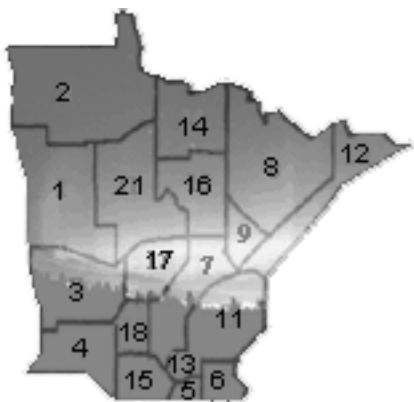


NMAA

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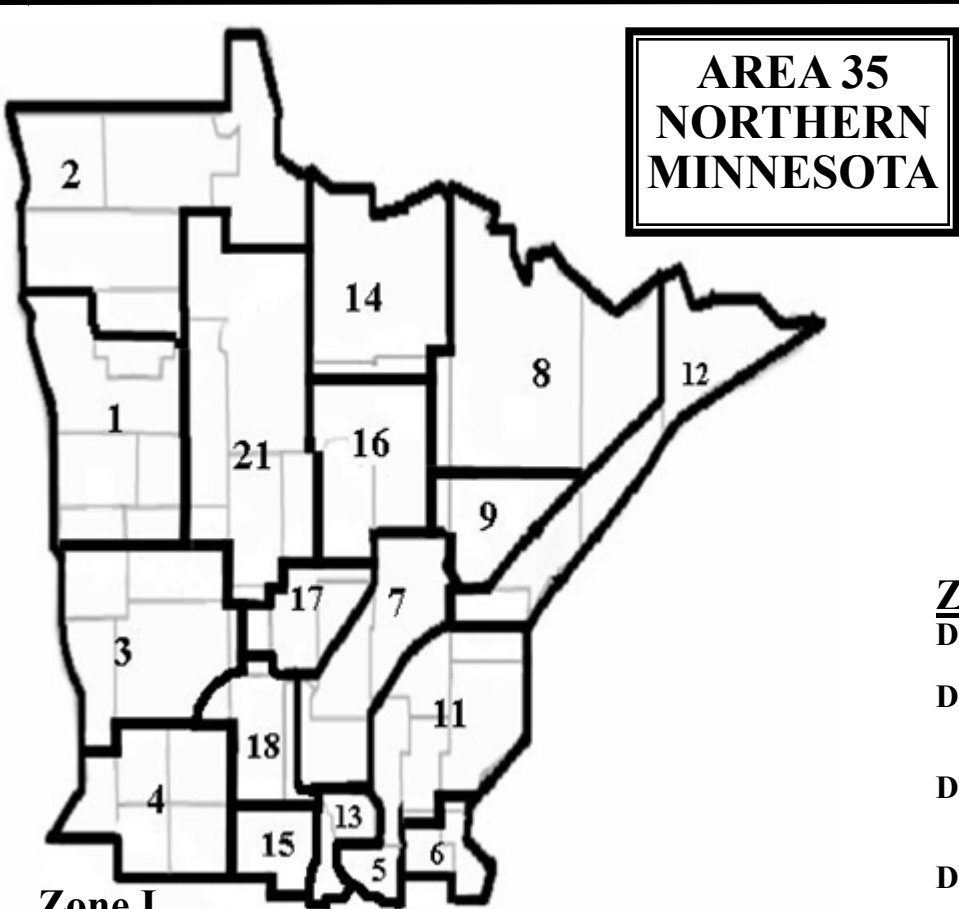
Deadline for the next
Northern Light is
July 1st, 2015

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

AREA 35 COMMITTEE 2015

AREA OFFICERS

DELEGATE

MICHAEL “JAKE” J.
delegate@area35.org

ALTERNATE DELEGATE

KELLY D.
Alt_delegate@area35.org

AREA CHAIR

SARAH K.
areachair@area35.org

TREASURER

RANDY A.
treasurer@area35.org

SECRETARY

ROGER R.
secretary@area35.org

AREA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

PUBLIC INFORMATION

JEFF C.
pi@area35.org

ARCHIVES

PETE B.
archives@area35.org

ARCHIVIST

BRAD I.
archivist@area35.org

CORRECTIONS

JACOB C.
corrections@area35.org

LITERATURE

JIM S.
literature@area35.org

GRAPEVINE

ANTONETTE F.
grapevine@area35.org

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

SERVANDO M.
cpc@area35.org

TREATMENT

PAUL M.
treatment@area35.org

GROUP RECORDS

ROLENE L.
grouprecords@area35.org

WEBMASTER

Due to physical issues our webmaster role is currently being covered by our web technician listed below

WEB TECHNOLOGY

ROBERT (BOB) B.
support@area35.org

NORTHERN LIGHT

RODNEY S.
northernlight@area35.org

DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBERS (D.C.M.s)

DISTRICT 1

JON S.
dcm1@area35.org

DISTRICT 2

MICHAEL H.
dcm2@area35.org

DISTRICT 3

STEVE DIXON
dcm3@area35.org

DISTRICT 4

DEB H.
dcm4@area35.org

DISTRICT 5

DEAN M.
dcm5@area35.org

DISTRICT 6

GARRETT B.
dcm6@area35.org

DISTRICT 7

CARL P.
dcm7@area35.org

DISTRICT 8

JERY B.
dcm8@area35.org

DISTRICT 9

FRED H.
dcm9@area35.org

DISTRICT 11

BILL C.
dcm11@area35.org

DISTRICT 12

RILLIS E.
dcm12@area35.org

DISTRICT 13

CHRISTINE G.
dcm13@area35.org

DISTRICT 14

DEB A.
dcm14@area35.org

DISTRICT 15

MELISSA M.
dcm15@area35.org

DISTRICT 16

GRIFFIN M.
dcm16@area35.org

DISTRICT 18

NEIL R.
dcm18@area35.org

DISTRICT 21

IRV R.
dcm21@area35.org

DISTRICT 17

NO INFO

MOVING? ADDRESS NOT CORRECT?

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

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

GroupRecords@area35.org

AREA 35 EVENTS
INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURE

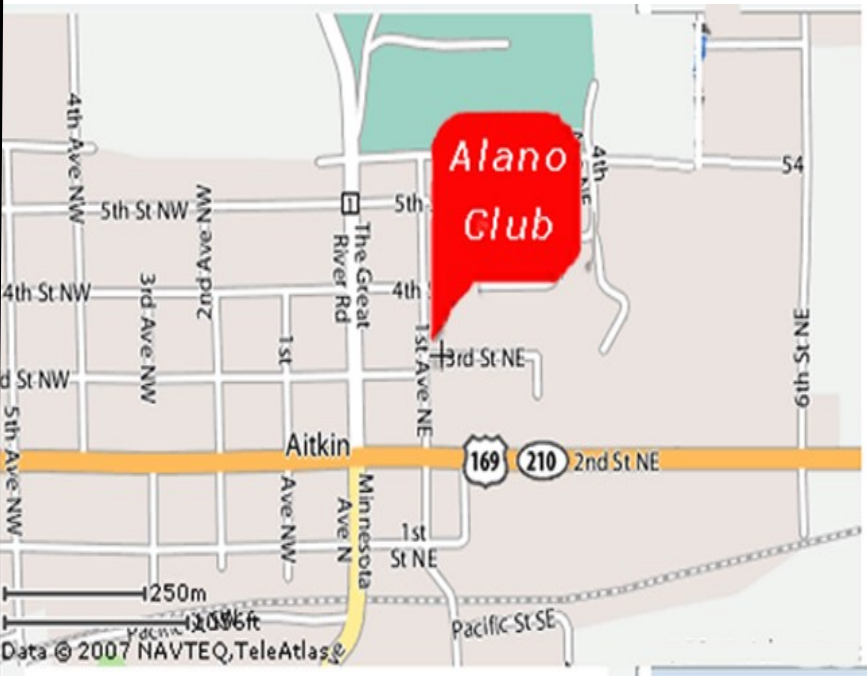
- ◆ Area Chair calls to cancel and/or re-schedule.
- ◆ Based on DOT report, national weather service, individual safety being paramount
- ◆ Chair asks for weather reports from all DCM’s from respective districts either by email or phone for those that don’t have computers.
- ◆ Chair notifies the Alano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

AREA 35 EVENTS
COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Where is the Aitkin Alano Club?

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

Come join us!



OUR PAST DELEGATES

Panel 62 Jim K.	2012-2013	(deceased)	
Panel 60 Jon C.	2010-2011	Panel 24 Gordon B. H.	1974-1975
Panel 58 JoAnne M. N.	2008-2009	Panel 22 Frank P. J. (deceased)	1972-1973
Panel 56 Jerry S.	2006-2007		
Panel 54 Charlie C.	2004-2005	Panel 20 Clarence Berg (deceased)	1970-1971
Panel 52 Tim C.	2002-2003	Panel 18 Dave H. (deceased)	1968-1969
Panel 50 Tom A.	2000-2001		
Panel 48 Susie A.	1998-1999	Panel 16 Arno A. (deceased)	1966-1967
Panel 46 Bill P.	1996-1997	Panel 14 Donald F. (deceased)	1964-1965
Panel 44 Bruce B.	1994-1995		
Panel 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.	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

Good morning. Wow—6 months have passed already as I started representing Area 35 as your Panel 64 Delegate and it has been more than I imagined. Thank you for your support and encouragement. May you all enjoy the same blessings in General Service as I have. After returning from the conference and putting my report together I was nervous about how it would turn out. I was lucky enough to have people in my life that told me I had been preparing for this for years and would do fine. I have given my report twice so far—once in District 13 and once in District 9. Both districts were very courteous and provided good food and seemed receptive. Thank you.

I attended the zonal forum in Bemidji and enjoyed the presentations and spending time with the few people from each district. We had about 25 people with about half of them from Zone 1. Thank you for your participation and attendance. I had the privilege of riding with our treasurer Randy and we got to know each other better. Thanks for the ride Randy.

I am looking forward to my upcoming reports. Those that have set a date are: District 8, June 3rd; District 16, June 4th; Districts 1 and 2 on June 8th; District 14, June 10th; District 12, June 17th; District 7, June 28th. I am looking forward to setting dates with the other districts soon.

It has been busy not only with commitments but I get to attend a wedding in between and spend time with family in Minneapolis. So far my health is doing well and my back hasn’t given out. We have many of us that are going through physical things who need your prayers and support so that we can serve the groups in Area 35.

Take care and God bless,
Michael(Jake) J.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE’S REPORT

Greetings Area 35,

As I am writing this Jake, our Delegate, has just returned from this year’s General Service Conference. The theme this year is “Celebrating 80 Years of Recovery, Unity and Service—The Foundation of Our Future.” It is amazing to me that A.A. is celebrating 80 years—what a wonderful gift! My thoughts always go this time of year with the writing “Why We Need a Conference.” This is such a beautiful and power message to all of us and it reminds me of why I am in service. I thought it would be so appropriate to share it with all of you. I am also looking forward to hearing Jake’s report back from that conference. Thank you all for the opportunity you have given me to serve as your Alternate Delegate and enjoy your summer months.

Kelly D.

#

Why We Need a Conference

The late Benard B. Smith, non-alcoholic, then chairperson of the 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 ensure our own recovery. We do need it to ensure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the dark one block from this room. We need it to ensure the recovery of a child being born tonight, destined for 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 that brought us back to life.

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

“We need it to ensure that changes within A.A. come only as a response to the needs and the wants of all A.A., and not of any

few. We need it to ensure that the doors of the 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 ensure 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.”

The A.A. Service Manual Page S19

AREA CHAIR’S REPORT

Greetings all! As you will read in the minutes in this edition, the Spring Assembly followed a new format, and either due to that, or the relatively light conference agenda, we were done with our agenda item discussion so much earlier than usual that we were able to end the night with ice cream! And it sure was nice to get to bed before midnight! (BTW, I’m still looking for feedback on the format change.) During discussions over ice cream, I was able to talk with other servants about concerns and we even resolved some items a group had previously been concerned about. At lunch and dinner I met with and answered questions for the ad hoc committee (Griffin, District16 DCM, and Christine, District13 DCM) looking into the future of the financial oversight committee (particularly the composition and frequency of meetings). If you have any feedback on this, feel free to shoot it to Christine or Griffin.

Unfortunately, there was some sad news as well. Our webmaster, Sandy H., had to step down due to some health issues, and our group records chair, Rolene, was unable to attend due to her health issues. Fortunately, our web technology chair, Bob B. has graciously agreed to fill in for the remainder of the webmaster rotation along with his web tech duties, and Rolene will be back with us in June.

During our business discussions at the assembly, it became clear that the members are concerned about the future sustainability of the websites, and I am trying to establish an ad hoc web committee to look into this further. If you have any expertise or interest, please give me a holler! Also, while I’m thinking of our website, we are still looking for input: what would you like to see on our website? What information would be helpful to you, your groups, newcomers, professionals, etc.? Please send your recommendations to Bob. B. our web tech/webmaster chair. Along those lines, I am still compiling a list/database of presentations topics, so if you have one (or know of someone who did one) please send it my way!

Safety in A.A. is an issue of some concern to the fellowship, it came up both as an agenda item and a district motion at the Area 35 Spring Assembly. I was still thinking about this topic on May 2, as I was preparing for a traditions workshop in District 2 (Yay Thief River Falls!). My topic was applying the traditions, and I had access to an excellent presentation by a past delegate from Area 10 which I decided to adapt for my presentation. I’ll share the highlights of my presentation and hers as a separate article (to be included at the Northern Light editor’s discretion). It was an excellent workshop full of new faces and old friends, and some great discussions.

As always, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve Area 35.
Sarah

SECRETARY’S REPORT

Roger R., Area 35 Secretary

We still have a good amount of time, in fact eight months, to be of service to A.A. in this rotation. So as an area officer my thoughts are on how we can best continue to carry our message to still suffering alcoholics in our area.

A past delegate from Area 36 suggested at a meeting of our areas that service work at the area level is more of a business function. I tend to disagree with this person and see the importance of carrying our message in everything we do. It is true that much of what we do at the area level is to assist districts in reaching prospective members through our efforts in treatment, corrections, public information, cooperation with professionals and literature.

I regret missing our area’s discussion of Agenda Items for the first time in 9 years, due to a work conflict. I arrived at the Spring Assembly late in the evening on Saturday and was able to participate in and take notes on the business meeting on Sunday. I would like to express my gratitude to Angie S. from District 13 for taking excellent notes on the area’s discussion of Agenda

(Continued from page 5)

Items. I have just completed assembling the minutes from our Spring Assembly.
Please let me know if I can be of service to your district or group.
Thank you for allowing me to continue to serve Area 35,
Roger

TREASURER’S REPORT

It has been a very busy spring and lots of events going on in and out of A.A. There is never a dull moment and nothing to keep us bored, so love the busy life. I attended a lot of non-service events, which included a lot of open speaker meetings and other service commitments for different committees. I was able to send out some “thank-you” letters for last period and will be sending out more this week. Your contributions to the Area are greatly appreciated and if I missed any groups, please let me know and we will get a letter sent out to you. It is important to acknowledge groups that send in contributions on a frequent basis. It expresses our gratitude for our 7th Tradition and A.A. Some contributions do not have return addresses, some are incomplete, and some do not have current information such as group service numbers so it can be hard to track the groups and it takes a few telephone calls or emails to get it right. We have not received much for birthday contributions so far this period, but we still have a ways to go this year. Birthday Contributions were established in 1955 by the General Service Conference, under which some members of the fellowship send in a dollar a year for each year of sobriety they have in A.A. The current amount cannot exceed \$3,000.00. Group Contributions are direct mail-in to Area, District or GSO through utilization of contribution envelopes. The contribution envelopes may be dispersed by Area, District and GSO. Online contributions —A.A. members can make online contributions at GSO’s website; Area 35 does not take A.A. contributions online, although it has done so in the past through PayPal. The Area decided that this idea was no longer feasible and eliminated it through a past action. I have received a few email requests for the current address of “Treasurer”, which is not surprising as some groups that have not sent in contributions for this rotation are just now sending money in and have the last treasurer’s address. One was even sent to a past Treasurer about 4-rotations ago maybe 8

years. It is imperative that DCM’s get the correct information to the groups who request it. We put the current address on the Area Website and bring contribution mail-in envelopes to all service functions. A lot of these groups that send money in on an infrequent basis are sometimes not involved with district activities and are non-participating, so they do not get the proper information. It is important that we get them the right information.

In closing, we are winding down to the last 6 months of the rotation and are looking for available members to help carry the message and to be of service, whether in our groups, districts or area. So please, encourage each other and help those who need it and are struggling. Service has enhanced my sobriety tremendously and will continue to do so. I will always remember something I read from a writing of one of the past delegates who said “not to ignore those who are struggling in service, but to always lend a helping hand to insure we are practicing ‘Unity’ within our fellowship and doing the right thing,” and to always search out ways to make the fellowship stronger.

Yours in Service,
Randy A., Area 35 Treasurer

Northern MN Area Assembly of Alcoholics Anonymous	
Balance Sheet	
Cash Basis	Feb.1 -Mar.31, 2015 : Period 2
	Mar 31, 15
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1-4200 - Grapevine Cash Account	1,108.40
1-4250 - NL Mailing Flyer Cash	600.00
1000 - Area 35 Checking Account	12,833.00
1100 - Savings - Prudent Reserve	6,039.91
Total Checking/Savings	20,581.31
Total Current Assets	20,581.31
TOTAL ASSETS	20,581.31
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
3000 - Opening Bal Equity	27,413.47
32000 - Retained Earnings	-4,451.66
Net Income	-2,380.50
Total Equity	20,581.31
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	20,581.31

AREA COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC INFORMATION (PI)

Since the spring assembly I have buried my grandfather. A good friend lost her mother and we in Area 35 have said goodbye to two long time friends and trusted servants. I am more and more reminded of the fragile nature of this life and the importance of placing first things first. I need to work diligently to keep my own house in order so I can see the opportunities to be of service to others and to be able to accept the love that they so freely offer.
We are coming in to the busy summer months. I know fall seems a long ways off but I am working on finalizing the volunteer schedule for Area 35's commitment at the Minnesota State Fair booth on August 29 and 30. I hope to have the schedule completed by our June committee meeting. There are still a couple spots open. If you can help please let me know.
Area 35 PI chair
Jeff C.

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (CPC)

This month the MACPO event will be held on the 20-21st thanks again to those volunteers who have made themselves available for that event. Once again the midweek scheduling of this event does not allow me to attend. I will be coordinating with past and present volunteers to supply literature for this event.
I have already joined up with some others to attend and man the state fair booth. I hope that everyone gets a chance to experience this great opportunity to participate in recovery.
Thank you again for the opportunity to serve.
Servando M., Area 35 CPC chair

ARCHIVES

Greetings everyone,
The only thing I have to report is that I attended Area 36 Archives Live presentation. It was very informative and Area 36 Archives has a great selection of materials on display. I am tentatively planning on an Archives workshop with Districts 13 and 15 in September at the Cold Springs Alano Club.
Yours in service,
Pete B., Area 35 Archives Chair

ARCHIVIST

I seem to have been moving non-stop since the Assembly. I brought the display to the Superior Roundup and presented at a district work shop in Thief River Falls, yesterday. Lots of windshield time.
When I got to Superior it was 70 degrees, sunny and with no wind. Until I saw the “Stuck in the 50’s” bar marquee I thought I was in the wrong town. On Saturday the weather turned back to normal and on Sunday I had to load up in the rain. When I was leaving town I watched a fog bank roll down the hill to the west side of the Bong Bridge and drove into the fog all the way to the County 61 exit before it lifted.
We had a very enthusiastic turn out in Thief River. We were all told that we did a tremendous job.
I have 4 upcoming dates in my phone, The District 7 CPC event, Long Prairie, Gopher State Roundup and a Round Robin in Detroit Lakes.
Thanks for this opportunity to be of Service,
Brad I., Area 35 Archivist

(Continued on page 7)

(continued from page 6)

TREATMENT

Greetings from your 35 treatment chair! Before I get into my report I'd like to touch on the recent passing of Rita D., as me and my wife just got home from her funeral. She was a dedicated member of District 5, past DCM, past Treatment Chair, past GSR, past PI, etc. It was nice to see members of the area and members of Alcoholics Anonymous in attendance at her funeral. She will be missed by many of us; she was always willing to help out in a lot of different areas! She helped out right to the end! I will miss you my friend!

And now for the report: we had 11 in attendance at the Spring assembly in Fergus Falls. We had two from District 7 and 13; also present were Districts 5, 6, 8, 11, 12 and 21. We discussed two topics: one was starting a meeting in the psychiatric ward—should it be an open or a closed meeting? The other topic was why do we bring meetings into treatment facilities? We had a great discussion on both topics! District 21 reported meetings are going steady; they're bringing meetings into treatment facilities. District 6 reported Rush city wants literature. Dellwood needs more people to rotate in. District 5 is currently working on getting back into Riverplace; they had license and insurance issues. District 12 reports three meetings held at Bethel treatment facilities. They have a Saturday night speaker meeting that is growing. All meetings in the district are covered. District 11 has a new chair name Keith—welcome Keith! District 13 also has a new chair name—George welcome George! He has been very busy making sure that the 14 treatment facilities in his district have contacts and up to date with literature! District 8 Scott alternate DCM reported all treatment facilities are covered in district. District 7 reported focus unit is covered and is bringing meeting schedules and literature into Teen Challenge. There is also a meeting on the reservation in Sawyer, Minnesota. We also read two topics in the treatment workbook which answered most of our questions at the beginning of our session. God works! I've also been getting contacts for treatment patients with the temporary contact program. We still need all the Grapevines and unwanted literature so we can hand out at our committee meetings so our committee people can bring them into their treatment facilities in their districts! We asked for 2 more volunteers to bring topics to our next meeting in June in Aitkin. This seems to be working great!

Any questions, concerns, or needs to be met please contact Paul M., Area 35 Treatment Chair. This is A.A. and I love this place!

CORRECTIONS

Greetings! My name is Jacob C., and I am serving as your Area 35 Corrections Committee Chair.

I traveled to the West Central Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference in Wyoming; my report is in the last Northern Light newsletter. I have been busy assisting a new meeting in the Aitken county jail, and am excited to announce new relationships being forged with officials at that facility. I will be attending a transitions fair at the St. Cloud prison in May. After approval of my proposed budget, I will continue work with the Statewide Committee for Corrections, as we have a workshop planned for October 10th, from 10am-2pm in St. Cloud. Part of my budget request is to fund our Area's participation in the committee, and allow me a vehicle to meet the literature needs of institutions for facilitating A.A. meetings, or to provide literature and other appropriate materials to corrections professionals, about our program. At our committee meeting yesterday morning, we had 12 in attendance, and concerns were expressed about need for volunteers, getting the right information into the right hands, possible tools the area can utilize to assist the districts in their work. As always, most facilities need volunteers, though Pennington county jail is just starting a meeting again and could use help. Please contact me or your local corrections committee chair or DCM for more information. Thank you to everyone in service in corrections, you are doing a wonderful job sharing our message to those in need on the inside.

Yours in service, Jacob C.

Statewide Committee for Corrections report/Spring Assembly: I have little to report right now, as our committee has not met since the February Action Committee meeting, though we will meet this Monday, following the Area Assembly. I will have more to report at the June Action Committee meeting.

Yours in service, Jacob C.

LITERATURE

It's been quite since the Spring Assembly. I have a large batch of literature that I have gotten in. One new thing I have now is Group Workbooks. I have 12 of them in so if your group is in need of one please get a hold of me. Of course I can always get more if need be. The deadline for orders for the June ACM is May 24th.

Please email or call me at either jimmys_01@msn.com or 000-000-0000. If you do not get a reply to your email within 24 hours I did not get your email. Please call me then.

In Service,

Jim S., Area 35 Literature Chair

GRAPEVINE

Greetings from Northern Minnesota. It is turning out to be a beautiful Spring. I look forward to the flowers and the birds and everything that goes along with it. I apologize for the new material that did not get ordered and if you ordered something but did not get it please contact me at antbob40@ yahoo.com.

The Grapevine is alive and well. Jake is back from New York with many things, some of which is Grapevine News. I love the Grapevine and it certainly has changed my views on many things.

It is a privilege to be a part of Alcoholics Anonymous as it continues to be there for all who need it. Thank you, all, for the overflowing of love my family has received from friends of Bill W. For that, I am truly grateful.

Grapevine Chair, Antonette

GROUP RECORDS

Hello Area 35. I felt bad missing our Spring Assembly in Fergus Falls. However due to health issues it was not feasible for me to attend. I am working on getting stronger. I plan on being at the Aitkin Committee Meeting in June. I also have been working on any updates for your groups during this period.

I attended our friend John F's funeral and it is so sad losing a good friend. He was a great example to many of us. Got to see a lot of our Fellowship there which makes me realize how grateful I am for this program.

I appreciated all the DCMs that have been working on updating their groups' information. I have been working with many of you in this rotation. It is so important to have these changes made. Also make sure each group has a GSR or at least a contact person. I have been saying this in my reports since I started this position.

I am meeting with the DCM from District 7 in Grand Rapids within the week. We are going through their groups' information. I would like to show each district the database and how it works and that way they have more of an understanding of the FNV.

Some districts have not been updated for many years and some updated with bad information that is on our meeting locator. Just recently we found 20-plus groups without district numbers dating back from 1983 to 2014. I recently updated the ones I could. Not sure why these were not addressed last year. This is a process that takes time. My feelings are that if each DCM gets the information to me this can all be updated.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me by phone or email. I would be more than happy to meet with you in person or talk with you over the phone.

Thank you for allowing me to serve Area 35.

Yours in Service,

Rolene L., Group Records, Area 35

WEBMASTER

Thank You:

The members of the WEB, Northern Light, and Group Records Committee would like to thank Sandy for her service work as Area 35 Webmaster and her contributions to Area 35. Sandy will be missed.

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2014 aameetinglocator Statics

Area35.org

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	2,329	4,100	10,958	127,402	3.31 GB
Apr 2015	2,257	3,749	9,985	118,010	2.78 GB
Total	8,931	15,730	42,844	472,048	11.6 GB

www.aameetinglocator.org PC based

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2015	4,884	8,077	32,464	162,168	3.82 GB
Feb 2015	4,130	6,708	23,514	135,505	3.39 GB
Mar 2015	4,975	7,505	26,964	155,744	3.89 GB
Apr 2015	4,634	7,372	24,187	147,385	3.66 GB
Total	18,623	29,662	107,129	600,802	14.76 GB

m.aameetinglocator.org cell phone based

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2015	2,224	2,916	11,131	17,706	552.92 MB
Feb 2015	1,808	2,377	9,268	14,920	457.49 MB
Mar 2015	2,485	3,367	12,471	20,444	637.46 MB
Apr 2015	2,172	2,951	11,238	18,002	555.05 MB
Total	8,689	11,611	44,108	71,072	2.2 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).

WEB TECHNOLOGY

I attended the District 7 committee meeting on April 16th. During breakout meetings I met with their DCM, Alternate DCM, and WEB Master. We talked about meetings on aaMeetingLocator. aaMeetingLocator is populated from the list of "Active" meetings that I get from our Group Records Secretary. I was told that aaMeetingLocator is missing about 25% of the known registered district 7 meetings.

I investigated the tools that are used to populate aaMeetingLocator. I took the active groups from the list that I get from our Group Records and walked the data through the software. The meetings are getting pulled from the Group Records data and updated on aaMeetingLocator. What I did find was 20 groups in the Group Records data did not have a district. The district field was left blank. One of the 20 groups belonged in Southern Minnesota, Area 36, and another group belonged in Southern Wisconsin, Area 75. Our Group Records Secretary updated the missing district numbers and I received a new Active group list from Group Records.

I processed the Updated Group Records data and aaMeetingLocator was updated. I reviewed District 7 meeting on aaMeetingLocator. I found 69 meetings listed in aaMeetingLocator for District 7. There are 96 meetings listed on aacentrallakes.org. aacentrallakes.org is district 7's web site. I compared meeting for meeting between the lists. aaMeetingLocator has about 8 meetings that are not listed on District 7's web site. The eight meetings are probably meetings that are no longer meeting. This put the difference at 37%.

District 7 boarders District 17. District 17 is not an active district. The line that divides District 7 and 17 passes through Nisswa. Some meetings in District 17 are registered in District 7 so they remain active in service and Area 35. District 7's meeting list also includes meetings from District 17. This will explain some of the differences between aaMeetingLocator and aacentrallakes meeting lists.

I was asked by a Group Contact why their meeting was moved from District 7 to 17. I reviewed the message from the General Service Office: "Friday Renewal Group (Service #711227) had its district changed from "" to "17". The meeting was not moved from district 7 to 17—it was moved from no district number to district 17. When this group registered it filled out the Group Registration Form for District 7, ended up registered without a district number, and is now moved to district 17.

I have read the "Fellowship New Vision Process Manual". This is the manual for our Group Records database. I'm including some definitions for the group status codes.

IT IS IMPERATIVE TO UNDERSTAND THE GROUP STATUS LISTINGS THAT ARE ATTACHED TO EACH GROUP RECORD; BELOW IS A LIST OF THE CURRENT STATUSES AND WHAT THEY MEAN TO THE GROUP RECORD PROCESS.

- **New:** Indicates a new group record has been added to the database by the Area Registrar and its status has not been changed to "Pending Active" by the Records department staff. The status change occurs the business day following the database entry, and review. If the New Group form has no anomalies or omissions of information the record is updated to "Pending Active".
- **Pending Active:** Indicates a group that was recently added to the database is in the 30 day pending period which is assigned to all newly added groups. Once the 30-day pending period has elapsed the status will change to Active.
- **Active:** The Group's record indicates that it is active when it has a primary mail contact on record along with meeting information.
- **Pending Inactive:** The Records department is processing a request to inactivate a group. If the record in the database has a contact's name, a letter is sent to verify the request to inactivate is genuine. If there is no contact on the record the groups

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status is changed to inactive immediately.

- **Inactive:** The Records department has received and verified information that a group has disbanded or is not currently meeting.
- **Merged:** Two groups have decided to join and become one group. The Records department receives the information as to which group will remain the active, who will be the GSR, and the meeting place, days and times. Then the records are combined and cross referenced. The active group will show a status of active and the merged group will show the status of merged. The merged group can request to be unmerged at anytime by contacting the Records department and providing updated contact, meeting place and meeting time information.
- **Unknown:** A group **is still active**; however their group record at the GSO does not have a GSR or Primary mail contact attached to it; which indicates there is no one receiving the group’s mail. Anyone in the group can volunteer to receive the group’s mail it does not need to be a GSR. Also a group can become “Unknown” when the GSO receives returned mail and is unable to confirm a new mailing address.
- **Incomplete:** Indicates a new group record was added to the database without all of the information necessary to show up on the Records departments’ daily “New Group” report. The status remains incomplete until the registrar receives the remaining required information from the group or when the Registrar queries the database for “Incomplete” groups and reaches out update and completes the record. Until then the “New Group” remains in limbo.
- **With Staff:** Indicates there is a question about information on a New Group form that requires one of the A.A. Staff members to review the form and reach out to the new group’s contact for clarification. It usually has to do with the way a group is named.

Should there be any questions about the information on a new group form, it will be referred to an A.A. staff member for further review/resolution.

In these cases the 30 day “Pending-Active” period will not begin until the outstanding questions have been answered.

The status would be changed from “New” to “With Staff” and will remain until there is an answer to whatever question has arisen during the New Group review process. At that time the status would be updated to “Pending Active”.

****THE ABOVE REASON IS WHY IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU DO NOT RELAY THE GROUP SERVICE NUMBER TO THE NEW GROUP UNTIL THE 30 DAY PENDING PERIOD HAS EXPIRED. TECHNICALLY, THE SERVICE NUMBER BELONGS TO THE GSO FOR THOSE 30 DAYS. ****

How long does it take for a new group to get registered? If all the Group information is correct 31 days.

Bob B.
Area35 WEB Technology
support@area35.org
218-000-0000

NORTHERN LIGHT

Greetings Area 35.

I went to the Winter Rap-Up in Mountain Iron before Spring Assembly and the Superior Roundup after. The mix of events helps

to take the “work” out of service. For the assembly, I rode up and roomed with a new GSR and am glad we had made plans to attend the District 3 Round Robin upon arriving in Fergus Falls on Friday night. The entire weekend was a great experience.

I am always interested in feedback from those attending their first assemblies, especially Spring Assemblies where we discuss the Agenda Items. I heard little that was negative and I think it was a good idea to stick to general sharing instead of the break-outs.

In preparing the last two issues of the Northern Light I have become more upset at minor obstacles (most of them technical) than I feel I should. Part of it, too, is sticking to the deadlines and in both instances, what I call “crunch week”—the week when reports and minutes come in—coincided with personal deadlines I had to meet.

I apologize about forgetting to send out a reminder to the committee chairs and officers about the deadline, but thank you for getting them to me in a timely manner anyway. Some were early—that was great. I want to thank those of you who have sent in article contributions.

Whenever I encounter something that seems like a surefire solution to whatever difficulty I may be having in preparing the Northern Light, I try to employ it with as much consistency as possible in hopes of making the position smooth and easy for the person in the next rotation who fills this spot. Difficulty arises though, because I am such an explorative minded person that I continue to learn easier ways to do the things that I had trouble with last time, or the time before. I guess all I’m really saying is what I—and everyone else in service already know—that when I finally know what I’m doing it will be time to give it to someone else.

When I first got sober—I’m talking before anyone was able to reach me, and draw me out—I would try to talk with folks, answer questions that required revealing any in-depth ideas, beliefs, and concepts, and would usually end up throwing my hands in despair, saying, “it’s all connected.” That was my simplistic reason for the exasperation over my inability to answer questions that everyone else seemed to have no trouble at all with. It seemed to me that the rest of the world saw everything in black and white, when to me anything and everything was relative, totally dependent on everything else. I also couldn’t understand why others did not find my “it’s all connected”-answers as enlightening and explanatory as I found them.

My point to all this, as with so many other things in my life today, is that even though I had to see that I needed to take ownership of many things in my life and their outcomes, make some decisions and be responsible for those decisions or else I would always be like the steel ball in a pinball machine, living a purely reactive life rather than the *proactive* life that the God of my understanding intended me to have, it is “all connected,” though not in the ill-formed interdependence that it used to be; it is connected in my openness to sharing it with others, and theirs with me.

It seems to me that there has been an abundance of life happening recently but that is only because I am more and more a part of it on a daily basis. Of course I am talking about the deaths, the illnesses, and health issues but not any more than the births, the happy marriages, the inmates blessed with freedom and the most rewarding—those that come into our program because there is nothing left, but whose lives are turned around through the Grace of God and they begin a life renewed with hope.

With your help I have a wonderful recipe for life. Thanks for letting me be of service,

Rodney S., Northern Light Editor

A.A. MEMBER ARTICLES

Contribution from Sarah K.

Recently I had the opportunity to share my experience applying the traditions at a workshop in Thief River Falls. The topic I chose to address was safety in A.A., as it seems to be of some concern to the fellowship. I selected this topic because I had read a really excellent presentation by a member of Area 10, and it got me thinking. I think some of you may find her comments inspiring as well, so here are some selected excerpts from the Area 10 presentation:

As A.A. members, as A.A. groups, we have chosen the highest form of freedom by not limiting our message to

one class of person. We have chosen the highest amount of individual liberty within our groups by making the groups autonomous, responsible to their own authority, even the right to be wrong. We have no A.A. police, even if we sometimes wish we did. Who is going to deal with the chronic 13th stepper or other predator, if not the members themselves? We are taught and told to practice love and tolerance and respect. We have chosen to live among the sick and the mentally ill. We have chosen this because they are us, and because it is what has been asked of us.

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My instructions have been clear. I am to work with others, and to be a home-group member to the best of my ability. We should not be afraid to have principles that are unpopular. We should not fear talking face to face with others. Of taking a stand when necessary. Of looking at each other eyeball to eyeball and telling the truth. Chapter 2 says that respect for others' opinions, tolerance of their shortcomings makes us more useful. Everyone should be able to find something that is pure and good here in AA—this program offers everyone the opportunity to change, nothing less. It is personal change that lets us become safer people. **You cannot create safety in A.A. without taking the alcoholic out of the group. And yet, is it possible for A.A. to be safer from the behavior of A.A. members, its own life's blood? The only solutions I have come to are Responsible Groups that do their work well, and sponsorship, all acting under the guidance of a loving God.** It is only through the group conscience as found within our traditions that we can be more cohesive and less separate in developing our conscience. If we don't talk together about issues, we are part of an ongoing problem. We don't know who we are electing as leaders, because we don't know what they think, or what they stand for, or what they do after they are given our trust. Leadership functions at our lowest level, but the vibrations of either good or bad leadership are felt at our highest group level. *Jl, CO, March 2015*

Now, not that I can say it any better, but because at the very least it may spark some further conversation, I'll share some of my presentation given at District 2 here as well:

The author started her presentation with a great question that really got me thinking, "what is it we are really concerned with, is it a *safety* issue, or is it really a demand for *security*" (I'm sure you're all familiar with that tricky part of self listed in the fourth step! I know it is a continual process for me to avoid demanding that others make me feel secure!). Of course, making me feel secure is not the primary purpose of the group (tradition five). In fact, quite often my home-group denies my unreasonable demands for security, as they well should when my defects of self (fear) get out of hand and I step on the toes of my fellows! She also asked, "are we really more concerned with our public image than our desire to do good?" If so, then fear is driving a lot of our discussion, and fear is never a good starting place for action as far as I can see. Added to this is tradition three which means our rooms are open to *anyone* with a desire to stop drinking, and this includes some very sick people (I believe it is safe to say that I would have fit that description.). So, essentially, our traditions bring this situation on us! We are obligated to help, and we can't keep any alcoholics out! Now, one solution to the safety/security situation that has been floated is to have GSO devise some guidelines or literature on it. I appreciate some of the literature provided by GSO. I learned a lot about how different people sober up and deal with group difficulties through the shared experiences contained in our literature. But, really, asking GSO to create guidelines or literature on this is getting flipping the inverted triangle so that the servants become senators. All that GSO does and can do, by our own concepts, is pass on the shared experiences of other groups in dealing with this issue (See concepts one-groups have ultimate responsibility and authority, three-groups have the right to decide for themselves, and four-groups have the right to participate). So, it seems if we are concerned about safety in A.A., we need to start the conversations in our own home-groups. Through informed group conscience discussions based in the traditions and concepts, we can begin to establish some solutions that can then be shared with other groups, and perhaps GSO, for the benefit of all! This is the action that fits with our traditions: one (our common welfare...), two (ultimate authority...), and four (groups are autonomous). And really, since the safety/security issues present themselves in our groups, what better place to address them! This is where miracles occur! When we join together, in brotherly and harmonious action, learning how to work with the trusted power of God, individually and within our groups. **But this is no easy task!** I will quote the author again, "Don't you think that it is our fear, and our dependence on the opinion of others that allows us to put our own spiritual principles second?" I know, it's easier to keep quiet when outside issues are brought into our meetings. It's always easier to keep quiet when speaking up would be unpopular, and thus uncomfortable, but we need to begin talking to each other about A.A. group issues.

Sarah.

Contribution from Mike H.

How Service Relates to My Recovery

I was attending Alcoholics Anonymous meetings for approximately three months, when my home group elected me as their General Service Representative—it was definitely a blessing. Before this, I had attended A.A. meetings during different periods of my adult life, though; I was not ready or willing to go to any length for sobriety. *When I walked in the door this time, I knew in my heart that I now had that willingness.* It was then that my Home-Group was seeking out a G.S.R., and upon hearing what the position entailed; I put myself in as a candidate. It was voted unanimously that night, for me to represent the group.

To tell you the truth about becoming a G.S.R., I had no idea what I was getting myself into—but I was willing to learn. I worked with my sponsor on how the A.A. service structure operates, and what to expect at my first assembly. When I started studying how the G.S.R. position worked; I also divulged heavy amounts of time reading other A.A. literature—doing this helped me immensely to grow in the program. Learning about the program to the best of my ability, consumed a majority of my free-time. Not only was I going to at least one meeting a day (sometimes two), I was involving myself as much as possible with people in the program. These members gave me hope, strength, and inspiration on a daily basis—they taught me to live and enjoy life. Learning the G.S.R. position, and staying involved, played a big role in recovering from the disease of Alcoholism.

I attended my first Assembly in Bemidji, MN—my first impression of *this kind* of service work, was that of awe. In other words, *I enjoyed it.* My perception of that first Assembly was: that you had a group of A.A. members gathering together to try and do the best they could, for the still suffering alcoholic. I was also impressed with the way that these members conducted and presented themselves to the first time attendees. (I have heard that it is a good idea to dress nicely for these events—though not *required* to do so, I can say that at my first Assembly; *I did not notice the amount of ties worn.* Also, if *you didn't notice* I placed a little bit of humor within this paragraph—*nothing is required* in A.A.)

We do the best we can, *through any type of service*—to help shape the future of Alcoholics Anonymous: in our Groups, our Districts, throughout the Area, and in A.A. as a whole. There is no rule however, that says "you must have a service position to be of service." Any member can be of vital service; by simply sweeping the meeting hall floor, washing out a coffee pot, or giving a warm welcome to a newcomer—these are just a few examples I came up with *on-the-fly*. Sometimes all it takes is a handshake and a smile, to brighten someone's day. I can personally say that seeing members in A.A. who accepted me for who I was, and greeted me with a smile (insistently telling me to keep coming back); is why I am sober today. Giving *any* A.A. member a warm welcome, along with a hot cup of coffee, is equally important to any service position I hold—though I am not perfect, I try to do this the best I can.

It's funny though, how *my* plans may differ from God's plans; the reason I put it *that way* is because, a year-and-a-half into service I was voted in as the District Committee Member of District 2—this was not my plan; but again, turned out to be a blessing. The more I do in all of these activities; is bettering my sobriety. In Step 12 it says "In all our affairs." Helping out the best I can, by being in service, *is my own personal way of carrying the A.A. message in all my affairs*—it's what works for me, plus I enjoy it. I find more happiness in sitting at a business meeting discussing possible solutions or suggestions to anything related to alcoholics

Anonymous, than I ever could have imagined. Yeah there are times of frustration, but that's with anything in life—I am going to keep doing what I am doing, and if anything I do or say possibly helps one alcoholic recover from this terrible disease; than I have done a good job.

And on that note: I thank all of you sitting around the tables of whom welcomed me in and helped me become who I am today. It is because of those of you who believed in me, when I did not believe in myself; that I am writing this today. I hope that this finds you well on your journey, and that you keep coming back.

By Michael H.

*(Continued from page 10)***Contribution from Jake C.****Prudence Versus Alcoholism**

Service work has been a continuing litmus test of my spiritual fitness. It is an honor to serve my fellow alcoholic, but that honor is not free of burden. I am a better man because I participate in keeping our program available to the still suffering alcoholic. Here are two experiences that have added to my spiritual tool kit:

The first happened while I was making coffee for my then home group. Not being a coffee drinker myself, yes, we do exist, I relied absolutely on other's opinions and experience to make the coffee. I soon discovered that I could never please any three alcoholics. For one, it was too strong, the next it was too weak, and the final didn't like the color or some mundane aspect. I changed it up, and received the same criticism. I soon found it was best to never argue, and so found a formula that caused the least amount of complaining. One time, I felt generous and God inspired to splurge on the coffee, and purchased gourmet coffee as a gift to the group. One of the founders of the meeting took me aside to complain of the waste of group resources that resulted from my luxury selection. I curtly informed him that I did not waste precious group resources, rather, the coffee was a gift to the group. With the quick snap of self-righteousness that only an alcoholic could so express, he told me that I shouldn't have spent as much on the coffee. He elaborated that I could have bought the same old stuff and placed the difference between that and the gourmet coffee, into the basket. After all, the group needed the money more.

The second experience is happening as of this writing. I made arrangements to attend the WCRAASC. As a sense of duty, and a fear of mandate, I invited three other individuals to attend with me. A DCM and group level servant committed, while an Area level servant said he would tentatively travel with me, but had his own room. A GSR soon committed, and the group level servant backed out without further confirmation. About a week before the event, the Area level servant never firmed up their plans so I made a decision for him and offered his seat to an eager DCM. A third DCM asked for assistance in obtaining a ride and room, and after the GSR backed out, I offered a seat to this third DCM. After texting the offer to the wrong servant, I received an inquiry and then commitment by the wrong servant, and a tentative commitment on behalf of yet, another servant. On Tuesday of this week, it looked like five other people would be traveling with me, and we'd be splitting two hotel rooms. Later that Tuesday, the newest members of my party backed out and I was back to three DCMs. Due to a last minute illness, one of the DCMs had to back out, so now I am left with two other traveling and lodging companions. I am glad that my budget was for myself and one other. I am thankful for patience, tolerance, and love, or there would be even less servants to attend as I would have just told everyone where to go.

The reason for relating these two experiences is to illustrate that participating in our program is rarely easy. If it involves other people, conflict will arise, often times over petty things. We will never please the whole group, but our society is based off a premise of simple majority or considerable majority rule, with respect to the minority—though our minority is expected to respect the will of the group, as that is our understanding of what God's will is for us. Think 2nd Tradition. Service work has exposed me to more personal growth than sponsorship and the 12 Steps combined. I needed the Steps for a foundation to a new way of living. Sponsoring others provided the first lessons in patience, tolerance, and love. It has been in service work where my spiritual muscles have exponentially gained mass. It is in service work where I found true mentors, spiritual guides, living experiences, and a safe place to make mistakes. Though, in addition to our 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, and 12 Concepts for World Service, I would like to offer the 12 Lessons of Service Experience, where Lesson 2 would require a deposit by other servants to make travel plans with.

Yours in service,

Jacob C., Princeton MN

Contribution from the editor

An older member who frequented several of the same groups as I did back in southeast Kanas picked up the habit of printing old Grapevine articles, then leaving them at the tables when no one expressed interest—most expressed annoyance if anything. I saved some that seemed to work well for me, one in particular that established itself as an extra page in my Big Book where it made its appearance off-and-on throughout the years at appropriate times of my disturbance.

From the May 1997 issue of *Grapevine*:

‘Take My Advice—I’m Not Using It’

I was feeling rather depressed and called my sponsor and found her in a similar mood. I said, “What shall I do?” At first she said, “I don’t know. If you figure it out call me back.” Then because she is a loving person, a good friend, and has a terrific grasp of the A.A. program, she shifted into sponsorship gear and told me to do the following:

1. Wear life like a loose garment.
2. Don’t take myself so seriously.
3. Count my blessings.
4. Find another alcoholic to work with.
5. Read the Big Book and go to a meeting.

Then she laughed and said, “Take my advice—I’m not using it.”

I called one of my sponsees, and she was also in a negative frame of mind. I addressed her problem and suggested one through five listed above. She said she had a sponsee in a melancholy mood. I proposed that I and my sponsor, she and her sponsee could form a singing group called The Depressions and sing the blues. She was not amused.

Later in the day my sponsor dropped by with another friend for coffee—and what a change! She’d made a Twelfth Step call and taken another alcoholic to a detox. They recounted how she looked like ten miles of bad road, was ill and full of fear and remorse. Suddenly we were all full of gratitude and laughing at the insanity of self-pity and self-imposed depression. We remembered all the pain and confusion of our early days in Alcoholics Anonymous.

The simplicity of this program never changes—what works is constant trust in God, clean house, and work with others.

Terry B., Concord, California

The following is a snippet from “Dr. Bob and the Good Old-timers” regarding Bill’s first meeting with Dr. Bob:

Describing their talk as a completely *mutual* thing, Bill said, “I had quit preaching. I knew that I needed this alcoholic as much as he needed me. *This was it.* And this mutual give-and-take is at the very heart of all of A.A.’s Twelfth Step work today.

In “Alcoholics Anonymous,” published almost exactly four years after their first meeting, Dr. Bob noted that Bill “was a man ... who had been cured by the very means I had been trying to employ, that is to say, the spiritual approach. He gave me information about the subject of alcoholism which was undoubtedly helpful.

“*Of far more importance,*” he continued, “*was the fact that he was the first living human with whom I had ever talked who knew what he was talking about in regard to alcoholism from actual experience. In other words, he talked my language.* He knew all the answers, and certainly not because he had picked them up in his reading.”

Whatever Bill said—and in the course of some five hours of conversation, he must have thrown in everything he ever knew or thought or guessed about alcoholism, and told the long version of his story to boot—Bob stopped drinking immediately.

Bill seemed to place more emphasis on what he was saying than on the fact that it was he himself saying it, while Bob indicated that, although it was helpful, he had heard most of it before. Important to him was the fact that *another alcoholic* was telling him. If William James, Carl Jung, and Dr. Silkworth, along with Frank Buchman and all the members of the Oxford Group, had been doing the talking, it would have been just another lecture.

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 Committee

1. Where is the offsite storage for the GSO archives located?
2. What year did Dr. Bob pass on?
3. What were the last words Doctor Bob spoke to Bill Wilson?
4. In what year did Area 35 decide to pay to send Area chairs to WCRAASC?
5. When was Bill Wilson’s name, picture, and story in the media for the first time?
6. What was the headline of the Los Angeles Times when Bill Wilson’s obituary appeared on the front page?
7. Who was the first Area 35 Archivist/Archives chair?
8. In what year was The Northern Light started?
9. In what year did The Northern Light grow from being an 8 ½ x 11 inch newsletter to The Northern Light newspaper?
10. Who was the first editor for the Northern Light?

Area 35 Spring Assembly Minutes

April 11-12, 2015

Big Woods Events Center, Fergus Falls , MN

Roger R. Area 35 Secretary and Angie S. District 13 Alt. DCM

1:00 Assembly Convenes

- Call to Order-Open with the Serenity Prayer
- Why we need a conference: Read by Eric. GSR from District. 7
- Recognize Past Delegates: 8 past delegates were introduced and one past trustee.
- Recognize GSRs: all GSRs were recognized and new GSRs were recognized.
- Add to Agenda: Chair asked for additions to agenda. Christine DCM for District 13 clarified that there are two motions for District 13.
- Approve 2014 Fall Assembly Minutes: Minutes were published in the Northern Light. Motioned by Dean and seconded by Lynne F. (GSR). Motion carried unanimously.
- New Business item moved to today

GSC Agenda Item Sharing Session

- Jake read his greeting as prepared for the conference.
- Agenda
 - Review suggestions for the theme of the 2016 General Service Conference
 - No discussion.
 - Review presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2016 General Service Conference
 - One comment: Strike #33 and #20 due to language “crazy” and “party”.
 - Discuss workshop topic ideas for the 2016 General Service Conference
 - No discussion.
 - Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form
 - No discussion.
 - Discuss report on the Conference Agenda Process from the trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference
 - Concerned that voice of body is not primary voice in creating agenda items. Jake reviewed report. Now the agenda committee sets up the time. The trustee’s committee goes through the agenda items and decides which committees to send items to. Now delegate chairs are invited. Each committee is responsible for determining what items go on the agenda. It is moving in right direction. Solutions and ideas are welcome. One idea: could agenda committee set up the agenda for conference via email or Skype. Justin referenced background information about role of delegates in creating agenda items in 1970s concerned that delegate’s need more voice in approving agenda items.
 - Discuss adding review of the Conference week schedule (Conference Agenda) to the standing items on the committee agenda.
 - No discussion.
- Cooperation with the Professional Community
 - Review contents of the CPC Kit and Workbook
 - Consider adding weblinks to literature so professionals can reference links to literature and resources. Would like to see discussion started regarding copyright issues to move forward with this idea.
- Corrections

- Discuss the Corrections Correspondence Service (CCS)
 - Talked about corrections correspondence pamphlet and encouraged members to pick up a pamphlet and described how to participate in the service. Form # is F26. Some facilities do not allow AA meetings, so this service is important.
- Discuss ways to engage members in Corrections service
 - Reviewed notes from WCRAASC (also in Northern Light). Joint Area 35 & 36 meeting on corrections will be October 10th. Ideas from District 13: keep trying because you might be accepted after time goes by even if you were denied access before, enthusiasm of the chair is important. Writing to inmates is always an option. There are a lot of other ways to be involved.
- Review contents of Corrections Kit and Workbook
 - No discussion.
- Finance
 - Discuss a request to increase the maximum annual contribution that the General Service Board can receive from an AA member from \$3,000 to \$5,000.
 - 20 members last year gave the maximum of \$3,000. One district said go ahead and increase it; it is an insignificant amount of people that contribute to this. Adjusted appropriately for inflation. No cap on how much a group can contribute; to keep power of purse with group don’t increase individual amount. Straw poll about ~70-30/65-35 for the increase.
 - Review suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference.
 - One district said this would be about a \$5 increase per group to contribute to cover this. This is for review only.
 - Discuss material from AAWS Self-Support Committee
 - No discussion.
 - Discuss AAWS report on a plan regarding translation of Conference material.
 - Cost could be as high as \$320,000 with professionals, with part volunteer it would cost \$160,000. One obstacle is that AA language is difficult to translate, and you can get a different meaning. Comment: can be difficult to read even in English, so if it is translated would need to be done professionally. One district against expense, can understand the need for it but that it was a high expense. Comment that the \$320,000 is per year and wondered if we would do other languages in the future. Could this be done electronically to speed the translation up? Most electronic translators will not translate it correctly. Can we afford it and if so then we should do it.
 - Review Self-Support Packet.
 - No discussion.
- Grapevine
 - Review Audio Strategy status update
 - No discussion.
 - Review new business plan for La Viña
 - District voted on keeping La Viña under the understanding that it is a service piece.

- Review revised text of the pamphlet “AA Grapevine and La Viña: Our Meetings in Print”
 - No discussion.
- Discuss ways to increase organization-wide support for Grapevine and La Viña, such as:
 - How to recognize and support the International Journals of Alcoholics Anonymous, Grapevine and La Viña, as fully integrated parts of AA and its service structure.
 - How to provide concrete support for Grapevine and La Viña throughout the Fellowship and service structure, including the use and purchase of Grapevine and La Viña subscriptions, books, and other items.
 - How to put the many recommendations from the General Service Conference that encourage organization-wide support of the International Journals of Alcoholics Anonymous into practice Fellowship wide.
 - No discussion.
- Discuss ways to encourage AA members and groups to purchase Grapevine and La Viña subscription gift certificates to give to their local service committees for distribution to help carry the message of AA.
 - This is a way of supporting the Grapevine because you can’t contribute to it. These can then be sent to correctional facilities. Can online subscriptions be sold/given to treatment centers or hospitals? Comment on importance of bringing Grapevine to care units/facilities. Comment about concern about how much Grapevine is spending on sending letters to renew Grapevine subscriptions that are not expired yet.
- Consider the list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2016 or later.
 - Two topics: Armed Forces Members’ AA Stories and Voices of Early AA.
 - No discussion.
- Review AA Grapevine Workbook.
 - No discussion.
- Literature
 - Consider the revised draft pamphlet “Inside AA: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Service Agencies” with the new title “Inside AA: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services”
 - No discussion.
 - Consider the revised draft pamphlet “Your AA General Service Office”.
 - No discussion.
 - Consider updating the pamphlet “AA and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic”.
 - No discussion. One comment that Transgender has not been included in AA literature and has felt excluded.
 - Consider developing literature for the alcoholic with mental health issues.
 - One district commented on primary purpose and tradition 5 and decided at their meeting this should not go through. Another district had consensus against this idea. One individual expressed support for this idea. One GSR stated group conscience was against this. Reference made to 3 talks to medical societies where Bill discusses the importance of separation between psychological and medical work and AA program. Look at existing pamphlets that speak to this topic. Statement about this being such a large scope and could not address all the issues under this topic in a pamphlet. One district discussed how this could be helpful to newcomers who feel unwelcome in AA due to having mental health issues and it’s important not to exclude anybody who has a desire to stop drinking – no consensus on this at district. One stated that this pamphlet could help somebody come in the door as an outreach tool and see that they belong. Singleness of purpose was a concern to one district. One district said it was a sensitive issue and referenced beginning of How it Works chapter. Said this could be helpful to some. Another district discussed this and decided it was up to the AA members to be welcoming rather than a pamphlet. One individual expressed that this pamphlet could be helpful to some. One district said pamphlets can reach people who think they are different or don’t belong in AA and there seems to be a need for this. One issue is that this agenda item has been discussed and voted down the last three years. One member expressed the need to acknowledge mental health issues as well as alcoholism. One member suggested the idea to have a pamphlet geared towards sponsors on this issue as to how the sponsor should address this. One point was that 7 areas brought this forward and the rest were silent. One member said maybe new stories could be added to existing pamphlet and mental health issue are for professionalism and alcoholism is for AA. Sharing experience, strength, and hope is far more important than a pamphlet. What is cost of pamphlet? This is not listed. Overwhelming majority against producing pamphlet: ~90/10% - 95/5%.
 - Consider producing a book combining Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions with the Twelve Concepts for World Service.
 - One district is for producing the book because including the concepts would encourage groups to be more involved in the concepts. One group against producing the group, if new literature is produced it should be the large print AA Comes of Age. One district is opposed to producing this book because we already have the information also questioned if it would allow for changes to current text of book. One group was opposed to this because it is already available and there are other literature needs out there. 4 were for the book, 95%+ against.
 - Consider updating the pamphlet “AA for the Woman”.
 - No discussion.
 - Review the full text of “The AAWS, Inc. Policy on Publication of Literature”.
 - No discussion.
- Policy/Admissions
 - Approve request for a representative from the General Service Board of the Czech Republic to attend the 65th General Service Conference as an observer.
 - No discussion.
 - Review dates for the 2018 General Service Conference.
 - No discussion.
 - Consider proposed revision to the policy regarding General Service Conference audio recordings.

- No discussion.
- Consider request that a recording of the AA meeting at the opening dinner of the General Service Conference be provided to each member of the General Service Conference.
 - No discussion.
- Public Information
 - Review 2014 annual report from the trustees' Public Information Committee regarding GSO's AA website.
 - No discussion.
 - Review Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan
 - Consider suggestion that the trustees' Public Information Committee explore the use of specific social media platforms and social networking platforms as potential channels for sharing information about Alcoholics Anonymous.
 - Discuss how to increase AA member participation in local public information work.
 - Consider exploring a project for anonymity videos produced by AA members for AA members.
 - No discussion.
 - Public Service Announcements (PSAs)
 - Consider approving the proposed video PSA, "Doors".
 - Consider centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the proposed video PSA, "Doors", at a cost not to exceed \$40,000, in addition to the work of local public information committees.
 - Review current video PSAs for relevance and usefulness.
 - Consider production of new video PSAs.
 - No discussion.
 - Review the final draft of the pamphlet "Alcoholics Anonymous 2014 Membership Survey".
 - No discussion.
 - Discuss a brief video on anonymity produced to accompany the annual Anonymity Letter to Media.
 - No discussion.
 - Review contents of PI Kit and Workbook.
 - No discussion.
- Report and Charter
 - The AA Service Manual, 2015-2016 Edition:
 - Review list of editorial updates.
 - Review revisions from AAWS Board.
 - Review revisions from AA Grapevine Board.
 - Review revisions from General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.
 - Consider request to update The AA Service Manual to better reflect how the General Service Office's database is utilized for reporting and sharing group information.
 - Consider request to add text regarding re-activating districts or groups to the section "Stimulating Interest in General Service" on page S23.
 - Consider draft text for a new section on "Regional Forums" be added to Chapter 9 (The General Service Board) on page S71
 - before the "World Service Meeting" section.
 - Consider request to include a chart in the section "Working with Local Intergroups and Central Offices" on pages S41-S42.
 - No discussion.
 - Reconsider 1990 Conference Advisory Action regarding the table of contents for Twelve Concepts for World Service.
 - Simple majority for this. Close vote. One member commented on complexity of service manual. Comment that page iii is already a table of contents. Some confusion by various members.
 - Discuss the AA Directories:
 - Review report from AAWS Board on alternatives to AA Regional Directories (Canadian, Eastern US and Western US).
 - These are a useful tool used by many people and by truck drivers. One district commented that if there is an online meeting source then that is a better way to go. One group said there is a need for the directories but there are issues with accuracies with group information. GSR said there is still a need for directories because not everybody has a cell phone or computer; this helps people find meetings. Another member said helps people find meetings and has phone numbers to call to find meetings. Issue with meeting information changing and not always correct, and it's a lot of money to spend on a book that's not always right. Majority in favor of printing directories about 75-25% - 80-20%.
 - Discuss the General Service Conference Final Report.
 - No discussion.
- Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities
 - Review contents of Treatment Committee Kit and Workbook.
 - No discussion.
 - Review contents of Special Needs/Accessibilities Kit and Workbook.
 - No discussion.
- Trustees
 - Review resumes of candidates for:
 - Northeast Regional Trustee;
 - Southwest Regional Trustee;
 - Trustee-at-large/Canada.
 - No discussion.
 - Review slates of trustees and officers of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc.
 - No discussion.
 - Review slate of directors of AAWS, Inc.
 - No discussion.
 - Review slate of directors of AA Grapevine, Inc.
 - No discussion.
 - Discuss the recommendation from the General Service Board to approve the Bylaws of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., as amended, to comply with the New York State nonprofit law.
 - Comment about issue with two changes to by-laws: change results in the ability of a simple majority of the general service board to make changes to AA rather than a 2/3rds vote; it also allows committees of the board to bind the board for legal deci-

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sions (?); also the text removes from the by-laws important historical information from S118; this allows for the ability to appoint a committee and be bound by the simple majority of the committee. Second concern is a requirement that the board be 21 members, instead of the possibility of 22 members in the event that a Class B is elected as chairperson of the board. This change would eliminate this possibility. A legal firm constructed the proposed by-laws; the documents are available. The new not-for-profit law states that a committee cannot bind a corporation. Comment that this is why we invite the past delegates to participate and publish their contact information in Northern Light because they can answer questions and be an important resource for GSRs to bring information back to their groups.

- Archives
 - Review Archives Workbook
 - No discussion.
- International Conventions/Regional Forums
 - Discuss the upcoming 2015 International Convention.
 - One member mentioned the opportunity for attendees to volunteer at the event. Training is not mandatory for the volunteer training.
 - Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first-time attendees.
 - No discussion

SUNDAY APRIL 12, 2015

GSR Sharing Session Report- 53 GSRs were in attendance. 19 were new GSRs.

Discussed: What do you want to get out of a GSR Sharing Session; What would you like to take home from our area assemblies and workshops; How can we encourage more GSRs to attend area events; What do you like about being a GSR?

Collected \$69.57 to cover printing costs of meeting minutes, actual cost was \$22.50 so \$45.09 was contributed to Area 35.

DCM Sharing Session Report-Griffin M.

Attendees: *Steve (District 3), Irv (District 21), Rillis (District 12), Carl (District 7), Griffin (District 16), Michael (District 2), Jerry (District 8), Garrett (District 6), Christine (District 13), Angie (District 13), Melissa (District 15), Neil (District 18), Dean (District 5), Cathy (District 9), Jon (District 1), Bill (District 11), Tim (District 7 GSR)*

Chair called the meeting to order at 5:08 PM. Meeting began with introductions. 17 people were in attendance with representation by 15 districts. Sharing session section was read from the Service Manual. Chair provided an overview of the topics discussed at the January Area Workshop DCM Sharing session.

How does the current DCM handoff the DCM duties to the next DCM for the next rotation when there is no alternate DCM or other likely new DCM? Including discussion regarding all rotation of officers and committee chairs at the district level.

- It is not necessarily the Alternate DCM to step into the DCM role in the rotation.
- Similar to teaching someone the steps, sharing experience. What happens when you became DCM part way through the rotation? The district can decide. One district said they rotate all positions at the same time.
- It has been helpful to have direction from previous DCM about what the position includes.
- Another DCM was elected to the position for the new rotation after serving for a partial rotation. DCMs can also

become action committee chairs, which helps with teaching others at district meetings.

- One DCM shared about passing on information and work that has been completed.
- An Alternate DCM can be a helpful job because the position works with the DCM.
- Holding vote in October helps because there are a couple of meetings in rotation left to share information.
- Sponsorship helps with the process to answer questions about new positions. Sponsors can provide tools: literature, resources etc. that can be very helpful.

Discussion on gender guidelines for sponsorship.

- Is there a pamphlet that provides guidance on this?
- Every situation is different. Talked about various examples some worked out and some did not.
- These are guidelines passed on from past experience; men/men and women/women sponsorship is based as much on understanding of experience as the relationship aspect. Treating everyone the same and treating people how we were treated when we came in is important.
- Question about is it different with each individual with what they are comfortable with.
- Would a newcomer be more comfortable with what might be better for them, would they know?
- DCM role would only provide guidance if asked, would not provide direction/rule on this.

How do districts maintain websites?

- One district has their website through Area 35. No need to maintain it or create it; it's already there.
- One district has a web technology position. Another district has a web master position too and cross-trains other positions to maintain it.
- Two districts have their own website. Two districts have websites through the Area website.
- A few districts are interested in utilizing the Area website.
- Question about what is appropriate for a District website. Please provide feedback. Look around at other district websites.

How do you maintain focus and motivation for service?

- Rotate into other positions and keep going if you are asked to serve and if you can.
- Ask for help from other group/district members.
- Delegate tasks you are unskilled in to other members/positions. Ask Area officers or chairs for assistance.
- Remember what service is: gratitude made visible. The benefits pay off. Seeing new people come in and changed because of service is rewarding.
- Comment about how an individual can learn talents and skills by going through service positions (such as typing).
- Remembering that you can only do what you can do.
- Keep a "to-do" list and keep working on things little by little.
- Be mindful of comparing yourself to others in service and too high of expectations. Remember the importance of prayer and meditation.

Voted to place the notes into the Northern Light. Closed meeting with Responsibility Statement at 6:00 PM.

OFFICER REPORTS

Delegate- Michael (Jake) J.

Greetings Area 35! Hope you are enjoying early spring. It is a completely different adventure preparing for the second year of the conference as your outgoing rather than incoming delegate. It

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is such a privilege to serve you and I look forward to giving my report back to your Districts.

I attended the WCRAASC in Norfolk, NE. Roger and I had a great drive over and didn't even solve all of AA's problems. I am always excited to get to know fellow members. Much laughter and good humor were the blessings of our trip. I attended the delegates meeting and we got introduced to the incoming 4 delegates as 4 rotate every year. We shared about the upcoming forum in Wyoming and how things had gone in setting up the WCRAASC. The next day we gave the new delegates insight into what to expect at the conference.

The presentations and topics were well presented at the Conference and brought about good discussion. The discussion on the agenda items went well. I didn't think there was much on the grapevine but was in front for an hour and a half. We got thru them all with good discussion and not much repetition.

The WCRAASC had about 350 + participants and about 40% were new. It shows we are getting rotation and turnover in A.A. I attended the Winter Wrap up in Mt. Iron and enjoyed good fellowship and speakers. I also attended a couple of open meetings where I get to share with many other members on what is happening in A.A. One of my goals is to bring the groups back into being the main participants in A.A. Without them we are spinning our wheels.

Take care and God Bless

Michael(Jake)

Alternate Delegate – Kelly D.

Greetings Area 35,

It is good to be here this weekend with all of you in this great city of Fergus Falls at our last Spring Assembly of this rotation. A special thank you to District 3 for hosting this event.

This morning we had 33 in the GSR Orientation and 17 of them were new GSR's. They were given a lot of information from us in a very short period of time and they asked a lot of questions. The GSR Orientation has always been the highlight of the Assemblies for me and I enjoy that time we spend with them. Again I would like to thank them all for your commitment to service and if I can be of any help over the weekend or any time after please let me know. When we Area Office met at the February Committee Meeting in Aitkin, we discussed the format for the January Area 35 Service Workshop and a possible guest for the event. As you know Jake, our Delegate serves on Grapevine Committee at the yearly GSO Conference. He mentioned that he thought Ami B., Executive Editor/Publisher for the Grapevine would be a great guest for our next workshop. I am happy to announce that I have been in contact with her and she has accepted my invitation to be our guest that weekend. Once I have the theme for the 2016 GSO Conference and some of their topics, I will work on the agenda and will be asking Districts to present. We will also be discussing and talking more about other topics for that workshop when we get to new business later on. I would like to hear your input and suggestions for topics. Although I was not able to attend this year I have heard from several that it was a great workshop. I like to thank all the Districts that presented and District 12 for hosting. I have truly enjoyed putting these workshops together as part of my guidelines and responsibilities with my service position as Alternate Delegate. I am still however looking for a place to hold this event. It will be in Zone 3 which consist of Districts 5, 6, 7, 11, 13, 17 and 18. There is not a lot available for what we need with the exception of possibly St. Cloud. I have called many places and have been on the internet researching sites and hotels. More to come on where the location will be. Also if you recall I talked about our Zonal Forums at the Fall Assembly and asked you to bring them back to your groups to see if they are something that we should continue to have in Area 35. We will also be talking more about this later under new business. Again please let me know if I can be of service to any of you this weekend and thank you for the opportunity you have given me to service.

Chair- Sarah K.

Thank you all for your participation and service this weekend. I am grateful for all the patience you extend me in the process of chairing these meetings. Here are some important upcoming items. First, this is an election year (at the Fall Assembly), I strongly encourage all Area 35 members to be thinking of recommendations for the next round of trusted servants. As the health

of the area depends largely upon the servants place in chair positions, carefully consider the traditions and concepts when looking for candidates (principles before personalities, and qualities of a good leader). Recommendations for any position should be based on traditions and concepts, and not on personal feelings (such as, I fish with him, or this position would help him) because our servants are the guardians of our traditions, the one's who will establish the health of service in Area 35 for the next 2 years. So, carefully consider the 9th Concept which talks about qualities of a good leader, and decide who'd be the best person for the position (that is the best position for AA): who shows up and has the passion and humility for service, who does the work, who is knowledgeable on our traditions, concepts, and history, etc. Elections for area officers will take place at the Fall 2015 Assembly, and recommendations for area chair positions will be sought thereafter by the newly elected Area Chair. Descriptions of chair duties can be found on our Area 35 website, and the *Service Manual*. Elected positions to be filled:

1. Secretary (basic word processing and typing knowledge recommended)
2. Treasurer (basic knowledge of banking processes and financial programs (Quickbooks & Excel)
3. Area Chair (see Concept 9)
4. Alternate Delegate (see qualifications for Delegate)
5. Delegate (5-6 years continuous sobriety, experience in service)
 1. Delegate candidates need to be nominated by the Districts, and must submit their resume to the area chair by the June 7, Area Committee Meeting. [See the Service Manual for the delegate position duties and eligibility (the *Service Manual* is found on AAWS website and a brief description will be included in the next edition of the Northern Light)].
 2. Since you are the ones active in service, you will be an essential part of the selection process. You know and can talk to people that are active and meet the qualifications this weekend to see if they are willing. You will want to bring your thoughts and recommendations up at the district meeting in April so the GSRs can take the options back to their groups, have them discuss possibilities and bring back for a vote at the next district meeting before the June Area Committee Meeting.
 3. The resumes will be published in the Northern Light for review and the vote for delegate will take place at the 2015 Fall Assembly.

Additionally, at the Fall Assembly there will be an election for our Area's nominee for the West Central Regional Trustee position. Before the Fall 2015 assembly, consider/meet/discuss with potential WCR trustee candidates. Candidates usually have similar qualifications as delegate candidates. Further details on the trustee position can also be found in the service manual, and a summary of qualifications will be published in the Northern Light.

I have had the opportunity to participate in a couple of GSR schools, one in District 2 and one in District 13. Both were very informative and well attended. If your district is interested in a Traditions, service, (a GSR School) or Concepts workshop or presentation, consider linking to the zonal forums this year: if your district is in Zones II and IV, you can have a free workshop/presentation put on by the area officers.

Please consider the changed format for the Spring Assembly, when you fill out your evaluations and feel free to contact me directly with any other comments/concerns/questions.

The Ad hoc committee for reviewing the Financial Oversight Committee (FOC) met today and continued their discussion of the frequency of meetings and composition of the FOC committee.

If you care to weigh in on the date of the Joint Area 35/36 workshop, please let me know what you'd prefer: spring, summer, or fall. Otherwise, I will work with the Southern MN chairperson to determine a date.

Thank you for letting me be of service.

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Secretary- Roger R.

I regret missing our area's discussion of Agenda Items for the first time in 9 years due to a work conflict yesterday. I would like to express my gratitude to Angie S. from District 13 for taking excellent notes from yesterdays discussions.

I attended the WCRAASC last month. My notes from this conference are published in the last Northern Light. Traveling with Jake our current Delegate gave my better insight into the conference process and this years agenda items. Upon returning fro the conference I was asked to facilitate a discussion of agenda items by District 13.

I would be very appreciative if you all could send me the reports you delivered this weekend by Monday April 20.

Thank you for allowing me to continue to serve Area 35.

Treasurer- Randy A. Thank-You for allowing me to be of service to Area 35 as your Area Treasurer this rotation. Time sure flies by when you are busy in service. On Saturday, February 21st I attended the 12 Traditions Workshop in Albany Minnesota hosted by District 15. Thanks to DCM Melissa M. for inviting me to do a presentation on the 7th Tradition. There was very active participation and fellowship with well over 30 people in attendance. It was sure good to see so many enthusiastic members involved that showed a genuine interest in service and the Traditions. The presentation outline consisted of our 3 Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service, essentially our 2nd legacy of "Unity" – which is vitally important to our survival in Alcoholics Anonymous and how the statement at the end of the long form of our Tradition 7 relates to Unity which says: Experience has often warned us that nothing can surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over money, property and authority. It sure seems that everything we do in Alcoholics Anonymous now a days revolves around money and expenses. We can get into conflicts and disagreements real quick that sometimes can stir emotions and cause turmoil in our fellowship. We must be careful that we don't lose our focus of our primary purpose. The outline also consisted of various methods of contributions, prudent reserve, informed group conscience and conference structure pertaining to the upside down triangle, and where the money goes to each service provided. On February 27th we traveled to the WCRAASC in Norfolk Neb. The first presentation on diversity in AA- Our heritage of inclusiveness was presented by Area 36 Southern Minnesota. They done an excellent job. I especially like the definition they gave which stated: the quality or state of being different by culture or race in an organization - inclusivity. 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 stresses the importance of our 3rd Tradition. The conference item topics were very informative. The Topics under Finance were non-rotating positions, how to keep unity at service functions, and the election process of trustees-service structure of the board. Some are set up for 4 years and some are non –reimbursable. Positons are web-master, web technologies, remote communities, archives and other service positions. There were interesting and intriguing sharing from the floor with well over 350 from all the areas of the west central region. There was an informed group conscience for all the delegates to take with them to the General Service Conference in New York. It is are WCRAASC Trustees last year of rotation and he has done a good job for us and had some very good questions from the fellowship about his tenure as trustee. Randy A.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS

WEBMASTER –SANDY H. no report

TREATMENT- PAUL M. Greetings from your treatment chair! We had 11 in attendance at the meeting in Fergus Falls we had two from District 7 and 13, also present were districts 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, and 21. We discussed two topics that were brought by committee members. The first topic was starting a new meeting in the psychiatric ward; should it be open or closed? We had a great discussion on this question. The second was why do we bring meetings into treatment facilities? When treatment centers are bringing in a lot of people they seem to take over the meeting. We need to break up our other A.A. members to facilitate these meetings so all the treatment people don't go in the same meeting. Common problem! District 21 reported meetings are steady in treatment facilities. District 6: Rush city wants literature Dellwood. Need more people to rotate in—otherwise going good,

District 5 is working to get back into Riverplace; they have insurance and licensing issues. District 12 reported three meetings at Bethel facility; they have a new Saturday night speaker meeting. Is growing. All meetings are covered in the district. District 11 has a new treatment chair—welcome Keith! District 13 also has a new chair—welcome George. He has been in contact with treatment facilities and the district, making sure that people are going in and the list is up-to-date by distributing literature to all 14 treatment facilities in his district. District 8 reported by alternate DCM Scott both treatment facilities are covered in the district. District 7 reported all meetings at focus are covered. Bringing literature into Teen Challenge; also bring in meetings into the reservation in Sawyer! We read two sections out of the workbook which amazingly answered the questions we had at the beginning of our session—God works! I've had several calls for the temporary contact desk at Minneapolis intergroup and also some within our local districts! I asked for two volunteers to bring back 2 more topics to our next area committee in June in Aikin! We also need all Grapevine literature that is stored in your closet or in your group's closets, or in your home to bring to treatment facilities in our districts. Thank you—yours in service.

District 21-Irv R. For 20-plus years our district meetings were held in Bemidji only. In an effort to involve more groups we held our January meeting in Walker, MN. The results were very encouraging. Due to those results our March meeting was held in Park Rapids with positive results, allowing us to discover previously unknown issues. Our April meeting was moved up to cover Agenda Items. Our May meeting will take place in Bagley, MN to continue our efforts to reach groups that have not been participating in our district. This change has generated new enthusiasm for our GSRs, chairs and myself. Best wishes.

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

PI Jeff C. There were 13 people in our combined PI/CPC meeting representing 10 districts.

The assembly will again be voting to support having a booth at the Minnesota State Fair, both through a financial contribution of \$500 and by providing volunteers to staff the booth on August 29 -30, 2015. If individuals or groups are interested in volunteering please contact Jeff C.

District 6 continues to hold an A.A. info meeting at Dellwood Recovery Center every other week using the Hope Video and the pamphlet *What AA Is and Isn't*. They need to recruit more members to keep people from getting burned out.

District 16 will be holding a PI/CPC luncheon on May 1 prior to the start of the Iron Range Get Together at the Sawmill Inn in Grand Rapids. They are hoping for about 20 participants. A new group was registered, meeting 4:00 pm Sundays in Big Fork.

District 7 will be holding a PI/CPC event from 4 pm to 6 pm on May 21 at Grand View Lodge. Last year they had approximately 40 attendees. They have gotten some PSA's on local radio stations and are trying to get some play on local TV stations.

District 13 beginners meeting has become self-supporting and is looking to register as an official group.

District 12 has been staffing booths at local colleges.

District 9 holds an All about A.A. meeting at the local club for residents of a local treatment center.

District 8 held a luncheon in march and had representatives from colleges, churches, treatment and law enforcement. Local meetings sponsored tickets. The event brought inn \$790 and cost \$900. 50 people attended. They were having difficulties with their phone line and switched to a google voice account.

District 12 is buying grapevine subscriptions for correctional fa-

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cilities, nursing homes, and assisted living centers.

District 4 is planning to host a PI/CPC luncheon in September.

District 5- Dean M. Hi my name is Dean and I am an alcoholic and DCM of District 5. In our district we are trying to fill our secretary, treatment, CPC and corrections chair positions. We are fulfilling our commitment w within our district. I am happy to see our new GSRs here at this assembly. We would like to ask for help from close-by districts to assist with bringing meetings into the Sherburne County Jail. Please call me if you can help. Thank you—yours in service Dean.

District 4- Deb H. no report.

Northern Light –Rodney S. In our committee meeting Sandy reported that she went to the doctor on Friday and she has some nerve/muscle issues. With all the testing, possible surgery, uncertainty and stress she is stepping down as Webmaster. Brad will pick up our Northern Light newspapers for each event and Christine will be a back-up.

Passing the newspapers out to DCM's at our events is reverting back to the me instead of the Area 35 record keeper.

We want to focus on getting our record keeper back to ensuring group records information is being maintained and updated. Our record keeper will sit at a table out front to register new GSR's and make on-the-spot updates when possible.

I was asked "what was new with the Northern Light?" to which I gave a long version answer that I am doing a lot more new things from one issue to the next rather than repeating what I did in the last, using new information.

I have an older brother (by 2 years) back in Kansas. We were in a bar celebrating his 30th Birthday in the small town where we lived. Upon discovering that I was younger, a guy that worked with us said to me, "God you must have had a *hard* life!" That was exactly how I looked and how I felt; I did not expect or desire to live to be 30. That was nearly 30 years ago and today I enjoy life, living, and Birthdays! Today is my Birthday and I couldn't think of a better way to celebrate it than at a service event with all of you. It is also a great thing to share that same Birthday with a fellow member of service from District 12, Servando. The camaraderie of hard times while in service has given us a chance to know one another better. I share this not for me, but for all the new GSR's, new people in service, and those considering service involvement. Thank you all!

Literature- Jim S.

Hi Everyone,

We had 10 districts represented at our meeting with 14 in attendance. We had a fantastic conversation this morning. We discussed several topics, including I was asked to see if I could find out if GSO has a record of groups, district that are ordering literature within Area 35 that do not use the Area literature. I do not have that information. Some people discussed the issue of shipping costs and that due to time constraints it may be worth it to pay them. Current shipping charges are \$10.00 for orders up to \$50.00, 15% between \$50.00 and \$250.00, 12% between \$250 and \$500, free over \$500.00. We discussed if literature chairs should be reimbursed for travel to meetings—it was generally believed they should be. The meaning of Dark Meeting was discussed, the general definition agreed upon was a meeting that does not have representation at the district. We also discussed how to approach Dark Meetings to get them interested in participating. For the most part, a diplomatic approach is always best, also, to try to explain what the district has to offer and what the meeting needs from the district. We also discussed what literature each district chair should have: GSO has workbooks for each district chair, so if you need one let me know. Workbooks are \$18 each. I have a legal pad on my table with Spring Assembly orders which I will bring to the June ACM. Deadline for orders is Sunday, May 24th. You can email me at jimmys_01@msn.com or call me at 000-000=0000. If you email me and don't get a response within 24 hours I did not get your order so please call. In Service, Jim S.

District 3 –Steve D.

Good afternoon and greetings from District 3. My name is Steve D. and I am an alcoholic. DCM for District 3. It seems such a short time since the Area 35 Committee meetings in Aitkin. Much has happened in the interim.

District 3 continues to hold monthly district meetings the third Sunday of the month at the Perham Alano. We meet at 10:00 am.

Group representation stays fairly consistent. We continue to have GSRs bringing new people to help them experience service at the district level. Our new chairs are in place and beginning to develop goals for the upcoming two years.

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

• **Technology utilization**

- By the end of July, the District will have a streamlined e-mail communication. This will allow us to get information out to our groups as quickly as possible.
- By the end of 2014, we will have a written procedure for delivering and receiving information from Groups, districts and area members.

• **Group Participation**

- By the end of 2014, the District 3 chairs will attend 50% of the groups in our district. This will allow us to identify groups that are not active but would like to be.
- It will give us an opportunity to carry the message of service to all groups in the district.

• **GSR Participation at the Area Level**

- By the end of 2014, we would like to have a 25% increase in GSR attendance at Area and Regional functions.
- By the end of July, we would like to explore the possibility of using District funds to supplement GSRs whose groups cannot fully fund their abilities to attend some Area Functions.
- By the end of 2014, develop a written procedure outlining how to use district funds for supplementing GSRs. (Based on the supposition that we approve the previous goal.)

• **Carrying the Service Message**

- By the end of September, District 3 will host a Service workshop designed to help groups understand the importance of Group Service.
- By the end of July, determine if we can partner with District 6 in Area 52 and the FM Intergroup on hosting a past delegate/trustee panel focused on providing information on A.A. service at all levels.

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

Yours in Service, Steve.

District 1 Jon S. As reported previously our last District 1 meeting was conducted on February 8, 2015, attended by eight GSR's, DCM, our Treasurer, and two AA's. Our next meeting is tomorrow (April 12th) in Fertile at 2:00 p.m. Our new treasurer's balance was \$654.62. A third A.A. promised to help get jail meetings started again in Polk County.

Our Treatment Chair (Dave) continues working to arrange monthly A.A. speakers at Glenmore (out patient treatment center that requested speakers).

Ten group reports show attendance ranging from 2 to 15 people per meeting.

The Spring Fling in Fertile was Hosted by A.A. and joined by Al-Anon, and our Alternate (future DCM) Leslie was the chairperson—it was a success with about 75 people attending.

Note: Curtis Q. of Fosston, age 56, former DCM for District 1, passed away sober this past week, after 30 years of sobriety. Curt was old school and dedicated to the A.A. principals, and he will be sorely missed in District 1.

Yours in Service, Jon S., DCM, District 1.

Group Records- Rolene L. Hello Area 35, I am unable to attend the Spring Assembly. As I have some health issues going on. I am on oxygen 24/7 for right now. My doctor told me it was not feasible for me to go 5 hours traveling and being all day Saturday for the amount of oxygen I need right now. I miss you all every much.

I attended the West Central Regional in Nebraska in March. Our Delegate Jake had asked Sandy and I do the Breakout Session for

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Treatment, which was very well attended. I do have a report on the conference of our Agenda Items.

Also, I have only had 7 updates of groups that I have taken care of in the FNV Database.

I am continuing to work on all the updates. I also read our Web Tech, Bob's report in the Northern Light. I informed him about a month ago that I can add to group whether they are open, closed, handicapped, etc. This would mean all DCMs would have to make sure they have all groups fill out forms so that Group Records can put this information in. Some groups do already, this would be the only way to get this information into our database for the meeting locator.

I will be emailing all DCMs their group's information and I will have copies at the next Committee meeting in Aitkin for them.

Thank you for allowing me to service, Rolene.

District 11- Bill C. Hello from Pine County. I set up the A.A. booth at the Grand Casino Wellness Expo. Despite my car problems the fellowship got both me and the literature there. Our district meeting was held last Tuesday and we were shocked at the treasurer's report—it was the highest it has been since I became DCM. The sober bowling is going good. All of our corrections commitment are being met thanks to Gary and the fellowship.

District 13-Christine G. Greetings from District 13,

We hold our district meeting the 1st Monday of the month at the St. Cloud Alano Club starting at 7:30 pm. We would like to extend an invite to anyone who would like to come join us at our meeting. At the last two month's meetings, we had two new GSRs.

Our open Treatment and CPC positions were filled in March.

District 13 was very busy in March...

On March 7th, we gave our presentation "Diversity in AA – Our Heritage in Action" at the Waite Park West End Group's open meeting. It was a great way for us to share this information to group member in the district.

On March 14th, our Alt. DCM, Angie, held a GSR Workshop. We would like to extend a special thank you to Sarah, Jake and Sandy for presenting at the workshop. We had a good turnout (about 25) and great feedback. We will be looking at putting another workshop in early fall.

On March 19th, Sara (our District Secretary) set up and operated a booth at Project Homeless Connect. This event was at the Rivers Edge Convention Center from 10am-3pm. The event was geared toward members of the public who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless, and agencies that would assist the general public with these needs. Sixteen professionals and twenty-one people from the general public stopped at the booth to ask question and get materials. It was a wonderful experience.

On March 30th, the district held a group conscious meeting on the Agenda Topics. Thank you Roger and Brad for facilitating our meeting and providing information.

District 13 is registered for the 2015 Benton County fair booth # 150 August 4th thru the 9th.

I will be bringing forth two motions today. The motions came from a group and are supported by District 13.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve. Christine G.

GRAPEVINE- Antonette F. Area 35 is doing well in ordering the Grapevine magazine. There are also lots of great Grapevine books for sale. I would like to thank Sara B. from District 13 for staffing the Grapevine table at the Spring Assembly.

District 8- Jerry B. Hi, I'm Jerry and I'm an alcoholic serving as DCM for District 8. All's well in our district, A.K.A. God's country. On March 8 we held an GSC Agenda items meeting. Attendance was poor but we still had lot's of discussion. On March 10 Butch R. and I attended the A.A. meeting, at Sandstone Federal Prison to share our experience, strength, and hope. Attendance was between 8-10 depending on what they had to do. It is a prison, after all, and sometimes duty calls. They're all very interested in the A.A. program with questions asked and answered to the best of our ability. At the end of this month Butch and I will be attending the volunteer appreciation banquet. Hopefully there'll be a few more riding along. During the week of March 22-28 I attended several different group meetings in our district to help me in celebrating my 13th sobriety Birthday on March 25. It's my way of celebrating nowadays rather than picking up a jug. Also in March, which has been another great month to be sober District 8

had a PI luncheon, Winter Wrap Up, Open speaker meetings and of course, a lot of great fellowship. Our latest District 8 business meeting was held April 7th. Motions were made and unanimously passed to support all three proposals suggested by a group in our district. These 3 are all on this weekend's Agenda and District 8 would love your support on these items. Much more was discussed and voted on at our meeting, but my memory is short and we haven't received the minutes as of my report. Our next District 8 meeting will be held at the Presbyterian Church Center and Acacia in Babbitt on Wednesday, May 5th where once again you're all welcome. Yours in service, Jerry.

District 15 – Melissa A. Greetings from District 15—I'm giving a short report due to my laptop crashing and I'm typing this on my cell phone. We have a literature chair now as of our last district meeting! Hannah T. has stepped in and is excited to be of service. Hannah and I attended the Spring Assembly which we enjoyed. Hannah also got access to help with the Stearns county jail meetings to be of service to District 13. We are continuing to speak in treatment centers and detox facilities. We are in the process of figuring out a date for "Jake" to come and share his report back from New York and we will be hosting and combining it with district 13. We hope all is well! God bless & thank you for allowing me to be of service,

Melissa

Corrections-Jake C. Greetings! My name is Jacob C., and I am serving as your Area 35 Corrections Committee Chair. I traveled to the West Central Region Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference in Wyoming, my report is in the last Northern Light newsletter. I have been busy assisting a new meeting in the Aitken county jail, and am excited to announce new relationships being forged with officials at that facility. I will be attending a transitions fair at the St. Cloud prison in May. After approval of my proposed budget, I will continue work with the Statewide Committee for Corrections, as we have a workshop planned for October 10th, from 10am-2pm in St. Cloud. Part of my budget request is to fund our Area's participation in the committee, and allow me a vehicle to meet the literature needs of institutions for facilitating A.A. meetings, or to provide literature and other appropriate materials to corrections professionals, about our program. At our committee meeting yesterday morning, we had 12 in attendance, and concerns were expressed about need for volunteers, getting the right information into the right hands, and possible tools the area can utilize to assist the districts in their work. As always, most facilities need volunteers, though Pennington county jail is just starting a meeting again and could use help. Please contact me or your local corrections committee chair or DCM for more information. Thank you to everyone in service in corrections—you are doing a wonderful job sharing our message to those in need on the inside. Yours in service, Jacob

District 2- Michael H. We had our District 2 business meeting on March 8th in Middle River; there were seven in attendance. In my report I noted that the end of the rotation will be coming up sooner than we think, and the time will go fast. I asked the District to take this into consideration, and bring it to their groups; the need for service at the District level—in this rotation, and the upcoming one. I also reminded everyone that we as a District can also nominate a Delegate for Area 35. The contributions are also up in District 2, and the balance as of March 8th is \$794. A District 2 group contribution form was voted on and approved, for GSR's to bring back to their groups. There have been a lot of questions like "Where does our group send the money to contribute to the District" when I visit groups? Hopefully this will help in that regard. Another item discussed was sending District chairs (along with the DCM) to Aitkin Committee meetings. This is not always possible—all things considered—but there was an interest, and a desire to attend. Our Public Information chair would like to attend the next Committee meeting in June. We also set up a second District Meeting to go over the Agenda Items. We did this on a Wednesday night in Thief River, with seven in attendance. Also, District 2's Tradition's Workshop will be held on May 2nd at 1pm, in Thief River Falls, MN; the address is 614 Davis Ave North; there will be 3 speakers. Our next District business meeting will be Sunday May 10th at 2:00pm in Middle River.

Thank you, Michael.

District 9-Cathy R. Our district is full of energy. We have a brand new group that has started—in one of the far reaching areas of the district.

Additionally, we are in the process of developing a lending li-

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brary. There is a committee and we have permission from our Alano club to use the space for A.A. approved literature.

We have invited and are paying for people from the professional community to attend the District 16 PI luncheon. Our beginners meeting has changed its meeting day and that has improved attendance.

We are proud to have our current Delegate hail from District 9.

In service, Kathy.

CPC-Servando M. We will be at the Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers conference on May 20-21 at Breezy Point. As this is during the work week and I cannot attend, District 7 will be staffing our table-top. I will ensure that literature is delivered to District 7 for this event. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your CPC Chair. Servando

Distrtict 16-Griffin M. We have 4 members from our District here today.

- We had 13 in attendance at our last District meeting, including our Delegate who went over the conference agenda with us.
- Weekly Jail meetings are going on thanks to our Monday Noon GSR Mike F. and Corrections Chair Tike S.
- Our PI Luncheon will be held on May 1st at the Saw Mill – This is the weekend of the Iron Range Get-Together. Charlie C. is speaking for A.A., and Hazel A. will be speaking for Alanon. Thanks to Mary S. our PI/CPC chair for coordinating this service.
- We are excited about the new Sunday 4pm Big Fork Open Big Book meeting that started recently. It is being held at Grace Lutheran Church in Big Fork.
- Tuesday Solutions will be hosting their annual round-up again this year. It will be held at Camp Hiawatha on Deer Lake July 24-26.

I had a great time listening to the A.A. and Alanon speakers at Hibbing's Open Speaker Meeting on March 28th. I am looking forward to the Iron Range Get Together.

Yours in Service, Griffin.

District 7- Carl P. Greeting Area 35. Currently, all of our positions at the district level are filled. Our Alternate DCM has created a District 7 newsletter and was also published in the latest Grapevine issue. Our corrections chair has been busy with the Aitkin and Crow Wing jails. He is always looking for more volunteers to help put on meetings there. Our treatment chair is busy learning the job as she took over someone who had to step down. She has five treatment facilities in the district to work with. Our archives person is trying to get a group to sponsor a founder's day event like we had a year ago in Pequot Lakes. Our PI/CPC chair has been busy planning a CPC event at Grand View Lodge just North of Brainerd on May 21, 4-6 pm. She has also gotten several radio stations to run PSA's. In her spare time she is coordinating efforts to have information booths at Crow Wing, Pine River, and Aitkin county fairs.

I was fortunate to be able to attend the WRAASC in Nebraska. I really enjoyed the speaker from GSO who is the current manager. I recently registered two new groups and welcomed three new GSR's. I am continuing to update group information sheets. We are having a District picnic at Lum Park in Brainerd July 19th from 11 am until 4 pm. No district funds are used for this event. Thank you for allowing me to serve. Carl.

ARCHIVES- Pete B. Greetings everyone. In attendance at our meeting today were: District 13 Archives Chair Dave, District 18 DCM Neil R., District 12 DCM Rilllis and Brad I., Area Archivist.

District 13 is still organizing materials and is researching ordering a digital recorder for recording long-timer histories. District 18 is working on a district history. District 12 does not have a current chair but is looking to a history major in the next rotation.

I will be attending the Area 36 Archives Alive to see how we can do a simple workshop—hopefully in September. I am also getting ideas from the Area 36 Pigeon- newsletter.

I want to thank members of the Archives Committee for helping to put together archives quizzes. This helps all of us learn more about A.A. history. Yours in service, Pete.

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 nine 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 in contact with three county jails in our district as well as the North East Regional Correctional Center and the Bethel Work Release and Treatment Center. District 12 will be purchasing 2 Grapevine subscriptions for each facility to help 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 which connects students with community resources on February 24 and they will attend two health fairs in March.

Yours in service, Rillis.

District 18 -Neil R. no report

ARCHIVIST –BRAD I. Since February, I attended the WCRAASC, brought a display to Morehead for the Winter Warm Up, and a P.A. system to Mountain Iron for the winter Wrap Up. I was going to bring a small display to the Stearns County Round up but family issues preempted that.

On the way home from Morehead 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 programs 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 decided 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 Roth 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 continue to build a searchable data base of the collection and write essay for a virtual tour. There haven't been any contributions as of late.

I am going to Superior next weekend for the Roundup and plan on doing a joint display with Area 36 at Gopher State.

Please make sure I am on your district mailing list for minutes and events. I can't archive them if I don't get them.

Thanks for this opportunity to be of service,

Brad

DISTRICT 14-DEB A. no report

OLD BUSINESS

Area 35/36 Workshop- If you care to weigh in on the date of the Joint Area 35/36 workshop, please let me know what you'd prefer: Spring, Summer, or Fall. Otherwise, I will work with the Southern Minnesota chairperson to determine a date.

Web Tech Committee Report- Bob B. Worked with the Area36 Group Records Chair. We are working together. When updated meeting information is sent to aaMeetingLocator I send e-mail to Area36 Group Records Chair. They follow up and I am getting notified when the meeting information is updated.

- Areas36 is updating aaMeetingLocator 12 to 24 times a year.

(Continued on page 22)

(Continued from page 21)

- Area36 was last updated 4-3-2015
- Area35 was last updated 2-7-2015 4-9-2015
- Worked with Randy on the actual 2014 WEB Technology Expenses. Moved Expenses to the correct accounts. The actual 2014 WEB Technology Expenses were \$1711.46 corrected from the reported \$2242.89
- Held a Technology & Anonymity workshop and the Winter Warm Up in Moorhead on Feb 7th. Good turn out and good discussion after a 30 minute presentation.

E-mail to Contacts on AAMeetingLocator

- Message: I'm a 44 year old female looking for a sponser in my area.
Responded and forwarded to Area 35 District 5 DCM
- Message: There is a woman's AA 12 step meeting at the Alano Club in Albert Lea, MN on Mondays at 11:30
Responded and sent message to Area36 group records
- Message: I was trying to get a contact number for someone to help me get a temporary sponsor. I'm currently in inpatient treatment. I'm from Fairmont. I'll be returning to Fairmont soon. Please email, call, or text me with a contact number. Thank You, C...
Responded Sent e-mail to Andy at the Area36 Treatment Temporary Contact Desk.

Joint Meeting Locator/Web Tech Position

- Web Technology is a temporary position that will end this year.
- Our plan was to determine an on going support plan.
- Many areas experience difficulties finding the skills needed to support Websites. Some areas do not rotate their WEB support other pay for their support.

Area35.org --

- Working knowledge of the WEB and WEB sites
- Working knowledge of ftp software and directory structures.
- Working knowledge of HTML and/or an HTML editor

aaMeetingLocator.org –

- All of area35.org
- Knowledge of PHP programming or the ability to learn on your own
- Knowledge to SQL database
- Area35.org uses similar software for the meetings on area25.org

My recommendation

- The WEB master position can do both area35.org and aaMeetingLocator
- The position needs to be filled by skills first then willingness to serve.

One Solution for the next rotation:

- I'd like to dig into the Group Records database
- aaMeetingLocator is dependent on Group Records.
- I would be willing to do both Group Records and aaMeetingLocator
- We would need a Webmaster for area35.org

Statewide Corrections Committee Report- Jake .,I have little to report right now, as our committee has not met since the February Action Committee Meeting, though we will meet this Monday, following the Area Assembly. I will have more to report at the June Action Committee meeting. Yours in service, Jacob.

NEW BUSINESS

MN State Fair Booth- Jeff C. New business item moved to part of PI Chair report: Request to spend \$500 to sponsor and staff the booth for two days during the State Fair on the first weekend (Aug. 29 & 30th from 9:00 AM-9:00 PM). Motioned by Jim S., seconded by Servando. Motion amended by Jim S. and seconded by Servando to include only the staffing of the booth and not the cost because it is already part of the approved budget. Motion carried.

- Discussion: Was this already in the budget? Yes, it is part of the budget. Individual expressed positive experience staffing the booth and would like to see it continue. Is there any reason we don't staff more days? The distance/proximity to the Fair is an obstacle to get more people to staff. Does this include the expense of getting into the Fair? No, entry fee and parking are not covered. We are voting to participate in the event. Question about coordination of volunteers for the event. Jeff explained he has the schedule.

Joint meeting locator/web tech position: Area Chair is establishing an ad hoc committee to look at options for area web technology. Any interested Area members, contact the Area Chair.

Winter Workshop Format –Kelly D. We employ the GSC title as title for our workshop. 8 presentations. 4 from GSC and 8 from Kelly (Alt Delegates). Kelly is looking for comments. Lets go back to groups and districts for suggestions on winter workshop.

Zonal Forums- Motion to discontinue zonal forums unless requested by districts within the Zones, in which case the expenses for the forums will continue to be paid by the Area. **Amendment:** And that the alternate delegate continue to inquire of the districts within the specified zone to determine if there is any interest in having a zonal forum. Both the motion and amendment were tabled until the Fall Assembly at which time we will need to vote first on the amendment, and then on the motion.

Audit Committee - motion withdrawn because an ad hoc committee was created to address concerns about issues of cost/composition.

Web Tech position- motion was withdrawn because concerns about the position were addressed: it will terminate at the end of this year, and there will be an ad hoc committee looking into web tech needs for the Area.

District 13:

Motion To append the Area 35 Statement of Financial Responsibility. Area budget to be sent to district and included in area newsletter 60 days prior to the Area Assembly in which it will be voted on, if the 60 day time period is not reached the area will implement the previous years budget at prior approved levels. Motion failed.

Motion Area 35 supports a request from TNYPA group to GSO to establish policies and procedures to safeguard against predatory behavior in our groups. Motion failed.

Corrections Budget- Approved

Calendar of events- Rodney S. Added several events to NL listings.

Ask it Basket Scott J. Bob J. Jim K. Susie A, Tom A. John C., Charlie C. past delegates participating.

Jim K. Is it a part of Roberts Rules or in our service structure that we can not un-table a motion? It is not in our service structure. It is in Roberts Rules. However in Area 35 we do not follow Roberts Rules 100 percent. We give our Chair a right of decision on following Roberts Rules.

John C. Is the mention of a potential expense automatically passed? No, we discuss larger expenses such as the state fair \$500.00.

Charlie C. Which of the past delegates is the cutest? Charlie. Tom A. Sarah K. has done a great job of chairing Area 35. Delegates have no say in setting the agenda at the GSC. They can only make floor actions. No rational reason why an agenda item returns over and over—it may be that trustees like it. Concepts tell us that 93 are the voice of aa at the GSC. We can offer a general service conference agenda item on giving voice to delegates in selecting agenda items.

Sussie A. Good to get discussions out...

(Continued on page 23)

(Continued from page 22)

Bob J. I would like whichever delegate gets this comment that I would not have stated at the mic. Whenever an entity is asked to contribute to something a spiritual element is there. I agree.

Jim K. My group is going to man a float in a parade under the A.A. banner. Where the line is between attraction and promotion is a group decision. Areas have decided that State Fair is an appropriate place to give public information on A.A. Booth moved from Grandstand to Education building—it was a good move.

John C. Are some of our service positions becoming too technical to do? What do you think? Getting to a point where we need fine tune skills. 17 years ago any one could be involved in service. BS that if you don't have a computer you should not stand.

Charlie C. I heard it is a learning curve for the web tech job. Isn't everything in A.A. a learning curve. Is this position going to be like our 9 year archivist? Isn't it time to rotate our positions? Hard to get someone to pack up and store archives. Should not have too many non- rotating positions. I'm cautious about creating long term service positions. Comment by Scott E. that Brad is not non-rotating. He has been re-appointed each rotation by the Area Chair and approved by the body.

Tom A. Clarified- we are not all members of AARP. Not enough support for business meetings. Put your arm around their shoulder and ask them to attend your business meeting.

Susie A. – why is the logo of circle and triangle not upside down. Not consistent with upside down triangle. In 1994 A.A. banished (stopped using) the logo.

Bob J. Why are all of the positions of action committee officers appointed by the Area Chair? Decision was made a number of years ago. We elect officers and delegate, alternate delegate. We would not know if we are getting the best person from a floor nomination. With chair appointing with recommendations from committees and others expressing interest, appointments are made and the slate is approved by the Area Committee. Best way to ensure best people possible. In past people were standing for chair positions that assembly body really did not know. Scott J.—fall of 1986 was last time we elected action chairs. Were there until late in the afternoon.

Bruce B. Malady of alcoholics: Alzheimer's—you forget everything but resentments. Are service events getting smaller? May be a little smaller. Just got 129 people here. How do we get more people involved in service? One-on-one works really well.

ADJOURN

The Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous—long form

Our A.A. experience has taught us that:

1. Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.
2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience.
3. Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.
4. With respect to its own affairs, each A.A. group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience. But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee, or individual should ever take any action that might greatly affect A.A. as a whole without conferring with the trustees of the General Service Board. On such issues our common welfare is paramount.
5. Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity *having but one primary purpose*—that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.
6. Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to A.A. should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An A.A. group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to A.A., such as clubs or hospitals which require much property or administration, ought to be incorporated and so set apart that, if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the groups. Hence such facilities ought not to use the A.A. name. Their management should be the sole responsibility of those people who financially support them. For clubs, A.A. managers are usually preferred. But hospitals, as well as other places of recuperation, ought to be well outside A.A.—and medically supervised. While an A.A. group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied. An A.A. group can bind itself to no one.
7. The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.
8. Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we may otherwise have to engage nonalcoholics. Such special services may be well recompensed. But our usual A.A. "12 Step" work is never to be paid for.
9. Each A.A. group needs the least possible organization. Rotating leadership is the best. The small group may elect its secretary, the large group its rotating committee, and the groups of a large metropolitan area their central or intergroup committee, which often employs a full-time secretary. The trustees of the General Service Board are, in effect, our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which we maintain our A.A. General Service Office at New York. They are authorized by the groups to handle our over-all public relations and they guarantee the integrity of our principal newspaper, the A.A. Grapevine. All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in A.A. are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles; they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness.
10. No A.A. group or member should ever, in such a way as to implicate A.A., express any opinion on outside controversial issues—particularly those of politics, alcohol reform, or sectarian religion. The Alcoholics Anonymous groups oppose no one. Concerning such matters they can express no views whatever.
11. Our relations with the general public should be characterized by personal anonymity. We think A.A. ought to avoid sensational advertising. Our names and pictures as A.A. members ought not be broadcast, filmed, or publicly printed. Our public relations should be guided by the principle of attraction rather than promotion. There is never need to praise ourselves. We feel it better to let our friends recommend us.
12. And finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all.

A few words on Social Media:

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

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

AI-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

AI-Anon Open Meeting

NOON

LUNCH

1:00 PM

Recreation Time**

5:00 PM

SUPPER (Baron of Beef)

7:00 PM

AI-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 \$20.00 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 12)

1. Old Salt Mine in Pennsylvania
2. 1950
3. “Remember Bill, Let’s not louse this thing up. Let’s keep it simple”
4. 1994
5. January 1971
6. MANSON GUILTY/NIXON DECLARES
7. Scott Johnson
8. 1982
9. 1998
10. Bob R.

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

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

Northern Light Deadline—July 1st, 2015

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

Northern Light Deadline—September 1st, 2015

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

40th Annual Area 35 Service Workshop
Date and destination forthcoming

May 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Mother’s Day	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 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 Father’s Day	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Upcoming Events in Areas 35 & 36

note: Area 35 events take precedence !

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

5th Annual Open Meeting & Potluck—May 28, 2015
Into Action Group
111 6th Ave. N
Princeton, MN 55371

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

Heartland Roundup—September 11-13, 2015
Northern Pines Assembly Grounds
East shore of Fish Hook Lake
Park, Rapids, MN 56470

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

National AA Technology Workshop—October 1st—4th, 2015
1973 Craigshire Road
Saint Louis, Missouri, 63146

St. Cloud Roundup—October 23—24, 2015
River's Edge Convention Center
10 4th Ave. S.
St. Cloud, MN 56301

AREA 35 COMMITTEE MEETING
Sunday, Jun 7, 2015, 9:00 am—3:00 pm
AITKIN ALANO CLUB
322 1st. Avenue N.E., Aitkin, MN

AGENDA:

- 9:00 A.M. Action Chair Committee Meetings
(9:30 a.m. Financial Oversight Committee)
- 10:30 A.M. Area Committee Meeting
- Call to Order Open with the Serenity Prayer
- Recognize Past Delegates
- Add to Agenda
- Approve February 2015 Committee Minutes

OFFICER REPORTS

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS

- 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.
- WEBMASTER – Bob B.
- 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.
- District 14 – Deb A.
- 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.

12:00 P.M. Lunch

12:45 P.M. Reconvene

OLD BUSINESS

- Area 35/36 Joint Workshop
- Spring Assembly Evaluations
- Area 35 Assemblies—2016-2017
- Financial Oversight Committee Report
- Web Technologies Report
- 2016 GSC Agenda Items

NEW BUSINESS

- Report on MACPO Event—CPC
- Other new business items
- Delegate’s GSC Report
- Calendar of Events
- Adjourn

Mail Area 35 Group contributions to:

NMAA
PO Box 411
Hoyt Lakes
MN 55750