Meeting opened with Serenity Prayer at **7:30 p.m.**

DCM asks for motion to approve minutes for October. Al made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Peter 2nd the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

DCM asks for any additions to the agenda. No additions were added to the agenda.

Concept #11 was read by Jim.
Justin will volunteer to read Concept #12.

Introductions

GSR Reports.

**SUNDAY MEETINGS:**

**Sunday Back to Basics Group (Treatment Committee)**
Doreen W - Not present

**Heard it Through the Grapevine**
The Heard it through The Grapevine meeting is held at Calvary Community Church, on Sundays at 6 p.m. This is an open meeting. We take our meeting topics from issues of The Grapevine and from the digital archives at [www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org). We average from 10-20 attendees per week. We hold our business meeting on the fourth Sunday of the month after the regular meeting. We host a potluck speaker meeting starting at 5 p.m. on the 5th Sunday in months when that occurs. Our next potluck speaker meeting will be November 30, 2014. Our speaker will be John S. from St Cloud. We contribute to the three entities and for literature for local corrections outreach. We are financially solvent and have all service positions currently filled.

Yours in Service, Brent P

**St Cloud Big Book Group (PI Committee)**
Our meeting gathers at the St. Cloud Alano Club at 7:30. We are financially stable. Currently we have all our positions filled. We just ran out of Big Books and would like to know how to replenish our stock with the District. Our literature chair is new and I would like to gain literature info to pass on to her. Yours in service, Chris E.

**MONDAY MEETINGS:**

**Bright Beginnings**
Not present

**Monday Morning Big Book Group**
Not present

**Monday Noon Women’s AA Group (Scent Free)**
Not present

**Willingness to Grow**
Not present

**Early Monday Group**
Bobbi-Present, no report received

**Monday Night Live Group**
Not present

**Clear Lake AA Group 7:30pm at Living Waters Church**
Jeremy-Not present

**Monday 8:00PM “C” Group**
Not present

**TUESDAY MEETINGS:**
**Tuesday Morning Group** *(Treatment Committee)*
Wendy-Not present

**Early Evening Group**
Not present

**P.R.O.G.R.A.M. (Salvation Army)**
Not present

**On The Way OUT (LGBT**
Not present

**Tuesday Night Northside Group**
Not present

**Rice AA Group**
Not present

**St. Cloud Call Up Meeting** *(Corrections Committee)*
Not present

**Tuesday 8:30 Kimball Group**
Not present

**WEDNESDAY MEETINGS:**
**Eye Openers**
Not present

**A New Found Freedom** *(Treatment Committee)*
G-Not present
Older Adults Group
Attendance has been about 25-30 each week. Step discussion is the 1st Wed.of each month. We give medallions to newcomers along with various lengths of sobriety. We are changing our monthly business mtgs to quarterly. We are financially stable. We donate to the entities. Yours in service, Mary Z.

Foley Big Book
Not present

Early Wednesday Night Group (CPC Committee)
George- Present, but no report received

Happy Hour Group
Sean-Not present

Primary Purpose (Corrections Committee)
Type: Closed - Steps/Big Book/Traditions

Meeting Day/Time: Wednesdays @ 8:00PM

Meeting Place: Alano Club Saint Cloud

Average Attendance: 14 - 18

Medallions: 30/60/90 and Annually

Business Meeting: 3rd Wednesday, Additional if necessary

I was in attendance at the Joint Workshop. It was a great experience, and inspired me to possibly start attending the Area Committee Meetings in Aitkin.

New Ideas from the Joint Workshop…

- Maybe we should consider running our budget (area 35) at a deficit like Area 36 does. It would make the budget closer to actuals as well as foster the spirit of prudence among our committee members.

- Consider putting the Action Committee specific information up onto the District 13 webpage
  - Corrections requirements for entry into institutions, forms, etc
  - District Financials
  - Specific guidelines for committees, resources, etc

Group Concerns

- We’d like to see some effort by the district CPC chair along the lines of discussions with the treatment center staff about “what AA does and doesn’t do”.
- We are strongly in favor of consistent participation by our Action Committee Chairs at the District meetings, assemblies, as well as the Area Committee Meetings in Aitkin. These are the expectations for those positions, and we’d like to see people in the positions that are capable and committed to meeting these requirements.

- We do not support the current conditions with the Saint Cloud Prison regarding our inability to rotate the “coordinator” at 2 year intervals. This is not a specific concern with the current coordinator, but more like a violation of the “Business Model of Alcoholics Anonymous” that has been working for quite some time. We should not allow any one person to have undue influence.

**What’s New**

- We are going strong and continuing to see and retain newcomers.

- Thanks,

Justin WNPPG GSR

**THURSDAY MEETINGS:**

**Thursday Morning Big Book:**
Jim - Present, but no report received

**Joes Group**
Not present

**Thursday Night Young Peoples Group (CPC Committee)**
The Thursday Night Young People's Meeting meets weekly at 6:30 PM at the St. Cloud Alano Club. We are an open meeting with attendance between 30-40 people. Currently all of our service positions are filled except for the Grapevine Chair. We will be holding elections in the next months for our service positions that will be rotating out. We are a rotating topic meeting with As Bill Sees It, Step and Tradition corresponding with the month, sponsorship and a Potluck/Speaker Meeting on a 5th Thursday. We sponsor meetings at Clara's House and St. Cloud State. We are financially sound and donate to the three entities when we can. The TNYPM hosted a hospitality suite in partnership with the SNYPM to much success.

A Love For Service,

Nathan: GSR

1. Our Group has decided to suspend contributions to the Area. The Group does not believe the Area had adequate input from the GSRs before approving the Area budget.
2. In conjunction with the Saturday Night Young Peoples AA (SNYPAA) Group, TNYPAA hosted a hospitality suite at the St. Cloud Round-Up. Dozens of people stopped by the room for coffee, fun and fellowship.
3. TNYPAA hosted a "Practicing the Principles" workshop Saturday morning of the Round-Up.
4. TNYPAA coordinated a CPC workshop at the Round-Up that had eight professionals in the field of alcoholism in attendance as well as approximately 25 audience members.
5. TNYPAA is hosting a Pot Luck Open Speakers Meeting this Thursday, October 30, 2014 at the St. Cloud Alano Club. Jim K. from Brainerd will be the speaker. Pot Luck starts at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.
6. TNYPAA carries the message into several treatment and long-term care facilities. We strongly believe that this is a vital portion of "our message" and in keeping with AA's primary purpose.

Yours in Service,

JD - Alt GSR
1. Our group has suspended contributions to the Area. We believe it is inappropriate to send donations at this time since the GSRs did not have adequate time to approve the budget. Over 90% of the Area's money comes from group donations, but the groups had 0% say in how the money will be spent.

2. Our group believes that past Area delegates have too much influence over the Area at Area assembly's. They have a tendency to dominate the discussions. They behave more like "bleeding deacons" than "Elder Statesmen".

3. We believe that part of the reason the past Area Delegates have so much inappropriate sway over the Area is that we are violating the "spirit of the Anonymity Tradition". The tradition was written not just to prevent AA's from creating "bad press" and possibly damaging the reputation of the organization, but it was also written to prevent AA's from going on an ego trip. Printing the names of the past Area Delegates in the Northern Lights is a lousy idea for three reasons.

a. It violates the "spirit of the Anonymity Tradition" by placing the Area Delegates in an elevated or lofted position over other AA members.

b. It takes up valuable space in the Northern Lights that could be used for better purposes other than stroking someone's ego.

c. There is only one name and address that needs to be placed in that section and that is the name and address of our current delegate. All others can hold in their heart that they once were an Area delegate, but now are just anonymous servants of AA just like everyone else. (We actually print the names of deceased Area Delegates?????)

4. The workshops and meetings during the St. Cloud Round-Up were a success as reported by those who put on the meetings and those who attended the meetings. Recommend the District continue this work next year as part of our "5th Tradition" work.

5. The TNYPAA and SNYPAA groups put on a hospitality suite for local and out-of-town AA members at the Round-Up. It was a big hit with home group members and attendees alike. Recommend that other groups explore the possibility of hosting a hospitality suite at next year's Round-Up. It is a great way to carry "your message".

6. This year we have had two AA groups fold and we are looking at folding the Beginner's Meeting. This is an alarming trend not just in Central MN, but in AA rooms across the U.S.. Attendance at AA meetings is down nationally. What are we doing as a District to address this trend? What are we doing in District 13 to help those groups who have dwindling attendance? It is not just a group problem - it is a District problem? Why?

Without groups there is no District.

7. We have to get smarter about the way we do our "Service Work". Two years ago a District Chair was given a solution of how we could increase attendance at the Beginner's meeting and decrease costs by moving it out of the Alano Club and over to SCSU where it could have been combined with another Beginner's meeting. The idea was summarily dismissed and never came before the District GSRs for a vote. Now two years down the road we are going to vote on whether to keep funding the Beginner's Meeting. We have to get better at this. We are wasting valuable AA resources, but most importantly opportunities for the newcomer.

Warm Regards,
JD

Sauk Rapids AA Group
Closed Meeting. We discuss the 24 hour book, support sponsorship and Dist., Area, GSO and Grapevine. Mike F.

Rice Thursday Group
Not present

Thursday 8:30 Candlelight Group(Treatment Committee)
We are a non-smoking open topic card meeting. The last Thursday of the month is our speaker meeting. Last month we had JD form the Thursday Night Young Peoples meeting. He shared his experience, strength and hope along with how service work has played a big part in his recovery!! The Group celebrates and provides
medallions for 3, 6 and 9 months of sobriety and at our Speaker Meeting the last Thursday of the month we give out Medallions for a year or more also. Our group strongly believes in sponsorship and encourages sponsorship. We are fully self-supporting; we give to the three entities on a quarterly basis, all our service positions are filled. We enjoy having newcomers, last month we had 11 newcomers. We have an average of 25 people per meeting. We bring a meeting to Our House the first Wednesday of the month and 5th Wed of the month, at 7:00. Our group chaired a meeting at the St Cloud Round last Saturday. The meeting went over well. We did our group inventory this last month and found our strength and weakness’s. On November 1st I went to the Area 35/36 Joint Workshop her in St Cloud. It was very interesting hearing with the southern half of the state is doing. I sat in on the Treatment committee; we discussed the need for more people on the Temporary Contact Program. This program helps those getting out of meeting by us AA’s helping them get to those first meeting. We are the best meeting in town and the coffee is always on. Come check us out!

Yours in Service
Nancy G.

FRIDAY MEETINGS:

Friday Morning Big Book:
June-Not present

Living Sober Group
Not present

There’s a Solution (PI Committee)
We are a closed meeting of AA but we may be voting to change to an Open Mtg at our next business mtg. We usually have an attendance of 20. We are going to reduce our meeting space to just one room because of the drop in members. We focus our topics on the message in the BB of AA, especially chapter two. We contribute to the three entities when possible, recognize sober dates, express the need of sponsorship and encourage service work in recovery.
Yours in service,
Jim H

Serenity Group
Not present

SATURDAY MEETINGS:

Serenity Plus Group:
Arnie-Present, but no report received

Women’s AA
Rachael-Not present

On The Path: 12 Steps to Recovery Group
Not present

Saturday Night Young People’s Group:
Terry-Not present

Midtown Square AA Misfits- 3rd Tradition Group
Not present
West End 12 Step Group (Archives Committee)

We are a closed meeting that gathers on Saturday evening at 7:00 PM. We have an average of 16 people at the meeting. We rotate reading from various AA publications and discuss topic read that evening. We are fully self-supporting and contribute to the three entities on a scheduled bases that is setup and approved at the business meeting held on third weekend of the month that all are encouraged to attend. We support grapevine publication and provide monthly grapevines to take and read. We strongly encourage sponsorship. We celebrate and provide medallions at 3, 6 and 9 months and annual years of sobriety.

We have been experiencing an increase in attendance which is nice to see. Several of us had a chance to go the St Cloud Roundup and did not fail to have great comradery and speakers.

Yours in Service, Peter T.

Late “C” Saturday Group

Not present

Officer Reports

DCM

I attended the Area 35/36 Joint Workshop this past weekend and there were 63 people in attendance and 11 from District 13. Thank you to all who helped set up/cleanup the meeting, it was a great success.

I attended the Newsletter, Web, Group Records breakout session. We discussed:

- Creating an ad-hoc committee with Area 36 to discuss a common entry point on AAmnnesota.org.
  More information will become available as this committee starts meeting.
- Each Area committee could utilize the web page to communicate information and we could move towards communicating the same information to professionals across the state.
- We discussed challenges that group records faces with getting information updated with GSO and keeping the group information update. It needs to be each group’s responsibility to help ensure their information is correct on the website.
- We discussed districts creating their own webpage versus using the area website. It seems to be better use of district dollars to utilize what is already given to us through the area because that will not cost the district any additional dollars.
- I had the opportunity to attend the business meeting for the Early Monday Group that meets at the Alano Club at 6pm. It is so neat to be able to watch a meeting conduct their group conscience meeting and see the passion they have for Alcoholics Anonymous. Thank you for allowing me to attend.

I will continue visiting groups and letting them know that the district is here to serve them in their needs.

Thank you for allowing me to serve District 13.

In Service, Christine G - DCM

Alternate DCM

I attended the Area 35 & 36 Joint Workshop on Saturday and helped out where needed. Since it was held in our district, it was important to assist the Area as needed. There was no cost incurred by me attending this because it was held in St. Cloud. I also attended the District inventory last Monday. One of the action items was to make a GSR report form. Feedback from the inventory meeting indicated the need to focus GSR reports on questions or concerns from groups and how the district can better serve the groups and less on group format details (other than group records info). I have the worksheet available at tonight's meeting for review. I also submitted a preliminary budget to the Treasurer for 2015. This includes a budget of $100 for a GSR School/Workshop if the District chooses. It sounded from the inventory process that this was desired. Please weigh in when we get to the budget discussion. I also visited one group last month and am continuing to work visiting groups into my schedule. Thanks, Angie
Treasurer
Al K- see attached

Secretary
I attended the first half of the Area 35/36 Joint Workshop. I participated in the Literature/Grapevine Break out Session. I asked if anyone else was having an issue with ordering more than 7 items at a time on the website. The answer was no. There were several great ideas discussed. We should have groups or individuals sponsor a professional or business and order a Grapevine subscription for them. Of course please ask first. There is a need for more involvement at the State Fair. It is a great way to disperse literature. Other districts have noticed that unmanned booths at County Fairs allows the still suffering alcoholic to feel more comfortable grabbing literature. There is a joint Corrections Committee and several Districts working together with Treatment Centers. Literature Chairs should not wait to hear what is needed, they need to be present at these meetings and know firsthand what is needed. Essentially we came to the conclusion that Literature Chairs and Committees need to be available to the groups and other Committee members to supply what they need. Tag line for Literature is “What can I get for you?” Yours In Service, Sara

Archives
If you didn't make it to the Area 35/36 Joint Workshop on Saturday, November 1st, you got stoned and you missed it according to Dr. Hook and the Medicine Show. I learned from Brad the Area 35 Archives Chair that you should make an inventory using the "Open Office" software program on your computer. Then download it 4 ways: 1;) post it to the "cloud" in PDF, Acrobat, or any format of your choosing to a separate email account on yahoo, junor, or any email website of your choosing. 2;) burn CD copies. 3;) buy a flash drive with the highest gigabyte capacity and file it there. 4;) store it on you computer’s hard drive. Also interview long timers/old-timers on a Sony Digital Recorder with MP3 capability. That way you can make a CD copy on your computer.
Also I heard from Niles a District Archives Chair in Area 36 that a workshop called "Archives Alive" will be held in Glencoe on Saturday, November 8th. 3 Districts in Area 36 have been invited to give 1 hour presentations each and a long timer/old-timer with 51 years will give their presentation. The event lasts from 9:00A.M. to 4:00P.M. and District Archive Chair workbooks, templates, and guidelines are available there. My challenge to the District is anyone who commits to driving me there, I will commit to topping off their gas tank in St Cloud before leaving for Glencoe.
Yours in anticipating service,
Sir David the Alcoholic.

Corrections
I am still searching for volunteers to fill the open positions for the Benton County Jail and will continue to do so until all the positions are filled along with 3 on call persons for each gender.. I have a new Benton County jail volunteer application, currently Mary has 7 applications and will be scheduling a training session soon.. Applicants will be contacted by email.. Stearns county jail is going well.. I will begin calling and updating the list again of those taking in a meeting for both Benton County and Stearns County Jails. I have asked the Area 35 Corrections Chair, Skip, to help relay the importants of us (Dist 13) to receive information from Chris on the happenings at the St. Cloud Prison. I have set a time frame of November 28 for Chris to send a report, I will contact the prison myself if no report is sent in.. I do prefer not to do this because it looks like we can’t communicate with each other.. I attended the additional District meeting to go over the recent District inventory.. To answer the questions about the checkbook of $1200 for the prison.. Chris went to groups to ask for Big Books or dollars for book.. His GOAL was $1200, and he does not have a separate checkbook for the prison of funds provided by the groups of Dist 13. Chris gathered enough monies to put in an Big Book order of 100 books, at $7.00 per book that’s about $700. I thank those groups who donated the dollars and/or books for
the prison and Thank you Chris for making the effort to go to the groups.. Thanks Skip for getting this answer.. I attended the Area 35/36 Statewide Joint Workshop last Saturday, and the Corrections Committee, we are in the planning stages of a Correctional Workshop for correctional professionals and for us with a speaker, planning for September 2015.. An idea from Justin (Area 35-Dist 13 GSR-Primary Purpose) that perhaps we can put our correctional facility requirements on our District 13 page on Area35.org.. Also for transmissions fairs (trade show format for inmates about to be released in 1 year), perhaps let us know when they are so we can attend for Area 35.. I am in need of a male volunteer to write and or sponsor an inmate in Stearns County Jail.... Thank you for allowing me to serve, District 13 rocks!!... Gayle R..

Literature
The grand total for literature sales for the Fall Roundup was 282.40. That is in addition to $160 which was acquired through the sale of 20 Big Books donated by Tom A. That 160 has been set aside to reimburse Tom and is not included in the amount turned over to Al. We sold all of the 75th anniversary editions. Perhaps we could stock up again for the spring roundup as supposedly by that time they will not be in print and able to be ordered yet. Mike M

CPC Chair
Frank C-Not present

Treatment Chair
All our commitments are being met. We will be coordinating our efforts with districts 5 and maybe 15 to continue bringing meetings into the many facilities we currently serve because they are in need of places to carry the message. I have presented the beginners meeting format to district 5 and there seems to be some interest. I plan on contacting district 15 about this matter also, I will attend their district meeting to present if they have time.

I was also contacted by Jake from passages about bringing in a beginners meeting type format into their facility, we have determined Fridays at 7:00 PM for this meeting. We also have some opportunities at Clara’s House on Wednesday evenings at 6:45 to bring a meeting in to the outpatient kids. We are also making a change to the Our House meetings, The Wednesday meeting will now be moving over to Journey Home in the Hope room. The Thursday meeting will stay the same.

I was unable to attend the round up which means I was also unable to present the workshop during the round up, I have been fighting this cold for about 2 weeks now and hope to feel better in the next few days, due to feeling sick I will not be attending tonight’s district meeting.

Yours in service
Mike L District 13 Treatment Chair

PI [Public Information] Chair
1. I attended the area 35/35 workshop on 11-1-14..P.I and CPC had a breakout session that was very informative and some good ideas were discussed on how we can work together between areas. I will share some those at the meeting..
2. P.I. committee has distributed the new meeting schedules to most of the local treatment centers and other AA meeting locations that do not meet at the Alano club..
3. P.I. budget for the next year has been submitted and was lowered from the previous year to get it more in line with actual costs versus worst case scenario budgeting..
4. Public service announcement has been sent to Charter Communications to aired for the next month.
5. The AA assistance is fully staffed and is going well..
6. We have plenty of literature on hand at the club and the racks are fully stocked..

Thank you-Mark R.
OLD BUSINESS:

1. District 13 Web Page. We are still looking for feedback and will continue to add and delete any items.
   It was decided that we would post the following on the page:
   a. Corrections Requirements for all facilities as well as applications. And the districts commitment and openings for volunteers.
   b. Treatment Commitment and Openings. As well as the Beginner’s Meeting Format
   c. Minutes from District Meetings excluding the first page
   d. Literature Contact Information
   e. District Action Booklet

2. Area 35/36 Joint Workshop. 11 members of District 13 were there. Reference Reports to learn about the happenings.

Beginner’s Meeting. We need to vote next month to see if District will continue funding. Please get feedback from your groups and bring it to the next meeting. A correction was noted to a report read by Nathan on behalf of JD. This statement was inaccurate. This proposal was brought to the district but failed to get 2nd.

“Two years ago a District Chair was given a solution of how we could increase attendance at the Beginner's meeting and decrease costs by moving it out of the Alano Club and over to SCSU where it could have been combined with another Beginner’s meeting. The idea was summarily dismissed and never came before the District GSRs for a vote. Now two years down the road we are going to vote on whether to keep funding the Beginner's Meeting. We have to get better at this. We are wasting valuable AA resources, but most importantly opportunities for the newcomer.”

3. Area Budget. Thursday 10am group announced that they were suspending contributions to the Area until more information could be received and a discussion had about the increase of expenditures. Several other groups also stated that they were suspending contributions as well. In response Christine read a letter from Sarah K., Area 35 Chair. Based on the letter a motion was made and passed to forgo District reports in January and have Sarah visit our District Meeting on January 5th.

“Hello Area 35, first off I want to repeat the apology I made at the Fall Assembly regarding the budgets. I forgot the June distribution/collection deadline and so the budget was not published in the July/Aug. edition of the Northern Light as it should have been. This was a very unfortunate oversight on my part, and I am really sorry I let this happen. Although I sent out the budgets to all DCMs in mid September hoping it would give the groups some time to discuss them before the assembly, based on assembly discussion I realized that this may not have allowed enough time for all groups to feel comfortable with the budget. For this reason, I want to make myself available to your districts/groups if they have any further questions or concerns about the budget that they would like to express.

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

NEW BUSINESS

1. District Budgets were handed to all GSRs in attendance. It was asked to bring back to the groups and voting will take place at the December District Meeting. It was encouraged that if the groups had any questions about the budget to reach out to individual officers or committee chairs.

2. A proposal was brought forth by Thursday Night Candle Light. Stated as follows:
“Thursday Night 8:30 Candlelight Group proposes to send to Area 35 that it be required that the Area Chair, Area Officers, Delegate, Area Committee Chairs and past Delegates that are funded by Area 35 rideshare and room share whenever possible. We understand there would be times that ridesharing is not possible and if room sharing one can't control if the other persons plans change and they cannot attend function. We believe the Delegate does not room share for the General Service Conference and are open to accept this, but local functions should be included for Delegate as well. We want it required that all give a whole hearted attempt to try ridesharing and room sharing for true and total prudent with Area 35 funds.”

The motion was 2\textsuperscript{nd} by Nathan, but failed to pass with a yes vote of 5 and a no vote of 11.

3. Christine will be contacting Frank, CPC chair, as he was not in attendance for the District Inventory Meeting, District Action Item Meeting, Area Joint Workshop and November District Meeting.

EVENTS
1. December 6\textsuperscript{th} - 7:30pm next District 13 Meeting
2. December 7\textsuperscript{th} - 9am Area Aitkin Committee Meeting
3. January 17\textsuperscript{th} and 18\textsuperscript{th} - January Service Workshop in Superior WI

Motion to Adjourn
DCM closes the meeting at 9:10p.m.
Meeting closed with Responsibility Statement