to “ ... encourage the use of FNV database to create a meeting locator encompassing the U.S. and Canada” and took no action. The Committee reiterated that the local A.A. offices provide the best and most accurate meeting information along with the ability to put people searching for meeting information in direct contact with A.A. members. The Committee also noted that G.S.O. continually strives to improve how it assists visitors to aa.org online or on mobile devices in contacting these local A.A. resources.

On behalf of the A.A.W.S. TCS Committee, we thank you and Area 35 for your correspondence and thoughtful suggestion.

From the sound of things it does not look like GSO will be supporting a searchable meeting database.

#

The WEB Technology position is a two year temporary position that ends this year. I have toughly enjoyed coming out of my comfort zone and writing software to find and map A.A. meetings in Minnesota. Last year we had 76,859 user access aaMeetingLocator to find A.A. meetings in Minnesota. aaMeetingLocator supports Area 35 and Area 36. After development, Area 36 has let Area 35 continue support. Going forward, if we want to continue aaMeetingLocator, we need a support plan. I will review what has been learned, provide a coding example, and make a recommendation.

The first aaMeetingLocator was supported by an outside company that was run by an A.A. member for a token price of \$250 per year. aaMeetingLocator was used as an example of web work supported by this outside company. The person supporting aaMeetingLocator was not a member of the A.A. service structure. Over time aMeetingLocator did not meet or keep up with the needs of A.A. members. The work to continue supporting aaMeetingLocator exceeded the abilities of the company supporting aaMeetingLocator. We first looked at a professional development company to do aaMeetignLocator and the estimate was \$32,000. At this point we decided to do aaMeetingLocator in house.

Over the past couple of years I have supported both District 3 and District 7 websites. We thought that we could do this remotely without being part of the District Committees. While I was able to attend all the committee meeting the web sites did well. We moved to a remote support and both web sites suffered. Over time communication slows to a stop.

There are a number of requests to improve aaMeetingLocator. A.A. members want to know if meetings are open or closed, what language is spoken, do they have Handicap Access, are the meetings signed, are the meetings restricted to men or women, and other important meeting information. They want to be able to

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(Continued from page 12)
search for meeting using meeting information. Let’s walk through what it will take to add Handicap Access information.

Before we can use data in aaMeetingLocator, the meeting information has to be in the Group Records FNV database. There are 1902 meeting in the aaMeetingLocator database. 1399 meetings need to have Open or Closed meeting information added. Handicap Access will also need to be updated in the Group Records database.

In the Group Records database each group can have four meetings per day seven days per week for a total of 38 meeting per week. Time is defined and Type is defined. The add new field is for additional meeting information. This is where additional information, like “Handicap Access” would be stored. Look at Tuesday on the example below. Time 7:00 PM, Type: Closed, Non-Smoking.

Group Meetings						
Add Meeting						
Show Hide						
Meeting #02						
Meeting Place: St Pauls AME Church						
Comments: Meeting in choir room						
Address: 123 Minner Street						
Archie, MO						
Date Changed: 8/14/2011						
Edit Meeting Location						
Delete Meeting Location						
Previous Meeting						
Meeting Times						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Time:	Time:	Time: 7:00 PM	Time:	Time: 7:00 PM	Time:	Time: 7:00 PM
Type:	Type:	Type: Closed	Type:	Type: Closed	Type:	Type: Closed
Add New	Add New	Non-Smoking	Add New	Traditions	Add New	Birthdays 3rd
		Edit Delete		Edit Delete		Edit Delete
		Time:		Time:		Time:
		Type:		Type:		Type:
		Add New		Add New		Add New

Here’s how the data looks when it’s sent to aaMeetingLocator.
This is one day—all the information is in one field.
9:00AM 6:00PM(O)(Women's gp handicap Accessible) 8:00PM
(C)(Candle Light, Handicap Accessible)

- First meeting is at 9:00 AM no open or closed information, no additional information.
- Second meeting is a 6:00 PM (Open) and (Women's gp handicap Accessible)
- Third field 8:00 PM (closed) and (Candle Light, Handicap Accessible)

Software has to extract this information. Software had to be written to pull the hour, AM or PM out, and open or closed if available. Software will need to be written to read the remaining information, and determine if the information contains words like Handicap Accessible. In software “handicap Accessible” is not the same as “Handicap Accessible”

The aaMeetingLocator database will need new fields for the additional information. Searches will need to be updated to include the new fields. aaMeetingLocator is live software. A test area will need to be set up to test the new software.

All the above is doable. This is just a small example of the programming that makes aaMeetingLocator work and the type of technical ability needed to support aaMeetingLocator.

Based on my experience aaMeetingLocator needs to be supported by person with programming skills. To meet the needs of A.A., the position needs to be active in the Area service structure. Rotating service positions is preferred. The technical and programming skills for aaMeetingLocator need to be met first and rotation second. Many areas throughout A.A. have run into the problem of meeting their technical needs and rotating positions. These needs are being met by not rotating technical positions and/or paying for the technical service. The Areas that are paying for the service are paying an A.A. member less, sometimes much less, than it would cost to hire software developers. I am confident that our combined group conscious will continue to support aameetingLocator.

Bob B., WEB Technology

NORTHERN LIGHT

Greetings Area 35.
I am grateful for the opportunity of service which at this time is allowing me to grow in many areas outside of Alcoholics Anonymous. Thanks for approving the funds to facilitate my participation at the West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference in Norfolk Nebraska, for which I traveled and bunked with Randy A., the Area 35 Treasurer.

Somewhere during the opening presentation on Friday night, given by Area 36, I realized what I felt was perhaps a common thread among the suffering A.A.’s of today—the ones who get here but cannot seem to stay. Part of this awareness came in seeing the similarities and the differences between me and the presenters at the point in which we entered our sober journey. Not being a social person, rather than being the source of fear, my diversities afforded me a defense to my fears, up until the point where I either had to change or society would destroy me. Many of the “chronic relapsers” leave due to their fear of losing the good they see in their diversities before they ever have an opportunity to give them a fair look. As I continue to grow in service I see that the important thing is to channel and utilize our diversities in our common goal of passing on the message of recovery.

Judging by the discussion on the Agenda Committee it sounds as though we have made heavy progress in giving the delegates more say as to what items will be up for consideration and in having access to background material in a timely manner to get a good area conscience. Later on during the conference our Regional Trustee, Andrew W. made specific points as to the fact that both boards recognize that our delegates and areas are well informed as to the workings of A.A. and therefore need and deserve to be a part of all that transpires.

Throughout the weekend, no matter if the discussion was about financial items where the power of the purse plays a major role, issues relating to treatment and correctional facility meeting facilitation and processes, special needs and accessibilities, pamphlet consideration and revisions or other literature sources, or social media and new technology, I kept hearing two distinct themes; 1) that we need to protect our singleness of purpose, thus providing for our unity (with this need comes safeguarding our anonymity), 2) that we are not in charge—that our responsibility lies in “carrying” the message, not owning it.

In listening to Phyllis H., GSO General Manager, our Saturday night speaker and upon hearing an experience shared by past Trustee, Carl B. on the Third Legacy voting procedure I am hard pressed to understand why so many of us (along with myself) have an adversity to following directions and procedures that are proven to be the best course. Carl’s recollection of the account struck in me an accent on the wisdom of the process as laid out by those before us and the integrity incurred when we are willing to follow those actions, contrasted with the unwilling actions that mimic the folly of the alcoholic “actor who wants to run the whole show.”

On Sunday, having put away my computer and most everything else in preparation of the trip home, I had to dig out my notebook to write down a couple of gems.

The first was Andrew’s answer to what he thought our biggest upcoming challenge was—Maintaining Unity throughout all our smaller issues.

The others (not to be biased) came from Jake. He made a statement that “inventory” is a great tool of the fellowship. I don’t consider this a gem because of its profundity; I consider it a gem because of my gratitude for it’s role in my life. He also said—and this is so important in moving forward—that when we finish with a position our job is still leadership and vision.

I plan to attend the District 12 Meeting on the Agenda Items and also the Spring Assembly.

Thank you for this experience,
Rodney

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Is our AA world turning upside down?

According to the A.A. Service Manual on page S15, ours is an “upside down organization”. The groups are the most important entity in our structure. Groups are there to help individuals; Districts are there to help groups, and so on...

Sadly, it appears that our upside down structure is beginning to resemble a hierarchy.

Overheard in a recent meeting a past area delegate said “the speaker is the most important person at the Round-Up”.

Funny, I thought the newcomer was the most important person in our organization...

Recently, the Area 35 budget was passed with no input from the GSR’s.

Odd, I thought the majority of the Area’s budget came from the groups. If so, wouldn’t it be logical that the group representatives (GSR’s) would have input into how their contributions are spent?

Recently at an Area 35 workshop the question was asked during the “Ask It Basket” portion of the agenda... “Why do we list the names of the past delegates in the Northern Lights?”

The response was something close to... “*they are listed as a resource for our members*”.

Strange, of the 32 past delegates listed 18 are living and 14 are deceased. I mean no disrespect to the dead, but how are 14 deceased delegates supposed to be a resource for our membership?

Now the above examples are only data points, but three points do indicate a trend. My fear is that we are forgetting we are “trusted servants”. We are here to serve the fellowship - not to be served by it. Placing one person over another in our organization, spending group money without the consent of the groups, listing deceased delegates names in print are all indications that we are putting “personalities above principles.” It appears our A.A. world may be turning upside down.

Submitted by, John D.
St. Cloud, MN

Editor’s comments:

I knew as soon as I received this message that I wanted to publish it, as we as members of Alcoholics Anonymous not only have the right to our opinions but the responsibility to share them with others. As editor of The Northern Light I felt that responsibility even further—to all readers as well as to the contributor.

As I have stated on numerous times the purpose of this newsletter is to be a conduit for informative communication between the various entities of A.A. in Area 35 (see pg. 26), and in that endeavor I need to be firm in my intent to publish material such as *letters to the editor*, allowing contributors their opinions and points-of-view without printing inaccuracies. Our opinions come from our experiences, which are based on our individual realities. I want to make certain to publish factual information, not as a means of argument or defense, but to allow all readers the opportunity to form their own opinions based on their experience and, once again, formed through their realities.

My biggest concern is to not let this type of letter escalate into a personality war, with a volley of sarcastic and closed minded remarks from one issue to the next. I took this to my committee where members had varying opinions (duh!).

With all that stated I must point out there *was* input from GSR’s at the Assembly—so much so that several newer members to service expressed major dissatisfaction to me later, with one leaving the Assembly early.

I won’t address the issues regarding what was said by past delegates as they contain two elements beyond my control: 1) what was *said*; 2) what was *heard*—both of which I believe I have already addressed.

Along that line of thought, I did not publish the name of the contributor’s group or district as neither he, nor past delegate, can speak for others, or A.A. as a whole.

Rodney S., Northern Light Editor

The following is a special note from our Area 35 Delegate that was intended for his report. It consists of email correspondence regarding our Area’s submission for an agenda item:

February 13, 2015

Jake J., Panel 64 Delegate, Area 35 Northern Minnesota

Dear Jake:

Warm greetings from your General Service Office!

This email is to follow up on your correspondence regarding a suggestion from Area 35, Northern Minnesota as follows:

“... encourage the use of the FNV database to create a meeting locator encompassing the U.S. and Canada.”

As you may know, this correspondence was forwarded to the A.A. World Services, Inc. Board since this request pertains to online services and the A.A.W.S. Board has oversight of G.S.O.’s web services through their Technology/Communication/Services (TCS) Committee.

The TCS Committee met on January 29, 2015 and discussed your correspondence. The following is from their minutes:

The TCS Committee considered a suggestion from Area 35 Northern Minnesota to “... encourage the use of FNV database to create a meeting locator encompassing the U.S. and Canada” and took no action. The Committee reiterated that the local A.A. offices provide the best and most accurate meeting information along with the ability to put people searching for meeting information in direct contact with A.A. members. The Committee also noted that G.S.O. continually strives to improve how it assists visitors toaa.org online or on mobile devices in contacting these local A.A. resources.

On behalf of the A.A.W.S. TCS Committee, we thank you and Area 35 for your correspondence and thoughtful suggestion.

Yours in fellowship,

M. Tracey O.
Technology/Communication/Services Committee secretary
General Service Staff
xxx-xxx-3287 / GroupServices@AA.org

cc: Mary C., Conference Coordinator
David N., Technology/Communication/Services Committee chair
Sandra W., A.A.W.S. Board secretary
Bill N., A.A.W.S. Board chair

Directions for putting a flyer into the Northern Light newsletter:

1. First & foremost **contact the Northern Light Editor** at northernlight@area35.org or call the phone number for the Northern Light Editor listed on page 3 of the hard copy, print version of The Northern Light (this will change every 2 years).
2. Email a pdf of the flyer to northernlight@area35.org for approval. Upon approval it will be forwarded it to the webmaster to place in the Area 35 website calendar of events.
3. Upon approval mail 600 flyers to: **Cold Spring Record
PO Box 456
403 West Wind Court
Cold Spring, MN 56320
with an attn: Northern Light on the mailing address.
Include a note stating they are to be inserted into the next Northern Light.**
4. Cost is \$75. This is to defer the cost of inserting the flyers into the Northern Light. Make check payable to NMAA.
5. If you wish to have Cold Spring Record print the flyers to be inserted in the Northern Light, I will forward the pdf file of your flyer to them, along with your copying instructions; printing costs are: 600 one-sided copies - \$48; 600 copied on both sides - \$60. This will be on top of the initial \$75.
6. Mail payment and 1 copy of the flyer to: **NMAA
PO Box 411,
Hoyt Lakes,
MN 55750**

RELATED INFORMATION

- Only Area 35 A.A. members may submit flyers. Flyers must be for A.A. sponsored events.
- Flyers needed – 600.

Northern Light deadlines are as follows:

- January 21: flyer will be include in the January – February Issue
- March 1: flyer will be include in the March - April issue
- May 1: flyer will be include in the May - June issue
- July 1: flyer will be include in the July - August issue
- September 1: flyer will be include in the September - October issue
- November 1: flyer will be include in the November - December issue

ARCHIVES QUIZ

Presented by Archives Chair Pete B.

1. When was the first WSRAASC held in Area 35?
2. When did the WCRAASC begin rotating locations?
3. When did the first A.A. beginner’s meeting start?
4. Who started it?
5. What year was the *Daily Reflections* book published?
6. In what year was the 12 X 12 first published?
7. After the number of Districts in Area 35 expanded from 7 to 21, several were lost; which was the first to fold?
8. What 2 states make up Area 35?
9. What city were the Area Assemblies held in before they began rotating?
10. How many months had been Bill been sober before he met Dr. Bob?

December Area Committee Meeting

- ◆ Sarah K. Called meeting to order and opened with the Serenity Prayer
- ◆ Recognition of First Time ACM attendees
- ◆ Recognition of past delegates in attendance: Tom A. Panel 50; Susie A. Panel 48; Bruce B. Panel 44
- ◆ Minutes from the December Area Committee Meeting were approved.
- ◆ Motion to Move Agenda to discuss GSR/Group Proposal from Sean:

“After the Area Treasurer has made all adjustments to the worksheet of the financial report, and has combined them into an overall budget, both the overall budget and the worksheet of the financial report shall be sent to all districts, and be included in the Area Newsletter, not less than sixty days prior to the Area Assembly whereon it will be voted. In the event the sixty day time period is not reached, the area will implement the previous year's budget at prior approved levels until such time as the districts have been properly notified and given the opportunity for feedback.” Sean TNYPAA/GSR to District 13.

No action on this motion was taken by ACM. Sarah K. is placing this item on the agenda for Spring Assembly. Groups are encouraged to discuss this item.

OFFICER REPORTS

DELEGATE-Mike J. Greetings Area 35. 2015 is just starting to heat up! We started off with an awesome workshop in Superior, which had some of the best presentations I have heard in a while. Well thought out and definitely brought many thoughts to mind.

Next on my agenda was the Board weekend in New York. I had a wonderful experience spending time with the other delegates that are committee chairs and discussing issues from our areas and getting to know each other personally. We spent time eating together and walking around Times Square. We were given the opportunity to participate in the committee meetings not just by being there but also vocally, which had not been done for a long time. All of the delegates were well prepared and seemed to add some insight to the discussions. I believe we probably surprised some of the board members. We each spent some time with the class A nominee's and shared about A.A. and its Traditions. We went to GSO by subway and had a tour. Most of the delegates spent time with the staff members assigned to their committees while I toured the archives and met with the conference chair and went through some of my duties as Delegate Chair. I had the opportunity to share my story along with two others on Saturday night. Overall we agreed that this is a great benefit to our relationships with the trustee's and the Board.

I had the opportunity to attend a couple of open meetings, one in Nashwauk and the other in Gilbert; both had excellent speakers. As the year goes on the busier it will get but what an exciting time to be representing Area 35 as your Delegate.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE-Kelly D. Greetings Area 35.

It is good to be here with all of you today. As most of you know I was not able to attend our last Committee Meeting here in December and also our January Service Workshop in Superior. It feels like I have been away forever—glad to be back with all of you again, today! Thank you all for the cards, well wishes and prayers during my absence—I have been truly touched from the out pouring of love. Thank you!

From what I hear the Area Service Workshop went well. I would like to again thank the Districts that presented, District 12 for hosting, Jake for stepping in on my absence to chair it, Sarah, and anyone else that helped put the last minute details in order for me. I did had the opportunity to correspond with Greg T., our guest that weekend, through emails, but am disappointed that I did not meet him in person. I heard that he was very helpful to Area 35 by answering questions that pertained to literature and also did a great job sharing his story with everyone. I hope all of you that attended enjoyed that weekend of service and fellowship.

Speaking of the January Service Workshop, our next one will be held January 16-17, 2016 in Zone 3. I have been busy looking for a location to have it and will also be looking for a guest for that weekend. More news to come on this later.

If you recall we discussed at the Fall Assembly our Zonal Fo-

runs. I would like you to remind you to please discuss within your districts and home groups if this is something we want to continue to do. We will be talking about this again at our Spring Assembly coming up and your input on this subject is very important. Last year we held them in Zones 1 and 3 and this year they would be held in Zones 2 and 4, if everyone feels we should continue with them. If we decide to continue with them, I would like to get them scheduled as soon as possible. We usually have one in the spring and the other in the fall. I look forward to further discussion with all of you on this subject at our upcoming Spring Assembly.

Next weekend is our WCRAASC in Norfolk, Nebraska where as a region we get together and discuss this year's agenda items. I always look forward to this event because it is an opportunity to see in action what Alcoholics Anonymous is all about. And I cannot forget to mention always great travel companions, no matter who they are, with some good A.A. conversations along the way and the added fellowship amongst old friends around our region while doing A.A. business together. A special thank you to our groups in Area 35 for their financial contributions to make it possible for me to attend this service event. I look forward to being there again this year.

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service,
Kelly D.

CHAIR-Sarah K. Greetings Area 35 Trusted Servants. It is time to start considering who might make the best trusted servants for the next rotation. This means area committee chairs should be paying attention to who comes reliably and enthusiastically participates in committee work. I think Dr. Bob had a great suggestion when he said that in measuring a person we listen to what s/ he says but more importantly, we look at what s/he does. And Concept 9 sets out these essential qualities of good future servants and trusted leaders. Along these lines, we need to start thinking about nominations for our next Delegate. Candidates are nominated by a district prior to the June Area Committee meeting, at which time every nominee submits their resume to me. Resumes will then be published in the Northern Light for the area to review. Feel free at that point to invite any of the nominees to your districts or groups to get to know them better. Also, all of us need to be thinking of future trusted servants for the other Area positions. If you or anyone in your district or group have an interest, getting involved in Area committee work now is a good way to learn how the area operates and test if it might be a good fit for you!

For our upcoming area events in 2016 and 2017, I sent emails to the DCMs asking them to consider if they have a facility and would like the honor of hosting one of the upcoming 2016/2017 events and will be calling on and working with them for future assembly locations instead of the Helms-Briscoe service. Helms-Briscoe really wasn't able to get us anything I couldn't have negotiated on my own, or do anything more than any local Chamber of Commerce could do. In looking at the 2016 Fall Assembly, I am just waiting to get the contract to sign for the St. Cloud River center (Civic Center) facility. St. Cloud hasn't had an election assembly in their district since 1991, which is over 24 years ago, I and I strongly believe in the importance of rotating our events to allow people who normally might be prohibited by distance to attend and vote. So, to find a location near St. Cloud, I probably called every single meeting location in St. Cloud, Elk River, Sauk Rapids, and Little Falls (the Tech center there is a good option for future consideration). I called churches (obviously Sunday's don't work), public schools (must carry your own insurance), Chambers of Commerce and city halls (no space for breakout sessions). So, while the Rivercenter is more expensive than I would have liked (it will cost us \$1,800 for meeting rooms for both days), it is the only available option in St. Cloud.

Financial Concerns:

I was able to attend the February District 13 meeting to address group concerns regarding the Area's budget, budget process, and expenses. It was a wonderful time, and I thoroughly enjoyed our discussion. I really appreciate their passion and I admire their devotion to making A.A. in Area 35 better. Several groups there reported that they were withholding contributions from the Area. Part of their concern was that the budget wasn't distributed according to the timeline set forth in the SOFR. This brought up the

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discrepancy between the Area Chair and Treasurer guidelines and the SOFR, which have conflicting instructions on when the budgets should be distributed (the SOFR says 60 days before the Fall Assembly and the guidelines say in the NL edition prior to the assembly (Sept./Oct.) which is what I did). This highlights the absolute necessity of all Area Officers and Area Chairs making sure their guidelines are updated to reflect current practices for future servants. For instance, we all need to make sure our guidelines point directly to the SOFR policy guidelines for creating budgets, and the SOFR says to budget for projected, expected expenses—that is, it explicitly says you should budget for what you actually expect to spend (so if you will be traveling with someone, budget that way, etc.). I will be collecting updated guidelines by the August Area Committee Meeting.

I know there is concern regarding the current meeting frequency and composition of the Financial Oversight Committee, and I previously stated that the area officers asked the treasurer to look into the Statement of Financial Responsibility (SOFR) and come back with a recommendation today, but plans recently changed. So, instead I invited two DCMs to form an ad hoc committee to look at the current SOFR and make recommendations with an eye to costs, composition, and frequency of meeting. So far one has confirmed—Christine from District 13. Thank you for her willingness to take action on this task. I know we can expect their due diligence in assessing the parts of the SOFR policy which set out the current practice and procedures for the Oversight Committee. I expect they might have something to report to the body by the Spring Assembly.

Finally, with new input from the Area Officers and Committee Chairs, I have created a revised document outlining more realistic expected expenses in accordance with the area SOFR and guidelines. It will be published in the NL and I have copies here today. It basically shows spreadsheet with a column with their overall approved 2015 budget amounts, a second column with their revised expected expenses, and a final column with their actual 2014 expenses. Feel free to share this with your groups. It isn't an official document of any kind, but serves as an informational piece for the area and a useful resource for future planning. Thank you to the chairs and officers who submitted revised expenses to me.

Thank you for this opportunity to learn and grow in service.

SECRETARY-Roger R. I would like to express my gratitude to Area 35 for allowing me to continue serving 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 reports electronically. If you are unable to send me your report please remember to give me a hard copy after you give your report. If you are not able to attend an Area Committee Meeting - you can email me a report that I will include in my minutes. For those of you who will be sending me your report after our meeting today, please send me your report by Monday March 2, 2015.

I attended the 39th Annual Area 35 Service Workshop in Superior WI on January 17-18. As I stated in my last Northern Light report, district presentations were interesting and informative. I was informed that this winter workshop was called a GSR workshop at one time in our Area's history. Returning to that focus may be a good suggestion for our groups to consider.

I will be traveling next week to the WCRAASC in Nebraska with Jake. My role at this conference is to participate in the conference as an Area Officer and learn as much as I can about perspectives on agenda items for the upcoming GSC. I would be honored to share information that I receive with any districts and groups. So please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of service to you. In service, Roger.

TREASURER-Randy A.- On Saturday February 21, 2015 I attended the 12 Traditions workshop in District 15 at the Community Center in Albany MN. There was excellent participation and attendance. I had the honor and privilege to do a presentation on the 7th Tradition. I am always humbled by how much there is to learn from each other and how much more there is to learn about the Traditions themselves. Our Area Archivist, Brad I., also did a presentation. It was an excellent job on the "history of the Traditions". I am looking forward to attending the WCRAASC in Norfolk Nebraska next week-end and I will be traveling with our

Northern Light Editor Rodney S. It is always a good idea to be well prepared as an Area when participating in the agenda items discussions and presentations. I have not had the opportunity to revise my Treasurer's budget for 2015 as I don't think it is too much deviated from the actual expense that will be incurred. In closing, the final numbers for Period 1 (January) -2015 are: Total Assets = \$22,282.26; Area checking account balance = \$14,684.23; savings, i.e. prudent reserve = \$6,039.63. Any questions and/or concerns please call or email me. Yours in Service, Randy A.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS

District 14- Stephanie- My goal is to make it area service meetings. I will need to miss the next ACM due to my son's graduation. District 14 has many open chair positions. Out DCM wishes to step down but is waiting for someone to take the position. We are fulfilling our corrections responsibilities and planning more PI/CPC activity and workshops.

ARCHIVIST- Brad I. - I attended the Area Workshop in Duluth in January. Other than being stranded for 45 minutes on the 10th floor of the Holiday Inn on Sunday morning it was a great weekend. There was an elevator malfunction. Yesterday I gave a talk on the Traditions at the District 15 Workshop in Albany. I am sure it will be well received and enlightening for those attending. Next week I am going to Norfolk NE for the WCRAASC. The next week I am going to Moorhead for the Winter Warm-up then the 20th I am going to Mountain Iron for the Winter Wrap up. The next week I am bringing a small display to St. Anna for the Stearns county Round Up.

In the near future the repository is being moved. It will remain in the same building however. As for other news I no longer have a land line phone. I cancelled it so just use my cell. I have not made much progress on building a data base. I am currently searching a group founding date per request. There haven't been any contributions to the Archives lately. Please keep those minutes coming. Brad I.

ARCHIVES - Pete B. District 8, 13, 5, 18 and 12 were represented at our meeting today. District 8 did a longtimers panel and history talk in Virginia MN that 38 people attended—12 were long timers. District 12 has a new Archives Chair who is recording long timer's stories. District 13 is working on organizing archives materials. District 5 is working on getting long timers' stories. Committee worked on archive questions for the Northern Light.

I am working on an archives presentation and will be attending Are 36 Archives Alive workshop on April 18 in Glencoe. I also attended the District 15 Traditions Workshop and am planning a fall workshop with Districts 13 and 15. Yours in service, Pete B.

District 18- Neil R. Greetings all from District 18. Everything is going as well as can be. Currently all our positions are filled with the exception of CPC/PI. At the moment the gentleman holding the Treatment Chair has not been responsible for his duties and we are in the process of possibly asking him to step down. Our Corrections Chair is a still down in Florida but does stay in contact with us making sure the jail meetings are going well. District 18's groups are going okay. Back to the Basics currently has a candle rock meeting on Sunday's. The 2 noon meetings in Motley are picking up since they started playing the Joe and Charlie cd's. We recently had a round Robin in Little Falls at Courage to Change and in Motley at the 12 X 12 group that were well attended. Some upcoming events in District 18 are: February 28 review of background info to GSR's; District 18 Meeting - March 3rd; and April 18 Staples Round Robin. Yours in Service, Neil R.

District 12—Rillis E. Our last District meeting was this past Thursday at the Serenity Club in Superior, WI. Eighteen people were in attendance and one was a new GSR. We continue to work on updating our group records. I have 9 more records to give to Rolene today. District 12 Officers, Committee Chairs and GSRs were asked to come up with ideas for service work. One of our members has contacted a local hospital and would like to plan a workshop for social workers to educate them about how A.A. can assist in helping the still suffering alcoholic. Our Corrections Chair has been contact with three county jails in our district as well as the North East Regional Correctional Center and the Bethel Work Release & Treatment Center and District 12 will be purchasing 2 Grapevine subscriptions for each facilities to help

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carry the A.A. message to inmates. We also provide these correctional facilities with meeting directories to be given when they are released. A decision was made to purchase 3, 6, and 9 month medallions for NERC as they are not able to attend outside A.A. meetings. Closed A.A. meetings are held in these facilities weekly for both men and women. District 12 supports several treatment meetings in the Duluth area and some of the chairs are wanting to rotate out of their positions but will stay until they are replaced. Our PI/CPC committee will have a literature/information booth at the Lake Superior College Student Success Fair on February 24 which connects students with community resources and they will attend two health fairs in March.

Yours in service, Rillis E.

District 7 –Carl P. Greetings from District 7. We were well represented at the winter workshop in Superior, WI. We got to present on the topic of singleness of purpose. We all had a great time up there and were very happy to participate.

We are busy with our groups preparing to go through the GSO agenda items. We are planning a separate district meeting on 4-9-15 to go through the agenda items. Several of are planning on a trip to Norfolk, Neb. to go to the WRAASC. It should be a good time.

District 7 is planning on a CPC luncheon on May 21 at 4-6 p.m. It will be held at the same place as years past. Come and join us if you can.

There are several new groups that I need to register. We finished going through all the group information sheets last year. I am still waiting to see if all the changes were made at the GSO. I will continue to update as needed. Yours in service, Carl P.

District 16-Griffin M.

- Attendance at our last District meeting was 6.
- Weekly Jail meetings are going on thanks to two members in our district.
- I'll be bringing literature back to groups in our district today thanks to Jim our areas literature chair.
- Our PI Luncheon will be held on May 1st at the Saw Mill – this is the weekend of the Iron Range Get-Together. Charlie Cra-ven is speaking for A.A., and Hazel A. will be speaking for Alanon. Thanks Mary S., our PI/CPC chair, for setting this up.

I had an unforgettable time at the January Workshop. Meeting the publishing director Greg T. was one of my favorite parts. Up to the point of our workshop he believed the biggest problem facing A.A. is:

- “Rigid orthodoxy... re-instated as ‘requiring conformity.’”

I thought each of the presentations were informative and stimulated a lot of thought in me, and discussion with others throughout the weekend. I enjoyed listening to the A.A. demographic info collected by GSO presented by Sarah, secretary from District 13. Some of my other favorite quotes from the weekend:

- “I do not know what I know because I’m really smart. I know what I know because I made a lot of mistakes” – Jeff C. Area PI.
- “Do I do service to fill the void of insecurity and feed my ego? Or am I of service to be of service and help the alcoholic who still suffers? Am I feeding my need for a pat on the back?” – Paul, District 3 Webmaster

Several of us younger people from District 16 continue to attend the Chester Creek Young Peoples Meeting in District 12 when we can. My fiancée and I had the opportunity to attend meetings out of state recently. I enjoyed a prayer and meditation meeting I attended. The meeting began with the lights out and a 20-minute guided meditation that was played on a stereo, after the meditation people shared about their experience during the meditation. It’s very exciting to attend meetings that do things differently than I have experienced.

Yours in Service, Griffin M.

CORRECTIONS-Jake C. Greetings. My name is Jacob C. and I am serving as your Area Corrections Committee Chair. Please call me “Jacob” or “Little Jake” so as to keep me humble in the shadow of Service Giants, or at the least to prevent whiplash on my part every time you address our delegate. I am both honored and humbled to be provided an opportunity to serve as your Corrections Chair. I'm the second Corrections Chair, in a row, to come in during the middle of a rotation, and look forward to breaking this chain of bad luck. I have received and have read the Corrections workbook, been neck deep in the service manual, and

pouring through pamphlets and minutes to learn my job. It is important to know what has been done and what our society's experience has already taught us.

We had 10 in attendance at our meeting this morning. Districts 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13 were represented by their respective committee chair or representative, as well as 2 newcomers! Thank you. District 14 provided a report and is excited to announce a new Corrections Chair We discussed in the meeting the corrections work going on now in various facilities. We discussed requirements for entrance into facilities, shortages in service, the importance of vetting (screening) volunteers, singleness of purpose, keeping current with qualifications, and how to obtain corrections related literature. It was brought up about well intentioned alcoholics, putting on meetings in correctional institutions, without coordinating with local Corrections Committees. We discussed how this hurts our society as a whole, especially when continuation fails, and the individual A..A., or group stops going into the facility, with little or no notice. We discussed how to utilize the traditions to stop this. I agreed to bring this to the Joint Committee for a top down approach via the MN DOC, and encouraged districts to give me more information about where this is happening. I believe this will be an ongoing process, and sense a workshop idea...

I will be attending the WCRAASC and have 3 other poor souls traveling and lodging with me.

This is a list of meetings and needs inside of facilities by District. District 2: making contact with Pennington county jail; need help setting up corrections committee, finding volunteers, discovering and meeting literature needs for inside jail. District 5: running on skeleton crew of volunteers for Sherburne county jail, having difficult time finding volunteers that meet steep facility requirements; Mille Lacs County Jail is doing well, but could use more volunteers. District 6: no Corrections Chair, no info at this time for Area 35 on Isanti/Chisago/Washington/Kanebec County Jails. District 7: Working with Aitkin County Jail to get quicker processing for volunteers, need female volunteers for jail, Crow Wing County Jail is doing fine; working with Districts 8 and 11 to meet needs of Sandstone Federal Prison, need volunteers for every other Tuesday. District 8: Need volunteers for Sandstone federal prison, works with Districts 7 and 11 to meet Sandstone needs; Puts meeting on in “Thistledew” MN DOC Togo women's CIP on 1st Sunday, needs more volunteers, works with Districts 9 and 12 to staff Thistledew. District 9: works with District 8 to meet needs of Thistledew; puts meetings on and needs volunteers in coordination with District 12 for NERCC (North Eastern Regional Corrections Center/Arrowhead Regional Corrections). District 11: has Pine and Carlton County jail meetings; Willow River, Willow River sex offender program, Willow River CIP State prisons; and Sandstone federal prison; needs volunteers and literature for all facilities, works with Districts 6, 7, 8, and 12 to meet needs. District 12: Has NERCC, Douglas County Wisconsin Jail, Duluth federal work camp. Has needs for volunteers at all facilities, is doing okay for literature. District 13: has St. Cloud State prison, Sterns/Benton County Jails. Need more volunteers for all facilities, literature needs for prison are adequate but jails could use help. District 14: needs help with male and female volunteers for the Koochiching County Jail, desperate need for literature.

District 9 -Fred H. Our A.A. assistance line is up and calls are coming in too. Six members are volunteering their time on the line. It is an online system so whoever pick-up first gets the call. Our beginners meeting is going strong and we are thinking about changing the meeting night to work better with a treatment facility. I attended the January Service Workshop and our district was honored to deliver a presentation.

District 2 -Michael H. Greetings from District 2,

We hold our District 2 Business Meeting in Middle River at The First Lutheran Church, on the second Sunday of every odd month, at 2:00 pm. We have an agenda to go by, flyers to hand out, along with asking for new business. Any member can bring a business item to the District. We usually meet for an hour to an hour-and-a-half on average. Our last meeting was on January 11th, 2015, we had an attendance of 5.

We talked also about the District Chair positions that are open and they currently are; Corrections/Treatment, and Archives.

We also talked about the possibility of creating a District 2 contribution form similar to the one Area 35 uses. The idea behind this would be to help groups with sending in their contributions.

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We were going to have a Round-Up committee meeting following the business meeting to try and get a round up started, as we have not had one for a couple years. Due to lack of attendance we decided to postpone it to a later date.

District 2 is also doing better financially, having a balance of \$719 as of January 11th.

We also voted to organize a Traditions Workshop. This Workshop will have three speakers, with the topics being: applying The Traditions, The spirit of anonymity, and the history of the Traditions. The Workshop will be held in Thief River Falls, located at 614 Davis Ave North in the Twin Rivers building by the alley: It will start at 1:00 pm, on Saturday May 2nd. Thank you for allowing me to serve Alcoholics Anonymous.

GRAPEVINE- Antonette F. I have been busy with the Grapevine, trying to get the word out. The challenge is on for subscriptions, please give the Grapevine a try if you have not already. I did not attend the conference nor will I be able to attend the Spring Assembly. I do have someone who will be there for me so the Grapevine will be available for all who wanted as well as all the other things we have available. Please let me know if there is anything you want that I don't have. Thanks for all your support.

District 15- Melissa A. Greetings from District 15. We hold our district meeting the 1st Monday of the month at the Albany Senior Center starting at 8pm. Our district presented at the January workshop and it was truly an amazing experience! We had our Traditions Workshop February 21st; we had 34 people in attendance, Brad and Randy came and discussed the importance of the Traditions. Thank you again Brad and Randy for being of service—you both did an amazing job! Our district had a tape of Bill W. discussing the Traditions and converted it into a CD; I also have a transcript (that I typed so it may have some errors). If you are interested in getting a copy please let me know. I personally have a commitment to the detox facility in St. Cloud which is on Sundays between the hours of 1pm & 4pm. I also spoke at Recovery Plus and our district is willing to be of service if they need more speakers. We now have updated meeting cards which we will be bringing to several places throughout our district such as: gas stations, hospitals, libraries, treatment centers, churches etc. We have the Stearns County Roundup on Saturday, March 28th that we are really looking forward too and hope to see some familiar faces. It is located at The Landing in St. Anna, tickets are \$10.00 in advance and \$12.00 at the door, social hour is at 6:00 pm, dinner 6:45 pm, open meeting at 8:00 pm with an ice cream social in between! There is a 4th annual Sauk Centre open meeting, located at the First Methodist Church; it is a potluck, on April 18th at 5:30 pm. A few people from our district will be going through the training in order to get accepted to help district 13 hold meetings in the Stearns County Jail. Our district has also made commitment to speak at a treatment facility in Willmar which is outside of our district. We are doing our best as a district trying to get new GSR's and to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Thank you for allowing me to be of service! Melissa A.

District 8 – Jerry B. Hi, I'm Jerry B. and I'm an alcoholic, currently serving as DCM for District 8. All's going well within our district. District 8 holds it's meetings the first full week of each month with the committee meetings at 6:30 and our regular business meeting at 7:00 on a rotating basis, as to the meeting location and day/date. Our next meeting is Mon. March 2, 2015 at St. Paul's Epis. Church in Virginia hosted by the Friday Night Open group. Any and all A.A. members are welcome to attend and share a cup of coffee and some Iron Range A.A. fellowship. We still have one service position to fill, that of the alt. GV/Literature chair. At our past meeting we voted for the district to host a PI luncheon on 3-20-2015 at the Mt. Iron Community Center. This is the same weekend as the Winter Rap-up, held at the same location. We've had a few luncheon committee meetings since and all seems to be running smoothly; it should be a good turnout. Also the district approved and supports a proposal put forth by the Aurora Big Book Group. There are copies of the proposal for you to look over on the tables, for your consideration. We hope to have it on the agenda at our next voting assembly. I attended the Area Workshop held on Barker's Island in Superior; it was nice to cross paths with a lot of you again. Also kind of strange to see a big icicle some people call art. I'm looking forward to seeing & listening to the opinions of many in Nebraska at the WCRAASC. Yours in service, Jerry B

GROUP RECORDS- Rolene L. Hello Area 35, I am continuing to work on your groups records. I have been grateful to the DCMs who have taken the time to go through their meetings. Some of

the districts have formed committees to help them, which works out well.

I forwarded the changes—this is to make sure our meeting locator is updated as the database dates the changes I make.

I am available to any district that would like to see the FNV Database of their groups. I also can show you exactly what this consists of.

I attended the Area Workshop at Barkers Island in January. At that time, I updated records with the new certificate for our database on the new laptop. As this can only be on one computer.

I am planning on attending the West Central Regional Conference in Nebraska. There are three of us riding together. Jake our Delegate asked Sandy and I to do a breakout session. In which we both are grateful to be a part of.

I want to thank all the DCMs for your service in getting our FNV Database with updated and correct information this is a big part of us getting the newcomers to a meeting. Making sure the meeting times and locations are correct. Yours in Service, Rolene L.

District 13- Angie S. 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 the last 2 month's meetings, we had 7 new GSRs.

We will be taking nominations and voting for Treatment and CPC positions at our next district meeting in March.

Sarah K., Area Chair, visited our meeting last month to answer questions and hear concerns about the area budget. We would like to thank Sarah for coming out and visiting us. People seemed to be satisfied after they were able to be heard.

District 13's budget was passed at our January meeting 18 – 6.

We have been asked by the Waite Park West End Group to present our presentation, Diversity in A.A., on March 7th.

Our Alt. DCM, Angie, is busy preparing for our GSR Workshop that we will be having at the St. Cloud Library on March 14th from 1-4 pm. Come join us and bring someone along.

Angie will also be attending the service conference next weekend. I wish everyone a safe trip.

In Service, Christine G.

District 11- Bill C. District 11 held a New Years Eve Party in Hinckley and 80 people attended. We could not meet in January because the church was not opened up for us. We did meet in February for a productive meeting.

We are continuing with sober bowling. Thanks to our corrections chair Gary we are meeting our corrections commitments. Your in service, Bill C.

LITERATURE-Jim S. Hi Everyone

We had a fantastic meeting this morning with 8 districts represented. Sarah from district 13 is helping out with the district literature chair where a need exists. Melisa from district 15 has compiled a document of Bill W's talk on the 12 traditions. Talk to her if you want a copy. She is also bringing pamphlets into the detox on Sunday's. Steve D. from District 3 is looking at starting a literature checking account following along the same lines that Area 35 runs their lit checking account. I attended the annual service workshop and had a wonderful time as always. I have orders on the back table for you. I have additional books if you need some. I have a yellow legal pad on the back table titled Spring Assembly Orders. The deadline for the spring assembly orders is March 29th. I will be attending WCRAASC next weekend so if your district would like some help going through the agenda items at your district meeting I would be happy to help. Lastly, if you email me your order and I do not repaid within 24 hours, I did not get it. You can call or text me at 701-306-9101. Please remember I do have a job so calling during work hours I may not be able to talk and you will have to call back later. In service Jim S. Area 35 Literature Chair

District 1-Jon S. Our last District 1 meeting was conducted on February 8, 2015, also attended by eight GSR's, DCM, our Treasurer, and two A.A.'s.

- Loren reports that there was a \$677.28 balance at last meeting. Fosston sent \$30.00, Rising Sun \$26.00. Jon was given a check for \$172.76. Total at end was \$504.62. Today Leslie from Fosston gave \$50.00, Keith from Moment to Moment

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Crookston \$50.00, Mahnommen \$50.00. New balance \$654.62. This was unanimously approved upon motion by Fred and seconded by Ted.

- Corrections Report (Ted for Keith) – No new reports. Rob from Crookston stated he would work with Ted and Keith trying to get something going to carry the message into our community jail. Also discussed getting meeting list to the probation office and juvenile probation also.
- Grapevine Report (Harry) – Each group orders their own if they want. It is available online also.
- PI/Lit. Report (Ted) – Will take orders from any group that wants to place orders.
- Treatment Report (Dave) – Continue working on speakers at Glenmore from our groups 1 time per month (Curt). Shelly stated that Curt said we need to contact Mike to get this scheduled. White Earth RTC Building Chemical outpatient; Douglas Place EGF, Pine Manor in Nevis, In Patient (owned by White Earth) in Bemidji; Red River Recovery Dilworth (halfway house); Clearbrook Treatment Recovery for men advertising on Garden Valley TV address.

GROUP REPORTS (OR NO REPORTS)

Ada Group – Ted reported an average of 4 to 6 people attending. Crookston Mon. Night Group – Dave reported 10 to 12 people attending.

Crookston Moment by Moment Group (Tues) – Jodi reported 12 to 15 people attending.

Crookston HALT Group (Sat) – Shelly states average of 7 to 10 people attending.

Erskine High Noon Group – Harry reported 6 to 10 people attending.

Erskine Tue. Night Group – Jon reported 2 to 3 people attending.

Fertile Group – Dave reported 1 to 2 people attending.

Fosston Group – Leslie reported 8 to 10 people attending.

Mahnomen Group – Fred reported 8 people attending.

Twin Valley Group – Ron reported that this group is not meeting until March sometime due to poor attendance.

Waubun Group – Ron reported 3 to 4 people attending, with 18 at open meeting.

DISCUSSIONS OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Spring Fling – Hosted by A.A. on the 2nd Saturday in March 14, 2015. Leslie is the chairperson and she and Jon did do flyers for the event and they were passed out and Jon will email others in regards to the event. Dave is ordering the food and we will be having the Side Street Grill prepare and serve the meal. They are charging \$7.25 a plate. The meal is meatballs with gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, a roll, and ice cream cup for dessert. Cost will be \$15.00 per person for the day plus meal. The people from treatment centers (Douglas Place) will be charged \$8.00 instead of the \$15.00. Harry is working with the Al Anon people and will give them the info and flyers as we do not have a contact person for them. A 12/12 book donated by the Mahnommen group. Yours in Service, Jon S., DCM, District 1.

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

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

We have had new GSR's join our ranks in District 3. We have a new process that when a new GSR attends, we take a few minutes to introduce all of the District chairs and have them explain what they do. Many times the new GSRs are not familiar with our service structure. It helps them to acclimate to service work on the district and area level.

We are planning our annual round up for August. Our Alternate DCM and committee is busy with the details. Once the date is finalized, we will have flyers available. We continue to hold Round Robins each month. Our Round Robin Chair is making sure we have a full agenda of Round Robins. Our next Round Robin will be March 6th and 7th in Moorhead. We have an Ohio Meeting on Friday night on Sponsorship and General Service. We have two past delegates, one from Area 52 and one from Area 36. Also, the delegate from Area 52 was a past Trustee at Large.

We also have our own Bob B. presenting Saturday afternoon on the Internet and Anonymity. We look forward to that. In the evening, we have a speaker from Fargo, Ralph E. We hope you can attend. Tickets are sold at the door and there is no cost for the Friday Workshop. I have a few flyers available today.

Our District Chairs continue to work on carrying the message through literature, CPC/PI, Treatment and Institutional contacts. We are putting together group packets for new and existing groups to provide them with information on the District, Area, and GSO.

We are completing the budget process for our District and will prioritize our activity based on funds available. We have had a decrease in contributions, but will be asking groups to present on what the district can do for them.

We also are in the process of updating our meetings and contacts. We have asked District 3 members to provide assistance by attending or contacting the meetings in our District. We have found much of the contact information is out of date. Yours in Service, Steve D.

NORTHERN LIGHT- Rodney S. As I wrote in the Northern Light, I attended the January Service Workshop in Superior, WI. and I would like to reiterate on the gratitude I have for being able to be a part of and participate in an organization that wants me as much as I want it. I should have made a copy of my evaluation form because I ran out of room when I filled it out—as opposed to now when I seem to have nothing but white space and little words to fill it.

I know the gist of what I had to say is that we are not service recruiters and when we take that tack we turn into directors, competitors, or simply promotionists with an attitude, searching for a resentment.

I finished updating the instructions for putting a flyer in the Northern Light, with acknowledgement that the committee may yet want to make some changes to them. One issue involved the December Committee's decision that we direct entities to "wait until billed by Area 35" to mail any payment and another involves the deadlines.

Since Cold Spring Record's printing cost for flyers did not change the options of using white or colored paper, the only possible costs with what's offered at this time are going to be \$75, \$123, or \$135; it seems futile to delay payment when these costs can be communicated without confusion, especially since current payment issues are compounded by delayed payment.

In hope of keeping the same clarity, I think the general A.A. community will be able to remember and stick to the first-of-the-month deadlines—except for January's. For those within the committee your reports have varied as to whether or not you include an event that falls on, or close, to the deadline.

If anyone sees any issue regarding these instructions that needs to be addressed further please let me know.

In service, Rodney.

PI/CPC- Jeff C. In the absence of Servando M., CPC chair, this is a joint report for both committees. There were several first time attendees at the committee meeting so we covered some of the basics in PI and CPC service. I explained that my short definition of Public Information service work is making sure that potential members of alcoholics anonymous are able to find the information they need to find our fellowship and meetings. Cooperation with the Professional Community means that professionals who come into contact with potential alcoholics have the information they need to refer people to alcoholics anonymous. Guidelines and suggestions for service work are laid out in the A.A. Guidelines available on the aa.org web site for each service committee. District 7 is planning a CPC workshop for May 21st at Grand View Lodge in Nisswa, MN. Both Districts 8 and 16 are planning PI events in coordination with regional roundups. District 8 will hold one in Mt. Iron on March 20, District 16 in Grand Rapids on May 1st. Several districts have seen turnover in service positions. It is especially important to have district committee chairs attend area committee meetings so they can get up to speed quickly. If you have any questions Servando and I are just a phone call away. Area 35 will again be helping staff the A.A. booth at the MN State Fair August 29-30. Please consider volunteering. The schedule for staffing will be available at the spring assembly. Yours in service, Jeff C.

District 4- Deb H. Since December, District 4 has lost a DCM, an

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alternate DCM, and a Secretary. The DCM position is filled, but we're still asking for volunteers to fill the alternate DCM and Secretary positions. The District is currently experiencing a drop in attendance at our monthly district GSR meetings. We are at a loss to determine the reason for the attendance drop and obvious lack of interest in service work. We have decided to make more of an effort to keep the groups informed of the District's activities by doing the following:

1. At our monthly Round Robin, the DCM gives a report summarizing the District GSR meeting. The DCM also reads our GSR Statement which briefly explains the purpose of a GSR and encourages each group to support at least one member as their group's GSR.
2. The DCM also emails regular reminders to all District 4 GSRs about the upcoming monthly meeting and other District and Area functions.

Hopefully, this continued effort will yield more service interest and beef up our attendance. Our PI/CPC Committee continues to be very active in the District. We have circulated AA Helpline cards to local health care facilities, Social Services, Emergency rooms, Women's Shelters, etc. in the hopes of carrying the message that A.A. is available to those who need it. We are also working with local radio and TV stations within the District to air the GSO provided A.A. public service announcement. Our District's A.A. Helpline number will be read as well. Our Corrections Committee continues to coordinate the weekly A.A. meetings at the Douglas County Jail (MN). Every Saturday night the men and the women inmates get a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The District recently discussed the need for a Treatment Facilities Committee. There are at least two treatment facilities in our District that need to receive the message of Alcoholics Anonymous. Individual groups in Alexandria provide meetings a couple times a month to the local treatment center, but there needs to be coordination of this service to better meet the needs of the still suffering alcoholics. We hope to find a volunteer by our March meeting.

District 5 - Dean M. In the last month our secretary, treasurer, treatment and PI/CPC chairs have stepped down. I would like to thank them for their service. I would also like to say good luck to Jake C. in his new position as Area Corrections Chair. We filled our treasurer position at our last district meeting. All of our commitments are still being fulfilled. I will attend the WCRAASC in Nebraska at the end of the month. We continue to carry our message to the still suffering alcoholic in district 5. Yours in service, Dean M.

Treatment- Paul M. We had eight in attendance at the meeting on February 22. We had Districts 5, 21, 12 and two from 7 and two from 6 present. We discussed two topics about being license to go in there, and the other was a commitment to the chair people for being there! We read two articles in a treatment workbook about bringing meetings into psychiatric wards and dealing with staff. We had a great discussion on all these topics! We also still need used Grapevines and literature for our treatment facilities in our area so please bring them to the next event. District 12 reported all meetings covered in treatment centers. Some people would like to rotate. District 5 treatment chair step down; trying to get meetings back into Riverplace—insurance issues and licensing conflict. District 21 reported all meetings are covered in the district. District 7 reported its chair stepped down, most facility meetings are covered in the district. We then asked two people to bring two topics to the next meeting. This seems to work well because it creates more participation in our committee meeting. Thank you; yours in service Paul M.

District 6-Garrett B. My name is Garrett and I'm an alcoholic, DCM for District 6. I attended the January workshop and had a great time. Thank you to all the presenters—the presentations were great. We had our second annual GSR workshop yesterday and had 15 people in attendance from Districts 5, 6, and 11. We covered lots of good information from the service manual. We also covered where to find group numbers and went over some of the different literature to assist GSR's. We are planning a CPC/PI luncheon and more details will follow. We will be having our agenda items discussion march 21st at the Cambridge Medical Center in the foundation room starting at noon. I will continue to visit more groups in the next couple of months. Yours in service Garrett B.

District 21 –Jennifer M. Hi Everyone, my name is Jennifer and I am an alcoholic. Irv was not able to be here and sends his apolo-

gies. I am the alternate DCM for District 21. Currently all of our chairs are filled except Secretary which I am filling temporarily. Irv and a couple of our GSR's attended the workshop in Superior, WI. They said it was a great learning experience and one of the best workshops they had attended.

We are working on getting more GSR's to our District meetings by traveling to different towns. Last month we held our district meeting in Park Rapids. The meeting was well attended and it was nice to meet new people. We were able to get some discussion going about questions people had that normally are not able to attend the district meetings. March 9th our meeting will be held in Walker at the Hope Lutheran Church at 7:00 pm.

Also, the 2015 25th Anniversary Heartland Round-Up in Park Rapids, September 11-13, is in great need of volunteers. Hundreds of people attend this round-up and I bet you may be one of them! Please contact Bill S. at wgsteen49@gmail.com for questions and inquiries about how we can be of service at the awesome Heartland Round-Up. Thanks everyone for all your service! Jennifer Alt. DCM District 21.

Webmaster- Sandy H. There were 10 people in our committee meeting Districts 3, 7, 11, and 13 were represented. This morning much of the discussion was on flyers, reviewing, inserting. I attended the Area 35/36 workshop what a great job all the presenters did. I am planning on attending the WCRAASC in a few days and am looking forward to helping in anyway and the whole experience. The last few days the flyers have been coming in! Keep it up!

Yours in service, Sandy.

OLD BUSINESS

Financial Oversight Committee Report- Steve L

Balances are correct and match bank statements.

Web Technologies Report-Bob B.

- ♦ Area 35 Service Workshop –

I did not plan to attend our Service Workshop. The week before our workshop I was asked to attend by a couple of committee members. We met at 4:00 pm and continued discussions about technology until 10:30. Many people stopped by with technology questions and contributed to discussions about A.A. and technology.

- ♦ WCRAASC.

I will not be attending the WCRAASC. Our area Webmaster and Record Keeper will be attending the conference. Our committee is well represented. We need to be prudent with the use of area funds. Please see the flyer "Test Drive aaMeetingLocator.org" I will be sending these flyers to the WCRAASC. I'd like to get our neighboring states in the WCRAASC to join aaMeetingLocator. The flyer is an invitation to join aaMeetingLocator.

- ♦ Winter Warm Up

I will be doing an Anonymity and Technology workshop at the Winter Warm Up in Moorhead, 2:00 PM May 7th.

- ♦ Spring Assembly

We, our committee, plan on meeting at 4:00 PM Friday prior to our Assembly. We will meet for dinner and then find a comfortable place with Wi-Fi, tables and chairs that are available to all. Feel free to stop by.

- ♦ NAATW

National Alcoholics Anonymous Technology Workshop October 1-4th. I plan to attend this workshop.

- ♦ Fall Assembly

I will miss our Fall Assembly. It is the same weekend as the NAATW.

- ♦ GSO Background Information

The background information is on the web at gso.area35.org. It is password protected. 2015 Committee on Trustees Background was added late yesterday afternoon.

- ♦ E-mail forwarders

We had reports that our e-mail forwards are not working. The complaint was coming from a gmail customer. Gmail is aggressive on spam. They monitor mail from e-mail forwarders. If gmail feels its SPAM they throw the e-mail away. They will even block all forwarded mail from a domain.

(Continued on page 22)

(Continued from page 21)

We are using 38 e-mail forwarders—13 are to gmail accounts. One solution would be to change forwarders to real e-mail accounts. Our Webmaster would have to administer these accounts. i.e. set up, manage passwords and password resets, and provide instructions and training. Users would have another e-mail account to manage and check daily. Gmail does have a fetch tool and will get mail from other email accounts.

♦ Area 35 WEB Technology

Finally, down to what I was asked to do this rotation and that was to determine the support level that is needed to support our WEB technology. Ideally we would like to balance willingness to serve and technology so that the positions could be rotated and a wide background would be able to support our WEB sites. There is a hand out “How Web Sites Work” available on the back table.

♦ Area35.org

Our area35.org web site is written using HTML and CMS. To support these sites our webmaster needs to know HTML and CMS. We need to move to a content management site. Our webmaster would not need to know HTML or CMS unless major updates were required. WordPress is a readily available content management package and is available on our WEB site. I’ve completed two WordPress classes. The first step is to lay out the web site and I have started this process. Once completed we should be able to rotate our webmaster and have a well maintained web site. Our webmaster would still have to know or learn how websites work. Emphasis would be on willingness to serve.

♦ aaMeetingLocator.org

aaMeetingLocator is produced by Area 35 to find meetings throughout the state of Minnesota. Anyone with WEB access can find A.A. meetings in Minnesota and have maps to those meeting. Here’s what others are saying about aaMeeingLocator ... *everybody at our group business meeting that knew the site reported on how useful it was to find a meeting "near me" without needing to know which cities to look in. Even people answering phones at Intergrroup...*

January Workshop Report- Sarah K.

Evaluations of specific workshop elements by GSR’s, District and Area attendees are available from Sarah K.

Comments of participants follow:

Learned valuable information, new ideas. More on Traditions/ concepts. More structure to GSR sharing session; have Area officer present for guidance; have sharing sessions before dinner. Speaker's first sharing session (is literature a service?) was confusing, overwhelming. Day too long, and started too late in the morning on Sat. Don't have ice cream. No charge for coffee; don't have coffee. Improve participation/attendance/diversity at event. Remind people to be respectful and quiet during presentations. Sunday morning meeting was outstanding—newcomer attended! A printer. More guidance/materials for presenters. Explain the purposes behind things and how we function, like what the ask it basket is for.

Recognized value of traditions as foundation for everything. Learned a lot. Partner presenters with Area Committee chair for guidance on presentations. Encourage presenters to provide handouts. Valued "humanizing" GSO; got a better understanding of process at GSO. Have presentation on Web Technologies.

Have presentations on service work and positions, especially during the election year to get people fired up about service. Have continental breakfast. Got the opportunity to ask and have some district questions answered personally. Liked the screen with agenda/presentations on it.

Consider restructuring presentation topics to be more relevant to area members. More time for sharing, less time on presentations. Very valuable experience—sad to think people don't understand the value of it. Remind people it is a self-supporting event. Find ways to get more districts involved (even if they are not presenting). Remind crowd to keep noise down—Tibetan Chimes). Area committee should meet whenever the GSR/DCMs meet.

Need to increase attendance, especially GSRs. Great to hear the different ideas and opinions, connecting with others in service-meeting and talking.

Joint Corrections Committee Report –Jake C. Greetings! My name is Jacob C. and I am your Area 35 Corrections committee chair. This is the Area 35/36 Joint Committee Report for February 2015. We met February 6th in Golden Valley to discuss the Joint Area corrections workshop, which is now tentatively scheduled for October 10th in St. Cloud. The topic will likely be “Love and Tolerance of Others is Our Code: carrying the message to all inmates, regardless”. Our next meeting is April 13th, 2015 in Golden Valley. We are excited to have Terry Pitts, formally of St. Cloud, to be nominated as our Joint Committee chair. There has been a request to utilize Area 36's corrections literature to meet the need of state facilities in all of Minnesota. A request has been made for the Aitkin committee meeting and is on the agenda. Yours in Service, Jacob C.

NEW BUSINESS

2016 GSC Agenda Items Proposals need to be submitted soon. **WCRAASC Planning** Sarah K.- Group traveling to lower costs. Reports are due on March 8 to NL.

Area 35/36 Workshop Planning Sarah K.

-Motion to Approve of Jake C. as Area 35 Corrections Chair passed. Requested budget by Jake C, follows these minutes and will be voted on at our Spring Assembly.

Aurora Big Book Group Proposal- Randy A. District 8 voted to bring this forward but did not vote on the specifics of the motion. Request for groups to consider eliminating: Financial Oversight Committee; Zonal Forums; and Web Technology Chair—which is an interim position in the current rotation. No action was taken on this motion at the Area Committee Meeting. Sarah K. is placing this motion on the Spring Assembly Agenda and would like groups to discuss it prior to the assembly.

SOFR (Statement of Financial Responsibility) Proposal— TNYPM St. Cloud, MN. This item is presented in these minutes prior to reports as ACM agenda was moved to present/discuss it.

Calendar of Events- Rodney S. Northern Light-Rodney S.

Motion to Adjourn- passed unanimous

2015 AREA 35 CORRECTIONS CHAIR BUDGET (proposed)														
	Feb		Sprng	June	Aug	Bridging		Joint Cmt	Fall	Dec	State Cor-	District	Transitions	
	Cmt	WCRAASC	Assy	Cmt	Cmt	Gap Conf	35/36 Workshop	WkSp	Assy	Cmt	rection Mtg	Travel	Fair	Total
Meals	5	60	40	5	5	60	10	10	40	5				240
Travel		60	15		13	83	10	10	15	13	24	150	100	493
Lodging	13	240	120	13		300			120					806
Supplies														
Printing														
Postage														
Other		15				35		1000						1050
0	18	375	175	18	18	478	20	1020	175	18	24	150	100	2589

Why Do We Need A Conference ?

The late Bernard B. Smith, nonalcoholic, then chairman of our board of trustees, and one of the architects of the Conference structure, answered that question superbly in his opening talk at the 1954 meeting:


"We may not need a General Service Conference to insure our own recovery. We do need it to insure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room. We need it to insure recovery of a child being born tonight, destined to alcoholism. We need it to provide, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics who, in the ages ahead, can find in A.A. that rebirth which brought us back to life.

"We need it because we, more than all others, are conscious of the devastating effects of the human urge for power and prestige which we must insure can never invade A.A. We need it to insure A.A. against government, while insulating it against anarchy; we need it to protect A.A. against disintegration while preventing overintegration. We need it so that Alcoholics Anonymous, and Alcoholics Anonymous alone, is the ultimate repository of its Twelve Steps, its Twelve Traditions, and all of its services.

"We need it to insure that changes within A.A. come only as a response to the needs and wants of all A.A., and not of any few. We need it to insure that the doors of halls of A.A. never have locks on them, so that all people for all time who have an alcoholic problem may enter these halls unasked and feel welcome. We need it to insure that Alcoholics Anonymous never asks of anyone who needs us what his or her race is, what his or her creed is, what his or her social position is."


From The AA Service Manual 2009-2010 Edition Pg S20

DISTRICT 3 APRIL ROUND ROBIN



The Principles Before Personalities Group

Invites you to their 5 Year Birthday Celebration



POTLUCK DINNER & Speaker Meeting

Friday, April 10, 2015

6 pm Potluck

7 pm Al-Anon – Stacy L. (Battle Lake, MN)

8 pm AA – Jim St. (Fargo, ND)

Basement – Fellowship Hall
First Lutheran Church
402 Court Street, Fergus Falls, Minnesota

36th Annual
Keep It Simple Weekend
Camp Chicagami on Pleasant Lake (South of Eveleth, Minnesota)
Theme: The Doctor's Opinion
August 7, 8, & 9, 2015
WEEKEND SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

** NOTE: due to CAMP POLICY, there is NO ADMITTANCE into the camp prior to 5:30 PM Friday**

FRIDAY 5:30 PM REGISTRATION
6:30 PM SUPPER
7:30 PM Al-Anon Speaker – Dixie B., Brainerd, MN
AA speaker – Pete B., Fort Frances, ON
Campfire Call-up Meeting to follow the speakers

SATURDAY 8:00 AM BREAKFAST
10:00 AM AA Open Big Book Meeting
Al-Anon Open Meeting
NOON LUNCH
1:00 PM Recreation Time**
5:00 PM SUPPER (Baron of Beef)
7:00 PM Al-Anon Speaker – Steve G., Duluth, MN
AA Speaker – Jim S., Fargo, ND
Ice Cream Social to follow the speakers

SUNDAY 8:30 AM BREAKFAST
10:00 AM AA Speaker – Steve B., Brainerd, MN
Planning meeting for 2016 after speaker REGISTRATION

Adults Tent/Camper Pkg. 2 nights – 5 meals \$55.00 Adult Bunkhouse pkg. 2 nights – 5 meals \$75.00 (Pkgs. include all meals, registration and lodging)	Children Tent/Camper Package 2 nights & 5 meals 10 & under \$25.00 11-17 \$40.00 (includes all meals, reg. and lodging.)
General Admission (all events, not including meals. \$18.00 per weekend or \$6.00 per day.	Meals: \$5.00 each (payable before eating) Saturday Supper: \$7.00 per person.
Camping - \$6.00 per person per night (no hookups available) Bunkhouses - \$20.00 Per person per night. (Does not include general admission.)	All accommodations on a first come/first served basis. There is room for all Pre-Registration is not necessary

Bring your own LAWN CHAIRS, BEDDING, FLASHLIGHTS, ETC.

** Activities include volleyball, basketball, canoeing, bocce ball, kayaking, fishing, hiking, campfire and lots of fellowship

For more info, call Gwen at 218-744-1585 or Steve 218-410-2275 or Mary 218-741-7670
Sorry, NO PETS ALLOWED.

St. Cloud AA Convention - Sept 19, 2015

Fellowship Hall
713 Anderson Avenue
Saint Cloud, MN

Convention Hours: 12 p.m. to 12 a.m.
Speakers, Workshops, Meetings, Refreshments, Food, Fun and Fellowship
Tickets: \$5.00

If you are interested in attending, or if you or your group would like to present at one of the meetings or workshops, please contact:
JD: 320-492-1878

Answers to the Archives Quiz (page 15)

- 1. 1995 — Held in St. Cloud
- 2. 1989
- 3. 1942 — in Minneapolis
- 4. Barry Collins and Ed Webster (primary author of *The Little Red Book*)
- 5. 1990
- 6. 1953
- 7. District 10
- 8. Minnesota and Wisconsin
- 9. Grand Rapids
- 10. 6 Months

The following article is some historical data from the GSO website on the birth of A.A. and its growth in the U.S. and Canada .

A.A. had its beginnings in 1935 at Akron, Ohio, as the outcome of a meeting between Bill W., a New York stockbroker, and Dr. Bob S., an Akron surgeon. Both had been hopeless alcoholics. Prior to that time, Bill and Dr. Bob had each been in contact with the Oxford Group, a mostly nonalcoholic fellowship that emphasized universal spiritual values in daily living. In that period, the Oxford Groups in America were headed by the noted Episcopal clergyman, Dr. Samuel Shoemaker. Under this spiritual influence, and with the help of an old-time friend, Ebby T., Bill had gotten sober and had then maintained his recovery by working with other alcoholics, though none of these had actually recovered. Meanwhile, Dr. Bob's Oxford Group membership at Akron had not helped him enough to achieve sobriety. When Dr. Bob and Bill finally met, the effect on the doctor was immediate. This time, he found himself face to face with a fellow sufferer who had made good. Bill emphasized that alcoholism was a malady of mind, emotions and body. This all-important fact he had learned from Dr. William D. Silkworth of Towns Hospital in New York, where Bill had often been a patient. Though a physician, Dr. Bob had not known alcoholism to be a disease. Responding to Bill's convincing ideas, he soon got sober, never to drink again. The founding spark of A.A. had been struck.

Both men immediately set to work with alcoholics at Akron's City Hospital, where one patient quickly achieved complete sobriety. Though the name Alcoholics Anonymous had not yet been coined, these three men actually made up the nucleus of the first A.A. group. In the fall of 1935, a second group of alcoholics slowly took shape in New York. A third appeared at Cleveland in 1939. It had taken over four years to produce 100 sober alcoholics in the three founding groups.

Early in 1939, the Fellowship published its basic textbook, *Alcoholics Anonymous*. The text, written by Bill, explained A.A.'s philosophy and methods, the core of which was the now well-known Twelve Steps of recovery.

The book was also reinforced by case histories of some thirty recovered members. From this point, A.A.'s development was rapid.

Also in 1939, the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* carried a series of articles about A.A., supported by warm editorials. The Cleveland group of only twenty members was deluged by countless pleas for help. Alcoholics sober only a few weeks were set to work on brand-new cases. This was a new departure, and the results were fantastic. A few months later, Cleveland's membership had expanded to 500. For the first time, it was shown that sobriety could be mass-produced.

Meanwhile, in New York, Dr. Bob and Bill had in 1938 organized an over-all trusteeship for the budding Fellowship. Friends of John D. Rockefeller Jr. became board members alongside a contingent of A.A.s. This board was named The Alcoholic Foundation. However, all efforts to raise large amounts of money failed, because Mr. Rockefeller had wisely concluded that great sums might spoil the infant society. Nevertheless, the foundation managed to open a tiny office in New York to handle inquiries and to distribute the A.A. book — an enterprise which, by the way, had been mostly financed by the A.A.s themselves.

The book and the new office were quickly put to use. An article about A.A. was carried by *Liberty* magazine in the fall of 1939, resulting in some 800 urgent calls for help. In 1940, Mr. Rockefeller gave a dinner for many of his prominent New York friends to publicize A.A. This brought yet another flood of pleas. Each inquiry received a personal letter and a small pamphlet. Attention was also drawn to the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, which soon moved into brisk circulation. Aided by mail from New York, and by A.A. travelers from already-established centers, many new groups came alive. At the year's end, the membership stood at 2,000.

Then, in March 1941, the *Saturday Evening Post* featured an excellent article about A.A., and the response was enormous. By the close of that year, the membership had jumped to 6,000, and the number of groups multiplied in proportion. Spreading across the U.S. and Canada, the Fellowship mushroomed.

By 1950, 100,000 recovered alcoholics could be found worldwide. Spectacular though this was, the period 1940-1950 was nonetheless one of great uncertainty. The crucial question was whether all those mercurial alcoholics could live and work together in groups. Could they hold together and function effectively? This was the unsolved problem.

Corresponding with thousands of groups about their problems became a chief occupation of the New York headquarters.

By 1946, however, it had already become possible to draw sound conclusions about the kinds of attitude, practice and function that would best suit A.A.'s purpose. Those principles, which had emerged from strenuous group experience, were codified by Bill in what are today the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous. By 1950, the earlier chaos had largely disappeared. A successful formula for A.A. unity and functioning had been achieved and put into practice. (See Page 9.)

During this hectic ten-year period, Dr. Bob devoted himself to the question of hospital care for alcoholics, and to their indoctrination with A.A. principles. Large numbers of alcoholics flocked to Akron to receive hospital care at St. Thomas, a Catholic hospital. Dr. Bob became a member of its staff. Subsequently, he and the remarkable Sister M. Ignatia, also of the staff, cared for and brought A.A. to some 5,000 sufferers. After Dr. Bob's death in 1950, Sister Ignatia continued to work at Cleveland's Charity Hospital, where she was assisted by the local groups and where 10,000 more sufferers first found A.A. This set a fine example of hospitalization wherein A.A. could cooperate with both medicine and religion.

In this same year of 1950, A.A. held its first International Convention at Cleveland. There, Dr. Bob made his last appearance and keyed his final talk to the need of keeping A.A. simple. Together with all present, he saw the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous enthusiastically adopted for the permanent use of the A.A. Fellowship throughout the world. (He died on November 16, 1950.)

The following year witnessed still another significant event. The New York office had greatly expanded its activities, and these now consisted of public relations, advice to new groups, services to hospitals, prisons, Loners, and Internationalists, and cooperation with other agencies in the alcoholism field. The headquarters was also publishing "standard" A.A. books and pamphlets, and it supervised their translation into other tongues. Our international magazine, the *A.A. Grapevine*, had achieved a large circulation. These and many other activities had become indispensable for A.A. as a whole.

Nevertheless, these vital services were still in the hands of an isolated board of trustees, whose only link to the Fellowship had been Bill and Dr. Bob. As the co-founders had foreseen years earlier, it became absolutely necessary to link A.A.'s world trusteeship (now the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous) with the Fellowship that it served. Delegates from all states and provinces of the U.S. and Canada were forthwith called in. Thus composed, this body for world service first met in 1951. Despite earlier misgivings, the gathering was a great success. For the first time, the remote trusteeship became directly accountable to A.A. as a whole. The A.A. General Service Conference had been created, and A.A.'s over-all functioning was thereby assured for the future.

A second International Convention was held in St. Louis in 1955 to celebrate the Fellowship's 20th anniversary. The General Service Conference had by then completely proved its worth. Here, on behalf of A.A.'s old-timers, Bill turned the future care and custody of A.A. over to the Conference and its trustees. At this moment, the Fellowship went on its own; A.A. had come of age.

Had it not been for A.A.'s early friends, Alcoholics Anonymous might never have come into being. And without its host of well-wishers who have since given of their time and effort — particularly those friends of medicine, religion, and world communications — A.A. could never have grown and prospered. The Fellowship here records its constant gratitude.

It was on January 24, 1971, that Bill, a victim of pneumonia, died in Miami Beach, Florida, where — seven months earlier — he had delivered at the 35th Anniversary International Convention what proved to be his last words to fellow A.A.s: "God bless you and Alcoholics Anonymous forever."

Since then, A.A. has become truly global, and this has revealed that A.A.'s way of life can today transcend most barriers of race, creed and language. A World Service Meeting, started in 1969, has been held biennially since 1972. Its locations alternate between New York and overseas. It has met in London, England; Helsinki, Finland; San Juan del Rio, Mexico; Guatemala City, Guatemala; Munich, Germany; Cartagena, Colombia; Auckland, New Zealand; and Oviedo, Spain.



70th Superior Roundup Registration Form

Please mail checks to: Superior Roundup, PO Box 1287, Superior, WI 54880

Name: _____ AA _____ Almon _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST _____ Zip _____

IRGT Pre-Registration Form

A.A. \$14.00 _____ A.T.G. \$14.00 _____

_____ Alumni \$4.00 _____ Other \$14.00 _____

Name _____

Cyprus/Zy _____

Group Name _____



Please use a separate registration card for each registration.

Full Name _____ (Print Name)

Badge _____

Name _____

Address _____ (Write your name and address in the space to the right)

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

☐ A.A. ☐ Al-Anon ☐ Alateen ☐ _____

Order _____

All interstates provided at all speaker meetings.

Make Checks Payable To:
 SOUTHERN STATES BOARD/SP NLEI
 PO BOX 3290533
 INDIANAPOLIS IN 46206

☐ Bill me contributions per amount (ages 12 & over)

Historically, we have looked for support from our groups to sponsor at least one professional as well as purchase the ticket. Payment for the person from the group who sponsors the professional will be at the discretion of each group.

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>Editor - The Editorial Chair position is a two-year rotation picked by the incoming Area Chair and either approved or rejected by the Area Committee at the first Area meeting after the Fall Assembly Elections.</p> <p>Desirable qualifications: Current or past working knowledge of the printing business. Knowledge of current computer printing programs. The person should also consider the time needed to complete the task required. The candidate should have a working knowledge of A.A. as a whole, i.e., prior experience in service work such as G.S.R., D.C.M., or related position.</p> <p>N.L. Committee - The N.L. Committee consists of two D.C.M.s in Area 35. Currently, these have been picked randomly at the start of the new rotation. They also serve on a two-year rotation basis. They assist the editor in communications with other area newsletters, in recommendations on general improvements, and with general problems and implementations of new policies. They may also represent the editor at functions when the editor is unable to attend. Seek advice and help from former N.L. Committee members and editors.</p> <p>N.L. COMMITTEE MEETINGS: The Committee meets every other month, before the start of the Area Workshop and at Spring and Fall Assemblies. Additional meetings may be called for if needed between these times.</p>	<p>General submissions to the <i>Northern Light</i> are very welcome! Feel free to send letters or articles that are pertinent to Alcoholics Anonymous. However, please note that if space is limited, first priority will be given to reports from Area Officers, Area Standing Committee Chairs and D.C.M.s from Area 35.</p> <p>Submissions are preferred electronically using a Word or WordPad document to the Area’s newsletter e-mail address: northernlight@area35.org. Most other file formats can also be accepted. You may also send articles or letters to my postal address, listed on page 2. The deadline for each Issue is printed on the front page.</p> <p>Letters to the Editor or opinion articles should have a title. They also can not be anonymous please include the first name, last initial and name of the city where the author is from. If you have any questions regarding submitting an item for the <i>Northern Light</i>, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you!</p> <p>Rodney S. 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

Spring Assembly — April 11 – 12, 2015
902 Frontier Dr,
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Northern Light Deadline—May 1st, 2015

Area Committee Meeting — June 7th - 9:00 am
Aitkin Alano Club
322 First Avenue N.E.
Aitkin, MN 56431

Area Committee Meeting — August 2nd - 9:00 am
Aitkin Alano Club
322 First Avenue N.E.
Aitkin, MN

WCRF—Aug 21 – 23, 2015
Parkway Plaza Hotel
123 W E St
Casper, WY 82601

Fall Assembly— October 3 - 4, 2015
River’s Edge Convention Center
10 4th Avenue South
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Area Committee Meeting — December 6th - 9:00 am
Aitkin Alano Club
322 First Avenue N.E.
Aitkin, MN 56431

March 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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				

April 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 Good Friday	4
5 Easter Sunday	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		

Upcoming Events in Areas 35 & 36

note: Area 35 events take precedence !

District 3 April Round Robin — April 10, 2015, 6:00 pm
402 S Court St
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Superior Round-up — April 17-19th, 2015
Superior Curling Club
4700 Tower Avenue
Superior, WI

4th Annual Open Meeting — April 18th, 2015
United Methodist Church
504 Elm St S
Sauk Centre, MN 56378

Staples Area Annual Spring Roundup — April 18th, 6:00 pm
Staples United Methodist Church
310 5th Avenue N
Staples, MN 56479

65th General Service Conference — April 18th — 25th
Crowne Plaza Times Square Hotel
1605 Broadway, New York, NY 10019

Open Meeting Zim —April 25th
Mc Davitt Town Hall Office
9042 Zim Road
Zim, MN 55738

District 2 Traditions Workshop—May 2nd 1:00-4:30 pm
Twin Rivers Clubhouse
614 Davis Ave. N.
Thief River Falls, MN 56701

CPC, District 7—May 21st
Grand View Lodge Golf Resort & Spa
23521 Nokomis Avenue
Nisswa, MN 56468

Gopher State Roundup—May 22nd-24th, 2015
Double Tree Bloomington Hotel
7800 Normandale Blvd.
Bloomington, MN 55439
(952) 835-7800

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

Keep it Simple Weekend — August 7 — 9th, 2015
Camp Chicagami on Pleasant Lake (south of Eleveth)
3755 Scout Camp Rd
Eveleth, MN 55734

Duluth Round Up — September 18 — 20th, 2015
Marshall School
1215 Rice Lake Road
Duluth, MN 55811

St. Cloud AA Convention - Sept 19, 2015
Fellowship Hall
713 Anderson Avenue
Saint Cloud, MN 56303

Area 35 Spring Assembly
April 11-12, 2015
Big Woods Event Center, Fergus Falls MN

AGENDA

- _____ 9:00 a.m. Registration
- _____ 10:00 a.m. GSR Orientation & Action Chair
- _____ Committee Meetings
- _____ 11:30 a.m. Lunch (On Your Own)
- 1:00 p.m. Assembly Convenes**
- _____ Call to Order-Open with the Serenity Prayer
- _____ Why We Need a Conference
- _____ Recognize Past Delegates
- _____ Recognize GSRs
- _____ Add to Agenda
- _____ Approve 2014 Fall Assembly Minutes
- GSC Agenda Item Sharing Session I**
- _____ Agenda
- _____ Cooperation With the Professional Community
- _____ Corrections
- _____ Finance
- _____ Grapevine
- 2:30 p.m. Break**
- _____ Literature
- _____ Policy and Admissions
- _____ Public Information
- _____ Report and Charter
- _____ Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities
- 4:50 p.m. BREAK**
- _____ 5:00 p.m.
- _____ GSR Sharing Session
- _____ DCM Sharing Session
- _____ Area Officers and Area Chairs Meet
- 6:00 P.M. Dinner (On Your Own)**
- 7:30 P.M. GSC Agenda Item Sharing Session II**
- _____ Trustees
- _____ Archives
- _____ International Conventions/Regional Forums

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2014

- 7:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. Big Book Meeting
- 9:00 a.m. Assembly Reconvenes
- _____ GSR Sharing Session Report
- _____ DCM Sharing Session Report
- OFFICER REPORTS**
- _____ Delegate – Michael (Jake) J.
- _____ Alternate Delegate – Kelly D.
- _____ Chair – Sarah K
- _____ Secretary – Roger R.
- _____ Treasurer – Randy A.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS

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

OLD BUSINESS

- _____ Area 35/36 Workshop
- _____ Web Tech Committee Report
- _____ Statewide Corrections Committee Report

NEW BUSINESS

- _____ MN State Fair Booth
- _____ Joint Meeting Locator/Web Tech Position
- _____ Winter Workshop Format
- _____ Zonal Forums - Kelly D.
- _____ Audit Committee
- _____ Corrections Budget Approval
- _____ District 13 Proposal
- _____ Calendar of Events
- _____ Ask It Basket (Past Delegates)
- _____ Adjourn

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.