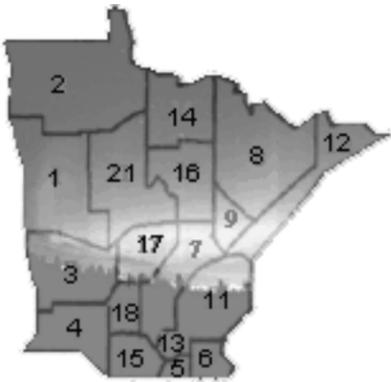


NMAA

Change Service Requested

NONPROFIT  
ORG  
U. S. Postage  
Paid



Deadline for the next  
*Northern Light* is  
**November 1st, 2015**

This is YOUR Newsletter.

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

Please bring extra copies to share with your group!

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



**AREA 35  
NORTHERN  
MINNESOTA**

**TABLE of CONTENTS: pg:**

Area 35 Map with Zonal & District Delineations \_\_\_\_\_ 2  
 District Meeting Locations \_\_\_\_\_ 2  
 Area 35 Committee, i.e. Area Officers, Area Chairs, DCM's \_\_\_\_\_ 3  
 Past Area 35 Delegates \_\_\_\_\_ 4  
 Area 35 Officer Reports \_\_\_\_\_ 5-6  
 Area 35 Chair Reports \_\_\_\_\_ 7-10  
 August Area 35 Committee Meeting Minutes \_\_\_\_\_ 11-15  
 Member Contributions \_\_\_\_\_ 15-18  
 Flyers of Upcoming Events \_\_\_\_\_ 19-20  
 Miscellaneous Northern Light information \_\_\_\_\_ 21  
 Concepts and Traditions \_\_\_\_\_ 22  
 Upcoming Events ( Areas 35 & 36) \_\_\_\_\_ 23  
 Area 35 Fall Assembly Agenda \_\_\_\_\_ 24

**Zone I**

- District 1** - Ada, Crookston, Erskine, Fertile, Fosston, Mahanomen, 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, Greenwood, Herman, Kensington, Morris, Osakis
- District 15** - Albany, Avon, Cold Spring, Holdingford, Lake Henry, Melrose, Paynesville, Richmond, Sartell, St. Joseph, St. Stephen, Sauk Centre, Watkins

**Zone III**

- District 5** - Becker, Big Lake, Elk River, Milaca, Otsego, Princeton, Zimmerman
- District 6** - Braham, Bethel, Cambridge, Forest Lake, Harris, Isanti, Lindstrom, North Branch, Rock Creek, Stacy, St. Francis, Rush City
- District 7** - Aitkin, Baxter, Brainerd, Fort Ripley, Garrison, Ironton, Isle, Little Falls\*, McGregor\*, Palisade, Pierz, Pilager\*, Waukon
- District 11** - Finlayson\*, Grasston, Henriette, Hinckley\*, Lake Lena, Malmo, Moose Lake\*, Mora, Ogilvie, Pine City, Quamba, Sandstone, Willow River, Wahkon
- District 13** - Kimball, Rice, St. Cloud, Sauk Rapids, Waite Park, Foley
- District 17** - Backus, Cross Lake, Nisswa, Pequot Lakes, Pillager\*, Pine River
- District 18** - Browerville, Clarissa, Eagle Bend, Little Falls\*, Long Prairie, Motley, Parkers Prairie, Staples, Verndale

**Zone IV**

- District 8** - Alango, Aurora, Babbitt, Biwabik, Cook, Cotton, Ely, Eveleth, Gilbert, Hoyt Lakes, Mountain Iron, Nett Lake, Orr, Palo, Pike, Tower, Virginia, Zim\*
- District 9** - Chisholm, Floodwood, Goodland, Hibbing\*, Keewatin, Kelly Lake, Lawrence Lake\*, Nashwauk\*
- District 12** - Beaver Bay, Silver Bay, Brimson, Brookston, Cloquet, Duluth, Esko, Finland, Fredenberg, Grand Marais, Grand Portage, Hermantown, Knife River, Lawrence Lake\*, Lutsen, Mahtowa, Pike Lake, Proctor, Sawyer, Silver Bay, Foxborro (Wisconsin), Side Lake, Superior (Wisconsin), Toivola, Two Harbors
- District 14** - International Falls, Littlefork

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

**District Meeting Location Information**

**District 1**  
 2nd Sunday of even months, 2:00 p.m.  
 Fertile Community Center  
 101 S. Mill St., Fertile, MN 56540

**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**  
 2nd 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**

<p><b>AREA OFFICERS</b></p> <p><b>DELEGATE</b> MICHAEL "JAKE" J. <a href="mailto:delegate@area35.org">delegate@area35.org</a></p> <p><b>ALTERNATE DELEGATE</b> KELLY D. <a href="mailto:Alt_delegate@area35.org">Alt_delegate@area35.org</a></p> <p><b>AREA CHAIR</b> SARAH K. <a href="mailto:areachair@area35.org">areachair@area35.org</a></p> <p><b>TREASURER</b> RANDY A. <a href="mailto:treasurer@area35.org">treasurer@area35.org</a></p> <p><b>SECRETARY</b> ROGER R. <a href="mailto:secretary@area35.org">secretary@area35.org</a></p> <p><b>AREA COMMITTEE CHAIRS</b></p> <p><b>PUBLIC INFORMATION</b> JEFF C. <a href="mailto:pi@area35.org">pi@area35.org</a></p> <p><b>ARCHIVES</b> PETE B. <a href="mailto:archives@area35.org">archives@area35.org</a></p> <p><b>ARCHIVIST</b> BRAD I. <a href="mailto:archivist@area35.org">archivist@area35.org</a></p> <p><b>CORRECTIONS</b> JACOB C. <a href="mailto:corrections@area35.org">corrections@area35.org</a></p> <p><b>LITERATURE</b> JIM S. <a href="mailto:literature@area35.org">literature@area35.org</a></p> <p><b>GRAPEVINE</b> ANTONETTE F. <a href="mailto:grapevine@area35.org">grapevine@area35.org</a></p> <p><b>COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (C.P.C.)</b> SERVANDO M. <a href="mailto:cpc@area35.org">cpc@area35.org</a></p> <p><b>TREATMENT</b> PAUL M. <a href="mailto:treatment@area35.org">treatment@area35.org</a></p>	<p><b>WEBMASTER</b> Due to medical issues this role is being assumed by Web Technology, Robert B. <a href="mailto:webmaster@area35.org">webmaster@area35.org</a></p> <p><b>GROUP RECORDS</b> ROLENE L. <a href="mailto:grouprecords@area35.org">grouprecords@area35.org</a></p> <p><b>WEB TECHNOLOGY</b> ROBERT (BOB) B. <a href="mailto:support@area35.org">support@area35.org</a></p> <p><b>NORTHERN LIGHT</b> RODNEY S. <a href="mailto:northernlight@area35.org">northernlight@area35.org</a></p> <p><b>DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEMBERS (D.C.M.'s)</b></p> <p><b>DISTRICT 1</b> JON S. <a href="mailto:dcm1@area35.org">dcm1@area35.org</a></p> <p><b>DISTRICT 2</b> MYRON H. <a href="mailto:dcm2@area35.org">dcm2@area35.org</a></p> <p><b>DISTRICT 3</b> STEVE D. <a href="mailto:dcm3@area35.org">dcm3@area35.org</a></p> <p><b>DISTRICT 4</b> DEB H. <a href="mailto:dcm4@area35.org">dcm4@area35.org</a></p> <p><b>DISTRICT 5</b> JOHN S. <a href="mailto:dcm5@area35.org">dcm5@area35.org</a></p> <p><b>DISTRICT 6</b> GARRETT B. <a href="mailto:dcm6@area35.org">dcm6@area35.org</a></p> <p><b>DISTRICT 7</b> CARL P. <a href="mailto:dcm7@area35.org">dcm7@area35.org</a></p> <p><b>DISTRICT 8</b> JERY B. <a href="mailto:dcm8@area35.org">dcm8@area35.org</a></p> <p><b>DISTRICT 9</b> FRED H. <a href="mailto:dcm9@area35.org">dcm9@area35.org</a></p>	<p><b>DISTRICT 11</b> BILL C. <a href="mailto:dcm11@area35.org">dcm11@area35.org</a></p> <p><b>DISTRICT 12</b> RILLIS E. <a href="mailto:dcm12@area35.org">dcm12@area35.org</a></p> <p><b>DISTRICT 13</b> CHRISTINE G. <a href="mailto:dcm13@area35.org">dcm13@area35.org</a></p> <p><b>DISTRICT 14</b> DEB A. <a href="mailto:dcm14@area35.org">dcm14@area35.org</a></p> <p><b>DISTRICT 15</b> MELISSA M. <a href="mailto:dcm15@area35.org">dcm15@area35.org</a></p> <p><b>DISTRICT 16</b> GRIFFIN M. <a href="mailto:dcm16@area35.org">dcm16@area35.org</a></p> <p><b>DISTRICT 18</b> NEIL R. <a href="mailto:dcm18@area35.org">dcm18@area35.org</a></p> <p><b>DISTRICT 21</b> IRV R. <a href="mailto:dcm21@area35.org">dcm21@area35.org</a></p> <p><b>DISTRICT 17</b> NO INFO</p>
--	--	--

**MOVING? ADDRESS NOT CORRECT?**

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

Please contact our Group Records Secretary with your new or changed address:  
[GroupRecords@area35.org](mailto:GroupRecords@area35.org)

**AREA 35 EVENTS**  
**INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURE**

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

**AREA 35 EVENTS**  
**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**Where is the Aitkin Alano Club?**  
Area 35 holds committee meetings in February, June, August and December at the Aitkin Alano Club  
322 1st Ave. N.E.  
Aitkin, MN.  
**Come join us!**

## OUR PAST DELEGATES

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

### 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**

Wow! Where has all the time gone? Soon Fall Assembly and elections. I am as excited as you are to find out our new slate of area officers.

Since our last news letter I have attended Keep it Simple weekend south of Eveleth, listening to some great speakers including our own Jim S. who shared a very humble rendition of his experience, strength and hope. Thanks too all the speakers and committee members for another great fellowship experience. I also attended District 3's Service Roundup in Battle Lake. I shared my report and also took part in the Zonal Forum with the rest of the Area 35 officers who did a great job. It is just sad that once again participation was down but those that showed enjoyed the learning, fellowship and food. We are doing our best to serve all of our districts and members in Area 35 but without their participation it seems that we are spinning our wheels. Of course I have always been told that it matters what I do, not what others are doing. It would just be nice if we were on the same page. God will perform miracles but does ask for our participation in helping his work with drunks. As the old timers said we are God with skin.

September 1st I got to visit Long Prairie and share with District 18—long drive but worth the effort. Thank you all that have attended and I hope that you are the communication link with the rest of A.A.

I took a trip out to Casper Wyoming for the Forum and ended up spending the time with my sponsor as no one else could get time off. It was a long ride with lots of conversation on traditions and concepts, along with life's many curveballs. Area 76 hospitality was amazing. Great food and great fellowship during the entire Forum. Thank you Sally and Area 76. Our Trustee Andrew did an amazing job of chairing the event and the Staff from GSO were warm and welcoming. Trying to answer many questions from the audience can be very grueling. We had 179 first time attendee's out of the just under 300 attending. I especially enjoyed visiting with our Class A Trustee's. Although asked some tough questions they tried to answer humbly and with courtesy. We had presentations on what the difference between a Class A and a Class B trustee is (aside from one being an alcoholic-check your service manual to find out which is which) and GSO staff assignments. Our general manager Phyllis chaired the first sharing session Friday evening. Questions about signing brought about discussion on how we need advance notice to have signers available, the relationship between GSO and Stepping Stones (it is a separate non profit which we encourage support of but are not affiliated with), why we are not putting ASL on our videos? (working on this but do have close captioning). One individual was upset that the old timer's panel at the International in Atlanta was interrupted by the fireworks. Why are 3rd party vendors selling our Big Book cheaper than we sell it?(apparently they are losing money on it). Saturday morning had presentations on the Grapevine by Ami the executive editor and Bill a Grapevine Board director. Later we had Delegate presentations which were excellent and very well received. I will try and have some of them put on our web page. Saturday afternoon consisted of presentations on AAWS and the General Service Office. Then we had a finance presentation. In the evening we had workshops. I attended the one on Melding Experience and enthusiasm in Service. Where we talked about the Twelfth Step and how important it is to our recovery. How this is the basis for our willingness and enthusiasm. It starts with being a part of a group and serving that group before accepting other service opportunities. Sponsorship and being led with humility. Later I attended a Grapevine workshop and learned how to set up a article writing workshop by asking each attendee to share on what they would choose to share. Sunday was a sharing from new attendees and many seemed to enjoy participating in the Forum. One gal was happy to find out that our New York staff were not stuffed shirts. We had 4 past trustees that talked about our participation in selecting agenda items at the Board weekend in January, how important it is to understand the traditions, especially 1 and 2 as they bring proper understanding to the concepts. One of the sharing session items that brought a lot of discussion was where groups that use A.A. in their name fit and is it appropriate that we allow them to use it? Like ICYPAA, Seniors in A.A., professionals in A.A. and what used to be the International women's A.A. (but no longer uses A.A. in their title). Lots to ponder.

What a great Forum. Thanks to the 10 or so of us from Area 35 that showed up and participated. They were great examples of A.A. in Area 35.

God Bless and Take Care,  
Jake, Area 35 Delegate

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

Greetings Area 35,

It is hard to believe that we are moving into our fall season and coming to another end of summer so quickly. With that our Fall Assembly is fast approaching along with another end to a two year rotation of service here in Area 35. I would like to share one of Bill W.'s writings from our Service Manual page S1 on service.

Our Twelfth Step – carrying the message – is the basic service that the A.A. Fellowship gives; this is our principle aim and the main reason for our existence. Therefore, A.A. is more than a set of principals; it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die.

Hence, an A.A. service is anything whatever that helps us to reach a fellow suffer – ranging all the way from the Twelfth Step itself to a ten-cent phone call and a cup of coffee, and to A.A.'s General Service Office for national and international action. The sum total of all these services is our Third Legacy of Service.

Services include meeting places, hospital cooperation, and inter-group offices; they mean pamphlets, books, and good publicity of almost every description. They call for committees, delegates, trustees, and conferences. And, not to be forgotten, they need voluntary money contributions from within the Fellowship.

The question we hear so often from so many in service is this "How do we get more people involved in A.A. Service?" The question I would ask yourself is this "What have I done to fulfill our Third Legacy of Service? Am I willing to give back to others that which was freely given to me?" With a new rotation just months away please consider continuing or becoming a part of our A.A. service structure. I know from personal experience that service has given me real purpose. With it comes a responsibility and a commitment to continue to carry our message of hope to others. I have heard it said many times that we have to be willing to serve and then leave the rest up to God. Are you willing? Will you be or continue to be a part of "a society of alcoholics in action?"

As always I am truly grateful to all of you and our fellowship for the many blessing I continue to receive. I look forward to seeing you all at our Fall Assembly!

Kelly D., Alternate Delegate

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

Greetings all. We are fast approaching our last major event of this rotation, the Fall Assembly, held at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud Oct. 3 & 4. You can make your hotel reservations at the Kelly Inn; use the code Area 35 for reduced room rates of \$92 per night. In preparation for the Fall Assembly, your group and district might begin discussions and submit (to me through the DCM) items of concern to AA as proposals for the 2016 General Service Conference. We would vote on those items at the Fall assembly. You may also be in the process of planning for voting and rotation in your own districts, and if there is anything the area committee can do to assist you, please feel free to contact any one of us. The Fall assembly will also be an election assembly, so understanding the voting process, including the principle of substantial unanimity. In the March 2015 edition of the Northern Light, I summarized a memory shared by a past WCR trustee of a conversation he had with Jack Norris about substantial unanimity so you can check that out too if you are interested. The service manual is a great resource for learning more about the election process, and it would also make a great discussion topic for a group conscience meeting. You can get a better understanding of the election process, substantial unanimity, and how your group feels about it by discussing it together and applying the principles.

Be sure to review the minutes from the Spring Assembly and the agenda for the Fall Assembly with your groups prior to the event in order to be prepared for old and new business discussions. The zonal forum motion(s) was tabled and will be brought up

(Continued from page 5)

again for further discussion and voting.

Save the date! The Joint Area 35 & 36 Workshop will be held Saturday, Nov. 21, in the St. Cloud Area, most likely from 12:30/1 to 4/4:30. The event is primarily for the area committee chairs and officers to meet and establish ways to better work together to meet the alcoholics needs in Minnesota, but all A.A.'s are welcome to attend. As this event occurs at the end of our rotation (it's always the end of someone's rotation!), after elections and probably after the time the area chair will have made selections for the incoming action committee chair appointees, it would be helpful if the newly elected servants could attend as well (finances willing). The format includes action committee breakout sessions followed by a general sharing period. More details will be shared in the next edition of the Northern Light and at the Fall Assembly.

Unfortunately I did not attend the West Central Regional Forum this year, but I look forward to reading the reports of those who did.

Thank you for letting me be of service to Area 35. I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Sarah.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Good Morning All,

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve Area 35.

I would like to thank Jake J., our Area 35 Delegate for submitting my name to the GSO of AA to participate in the 2015 International Convention. I received and accepted an invitation to chair a meeting at the convention. I received a follow-up thank you letter from Eva S.-2015 International Convention Coordinator

Attending the International Convention was definitely the highlight of my summer and I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in a meeting that about 700 attended. Attending meetings, meeting folks and sitting in a meeting in a full football stadium gave me a great feeling that we are all specks of sand in this successful worldwide fellowship- for those with a desire not to drink. However, it remains vitally important for us stay involved in service to keep our fellowship alive and well into the future. On Saturday evening I attended a long- timer panel in the Georgia Dome. One speaker with 63 years of continuous sobriety remarked-"we all only have today or one day of sobriety- I just

have a few more of those- one days".

I participated in the Area 35 Zonal Forum in Zone 2 for Districts 3, 4 and 15 on August 15 in Battle Lake, MN. I also participated in a District 13 Service Workshop on August 27. I also volunteered for the Area 35/36 MN State Fair booth on August 30. Due to work commitments I was not able to attend the WCRAASF August 21-23 in Casper WY. I also completed minutes from the August Area Committee Meeting.

In loving service, Roger.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Greetings Area 35. It has been a nice warm summer with plenty to do. On August 15<sup>th</sup> I traveled solo to Battle Lake MN for a Zonal Forum. It was a nice warm day as the forum was held outdoors in a pavilion by a lake with a nice cool breeze. There were around 20 or so in attendance and the presentations went well. There were some very interesting questions and discussion from the GSR's in attendance. It showed the interest from all those who participated. I was unable to attend the WCRAAF in Casper WY this year due to work schedule. Hopefully there were some Committee Chairs or Officers from Area 35 who were able to make the trip and have a good time.

We have received a few more Birthday contributions from the Area this period, thankfully. Keep them coming in and let's show our gratitude to Alcoholics Anonymous. The total Birthday Contributions for period IV (2015) are \$ 13.00 compared to total period IV - last year (2014) \$188.00 for a difference of (-\$175.00). Total group contributions for period IV (2015) are \$5427.46 and YTD total \$16,263.82 compared to last year period IV (2014) \$5836.82 for a difference of (-\$409.36) for the period and YTD last year (2014) \$16,473.56 for a difference of (- \$209.74). Total current assets for period IV (July) are \$23,896.59 compared to last year period IV (July) \$22,151.94 for a difference of (+1744.65). We would like to thank all the groups who contributed this period and continue to support Alcoholics Anonymous and Area 35 and all the services we provide.

It is almost the end of the rotation with 3 more months left in the year, which may seem like a short time, but there is still always plenty of work to do in Alcoholics Anonymous with a lot more events going on this time of year.

Yours in Service,

Randy A., Area 35 Treasurer

Northern MN Area Assembly of Alcoholics Anonymous  
**Balance Sheet**

Cash Basis June.1 -July 31, 2015 : Period 4

	Jan 31, 15	Feb 28, 15	Mar 31, 15	Apr 30, 15	May 31, ...	Jun 30, 15	Jul 31, 15
<b>ASSETS</b>							
<b>Current Assets</b>							
<b>Checking/Savings</b>							
1-4200 · Grapevine Cash Account	1,108.40	1,108.40	1,108.40	1,281.40	1,281.40	1,281.40	1,281.40
1-4250 · NL Mailing Flyer Cash	450.00	450.00	600.00	735.00	735.00	735.00	735.00
1000 · Area 35 Checking Account	14,684.23	10,500.74	12,833.00	10,127.35	12,360.54	13,734.46	15,839.67
1100 · Savings - Prudent Reserve	6,039.63	6,039.78	6,039.91	6,040.07	6,040.22	6,040.36	6,040.52
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>22,282.26</b>	<b>18,098.92</b>	<b>20,581.31</b>	<b>18,183.82</b>	<b>20,417.16</b>	<b>21,791.22</b>	<b>23,896.59</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>22,282.26</b>	<b>18,098.92</b>	<b>20,581.31</b>	<b>18,183.82</b>	<b>20,417.16</b>	<b>21,791.22</b>	<b>23,896.59</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>22,282.26</b>	<b>18,098.92</b>	<b>20,581.31</b>	<b>18,183.82</b>	<b>20,417.16</b>	<b>21,791.22</b>	<b>23,896.59</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>							
<b>Equity</b>							
3000 · Opening Bal Equity	27,413.47	27,413.47	27,413.47	27,413.47	27,413.47	27,413.47	27,413.47
32000 · Retained Earnings	-4,451.66	-4,451.66	-4,451.66	-4,451.66	-4,451.66	-4,451.66	-4,451.66
Net Income	-679.55	-4,862.89	-2,380.50	-4,777.99	-2,544.65	-1,170.59	934.78
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>22,282.26</b>	<b>18,098.92</b>	<b>20,581.31</b>	<b>18,183.82</b>	<b>20,417.16</b>	<b>21,791.22</b>	<b>23,896.59</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>22,282.26</b>	<b>18,098.92</b>	<b>20,581.31</b>	<b>18,183.82</b>	<b>20,417.16</b>	<b>21,791.22</b>	<b>23,896.59</b>

## AREA COMMITTEE REPORTS

### PUBLIC INFORMATION (PI)

Lead by example: quietly.

I am just getting settled into a new home, a new community, a new job and a new A.A. group. With the fall assembly coming up I thought it might be a good idea to discuss Area 35 activities when they asked for A.A. updates at the beginning of the meeting. I had previously talked to a couple of the more senior members of the group to find out what their level of involvement or commitment to the A.A. service structure has been. From the reaction I got during my discussion about Area Committee meetings, service structure and the upcoming Fall Assembly it was fairly apparent that many of the members in attendance had never been introduced to A.A.'s service structure.

After I made my announcements I offered to be available to answer any questions that they may have about the goings on at Area 35. I brought up the online meeting locator and explained that group information needs to be current for meetings to be available in the online search tool. There was support to help bring that information up to date. I am hoping that this will be a "foot in the door" to bring discussions about service into each of the meetings in the area.

As servants in A.A. we have made a commitment to not only do our jobs, but also to be stewards of the A.A. message and the service structure that has evolved to help make this message of hope and recovery available to people where they need it when they need it. We may be the only Service Manual that many of our members ever see. Are we inviting them to participate? Are we making the joys of service available to everyone within A.A.?

The meeting that night was based on a reading out of "As Bill Sees It" on the topic of Tolerance. As I listened to the conversation I was again struck by the varieties of experience we each have on the path of recovery. Over the years my experience with A.A. and with the service structure has evolved. I am grateful that I had mentors who were patient and allowed me to have my own experience. I am also grateful for the Elder Statesmen who care for the history and structure of our organization. I know that my understanding of the program of Alcoholics Anonymous has been broadened through my participation in service and my efforts to share what I have learned with others trudging the same path.

As this service rotation comes to an end we are each responsible to rotate out, share what we have learned and take our own turn at the oar.

Jeff C., Area 35 PI Chair

## ARCHIVIST

**Brad submitted this Article in lieu of his report.**

This article appeared in the most recent edition of "Markings" the Archives newsletter. As an Area in 2010 we tried to have an Agenda item to add a footnote to Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers and to add this document to the AA timeline.

An Interview With Dr. X:

After the Big Book was published in April of 1939, A.A. began to slowly receive publicity in the press. Well-known in A.A. history are the Liberty Magazine article of September 1939 and the five-part series in the Cleveland Plain Dealer, published in October-November of the same year. And, of course, the famous Jack Alexander piece in the March 1, 1941 Saturday Evening Post, which would catapult A.A. into the national consciousness. Much lesser known is an interview with a certain "Dr. X." conducted by a writer named D.J. Defoe and published in Your Faith magazine in September of 1939. The headline to the article read: "Through liquor, this physician lost his practice, his reputation and his self-respect. Then one night at a gathering in a private home, he found the way of escape."

Sound familiar? That's because Dr. X was in reality Dr. Bob and the article, entitled "I Saw Religion Remake A Drunkard," was about Bob's achieving sobriety through the help of God.

A.A.'s Archives is in possession of what may be the only known copy of this issue of Your Faith, generously donated by Brad I. in September 2010.

There are a number of interesting things about "I Saw Religion Remake a Drunkard" and a few puzzles as well. As related in Dr.

Bob and the Good Oldtimers (pages 175-176), Dr. Bob wrote to Ruth Hock, A.A. Headquarters nonalcoholic secretary, on August 8, 1939, asking if she had seen the article in Your Faith. Ruth Hock's reply reads, "I rushed right out and bought a copy of this month's 'Faith' and it was quite a thrill. If my opinion is worth anything — bravo! That's the way I like to see it set out — clear cut, honest, straightforward and unembroidered." "I Saw Religion Remake A Drunkard" is all these things, but, as the title and the magazine's focus would indicate, it is heavily slanted to the spiritual aspect of Dr. Bob's recovery. D.J.

Defoe, a magazine writer of the twenties and thirties whose specialty was business and financial topics, seems to have known Dr. Bob before he got sober, had lost touch with him, but had heard "ugly rumors" about his drinking and his failing surgical practice. However, Defoe ran into Bob in 1938 and was impressed by his firm handshake and the "honest I-can-lick-the-world look in his face." Talking with Dr. Bob, he learned about Bob's solitary drinking—"a deadly sopping up of poison"—and steady downfall.

But then Bob told him this story. One day, "a friend [Dr. Bob] trusted got him to attend a little meeting in a living room one evening." Interestingly, what follows is not the story of Bob's encounter with Bill W. in the spring of 1935, but a tale of his meeting a factory foreman who "told how he had been cured of drunkenness by prayer."

Could this have been at an Oxford Group meeting, pre-Bill?

The rest of the article focuses on the familiar way Dr. Bob worked with alcoholics—get a drunk a bed in the hospital, dry him out, and then talk to him frankly about this new program for sobriety. "I have been there myself," Dr. Bob would say. "I know where you hide your bottles. I know every sneaky little thing you do to get liquor." After the man joined him in Bible reading and in prayer, he would generally be allowed to leave the hospital. If the alcoholic stayed sober, he would then begin to help other alcoholics.

Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers mischaracterizes "I Saw Religion Remake A Drunkard" as having been written by Dr. Bob, when in fact he had simply allowed himself to be interviewed by D.J. Defoe. Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers also speculates that Dr. Bob may have signed the article, meaning "that he may have been the first to break his anonymity on the public level.

When queried in 1978, Ruth vaguely remembered the article and thought Dr. Bob did sign it." (Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers, page 176).

This confusion may arise from two sources. It does not appear that the writers of Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers had access to "I Saw Religion Remake A Drunkard." It was for a number of years a "lost" story—not easily discoverable by interested A.A.s until the advent of the digital era. (Copies of the text may now be found online, although the actual magazine is quite scarce.) Secondly, during the course of the story, D.J. Defoe does urge "Dr. X" to give him a "signed interview," but Dr. Bob refuses, saying: "We can't publicize these cures. These men are outside the realm of everyday medicine. We don't succeed every time ourselves. We can't brag." This statement reflects the conflict within the program at the time between those who sought publicity to grow A.A. and those who were afraid it would harm the new movement. It's also instructive to remember that the Your Faith piece appeared prior to the Liberty and Cleveland Plain Dealer articles; it was really a first, cautious stab at explaining the program to a print journalist.

Finally, the article reflects Dr. Bob's personality, to a T. At one point Dr. Bob, discussing his fear that publicity would bring a "trainload" of drunks to his door, tells Defoe: "We couldn't handle a dozen [alcoholics]. Two is a lot. One at a time is plenty. I can't talk to one of these fellows for more than an hour or two without feeling spent and tired, unless I talk like a parrot, and talking like a parrot wouldn't do them any good."

With D.J. Defoe possibly conflating events and almost certainly slanting the piece to fit the readership of Your Faith, "I Saw Religion Remake A Drunkard" is not quite A.A. history (although, it must be said, Dr. Bob and Ruth Hock seemed pleased with the piece). However, in the above quote, one can hear the real and unadulterated voice of Dr. Bob ringing clear as a bell. He knew "talking like a parrot" would not change the minds of any alcoholic. You had to speak from the heart.

(Continued on page 8)

## TREATMENT

Greetings from your area 35 treatment facilities chair!

I would like to thank Steve E. from district 12 for filling in for me at the last committee meeting! We had six districts in attendance District 6, 9, 12, 15 and 21 were present. Welcome to Carrie K. who sat in from District 6. We had a great discussion on singleness of purpose, all districts reported meetings are going well in their treatment facilities although more volunteers are needed. We still need old Grapevines and literature for our committee chairs; this has been very helpful in bringing this into our treatment facilities!

Once again thanks for letting me serve! This is A.A. and I love this place!

Paul M., Area 35 Treatment Chair

## CORRECTIONS

Greetings! My name is Jacob C., and I am your Area 35 Corrections Committee chair. I attended the West Central Region Alcoholics Anonymous Forum (WCRAAF), in Casper, Wyoming this past August. I originally did not request support in my budget, due to attending the Bridging the Gap conference. After some financial surprises in my personal life at the beginning of August, I found that I could not take the time to attend the Bridging the Gap conference. This opened up the possibility for attending the WCRAAF, and I was invited to travel with some servants from District 15. I contacted Sarah K., our Area Chair for direction and permission on the change, and she approved. The flexibility afforded me to adapt to change and exercise judgement is part of the spiritual heart of a number of our 12 Concepts for World Service. I hope I do not disappoint too many members with the change. My phone works, if you would like to call and discuss this with me.

At the WCRAAF, I attended all of the sharing sessions in full except the 1st Timer Sharing session. I spent the whole conference searching for members who may benefit from the Statewide Committee for Corrections, Corrections Workshop on October 10th. Speaking with one member is why I missed a chunk of the one sharing session. I also attended the Corrections Workshop, where we discussed issues our respective areas are having as it relates to working with corrections officials. We engaged in some suggested solutions, which you can find in the minutes of the forum. One of the things I accomplished was to make contact with a couple of individuals who are well acquainted with the Wyoming prison system, and received valuable experience from reformed offenders on how A.A. can better carry the message inside facilities.

I personally distributed 35 flyers, for the upcoming Corrections workshop, and was pleased to see the remaining 40 I brought with me were gone.

One of the things I heard in the General Sharing sessions was a demand for A.A. to provide services to those who suffer accessibility issues, i.e., hearing or sight impaired members limited access to A.A. It was good to hear their concerns, and I was impressed with the polite but firm reminder that A.A. should, and certainly will try to meet the needs of all members, but it is the responsibility of the impaired member to give advanced notice of a need, in order to give the rest of A.A. an opportunity to try and meet the need. I also learned how the National Library of Congress (?) provides some braille and audio book services to people who are legally blind, though they do so in violation of A.A. copyright in some cases. Those services are accessible through most public libraries.

There was one GSR who brought up a concern about the General Service Office's (GSO) lack of response and direction on predatory behavior. The way the comment was framed, was not very spiritual, though certainly was well intended. The response from the GSO office manager was that because of our Traditions, it is not GSO's responsibility to provide direction on the matter. The question is one of someone who is unfamiliar with how the Traditions are implemented, and really, until the body of A.A., i.e., all the groups or a significant majority ask for a service, such as direction, GSO cannot provide it, though they will relate experience when directly asked. Does this sound familiar, as in sponsorship versus God stuff?

I attended another workshop on implementing the Concepts, and left more confused than educated. I believe a workshop, that will be poorly attended, on the Concepts and Traditions, is in order. So anyone who has read this far, I want you to know that in De-

ember or January, I will be hosting some cooking events where we discuss the concepts and traditions, while learning to cook new things, in my home. I think this is the only way to help our fellow A.A.'s come to grasp both Concepts and Traditions.

I will have more to report at the Fall Assembly.

Yours in service, Jacob C.

## ARCHIVES

Greetings everyone,

Just finishing up last minute details for the Saturday September 12th Archives event at the Cold Spring Alano Club, taking place from 10:00 am till 2:00 pm—lunch will be served.

Sorry, but I was unable to put together an archives quiz at the Area Committee Meeting. The group ran out of time and we were running out of ideas.

I attended the 35th Anniversary of the Westside Meeting in White Park—great fellowship and great speaker.

Hope to see you all at the Districts 13 and 15 A.A. Way Back When and What It Was Like event.

Yours in service,

Pete B., Area Archives Chair.

## COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (CPC)

I attended the MN State Fair on Saturday August 29th and had an excellent time. There were inquiries as to where young people might be able to find meetings and questions about what A.A. does and does not do. There were a bunch of "friends" who stopped in to say thanks for our service of being there. One gentleman talked about his experiences over 47 years of sobriety. Thanks to Dana J. from District 8 who hung around and shared his company and great sense of humor. Such a wonderful experience and opportunity to be of service.

Thank you for allowing me to participate in my recovery.

Servando

## LITERATURE

Hello Everyone,

It has been quiet in literature since the ACM. I have placed one order so far and am getting ready to place another order for the Fall Assembly. The deadline for that order is September 20th. Please get the word out so we can fulfill as many orders as possible. You never know who may need literature if you aren't out asking. I have a large supply of books on hand at this time. I also have about 10 group workbooks for those that would like them—what's in them are a GSR kit including a service manual, about 40 different pamphlets, and a host of service related materials along with the 12 steps, 12 traditions and 12 concepts. I look forward to seeing you all this October.

In Service,

Jim S., Area 35 Literature Chair.

## GRAPEVINE

Greetings from Northern Minnesota!

Summer is winding down with the days warm and the nights cool. I had the opportunity to attend the International Conference in Atlanta. It was quite the experience. That many alcoholics in one place and things ran pretty smooth. You'll be glad to know the Grapevine is alive and well; they are working on expanding their space to better serve us with the Grapevine. If you don't have the Grapevine, I encourage to get one.

We can't be self-supporting without supporting the publications. I have the Grapevine on line also and there are some things there not in the magazine. Perks..

We are coming to the end of our rotation and I can honestly say, I have enjoyed this round of service. I was once again overwhelmed by the love and caring of Alcoholics Anonymous and I am proud to be a small part of it. I have experience great joy and great sorrow without taking a drink and for that I am grateful.

Thanks for allowing me to serve. I will see you in October.

Antonette

**GROUP RECORDS**

Sept. 1, 2015

Hello Area 35, I continue updating your group's information as I receive it. Thank you to the DCMs who are continuing to work on your information for the groups. It helps to get this updated for the A.A. members who are servicing and so they receive the information from GSO; that your meeting places and times are correct.

I will be attending the Fall Assembly in St. Cloud. As this is our last assembly of this rotation and a voting assembly.

I am so grateful to have been apart of this wonderful Area 35.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Rolene L., Area 35 Group Records.

**WEBMASTER/WEB TECHNOLOGY  
WEB area35.org**

**Work in Progress:** I have been testing a search routine to search all back issues of the Northern Light. This function should be available on area35.org by the time this issue of the Northern Light is published.

**Statics:**

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Feb-15	2,046	3,666	10,268	110,959	2.91 GB
Mar-15	2,329	4,100	10,958	127,402	3.31 GB
Apr-15	2,257	3,749	9,985	118,010	2.78 GB
May-15	2,169	3,697	10,199	112,677	2.72 GB
Jun-15	2,163	3,724	11,071	111,621	2.34 GB
Jul-15	2,372	3,755	11,144	125,114	2.63 GB
Aug-15	2,230	3,357	10,443	114,160	2.19 GB
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,865</b>	<b>30,263</b>	<b>85,701</b>	<b>935,620</b>	<b>21.50 GB</b>

**Other interesting WEB August facts:**

- <http://area35.org/meeting.php> was viewed 2143 times
- <http://area35.org/calendar.php> was viewed 306 times
- google search sent 1,304 visitors to our WEB site
- aa.org sent 123 visitors to our site
- region5recover.com sent 109 visitor to our site
- aacentrallakes.org sent 38 visitors to area35.org
- usrecovery.info sent 11 visitors to area35.org

By far most visitors visit area35.org to obtain meeting information

**WEB Technology aaMeetingLocator  
PC**

	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan-15	4,884	8,077	32,464	162,168	3.82 GB
Feb-15	4,130	6,708	23,514	135,505	3.39 GB
Mar-15	4,975	7,505	26,964	155,744	3.89 GB
Apr-15	4,634	7,372	24,187	147,385	3.66 GB
May-15	4,512	6,647	23,043	138,664	3.15 GB
Jun-15	4,679	6,978	28,858	143,969	3.30 GB
Jul-15	5,148	7,570	25,336	155,229	3.63 GB
Aug-15	4,987	7,260	24,497	153,905	3.54 GB
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,949</b>	<b>58,117</b>	<b>208,863</b>	<b>1,192,569</b>	<b>28.38 GB</b>

**Mobile**

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan-15	2,224	2,916	11,131	17,706	552.92 MB
Feb-15	1,808	2,377	9,268	14,920	457.49 MB
Mar-15	2,485	3,367	12,471	20,444	637.46 MB
Apr-15	2,172	2,951	11,238	18,002	555.05 MB
May-15	1,724	2,312	8,678	13,747	421.80 MB
Jun-15	1,752	2,397	8,776	13,921	422.49 MB
Jul-15	1,871	2,486	9,551	14,773	427.01 MB
Aug-15	1,956	2,652	10,048	15,668	481.91 MB
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,992</b>	<b>21,458</b>	<b>81,161</b>	<b>129,181</b>	<b>3.96 GB</b>

- <http://aaminnesota.org/onsearch/showmeetingsearch> was viewed 9102 times
- google search sent 3,548 visitors to our aaMinnesota.org site
- aa.org sent 277 visitors to aaMinnesota.org
- area36.org sent 163 visitor to aaMinnesota.org
- area35.org sent 95 visitors to aaMinnesota.org
- aaminneapolis.org sent 147 visitors to aaMinnesota.org

**PC + Mobile\**

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan-15	7,108	10,993	43,595	179,874	4.37 GB
Feb-15	5,938	9,085	32,782	150,425	3.85 GB
Mar-15	7,460	10,872	26,964	176,188	4.53 GB
Apr-15	6,806	10,323	39,435	165,387	3.66 GB
May-15	6,236	8,959	31,721	152,411	4.22 GB
Jun-15	6,431	9,375	37,634	157,890	3.72 GB
Jul-15	7,019	10,056	34,887	170,002	4.06 GB
Aug-15	6,943	9,912	34,545	172,075	4.02 GB
<b>Total</b>	<b>53,941</b>	<b>79,575</b>	<b>281,563</b>	<b>1,324,252</b>	<b>32.52 GB</b>

After reviewing many web sites statistics, aaMinnesota.org (A.K.A. aaMeetingLocator.org) is well used and has a lot of activity every month. People are finding our web site to find aa meetings in Minnesota. This is a successful web site that reaches aa members and the general public.

**Who Turn the Lights Off.**

When a meeting stops meeting who turns the lights off and cleans up the meeting databases and GSO records? In many cases we leave the task of updating meeting locator databases to the new comers and visitors that show up and find out that the meeting is no longer meeting. I attend meetings that close with our Responsibility Pledge.

*I am Responsible.  
When Anyone, Anywhere  
Reaches Out For Help,  
I Want The Hand Of A.A.  
Always To Be There.  
And For That,  
I Am Responsible !*

When a meeting stops meeting we need to be responsible and clean up the meeting records with the district, area, and GSO. We are all responsible to keep our meeting lists up to date.

Bob B., WEB Technology and Webmaster

**NORTHERN LIGHT**

Greetings Area 35.

I am really looking forward to the Fall Assembly and elections. I am grateful for having had the opportunities to work with and

get to know all of our candidates for delegate. I was unable to attend the West Central Forum and have missed many other summer activities due to some chaotic work changes.

One of the most significant effects of the A.A. program has had in my life is having the certainty that I need to stick to taking the basic actions even when there doesn't seem to be much purpose or meaningful results from doing so (trusting the process). These are the things that keep me grounded in the primary and singleness of purpose, not allowing me to drift far away with outside issues. Any difficulty past my sobriety is a "luxury problem." In several of my past reports I have mentioned the jail meetings I am involved in. I celebrated a sobriety birthday in late August and I have put down a few of my thoughts that, in my round-about-way, explain the importance of sober birthdays and their connectedness to my humility.

"Without much doubt, a million alcoholics have approached A.A. during the last thirty years. We can soberly ask ourselves what became of the 600,000 who did not stay."

This quote comes from page 328 of *Language of The Heart*. While it brings home the sentiment that "*Alcoholics Anonymous* is for those who want it, not for those who need it," it certainly precipitates a certain degree of humility in me, cause to ponder on how it is also a program of "seconds and inches." Having spent the latter part of my sober journey in more populated areas than my rural and more remote origins I am particularly aware of the people who come in and then disappear; those who come in

and leave, but return to stay; and those who come in and go back out repetitively—never able to maintain consistent sobriety until their death. Even as I write this I am reminded of a man in his mid-fifty's in rural Neodesha, KS who, after five years sober in A.A., drank again and was never able to get back and stay "on the beam"; he was eventually placed in a rest home as he could not care for himself.

Sometimes the experience I share in working with others is not specifically mine but rather my sober awareness of others' experience, because of the effect they have had on my being able—or willing—to stay and do what I am supposed to do.

Happy and grateful to be a member of *Alcoholics Anonymous* and Area 35,

Rodney.



**"I had a layover in Omaha ... which led to a hangover in Des Moines."**



**AREA 35 COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**AUGUST 2ND, 2015**

**AITKIN ALANO CLUB**

**322 FIRST AVENUE N.E.**

**AITKIN, MN 56431**

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

Recognition of past delegates in attendance: Tom A. Panel 50; Susie A. Panel 48; Bruce B. Panel 48; Jim K. Panel 62.

Minutes from the June 2015 Area Committee Meeting were approved.

**OFFICER REPORTS**

**Delegate-MIKE J.** Greetings fellow A.A. members. I hope things are going well in your lives and in the lives of those you care about. It seems like the last few months have been filled with funerals, Delegate reports and relatives. What a way to live. God has blessed us richly. I have had the opportunity since June to visit Grand Rapids, Palo, Fertile, my home town Hibbing, Finlayson, International Falls, Brainerd, Albany and Cambridge. While the turnouts have been smaller than hope some good discussions about A.A. in general have been had. I got to see lots of old friends and visit with some new ones.

It sounded like the International was a success. With over 47,000 pre-registrations. Last count I heard was 65,000. Wow! The GSO/ Grapevine remodel is about to get started in August. We have had many retiring servants from GSO. We are starting to experience book sales declining and no rise in contributions. Much of this has been expected as the digital age grows. It is time for the groups and individuals in A.A. to step up and do their part by sharing what services they would like to see cut or by participating with their dollars. We will not be able to depend on literature to make up for our lack of contributions. But without input from a substantial number of groups we will be unable to act as they would have us. I hope that we can all encourage groups in our area to start taking part in their fellowship by voicing their group consciences on how they would like us to operate.

It has been a wonderful experience serving as your delegate and I hope that I have encouraged some participation. May we continue to strive for unity and be guided by God thru our group conscience. I have prepared a presentation for the WCR Forum on A.A. now and in the future. I hope to see many of you there. Although I realize that August may be tough for many to attend. I am looking forward to the upcoming elections as we have a group of awesome individuals willing to stand. Next stop Keep it Simple and then on to Battle Lake.

God Bless and thank you. Michael( Jake) Panel 64

**ALTERNATE DELEGATE-KELLY D.** Greetings Area 35, Here we are in the month of August already and close to another end to summer and another two year rotation. I hope you all have been able to get out and enjoy our beautiful weather and spend some time this summer with family, friends and attend the many A.A. events going on all over our Area. I have made the final arrangements for our upcoming Area 35 Service Workshop which will be held January 16-17, 2016. It will be at the Tuscan Center at Midtown Square and the hotel accommodations at the Hampton Inn & Suites which is very close to the center in St. Cloud. I have the flier done and there are copies here today on the back table. I have also emailed it to all the DCM's, Area Officers, Area Chairs and had Bob put it on our Area 35 calendar. Unfortunately Emi B., Grapevine Editor/Publisher from GSO contacted me and declined after accepting in February my invitation to be our guest that weekend. She had many invitations with her presence in high demand and I guess we happen to be one she had to decline. I wonder if her decision had anything to do with the weather in January in northern Minnesota, well I guess we will never know. Our theme for the Workshop, the same as GSO for 2016, is "Our Spiritual Way of Life: Steps, Traditions and Concepts." I will be working on finding another guest for us that weekend. I will also have the Agenda completed shortly after the Fall Assembly once we know who our incoming DCM's will be so that I can ask districts to present on certain topics and allow plenty of time to prepare. On Saturday August 15<sup>th</sup> us Area Officers will be presenting at the Zone 2 Zonal Forum which consists of Districts 3, 4 and 15 in Battle Lake with District 3 hosting. It will be from 2:00 – 4:00 pm and will be held during

their Round Up that day. It will be a great day of fun and fellowship and we look forward to seeing many of you there. I have emailed the flier and Agenda to those DCM's and also have copies here today. Our last one of the year will be held in Zone 4 which consists of Districts 8, 9, 12 and 14. I will be getting with those Districts so we can secure a date for this last one of this rotation. Just a reminder that Zonal Forums will be a topic of discussion and a vote could be possibly taken at our Fall Assembly if we should continue with them. Please remember to take this back to your Districts and groups so you are prepared to discuss it then. I recently attended the International A.A. Convention in Atlanta, Georgia with over 60,000 others. All I can say is WOW—what an experience. I walked away that weekend with more gratitude and love in my heart for our program. Some of the most wonderful people and best conversations occurred on our travels on the buses and trains from our hotel to the Convention Center daily which was only 10 minutes away but sometime took almost two hours to arrive at during the evening hours. The opening flag ceremony and old timers 5 minute talks were an awesome experience to see along with the spiritual experience of 60,000 of us holding hands and saying the Our Father together. Truly an experience I will never forget! A special thank you also to my traveling companions, Antonette and Gail. I look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming Fall Assembly and as always thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Kelly D. Alternate Delegate

**AREA CHAIR -Sarah K.** Greetings! Having published the Delegate resumes in the Northern Light, it is time for groups and districts to review and get to know their candidates! Feel free to call on them prior to the elections at the Fall Assembly. The assembly will be held at the St. Cloud River Center and you can make your reservations at the Kelly Inn (refer to Area 35 Assembly rates (see flyer for more information). Hopefully DCMs can encourage groups to send representation to the Fall assembly for voting. Ideally, the outgoing representatives will attend in order to cast informed votes as they have been serving for awhile and hopefully are familiar with the candidates. Since many groups and districts hold elections in September, prior to the Fall Assembly, new GSRs and DCMs sometimes like to attend if funds allow in order to attend the GSR orientation and learn more about the expectations for their position. At the Fall assembly we will also be voting for the secretary, treasurer, area chairperson, and alternate delegate, and the newly elected Area Chair will be looking for suggestions of willing people to stand for action committee chairpeople, so it would be good to begin considering and talking to people to find good leaders who would be willing candidates. Elections take place on Sunday morning, and anyone can be nominated for the Area Officer chair positions (besides the delegate), and any voting member can make nominations. If you are unsure of who might make a good leader, look to the outgoing DCMs and GSRs you've served with who did a good job (see Concept 9 on qualities of a good leader). Anyone (even non voting members) can make suggestions to the incoming area chair for area action committee chair positions. Additionally, I will have the updated guidelines published on the Area Website by September 1st so you can become familiar with the responsibilities and activities of the chair positions.

The area officers will be working on revising their Fall Assembly presentations to provide GSRs more explicit instruction on their positions per feedback on the Spring Assembly evaluations. I'd also like to suggest that it would be extremely beneficial for the newly elected/appointed committee chairs (who will be announced at the December Area Committee Meeting) to attend the December ACM in order to meet with the outgoing position holders and exchange materials. Outgoing chair people: it was very helpful for me to have all my responsibilities put into a calendar format, grouped by event (thank you for being so organized Kelly D.!), and if you don't have something similar, it would be a very helpful document to put together and pass on! We could look at it as if we are trying to leave our chair positions better than we found them (not that they were in bad shape when we took over, but it is always possible to improve).

I will not be able to attend the West Central Regional Forum due

to my work schedule, but safe travels to all attending! Thank you for letting me be of service. Sarah K.

**Secretary-Roger R.** Good Morning All,

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve Area 35.

I would like to thank Jake J., our Area 35 Delegate, for submitting my name to the GSO of A.A. to participate in the 2015 International Convention. I received an accepted an invitation to chair a meeting at the convention. I received the following follow thank you letter:

Dear Roger,

Thank you for your contribution to the success of A.A.'s 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2015 International Convention in Atlanta. On behalf of the General Service Board, I want to thank you for chairing the meeting "Taking the Steps Again".

The Convention theme "80 Years – Happy, Joyous and Free" has become part of the experience, strength and hope of an estimated 57,000 attendees: A.A. members, Al-Anon and Alateen members, families and friends. Many hearts were touched by the love and service of those, including you, who gave of their time and talents to make this weekend so special.

In the end we were, after all, just part of simple A.A. meetings for tens of thousands of A.A. members. I hope we will meet again soon and be able to continue sharing this Fellowship of the Spirit.

With gratitude,

Eva S., 2015 International Convention Coordinator.

#

Attending my first International Convention was definitely the highlight of my summer and I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in a meeting that about 700 attended. Attending meetings, meeting folks and sitting in a meeting in a full football stadium gave me a feeling that we are all specks of sand in successful worldwide fellowship for those with a desire not to drink. One speaker with 62 years of continuous sobriety remarked—"we all only have one day of sobriety- I just have a few more of those days".

I am looking forward to participating in the Area 35 Zonal Forum in Zone 2 for Districts 3, 4 and 15 on August 15. I look forward to participating in the District 13 Service Workshop on August 27. I will also be participating as a volunteer for the Area 35/36 mn state fair booth on August 30 and if all goes well attending the WCRAASF August 21-23 in Casper WY.

To complete my minutes from this ACM in a timely manner please leave me your report from today in hard copy of send me your report via email by August 10, 2015.

In service, Roger.

**TREASURER- Randy A.**

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS

**NORTHERN LIGHT-RODNEY S.** Other than the usual compiling of information, articles, reports and *what have you* that go into each Northern Light issue, I don't have much to report.

I let another slip get by with the omission of John D.'s name and location for his contribution in the Letters to the Editor section of the web version of this issue of the Northern Light. That information was included in the printed version. I had noticed a difference in text box outlining but was not concerned about the fact that the article in the print version was not quite as concise in its appearance. This is one of those cases I discussed earlier about getting caught up in all the "cool" and "neat" things we can do with today's technology while missing the more important things. This is particularly important in this instance as we want to be able to see that the source of an article such as this is an individual so it will not be construed as a reflection of Area 35's stand or opinion. I will do my best to ensure that all sources are included in the final edit of both versions in the future.

I got wrapped up with some difficulties with the resumes and a flyer so that I skimmed over the coming events without noticing I had neglected to delete ones in May that had already taken place.

I have been busy with job and housing changes. The weather has been too hot for me and the thing that's affected me the most is that we haven't been conducting jail meetings at Douglas County in Superior, WI for about 6 weeks due to their elevators being broken down. We were able to get started again this past

Wednesday.

It's hard to believe there are only two more issues of the Northern Light left to do during my rotation. I remember when I started, thinking, "What did I get myself into?" I would be happy to discuss with anyone who is interested specifics involved in some of the workings and possible and probable issues in preparing the newspaper for each mailing. Next Northern Light deadline is September 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you all for helping me do this. In service, Rodney.

**District 14 –Deb A.** Greetings from I Falls/Littlefork

I have been unable to attend meetings most of this year which is not healthy for our District. This is my year 3 and need new blood. I am excited to run for a committee chair position.

We will hold elections in August to be prepared for next DCM to attend the Fall assembly.

We have lost and gained chairs throughout the year but we haven't given up. Our Literature/Grapevine, PI/CPC have been merged with our new Chair, Steph, at the helm- she will do a great job.

Yours in service, Deb A.

**Literature –Jim S.** Good morning everyone, we had 5 districts represented with 9 people in attendance. We discussed the topic of a lending tree library that Tom brought up that they do in their district. We also discussed the topic of whether literature sales are declining. By the way Jake just said they are while I am writing this so as the literature chair I will do what I can to do my part in helping with this trend by getting district literature chairs to make sure groups are getting the literature they need. The last topic we discussed was getting the word out that we will need a new literature chair as of this coming January 1st. If someone is interested I hope they will speak up with their interest. Out next function will be the Fall Assembly—the deadline to place an order is September 20th. I do have a good supply of books on the back table. If I do not have what you are looking for, I have a yellow legal pad with titles for orders for Fall Assembly on the back table. In service, Jim S.

**District 1- Jon S.**

**District 3-Steve D.** Good Morning, my name is Steve and I am an alcoholic. I am the DCM for District 3. Our District meetings are held the third Sunday of the month in Detroit Lakes, MN. You are welcome to join us anytime.

Attendance this summer has been down. However, that seems to be the status quo for the lakes country.

Our Hotline has been active during the summer, mostly people looking for meetings while at the lakes.

PI/CPC has been assisting with distributing phone tear-offs that we put in local businesses.

Corrections reported one inmate that has contacted him for meetings and a sponsor when he gets out.

Contributions to the district have sagged but we have in the last month seen an upturn in contributions.

Our new webmaster for the district, Tony A, has done a tremendous job with our Website. We encourage you to visit it anytime.

Detroit Lakes A.A. hosted a round robin with joint efforts by two different groups. It was a huge success. It is great to see groups working together to carry the message. Round Robins have had good attendance during the summer even though everyone has a lot going on.

We are set for the District Roundup in two weeks. Our Alternate DCM, Ray B. has done a tremendous job in organizing and we have had tremendous support from the Fergus Falls groups. We will hold our District meeting at 10:00 AM that morning of the roundup. You are all welcome to attend. Our district is happy to help with the Zonal Forum and has worked hard to get groups and individuals from the North Dakota side of the river to come out to the roundup. It was probably because we told them Jake would be doing his Delegate presentation.

Our district elections will be held in September. We encourage new District Chairs to attend the Fall Assembly in St. Cloud and to also attend these Area Committees. There is such a wealth of knowledge they can turn to when learning about service work.

I am grateful that I have had this opportunity to be a part of District 3 and Area 35. It has always been a rewarding and enriching part of my sobriety. My sponsor was right, we serve to learn

and we learn to serve.

Yours in Service, Steve D.

**CPC –Servando M.** There have not been a lot of requests of the CPC Chair in the past few months, so I do not have a lot to report. On a personal note I have been asked to speak at several meetings and treatment centers. I have shared how important service work has been in my life and recovery. As this rotation comes to a close I realize how grateful I am to all of you, who allow me to grow and participate in service work. If there is any way I can assist any group or district please do not hesitate to let me know. Thank you again, yours in service, Servando.

**District 16-Griffin M.**

August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015

- We had 10 in attendance at our last District meeting.
- Weekly Jail meetings are going on thanks to our Monday Noon GSR Mike F.
- Monthly Treatment informational and speaker meetings continue to be fulfilled at three of the facilities in our District.
- Tuesday Solutions had 68 people register at their annual round-up, 'A Weekend with Bill and Lois', at Camp Hiawatha on Deer Lake last weekend.
- A GSR Orientation Workshop Committee is moving forward, they've approached Dan H. to be the presenter. The committee is planning to host the workshop on a Saturday in October following the Fall Assembly.

Yours in Service, Griffin M.

**District 7- Carl P.** Hello all. Greetings from District 7. We had our Area 35 Delegate Jake give his Delegate report before our district meeting July 16<sup>th</sup>. The following Sunday on July 19<sup>th</sup> we had a picnic for District 7 members and family. No district funds were used for this event. There were about 75 people in attendance. Our district had a booth at the Pine County and Aitkin County Fairs. This coming week we will have a booth at the Crow Wing County Fair. Our Area PI chair was asked about having a booth at Fort Ripley September 12, 2015 at The Power of One Fun Run Event. The event is a suicide prevention workshop. I volunteered District 7 to have a booth at this event and I will man this booth.

District 7 will have its September District meeting in Pequot Lakes. We are exploring rotating meeting sites for the District meetings. We may have November's meeting in Aitkin or Ironton. The next rotation will make the final decision to either continue rotating or keep them all in Brainerd.

Yours in service, Carl P., DCM District 7.

**Webmaster –Bob B.** The calendar is very active. There are many A.A. events in area35.

At our committee meeting we discussed what is an A.A. event and should we be screening flyers. The discussion continued with all area committee members. Our area website should follow our traditions and guidelines. The Webmaster along with the web committee will review all flyers. Those that do not follow our A.A. traditions will not be put on the WEB. The good news is that almost all flyers are following our traditions.

Working on a Northern Light search. This will be a local site search that will allow us to search back issues of our Northern Light.

**Treatment-Steve E. for Paul M.** In attendance today we have Districts 6, 9, 12, 15 and 21. Welcome to Carrie K. from District 6. We had a discussion on singleness of purpose and how to best present ourselves in a treatment setting and share what A.A. is and how to get to meetings. We also discussed the ongoing problems of getting staff to better understand the A.A. message without stepping on toes and the lack of NA structure in a lot of places which leaves A.A. the only support for many drug addicts.

Kathy from District 6 brought old Grapevines to pass out at a treatment center. District 12 reported that all treatment centers are being covered and Bethel Saturday Open Speaker Meeting is well attended. District 15 reported Pat M. is the new treatment chair and trying to learn about the position. District 9 reports the Virginia, Hibbing and Lakeplace treatment centers are holding monthly meetings. District 21 Jeff is the new Treatment Chair. District 6 reports Dellwood Treatment Center is having an informational meeting, Rush City Treatment Center will accept literature but has not invited us for meetings. Yours in Service, Steve E.

**District 21-Irv R.** District 21 is in fair condition. We have filled two chairs that were unoccupied: treatment and corrections. We are still in need of a secretary. Finances are good. Looking forward to the next rotation. Next district meeting will be in Park Rapids or Walker. Best wishes, Irv.

**District 6 – Garrett B.** My name is Garrett and I'm an alcoholic DCM for dist. 6. We put the final touches on our P.I./CPC luncheon planned for Friday September 18th at the first Baptist Church in Cambridge. We sent out invitations and have started receiving RSVP's. This is a big event for District 6. And we are looking forward to a large turnout. I want to thank Jake our delegate for coming down and giving his report back. Our state fair volunteers are in order and I haven't had anyone back out yet. Our corrections and treatment needs are being met. I attended the area 35/36 joint corrections committee meeting, I learned a lot and it was good to interact with another area to achieve one common goal. I plan on continuing to visit groups and keep updating our group records.

Yours in service. Garrett B.

**Group Records- Rolene L.** Hello Area 35, I am continuing working on your group information updating and a few new groups. One more committee meeting after today of this rotation. I am very grateful to have been apart of this fellowship of service this past rotation. I am looking forward to the Fall Assembly. Not much else to report. Yours in Service, Rolene L.

**District 13- Christine G.** We hold our district meeting the 1st Monday of the month at the St. Cloud Alano Club starting at 7:30pm. We have had an average attendance of 28 people.

Not much has happened since we were here in June.

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

We will be having a Service Workshop on Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm at the St. Cloud Library.

We are very excited to be hosting the Fall Assembly in October and the River's Edge Convention Center. Hope to see you all there.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve.

Christine G.

**District 11 Gary-Alt. DCM** All of our commitments are being met thanks to our volunteers. Jake gave his report back on the first Tuesday in July.

Yours in service, Gary (for Bill).

**Grapevine- Antonette F.** Greetings! Thanks for everyone's patience and kindness during this time. I had the opportunity to attend the conference in Atlanta. Alcoholics Anonymous is certainly alive and well all over the world! From the opening flag ceremony to the time we stepped on the plane to go home, I experienced the love of this program. Thanks to Kelly and Gayle for this opportunity. The grapevine continues to need our support, if you haven't tried it, I encourage you to give it a try. If there are books and things you ordered and haven't received, please let me know so I can get them to you.

Thanks for allowing me to serve, Antonette.

**District 8- Jerry B.** District 8 DCM report. ACM 8/2/2015. Hi, I'm Jerry B. and I'm an alcoholic, serving as DCM of District 8. All's well within our district. We hold our district meetings the first full week of each month with the meeting locations and day of week held on a rotating basis. Committee meetings began at 6:30 with our regular business meeting at 7:00. Our next meeting is tomorrow 8/3 to be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook, hosted by the Cook Sunday Night Group. All A.A. members are welcome to attend. Our district secretary had to resign recently because of family health issues. Jennifer S. stepped up immediately to the plate to help us fulfill the duties of the secretary until the end of this rotation if need be. Elections are held in September and our district meeting is tomorrow, to see how this situation can be handled. In the meantime, THANKS Jennifer. Please don't forget to discuss the topic of Zonal Forums within your districts. We hope to have the issue on the agenda for the Fall Assembly. Butch R. and Sam K. shared with our fellow A.A. members at Sandstone Federal Prison in June. Sorry I couldn't be here today (my loss). It's a rarity when I've got to work on a Sunday. Thanks for giving the District 8 report Butch, yours in service, Jerry.

**District 15- Melissa M.** Greetings from District 15, We hope

(Continued from page 13)

that all is well and that all of you are enjoying your summer! We hold our District meeting the first Monday of the month at 8:00 pm at the Albany Senior Center. We are excited to announce that we have a NEW Treatment Chair, Pat M. from Melrose, we are happy to have him as a part of the District and look forward to seeing what our District has in store with his service. We had our delegates report on June 18<sup>th</sup>. We want to thank all who attended and especially thank Jake for sharing his experience of New York and answering a lot of questions that we all had. We recently set up a literature booth at the Stearns County Fair on July 29<sup>th</sup>-August 2<sup>nd</sup>. I will be attending the West Central Regional Forum along with our Treatment Chair Pat M. We are going to be carpooling with the Area Corrections Chair Jake C. Our district is having voting nominations take place August 3<sup>rd</sup> at our monthly district meeting to see who will be of service at the district level with voting taking place at the September district meeting. We placed a literature order and restocked on Big Books and 12 x 12's. We also started a literature account. I will be volunteering as the captain at the State Fair Booth on August 29<sup>th</sup>. I was asked to help do a group inventory for a group in Elk River, which was a very informative. I was also asked to attend a meeting for those in Sherburne County that are on probation due to drinking violations, who are unsure about A.A. but are able to attend an orientation to see what A.A. is truly about. I think it is wonderful that they have that option and I really enjoyed it. I am going to try and attend the Zonal Forum in Battle Lake that District 3 is hosting on Saturday August 15<sup>th</sup> and also the District 13 A.A. Service Workshop that is on Tuesday August 27<sup>th</sup>. Our District is also co-hosting along with District 13 the "A.A. Back When What it was like" Archives event that is taking place on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015. It was such a pleasure getting to know all of you the past 1 year and 10 months (I did not have the DCM position right away last rotation.) I have learned from every single one of you and I am so incredibly blessed and thankful to be around such amazing people in such an amazing program. Thank you for allowing me to be of service, Melissa A.

#### PI-Jeff-C.

I was contacted by a representative of the Minneapolis intergroup about the service opportunity associated with the "Power of One Fun Run" that deals with the problem of suicide in the military. There is a run scheduled at Camp Ripley on September 12, 2015. The event is set up to allow organizations to provide resources for people who have been affected by suicide. The group decided that we could participate in this event to provide information about A.A. without affiliating with the sponsoring organization. Carl P, DCM District 7 will coordinate a booth space and volunteers to cover the event.

The schedule for the State Fair has been set. Day captains have been chosen. Thank you Melissa and Keith for taking on this role. At this point Melissa and Keith will take calls related to their specific days at the State Fair. Reminder Area 35 is staffing the A.A. booth at the State Fair the first Saturday and Sunday of the Fair.

Districts continue to stay busy making sure that A.A. meetings and resources are available to people who need to find us. District 16 has been distributing lots of meeting schedules and prints them in small batches so that they are as current as possible. District 7 participated at the Morrison and Aitkin County Fairs. Crow Wing County Fair is next week. District 4 has a new PI Chair. They have printed new hotline cards and are working with the co-chair to make contacts. A sponsorship meeting is planned. District 6 is planning a September 18 CPC luncheon. District 9 is working to get A.A. schedules printed in local newspapers.

Yours in service, Jeff.

**District 4-Deb H.** Many changes have occurred within our District over the past 2 months. The bad news is our Treasurer and DCM are moving out of the District as of August 30th, and our PI/CPC chairperson has dropped out of service. The good news is that we have a new Treasurer, we have a new DCM, we have a new Alternate DCM, and we have new co-chairs for the PI/CPC committee. We are hoping the "revolving door" stops soon.

In spite of the "revolving door," District 4 continues to provide

the following services:

- the AA Helpline phone line;
- our Corrections Committee continues to coordinate weekly A.A. meetings at the Douglas County Jail (MN);
- our Treatment Facilities committee is up and running and the chairperson is in the process of coordinating with the District's groups to bring A.A. into the treatment center in Alexandria;
- our literature chairperson continues to be available and distribute literature to the various meetings in our district;
- our new co-PI/CPC chairpersons are busy attending to the outreach cards which will be placed in numerous facilities throughout the District. The PI/CPC committee will also be planning and hosting a Sponsorship Workshop this fall.

As a district, we continue to educate and encourage the district groups about the importance of a GSR. We hope this will yield greater GSR attendance.

Thank you from District 4.

**CORRECTIONS-Jake C.** Good morning! The Corrections Committee had 10 in attendance with 1 GSR who is joining us for the first time. Most committees reported their commitments being met, but Kanebec and Sherburne county need more volunteers. I attended the Rush City prison transition fair in June. We generated several contacts for continued professional cooperation, I have and will share the contacts with the respective CPC/PI/corrections committees between Area 35 and 36. I am now able to commit to going to Wyoming, though I was not budgeted for this.

Since you unanimously approved my 2015 budget and thus agreed to send me to the Bridging the Gap conference in Park City Utah, I expect you DCMs to involve me in workshops or sharing sessions as it relates to working with professionals in treatment, corrections, and those coming into contact with alcoholics as part of their careers. Otherwise my time and your financial resources could be better used. As of right now, I will be driving or riding out there by way of campgrounds and extended family. Likely camping with one or two nights in a hotel and am pressuring my wife to accept an impromptu family reunion in Denver so as to cut my budget in half. I am without children right now, so this is exciting and feasible, but my wife wants a family so...

Yours in service, Jacob C.

**District 2-Myron H.** My name is Myron and I'm an alcoholic. I am currently the DCM for District 2. Mike H. has stepped down due to commitments in other areas of his life. Thanks, Mike, for the great service work over the last two years as DCM! District 2 will be having elections September 13, 2 p.m. in Middle River at the First Lutheran Church. We are currently asking groups to sent people to the district meeting to stand for the various positions in the next rotation. Something new for our district to consider is supporting the event called Camperama. It is held in Lake Bronson State Park near Lake Bronson, Minnesota, each Memorial Day in a campground separate from the regular park campground. Its is sponsored by A.A. groups in Grand Forks ND. Since we don't have a round up in our area maybe this is something we could get behind annually. While I sometimes get discouraged by lack of participation at the district level, I just need to remember where I was 5 years ago—going from jail to treatment to jail with little hope for a happy life. Today I have a much improved life and for that I am grateful. I am trying to carry the message the best I can to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Thank you all for your service. Yours in service, Myron.

**District 5-Jon S.** All is well in District 5. Dean needed to step down as DCM and we would like to thank him for his great service. Jon is our new DCM. Our commitments are being met in probation and treatment.

In service, Jon.

**District 9-Fred H.** Things are moving, hopefully forward as all of our chair positions are filled again and commitment are being met. Our new PI/CPC Chair is contacting organization to let them know we are willing to assist with alcoholism issues. We now have an A.A. library with Grapevines and sanctioned AA literature. One member donated time and materials to build a

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

beautiful case to keep the books in. Our delegate gave his report followed by a pot-luck and District meeting. We have asked the groups to give suggestions for the next rotation. Thanks, Fred.

**Archives- Pete B.** Greetings Everyone. In attendance this morning Districts: 12, 21, 7, 18. Brad and myself. District 12 is look for space to store archive materials. Discussed places not to use such as a basement or garage. District 18 has been working on getting group histories and district history done. District 21 has recorded two more old-times at 38 and 44 and is storing material in chairs own house. District 7 also keeps archives in his house. Has group histories of all groups in the district. They have 90 groups—so good work. I have been working on upcoming Archives presentation as Cold Spring Alano on September 12. Flyers are on the table in the back. Thanks go to Melissa, Brad and Christine for making this presentation possible. Sarah pointed out not to use last names on flyers- progress not perfection... Yours in service, Pete B.

**District 12 Rich G.** I am the new DCM for District 12. Our PI Chair is busy with local county fair displays. We have approved new radio PSA's that will be starting soon. Frank, our new Corrections Chair, is busy with corrections organizations and Drug Court. Eric is our new Archives Chair. Our Duluth Round-up is on September 18-20.

**District 18-Neil R.** Greetings from District 18. My name is Neil and I am still a grateful recovering alcoholic. We had extra folks at our July district meeting. Currently our Treatment, CPC, PI and Archives Chairs are open. We are also having issues getting GSR's to attend the district meeting. Our Jail Coordinator has requested splitting men and women up to cut down chatter in meetings. We are holding district elections at our September meeting along with our Delegate's report. Group meetings in our district are doing well. Events include a camp-outs in Motley and Staples.

**Archivist—Brad I.** Since the June committee meeting I went to Atlanta for the International Convention. I visited with Michelle, the GSO Archivist, at the GSO display and at both Archives Workshops. I met several other Area Archivists and it

seems we are all working on the same things and having the same issues. I also spent some time at the Akron Intergroup Archives. They were distributing copies of the "Your Faith" article.

I have spent most of my time looking for work. My job of 24 years was radically changed to the point of elimination so I resigned. I have great faith that God will help me find a position to still be of service to Alcoholics Anonymous. Brad.

#### OLD BUSINESS

**Financial Oversight Committee Report- Steve L.** Accounts listed on balance sheet are true and correct as well as expenses.

**Web Technologies -Bob B.** There are over 7000 visits to aaMeetingLocator every month. July is the heaviest use. I am working with Windows 10. More information will follow.

We can search for Spanish meeting on aaMeetingLocator. We plan to add ASL and Handicap Access search. Most of the contacts to us from aaMeetingLocator are general A.A. questions. When I started in A.A. these questions were asked on our A.A. information lines. Times have changed and these questions are being asked via WEB e-mail. We need to work on a way to meet the need of others using e-mail and text messages. Bob.

**2016 GSC Agenda Items- Sarah K.** Anyone can initiate an item. Best to start with a group, then go to a district and then to the area at the Fall Assembly. Time to begin working on items at district meetings now.

#### NEW BUSINESS

**Area 35/36 Joint Workshop- Sarah K.** Working with Missy Area 36 Chair. Will not be lunch served. Looking at November.

**Flyers on Web and in NORTHERN LIGHT-Bob B.** Discussed prohibiting using "A.A." in flyers for non- A.A. events. Need to reflect our traditions. Guideline on an A.A. event, put on by A.A.'s for A.A.'s. Guideline that last names are not on a flyer-enforced by Webmaster.

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

### MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS AND ARTICLES

*The following is a presentation by the Area 35 Delegate from the West Central Regional Forum in Casper Wyoming:*

A.A. now and in the Future

Greetings from Area 35. What a pleasure and a privilege to share some thoughts and experience at this Regional Forum. I had some what I thought were great ideas when I chose this topic. Where they went I am not sure. As we celebrate our 80 years of existence and all the hoopla that surrounds it we must ever be watchful of our traditions and concepts lest we end up like others that have gone before us and disappeared. We are recognized by the Library of Congress as having one of the most influential books written. Yet can we slap ourselves on the back?

One of the things I have noticed is that our growth seems to have stagnated over the last few years. Current U.S. and Canada membership estimates are about 1,373,497, with 65,222 groups. This has remained in this area for a number of years. World wide fellowship numbers have been around 2 million members and between 100,000 and 115,000 groups. Both totals come out to approximately 20 home group members per group. Now in our area I would guess at maybe 6-10 per group. I am sure part of that is like the rest of the US is the end of the baby boomers. Many of the people born in the 40's and 50's are starting to die off or reduce their attendance at meetings. I have noticed in our area unfortunately that at most of the reports I have given it is people in their 50's plus that are showing up. In our area it seems that a lot of the people between 5 and 15 years of sobriety have disappeared. Either A.A. no longer interests them or carrying this message to newcomers has lost its importance. If this is not our primary purpose it will change the face of A.A. in the future.

When we look at the history of A.A. it was based upon the imperative thought that one alcoholic talking to another was the foundation of our movement. Groups were formed and traditions written so that this gift from God would carry on for future generations. As generations acquired some sobriety I hear that many

people state they go to meetings for themselves—if anyone else gets anything it is a bonus. What a shame. I was told after a short time that once I was blessed with the gift of sobriety it was not about me anymore, now it was about the newcomer. Many of us have enjoyed great lives far beyond our wildest imagination others have had to struggle with life. Just like the real world. But we don't have to take a drink no matter what. That is certainly not of our doing. As the big book tells us:

A) That we were alcoholic and could not manage our own lives

B) That probably no human power could have relieved our alcoholism

C) That God could and would if he were sought.

While certainly we have managed to offer a form of sobriety to many, what has happened to encourage our 12<sup>th</sup> step? Our traditions were founded to help keep our groups unified and on the A.A. beam. Yet we have allowed them to be changed to allow individuals the freedoms to change our unity. Removing God, diversity has changed our singleness of purpose. We forget that tradition 3 is about membership in the A.A. group, not just to go to A.A.

The future of A.A. will be determined by how far we stray from our singleness of purpose. Our book says that we will be around as long as God needs us. Yet many groups are removing all reference to God from their recovery. Who will guide our group conscience? When I was early on in my sobriety I had a lot of ideas on how to change A.A. The oldtimers suggested that I go start my own fellowship, just don't call it A.A. Does our future look bleak? I am not sure. Are we retaining members? Not in my area. The reason I chose this topic is because I believe that we have grown stagnant as a result of leaning towards becoming a 12 step program rather than emphasizing our fellowship. Attendance at meetings has become more important than spending time building those relationships that constitute a fellowship. If we do not care

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

about each other at the group level we will not care about what is happening to us as a whole.

The inventories we take whether at the group, district, area or GSC all bring about the same conclusions. Where is our participation? We are having to become a top down organization because of our lack of unity. This is brought about by lack of participation at the group level. The groups make decisions with a few members to keep the group alive. Districts plan things to do to give the groups an agenda. Areas, rather than doing requests from group majorities, make busy work. The general Service office makes decisions on services and spending because groups won't.

The future of A.A. is in our hands and we are asked to be the guardians of our traditions. Will A.A. be a list of meetings that people can attend to stay sober or will it be a fellowship that cares enough to tell its fellow drunks the truth so they can experience a spiritual change? Part of society is under the impression that A.A. is no longer the answer. I have read many articles that talk of our failures rather than our success. Is this because they no longer realize that the only thing we are successful at is helping drunks achieve sobriety. Our steps may help many but our Fellowship can only be united and continue by its drive to carry the A.A. message to every alcoholic so they can recover from this fatal malady. In another 80 years will they still be praising us or will they be saying what a great thing A.A. may have been? Many of these thoughts are meant to remind us that A.A. is vulnerable unless the groups and members guard our traditions and use our concepts to keep us whole.

Thank you,

Michael (Jake) J., Panel 64 Area 35



#### **Contribution by John D. of Big Lake, MN:**

Polar Opposites? No just one A.A. story...

At the 80th Anniversary celebration of A.A. in Atlanta, I had the privilege of listening to many interesting stories about the AA experience.

One young man shared his experience of being an A.A. member stationed at the South Pole. Another A.A. member, a soldier with the Canadian Armed Forces, shared his experience of being an A.A. member stationed at the North Pole.

Now you might think that these stories were polar opposites, but they were not. In fact, they were quite similar. As the moderator in the International A.A. Meeting said, "all over the world - there is really only one A.A. story".

From the Americas to Africa, from Europe to Eurasia our AA story is essentially the same. We drank. We got drunk. And alcohol destroyed our lives until we found the miracle of sobriety through the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

We come from many countries and we speak many languages, but we are all fluent in the "language of the heart".

Best Regards,

JD



#### **Contribution by Sarah K., Lake Shore, MN :**

This is a piece about getting an informed group conscience that is included in the GSR Orientation packets.

#### **GETTING AN INFORMED GROUP CONSCIENCE [1]**

*Our sole authority is a loving God as He may express himself in our group conscience...*

- A "group conscience" is the collective conscience of the group membership. The term "informed" group conscience implies that all the pertinent information is identified and has been reviewed, A.A. principles have been consulted, and that all the viewpoints have been heard and discussed before a vote is taken. To be fully informed requires the willingness and open mindedness to always hear to the minority opinion.

- On sensitive issues the group works slowly, **discouraging formal motions** until a clear sense of the group conscience is apparent, and taking care to ensure that dominant voices and opinions do not overrun the minority voice.

- Ideally after achieving an informed group conscience and taking a vote, there will be *substantial unanimity* (unanimous or near unanimous agreement). This ensures that the actions we take are in accord with the principles of A.A. and ensures that we work slowly until a clear sense of our collective view emerges.

While the difference between substantial unanimity and majority vote may be unclear, it can be helpful to look at the discussion process for clarification. In a majority vote, usually one loud competitive voice pushes its idea on others and loudly or extensively argues to gain majority agreement. In substantial unanimity, there is a feeling of common agreement and a spiritual bond that moves the members toward a group decision, not one individual's personal triumph.

#### **Suggestions for achieving an informed group conscience:**

- If there is an issue to be discussed, announce it a few weeks prior to the discussion in order to allow members time to pray, talk and think about it beforehand.
- Before discussion, present all pertinent information *from both sides* to the group for their consideration. Both pros and cons should be considered.
- During group discussion, have the chairperson call on each member in turn to ensure that all members have the opportunity to voice their opinions, not just the most vocal ones. No member should speak again until all others have had their turn. The chair expresses his/her opinion after all others have shared to avoid influencing the group.
- It is vital that the minority voice always be heard; but it should be remembered that even the loudest, most opinionated majority can be right, while the quietest, most humble minority can be wrong. (See Concept 9 in *The Service Manual* for more information.)
- Through the group conscience, we are able to rise above personal ambitions and unite in our common purpose. The group conscience will, in the end, prove to be a far more intelligent and infallible guide for our group affairs that the decision of any one member, however good or wise. We don't need to depend overmuch on inspired leaders. Because our active leadership is truly rotating, we are certain that there is but one ultimate authority.



*The following words are taken from an article written by Bill Wilson on anonymity in 1955 and can be found in Appendix B of A.A. Comes of Age.*

#### **Why Alcoholics Anonymous is Anonymous**

This article will be best understood by first recalling the anonymity Traditions. Tradition Eleven reads: "Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and TV."

As never before the struggle for power, importance and wealth are tearing civilization apart—man against man, family against family, group against group, nation against nation.

Nearly all those engaged in this fierce competition declare that their aim is peace and justice for themselves, their neighbors, and their nations. "Give us power," they say, "and we shall have justice; give us fame and we shall set a great example; give us money and we shall be comfortable and happy." people throughout the world deeply believe such things and act accordingly. On this appalling dry bender, society seems to be staggering down a dead-end road, The stop sign is clearly marked. It says "Disaster."

What has this got to do with anonymity and Alcoholics Anonymous?

We of A.A. ought to know. nearly every one of us has traversed this identical dead-end path. Powered by alcohol and self-justification, many have pursued the phantoms of self-importance and money right up to the disaster stop sign. Then came A.A.

(Continued on page 17)

*(Continued from page 16)*

We faced about and found ourselves on a new highroad where the direction signs said never a word about power, fame, or wealth. The new signs read, “This way to sanity and serenity. The price is self-sacrifice.”

Our textbook, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, states that “anonymity is the greatest protection our society can ever have.” It also says that “the spiritual substance of anonymity is sacrifice.”

Let’s turn to A.A.’s twenty years of experience and see how we arrived at those beliefs now expressed in our Traditions Eleven and Twelve.

At the beginning we sacrificed alcohol. we had to, or it would have killed us. but we couldn’t get rid of alcohol unless we made other sacrifices. big shot-ism and phony thinking had to go. we had to toss self-justification, self-pity, and anger right out the window. we had to quit the crazy contest for personal prestige and big bank balances. we had to take personal responsibility for our sorry state and quit blaming others for it.

Were these sacrifices? Yes, they were. To gain enough humility and self-respect to stay alive at all we had to give up what had really been our dearest possession—our ambition and our illegitimate pride.

But even this was not enough. Sacrifice had to go farther. Other people had to benefit too. so we took on some Twelfth Step work; we began to carry the A.A. message. we sacrificed time, energy, and our own money to do this. we could not keep what we had unless we gave it away.

Did we demand that our new prospects give us anything? Were we asking them for power over their lives, for fame for our good work, or for a cent of their money? No, we were not. We found that if we demanded any of these things our Twelfth Step work went flat. So these natural desires had to be sacrificed; otherwise our prospects got little or no sobriety. Nor, indeed, did we.

Thus we learned that sacrifice had to bring a double benefit, or else little at all. We began to know about the kind of giving of ourselves that has no price tag on it.

When the first A.A. group first took form, we soon learned a lot more about this. We found that each of us had to make willing sacrifices for the group itself, sacrifices for the common welfare. The group, in turn, found that it had to give up many of its own rights for the protection and welfare of each member, and for A.A. as a whole. These sacrifices had to be made or A.A. could not continue to exist.

Out of these experiences and realizations, the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous began to take shape and substance. Gradually we saw that the unity, the effectiveness, and even the survival of A.A. always would depend upon our continued willingness to give up our personal ambitions and desires for the common safety and welfare. Just as sacrifices meant survival for the individual, so did sacrifice mean unity and survival for the group and for A.A.’s entire fellowship.

Viewed in this light, A.A.’s Twelve Traditions are little else than a list of sacrifices which the experience of twenty years has taught us that we must make, individually and collectively, if A.A. itself is to stay alive and healthy.

In our Twelve Traditions we have set our faces against nearly every trend in the outside world. We have denied ourselves personal government, professionalism, and the right to say who our members shall be. We have abandoned do-goodism, reform, and paternalism. We refuse outside charitable money and have decided to pay our own way. We will cooperate with practically everybody, yet we decline to marry our society to anyone. We abstain from public controversy and will not quarrel among ourselves about those things that so rip society asunder: religion, politics, and reform. We have but one purpose, to carry the A.A. message to the sick alcoholic who wants it.

We take these attitudes not at all because we claim special virtue or wisdom; we do these things because hard experience has told us that we must—if A.A. is to survive in the distraught world of today. We also give up rights and make sacrifices because we ought to, and, better yet, because we want to. A.A. is a power greater than any of us; it must go on living or else uncouthed thousands of our kind will surely die. This we know...

*...editor’s note: I included this first part as I believe it keeps us on*

*track in working with the sick alcoholic. I witness around me, and I know it true for myself, that sometimes we listen to the arguments and the problems of those having difficulty in A.A. and it is easy to drift off and get caught up in the different issues they bring with them or that come with the changes of a more modern society; the early literature always sets us back on track.*

*This next part I included as a positive reminder for all of us, as there currently seems to be an onslaught of bad press regarding the A.A. program.*

*It is the end of the same article.*

...We want to maintain 100 per cent anonymity for still another potent reason, one often overlooked. Instead of securing us more publicity, repeated self-serving anonymity breaks could severely damage the wonderful relation we now enjoy with press and public alike. We could wind up with a poor press and very little public confidence.

For many years news channel all over the world have showered A.A. with enthusiastic publicity, a never ending stream of it. Editors tell us why this is. They give us extra space and time because their confidence in A.A. is firm. The very foundation of that high confidence is, they say, our continual insistence on personal anonymity at press level.

Never before had news outlets and public relations people heard of a society that refused personally to advertise its leaders or members. To them this strange and refreshing novelty has always been proof positive that A.A. is on the square; that nobody has an angle. This is why. In season and out, they continue to carry the A.A. message of recovery to the whole world.

If through enough anonymity lapses we finally caused the press, the public, and our alcoholic prospects themselves to wonder about our motives, we would surely lose this priceless asset, and along with it countless prospective members. Alcoholics Anonymous would not then be getting more good publicity; it would be getting less and worse. The handwriting on the wall is clear. Most of us can already see it, and I am fully confident that the rest of us soon will.

*Copyright by The A.A. Grapevine, Inc.*

*Since many of the articles included in this issue deal with single-ness of purpose, our primary purpose, anonymity and their effectiveness in our Twelfth Step work, I have continued with those themes in adding the following excerpts from A.A. comes of Age From pages 232-3:*

...There are those who predict that Alcoholics Anonymous may well become a new spearhead for a spiritual awakening throughout the world. When our friends say these things they are both generous and sincere. But we of A.A. must reflect that such a tribute and such a prophecy could well prove to be a heady drink for most of us—that is, if we really came to believe this to be the real purpose of A.A., and if we commenced to behave accordingly. Our society, therefore, will prudently cleave to its single purpose: the carrying of the message of the alcoholic who still suffers. Let us resist the proud assumption that since God has enabled us to do well in one area we are destined to be a channel of saving grace for everybody.

On the other hand, let us never be a closed corporation; let us never deny our experience for whatever it may be worth to the world around us. Let our individual members heed the call to every field of human endeavor. Let them carry the experience and spirit of A.A. into all these affairs, for whatever good they may accomplish. For not only had God saved us from alcoholism; the world had received us back into its citizenship. Yet believing in paradoxes as we do, we must still realize that the more the society of Alcoholics Anonymous as such tends to its own affairs and minds its own business, the greater will be our influence, the less will be any opposition to us, and the wider will be the circle in which our fellowship will be likely to enjoy the confidence and respect of men.

**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.

*This is only a portion of the GSO guidelines on internet use, but it helps illustrate how we might unintentionally go against our traditions.*

**A.A. TRADITIONS AND THE INTERNET**

We observe all A.A.'s principles and Traditions on A.A. public media such as the Internet.

**Anonymity**—As anonymity is the "spiritual foundation of all our Traditions," we practice anonymity on public websites at all times.

In 2013, the General Service Conference affirmed that "the Internet, social media, and all forms of public communications are implicit in the last phrase of the short form of Tradition Eleven, which reads: '...at the level of press, radio, and films.'"

As Bill W. wrote: "At this altitude [public], anonymity – 100 percent anonymity – was the only possible answer. Here, principles would have to come before personalities without exception."

In simplest form, this means that A.A.s do not identify themselves as A.A. members using their full names and/or full-face photos. For more information on anonymity online, see the section of this Guideline, "Guarding Anonymity Online."

A 63rd General Service Conference Advisory Action affirmed that the Internet, social media and all forms of public communications are implicit in the last phrase of the Short Form of Tradition Eleven, which reads: "...at the level of press, radio, and firms."

**Attraction not promotion**—As our co-founder, Bill W., wrote: "Public information takes many forms – the simple sign outside a meeting place that says 'A.A. meeting tonight'; listing in local phone directories; distribution of A.A. literature; and radio and television shows using sophisticated media techniques. Whatever the form, it comes down to 'one drunk carrying the message to another drunk,' whether through personal contact or through the use of third parties and the media.

**Self-support**—In keeping with our Seventh Tradition, A.A. pays its own expenses and this also applies in cyberspace. To avoid confusion and to guard against the perception of affiliation, endorsement or promotion, care should be taken in selection of the website host. Website committees have avoided any host site that requires the inclusion of mandatory advertising space or links to commercial sites.

**Nonaffiliation, nonendorsement**—Linking to other A.A. websites will often have the positive effect of significantly broadening the scope of a site. However, even when linking to another A.A. site, care must be exercised since each A.A. entity is autonomous, has its own group conscience, and may display information that another A.A. group conscience might find objectionable. There is no way to know when this might occur.

Experience indicates that linking to non-A.A. sites is even more problematic. Not only are they much more likely to display non-A.A. and/or controversial material, but linking might imply endorsement, if not affiliation. In the final analysis, experience strongly suggests that, when considering linking to another site, proceed with caution.

The same caution is advised when choosing a web hosting site. Many "free" web hosting services require that the website include mandatory advertisements or links. Most A.A. website committees see this as actual or implied affiliation or endorsement of the products or services listed in those ads. They have found it prudent to create a website through a service that does not include mandatory advertisements or links.

G.S.O. has attempted to avoid some of these pitfalls on G.S.O.'s A.A. website, aa.org, by confining its links to known A.A. service entities and by incorporating a mandatory exit statement when someone wishes to activate the outside links on the site. (This statement also covers access to application software such as Adobe Reader, which is provided to assist visitors in reading Portable Document Format (PDF) files.)

**GUARDING ANONYMITY ONLINE**

Modern communication in A.A. is flowing from one alcoholic to another in ways that are high-tech, relatively open-ended and

evolving quickly. Protecting anonymity is a major concern for members, who are accessing the Internet in ever-growing numbers.

When we use digital media, we are responsible for our own anonymity and that of others. When we post, text, or blog, we should assume that we are publishing at the public level. When we break our anonymity in these forums, we may inadvertently break the anonymity of others.

For more information on anonymity online see pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity" and the October 2010 issue of AA Grapevine on Anonymity on the Internet.

**GENERAL SOCIAL NETWORKING WEBSITES**

Facebook and other social networking websites are public in nature. Though users create accounts and utilize usernames and passwords, once on the site, it is a public medium where A.A. members and nonA.A.s mingle.

As long as individuals do not identify themselves as A.A. members, there is no conflict of interest. However, someone using their full name and/or a likeness, such as a full-face photograph, would be contrary to the spirit of the Eleventh Tradition, which states in the Long Form that, "... our [last] names and pictures as A.A. members ought not be broadcast, filmed or publicly printed."

Experience suggests that it is in keeping with the Eleventh Tradition not to disclose A.A. membership on social networking sites as well as on any other website, blog, electronic bulletin board, etc., that is not composed solely of A.A. members and not password protected, or is accessible to the public.

Websites social networking offer individuals the chance to post a great deal of personal information about themselves (and others). Our experience suggests that some A.A. members do not post anything that is "A.A. jargon" on their personal profiles and in "status updates," while others feel it is alright to do so as long as A.A. or Alcoholics Anonymous specifically is not mentioned.

These websites often allow users to create social networking "groups" and the ability to invite others to "events" for like-minded individuals. Some A.A.s have chosen to create A.A.-related groups. Since this is a relatively new medium, A.A. members are frequently "learning as they go," and technology and applications change practically on a daily basis. — 2 — Our experience has shown that the evolving nature of social networking platforms makes it difficult to provide specific guidelines for using such resources for A.A. purposes. Any A.A. group or member that is thinking about entering this public arena should closely consider the privacy policies of such sites, in light of A.A.'s tradition of anonymity. For example, social networking sites often provide full names and pictures of group members, contrary to A.A.'s practice of avoiding such disclosures in public media. Even "closed" or "private" groups might still reveal an individual's identity. Being well-informed prior to joining or starting such a group is the key to protecting your own anonymity, and that of others.

G.S.O. has received numerous complaints from concerned A.A. members regarding anonymity breaks online, inappropriate use of the A.A. name, and copyrighted materials and protected trademarks being improperly used on Facebook and other social networking websites. No local online A.A. or non-A.A. entity should purport itself to be a spokesperson for A.A. or act as if they represent the General Service Office, A.A.W.S., or the General Service Board. Each A.A. entity is autonomous and encouraged to make decisions by informed group conscience decision in light of the guidance provided in our Twelve Traditions.

A.A. members sometimes contact G.S.O. for suggestions on how to remain within the Traditions on Facebook and other social networking websites. Keep in mind that G.S.O. staff members are not "special workers" of the "technological wizards" variety, but they can act as a resource regarding A.A.'s Twelve Traditions and the shared experience of the Fellowship in the U.S. and Canada. How A.A.'s spiritual principles play out in new technologies needs to be carefully discussed by each A.A. individual or entity creating an online presence.

**Area 35 Fall Assembly**

October 3-4 2015

Best Western Kelly Inn  
100 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. S.  
St. Cloud, MN 56301  
Call: 320-253-0606

Group rate: \$92.00 plus tax (Up to 4 per room)  
Mention "Area35" to receive group rate

Meeting space is in Rivers Edge Convention Center  
attached to Best Western Kelly Inn

**Agenda**

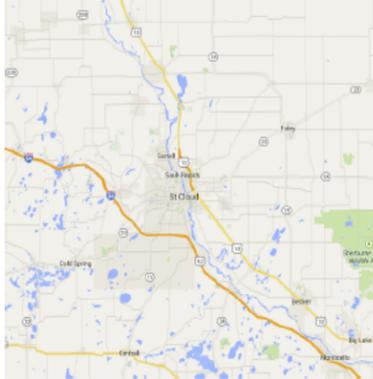
Saturday October 3

9:00 am Registration

10:00 GSR Orientation and Action Committee Meetings

Sunday October 4

9:00 Assembly Reconvenes



**SAVE THE DATE**

**WHEN**  
**Oct 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**WHERE:**  
**Saint Louis, MO**

Registration and Hotel details to follow, check the website and register for email updates at:

TV2015-info@NAATV.org

Web Sites · eServices · Bulk Email · Mobile NOW  
Meeting Search · Area Technology Service · Ways to Manage Content · Improvements in Mobile Apps  
Cloud Storage and Backup · Web Management

**WWW.NAATW.ORG**



**NATIONAL ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP**

**BENEFITING**

- Intergroup
- Area Committees
- Districts
- Public Information
- Contact Services
- Bridging the Gap
- Meeting Directories
- Meeting Search
- Programmers
- Webmasters

**MORA A.A. SPEAKER MEETING**

**What is it?**

- A pot luck and speaker meeting to bring the message of fellowship and recovery to the recovery community in the greater Mora area with:
  - > A.A. speaker
  - > Al-Anon Family Group speaker

*Please bring your favorite dish to share!*

- OPEN MEETING – Everyone is welcome to include; non A.A.'s, Al-Anon's, family members, friends and anyone interested in recovery from alcoholism.

**When?**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month – EVERY MONTH!
  - > Potluck starts at 6 PM
  - > Meeting opens at 6:45 followed by:
    - o Al-Anon speaker
    - o A.A. speaker
  - > Meeting closes at 8 PM

**Where?**

- Lower Level Mora Public Library (follow sidewalk around back)
  - Address: 200 West Maple Ave Mora MN 55051
- Contacts: Jodie 320-209-1941 (AA)  
Darin 320-496-0216 (AA)  
Rachelle 612-220-7657 (Al-Anon)

*"Give freely of what you find and join us. We shall be with you in the Fellowship of the Spirit, and you will surely meet some of us as you trudge the Road of Happy Destiny."*

Pg.164 Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous

THERE IS A SOLUTION

BIG BOOK STUDY GROUP  
EVERY THURSDAY

START TIME 6:30 PM

WRIGHT, MN

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH  
HIGHWAY 210 AND COUNTY 20 TAKE

A RIGHT CHURCH ON THE LEFT  
FOURTH THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

POTLUCK DINNER AND SPEAKER

DINNER STARTS AT 5:30 PM

SPEAKER STARTS AT 6:30 PM

CONTACT

ANDY L. 218-343-6385

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

"A Certain Simple Attitude"

2 Day Event 33rd Annual New Format

**St. Cloud Roundup**

October 23-24, 2015

**SPEAKERS**

Friday

8:00 PM Doug M AA  
Atlanta GA

Saturday

1:30 PM Bob N AA  
Duluth MN

3:00 PM Tracey M AA  
Atlanta GA

7:00 PM Kathy H Al-Anon  
Cincinnati OH

8:30 PM Hilda H AA  
Studio City CA

**NEW  
NEW  
NEW**

**EVENTS**

Friday

6:30 PM Registration  
7:00 PM Archives Open  
Ice Cream after Speaker \$4.00

Saturday New Meetings

3 Legacies Meetings  
9:00-9:50 AM Recovery  
10:00-10:50 AM Unity  
11:00-11:50 AM Service

4:30 PM Big Book Meeting  
4:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting  
Ice Cream after Speakers \$4.00  
9:45 PM Dance DJ

Connected to Convention Center  
HOTELS  
Kelly Inn  
800-528-1234 320-253-0606  
Le St. Germain Suite Hotel  
320-654-1661  
Country Inn  
320-252-8282  
120 7th Ave SE St Cloud



Registration Badge is Required for the Entire Roundup (including the Dance)  
Children are required to pay Registration and must be under Adult Supervision at all times. (No Exceptions)

www.stcloudroundup.org

## Concepts in the West

A Weekend of Study, Discussion and Fellowship  
December 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> – 2015  
Lake Poinsett Camp – Arlington, South Dakota

Concepts I, II, and III along with their connection to the Steps and Traditions will be covered over the weekend through presentations, small and large group discussion.

Lake Poinsett Camp has both hotel-like accommodations and bunkhouses. Participation will be limited by the size of the facility. Registration will be first-paid, first-served, will include room/meals, and will not exceed \$130 per person. All members are welcomed! Don't forget to bring you Service Manual!

For more information or for registration forms, please contact a member of the planning committee:

Mike L. Panel 53/Area 24 – 402-277-0975  
Estelle G. Panel 56/Area 63 – 605-216-1533  
Lori G. Panel 58/Area 41 – 402-560-6190  
Brooke C. Panel 58/Area 76 – 307-673-9014 or email  
bpcharlie@wbaccess.net

Area 35 Northern Minnesota & Area 36 Southern Minnesota  
Present

## Statewide Corrections Committee Workshop

Ever want to carry the message into a prison but were afraid?

Speakers

Ever want to volunteer to help in Corrections, but did not know how?

Q & A

Food & Beverages

“Love & tolerance of others is our code” Big Book p. 84

Working with offenders regardless of their offenses

Dispelling myths, rumors, and fears of carrying the message into prisons & working with offenders after release

October 10, 2015

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Calvary Community Church

1200 Roosevelt Road

St. Cloud MN

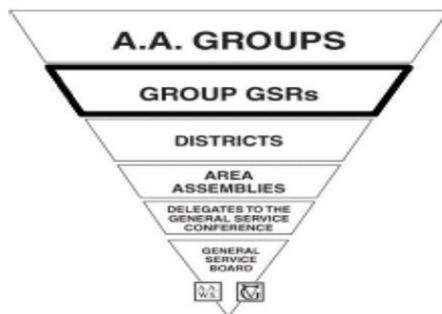
Lunch provided

### General Service Representative (G.S.R.) Information Session

Come find out what being a G.S.R. is all about.

When: Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 1 PM - 4 PM

Where: Grand Rapids Public Library  
140 NE 2nd St.  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744



May be the most important job in A.A.!!!

For more information contact Noreen H. (218) 213-0792 or Dave C. (218) 398-4735

70<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL DULUTH ROUNDUP

## GROWTH HAS ONLY BEGUN

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, SEPT. 18-20, 2015  
MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL  
1215 RICE LAKE ROAD, DULUTH, MN  
EARLY REGISTRATION: \$20  
AT THE DOOR: \$22  
REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR ALL EVENTS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

### FRIDAY P.M.

REGISTRATION OPENS: 4:30  
AA SPEAKER JAMES T.,  
AUBURN, CA, BEGINS: 8 P.M.

### SATURDAY A.M.

AA SPEAKER MARY C.  
CLOQUET, MN

### SATURDAY P.M.

AL-ANON SPEAKER  
BARBARA A., ATLANTA, GA  
AA SPEAKER ADAM A.  
TANNERSVILLE, PA

### SUNDAY A.M.

AA SPEAKER NATALIE H.  
EAU CLAIRE, WI

### OTHER ACTIVITIES

MOVIES, DANCE, MEETINGS,  
FELLOWSHIP, CHILI COOKOFF,  
SATURDAY, SUNDAY BREAKFAST



## TUESDAY NIGHT SOLUTIONS

### Open A.A./Al-Anon 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Speaker Meeting

Saturday November 14, 2015

United Methodist Church  
1701 S. E. 5th Avenue  
Grand Rapids, MN

5:30-6:30 Pot Luck Bring A Dish To Share

7:00 –Al-Anon Speaker Elaine L. Hibbing MN.

8:00-8:15 Break

8:15 A.A. Speaker Dana J. Embarrass MN.

November is gratitude month in A.A. come and share your gratitude.

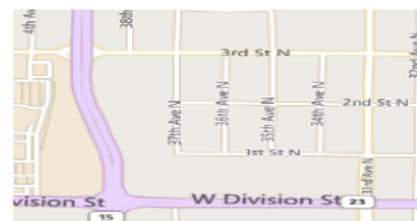
### 40<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL AREA 35 SERVICE WORKSHOP

“Our Spiritual Way of Life: Steps, Traditions and Concepts”  
January 16-17, 2016

The Tuscan Center at Midtown Square  
3333 West Division Street St. Cloud, MN 56301  
Hotel accommodations are very close by at the  
Hampton Inn & Suites

145 37<sup>th</sup> Ave. North St. Cloud, MN 56301  
Rooms are \$109.00 a night plus tax which does include a continental breakfast. When booking ask for the block of rooms for Area 35 Assembly and be sure to register by December 15<sup>th</sup> to receive the discounted room rates. To make your reservation call 320-252-4448. If you need to cancel a reservation it has to be 24 hours in advance or you will be charged for that room.

(Registration starts at 8:00 am the Workshop starts at 9:15 am)  
There is a \$10.00 registration fee for this Workshop to keep it self-supporting.



The Area 35 Service Workshop is designated to be educational and attended by any and all members of Alcoholics Anonymous inside and outside of Area 35. These workshops allow an opportunity to see what services are being provided in Northern Minnesota to better carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Several Districts in Northern Minnesota will be presenting and allowing for sharing on topics pertinent to Area 35 and Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. Please come and join us for this wonderful opportunity and weekend of Recovery, Unity and Service!

**NORTHERN LIGHT PRIMARY PURPOSE:**

The Northern Light (N.L.), is a general service newsletter that serves Area 35 to facilitate bilateral communication between the groups, districts, Area and G.S.O. levels in the Northern Minnesota area. Its purpose is to:

- ◆ Publish an informative and attractive newsletter to the Area in a timely fashion.
- ◆ Encourage District reports and be available to work with Districts on communications. One or more of the N.L. Committee should try to attend area events to report on what's happening in their areas. If they are unable to attend, encourage local members to write short articles about events and happenings to be published in the N.L.
- ◆ Provide encouragement for writing articles, particularly to

D.C.M.s and Area Action Committee Chairs. This should include the strong encouragement to submit their reports for each issue, if no report is submitted it will be stated, example "Northern Light Report - NOT GIVEN" this is currently being done in the Southern Minnesota Area newsletter.

- ◆ Keep informed of activities and issues going on within Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. The N.L. Committee could subscribe the Grapevine or other pertinent A.A. news sources.
- ◆ Gather useful service information to publish from sources within the Area, Region and A.A. as a whole. Obtain, read and use other Area newsletters.
- ◆ Listen to comments from the Area on the content of the N.L.

**EDITORIAL POSITION & N.L. COMMITTEE:**

**Editor** - The Editorial Chair position is a two-year rotation picked by the incoming Area Chair and either approved or rejected by the Area Committee at the first Area meeting after the Fall Assembly Elections.

**Desirable qualifications:** Current or past working knowledge of the printing business. Knowledge of current computer printing programs. The person should also consider the time needed to complete the task required. The candidate should have a working knowledge of A.A. as a whole, i.e., prior experience in service work such as G.S.R., D.C.M., or related position.

**N.L. COMMITTEE** - The N.L. Committee consists of two D.C.M.s in Area 35. Currently, these have been picked randomly at the start of the new rotation. They also serve on a two-year rotation basis. They assist the editor in communications with other area newsletters, in recommendations on general improvements, and with general problems and implementations of new policies. They may also represent the editor at functions when the editor is unable to attend. Seek advice and help from former N.L. Committee members and editors.

**N.L. COMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

The Committee meets every other month, before the start of the Area Workshop and at Spring and Fall Assemblies. Additional meetings may be called for if needed between these times.

**NORTHERN LIGHT SUBMISSIONS:**

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

Submissions are preferred electronically using a Word or WordPad document to the Area's newsletter e-mail address: [northernlight@area35.org](mailto: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.

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

Northern Light Editor, Rodney S.

**Directions for putting a flyer into the Northern Light newsletter:**

1. First & foremost **contact the Northern Light Editor** at [northernlight@area35.org](mailto: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](mailto: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

### 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.

### 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 overall 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.

**2015 — AREA 35 SCHEDULE**

**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

**Statewide Corrections Workshop—October 10th (10-2)**

Calvary Community Church  
1200 Roosevelt Road  
St. Cloud, MN

**40th Annual Area 35 Service Workshop—Jan. 16-17, 2016**

“Our Spiritual Way of Life: Steps, Traditions and Concepts”  
The Tuscan Center at Midtown Square  
3333 West Division Street  
St. Cloud, MN 56301

**Northern Light Deadline—November 1st, 2015**

**Area 35/36 Joint Workshop—November 21st, 2015**

St. Cloud, MN

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

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

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

**Heartland Roundup—September 11-13, 2015**

Northern Pines Assembly Grounds  
East shore of Fish Hook Lake  
Park, Rapids, MN 56470

**National AA Technology Workshop—October 1st—4th, 2015**

1973 Craigshire Road  
Saint Louis, Missouri, 63146

**A.A. “Back Then” —September 12th, 2015**

Cold Spring Alano Club  
Red River Ave  
Cold Spring, Minnesota 56320

**St. Cloud Roundup—October 23—24, 2015**

River’s Edge Convention Center  
10 4th Ave. S.  
St. Cloud, MN 56301

**Duluth Round Up — September 18 — 20th, 2015**

Marshall School  
1215 Rice Lake Road  
Duluth, MN 55811

**Tuesday Night Solutions Speaker**

**Meeting/Potluck—November 14th, 2015**

United Methodist Church  
1701 E. 5th Ave.  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

**St. Cloud AA Convention - Sept 19, 2015**

Fellowship Hall  
713 Anderson Avenue  
Saint Cloud, MN 56303

**AREA 35 FALL ASSEMBLY—OCTOBER 3, 4, 2015**

**River’s Edge Convention Center  
10 4th Avenue South  
St. Cloud, MN 56301**

**AGENDA**

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

**1:00 p.m. Assembly Convenes**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Call to Order-Open with the Serenity Prayer
- \_\_\_\_\_ Why We Need a Conference
- \_\_\_\_\_ Recognize Past Delegates
- \_\_\_\_\_ Recognize GSRs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Add to Agenda
- \_\_\_\_\_ Approve 2015 Spring Assembly Minutes

**OFFICER REPORTS**

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

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS**

- \_\_\_\_\_ WEBMASTER – Bob B.
- \_\_\_\_\_ TREATMENT – Paul M.
- \_\_\_\_\_ District 21 – Irv R
- \_\_\_\_\_ District 6 – Garrett B
- \_\_\_\_\_ PI – Jeff C.
- \_\_\_\_\_ District 5 – Jon S.
- \_\_\_\_\_ District 4 – Deb S.
- \_\_\_\_\_ NORTHERN LIGHT – Rodney S.
- \_\_\_\_\_ LITERATURE – Jim S.
- \_\_\_\_\_ District 3 – Steve D
- \_\_\_\_\_ District 1 – Jon S.
- \_\_\_\_\_ GROUP RECORDS – Rolene L
- \_\_\_\_\_ District 11 – Bill C
- \_\_\_\_\_ District 13 – Christine G
- \_\_\_\_\_ GRAPEVINE – Antonette F.
- \_\_\_\_\_ District 8 – Jerry B
- \_\_\_\_\_ District 15 – Melissa A.
- \_\_\_\_\_ CORRECTIONS – Jake C.
- \_\_\_\_\_ District 2 –
- \_\_\_\_\_ District 9 – Fred H.

- \_\_\_\_\_ CPC – Servando M.
- \_\_\_\_\_ District 16 – Griffin M.
- \_\_\_\_\_ District 7 – Carl P.
- \_\_\_\_\_ ARCHIVES – Pete B
- \_\_\_\_\_ District 12 – Rillis E
- \_\_\_\_\_ District 18 – Neil R.
- \_\_\_\_\_ ARCHIVIST – Brad I.
- \_\_\_\_\_ District 14 –

**2:30 p.m. Break**

**4:45 p.m. BREAK**

**5:00 p.m.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ GSR Sharing Session
- \_\_\_\_\_ DCM Sharing Session
- \_\_\_\_\_ Area Officers and Area Chairs Meet

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

**7:30 P.M. Sharing Session II**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2014**

- 7:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. Big Book Meeting
- 9:00 a.m. Assembly Reconvenes
- \_\_\_\_\_ Business Not Completed Saturday
- \_\_\_\_\_ GSR Sharing Session Report
- \_\_\_\_\_ DCM Sharing Session Report

**OLD BUSINESS**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Area 35/36 Joint Workshop
- \_\_\_\_\_ Zonal Forums
- \_\_\_\_\_ Statewide Corrections Committee Report

**NEW BUSINESS**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Elections for: Delegate, Alt. Delegate, Secretary, Treasurer, and Chair
- \_\_\_\_\_ General Service Conference Agenda Item Proposals
- \_\_\_\_\_ Financial Oversight Committee ad hoc committee report
- \_\_\_\_\_ Calendar of Events
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ask It Basket (Past Delegates)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Adjourn

**Mail Area 35 Group contributions to:**

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