

Northern Light
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**Deadline for the next
Northern Light is
July 8th, 2020**

This is YOUR Newsletter Area 35

Ada, Aitkin, Akeley, Alango, Albany, Alexandria, Audubon, Aurora, Avon, Babbitt, Backus, Badger, Bagley, Barnesville, Barnum, Battle Lake, Baudette, Baxter, Beaver Bay, Becker, Bemidji, Bethel, Big Lake, Biwabik, Blackduck, Bowstring, Boy River, Braham, Brainerd, Brimson, Brookston, Browerville, Browns Valley, Cambridge, Carlos, Cass Lake, Chisholm, Clarissa, Cloquet, Cohasset, Cold Spring, Cook, Cormorant, Cotton, Crookston, Cross Lake, Debs, Deer Creek, Deer River, Detroit Lakes, Dilworth, Duluth, Eagle Bend, Effie, Elbow Lake, Elizabeth, Elk River, Ely, Erhard, Erskine, Esko, Evansville, Eveleth, Fergus Falls, Fertile, Finland, Finlayson, Floodwood, Foley, Forest Lake, Fort Ripley, Fosston, Foxborro, Frazee, Fredenberg, Garrison, Gilbert, Glenwood, Goodland, Grand Marais, Grand Portage, Grand Rapids, Grasston, Grygla, Hallock, Halma, Harris, Hawley, Henning, Henriette, Herman, Hermantown, Hibbing, Hill City, Hinckley, Holdingford, Hoyt Lakes, International Falls, Ironton, Isanti, Isle, Keewatin, Kelly Lake, Kensington, Kimball, Knife River, Lake Henry, Lake Lena, Lake Park, Lawrence Lake, Little Falls, Littlefork, Long Prairie, Longville, Lutsen, Mahnomen, Mahtowa, Malmo, McGregor, Melrose, Menahga, Middle River, Milaca, Moorhead, Moose Lake, Mora, Morris, Motley, Mountain Iron, Nashwauk, Naytahwaush, Nett Lake, Nisswa, North Branch, Ogilvie, Onigum, Orr, Osage, Osakis, Otsego, Ottertail, Palisade, Palo, Park Rapids, Parkers Prairie, Paynesville, Pelican Rapids, Pequot Lakes, Perham, Pierz, Pike, Pike Lake, Pillager, Pine City, Pine River, Princeton, Proctor, Quamba, Rainy River, Red Lake, Red Lake Falls, Remer, Rice, Richmond, Rock Creek, Roseau, Rush City, Sandstone, Sartell, Sauk Centre, Sauk Rapids, Sawyer, Shevlin, Side Lake, Silver Bay, Solway, Squaw Lake, St. Cloud, St. Francis, St. Joseph, St. Stephen, Stacy, Staples, Stephen, Superior, Thief River Falls, Toivola, Tower, Twin Valley, Two Harbors, Underwood, Verndale, Virginia, Wadena, Wahkon, Waite Park, Walker, Warren, Warroad, Watkins, Waubun, Williams, Willow River, Zim, Zimmerman

**Send articles and comments for publication to
Cindy S-K — northernlight@area35.org
Bring this copy to share with your Group!**

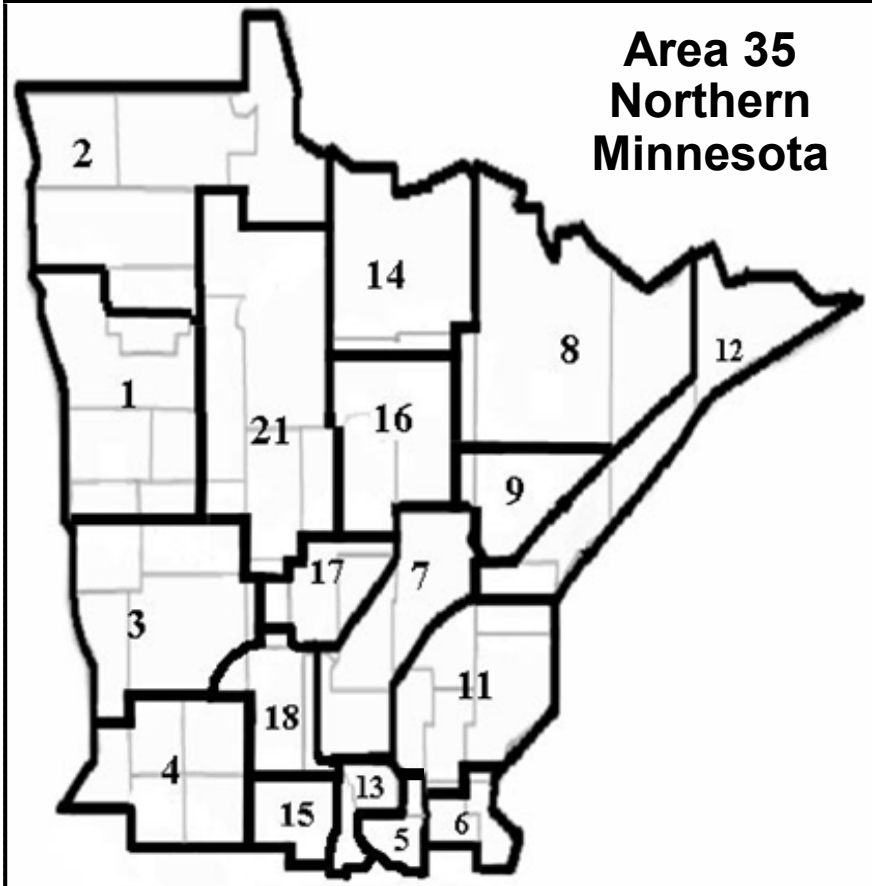
Don't forget to visit and bookmark your Area 35 web site! - <http://area35.org>
Event Calendar - Meeting Directory - NL Online - Download Pamphlets - District Pages - Links to Other Sites

2020-21 AREA 35 COMMITTEE

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Area 35 Northern Minnesota

Osage, Ottertail, Pelican Rapids, Perham, Underwood, Wadena

District 4 - Alexandria, Browns Valley, Carlos, Elbow Lake, Evansville, Glenwood, Herman, Kensington, Morris, Osakis

District 15 - Albany, Avon, Cold Spring, Holdingford, Lake Henry, Melrose, New London, 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, North Branch, Rock Creek, Stacy, St. Francis, Rush City

District 7 - Aitkin, Baxter, Brainerd, Fort Ripley, Garrison, Ironton, Isle, Little Falls*, Malmo, McGregor*, Palisade, Pierz, Pilager*, Wahkon

District 11 - Finlayson*, Grasston, Henriette, Hinckley*, Lake Lena, Moose Lake*, Mora, Ogilvie, Pine City, Quamba, Sandstone, Willow River

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*, Nashauk*

District 12 - Beaver Bay, Silver Bay, Barnum, Brimson, Brookston, Cloquet, Duluth, Esko, Finland, Fredenberg, Grand Marais, Grand Portage, Hermantown, Knife River, Lawrence Lake*, Lutsen, Mahtowa, Pike Lake, Proctor, Sawyer, Foxborro (Wisconsin), Side Lake, Superior (Wisconsin), Toivola, Two Harbors

District 14 - International Falls, Littlefork

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,

** 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

1st Sunday of Odd Months, 3:00 p.m.
Thief River Falls Alano Club
614 Davis Ave
Thief River Falls, MN 56701

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.
(use side door that opens to parking lot)
Trinity Lutheran Church
111 N 6th Ave
Princeton, MN 55371

District 6

3rd Thursday of Month, 7:00 p.m.
Spring Lake Lutheran Church
8440 Erickson Rd NE
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"

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.
1100 E Superior Street
Duluth, MN
Handicap Accessible,

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

3rd Thursday of Month, 6:30pm
Coffee Landing
444 3rd Street
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 SE 5th Ave
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Handicap Accessible, Non-Smoking

District 17

Not currently active or unknown

District 18

1st Tuesday of Month, 6:00 p.m.
Long Prairie Alano Club
21 2nd Ave
Long Prairie, MN 56347

District 21

2nd Monday of Month, 7:00 p.m.
Bemidji Alano Club
3802 Greenleaf Ave NW
Bemidji, MN 56601

AREA OFFICERS & ACTION COMMITTEE NL REPORTS

OFFICER REPORTS

DELEGATE – Jim S.

Hello Everyone, I hope this finds you all safe and sound. I know this has been getting long for me and I am sure it has been long for some of you. I have been doing my best to see the up side and one thing I have found is that I spend a little more quiet time in the morning than I used to. It helps when your fiancé gets up at 5:15 am and leaves the house at 6 am, so I have some extra time to put into meditation now.

Since the WCRAASC I have been getting a lot of responses from the surveys. I would like to thank everyone that took the time to complete it. I have found out why the survey says it takes 4 ½ minutes, that is the average time per question, not per survey. It has been interesting checking the responses to see how many more people have done it. I do appreciate the written in responses as well. It helps to give me some idea of why you agree or disagree with a motion. This could be valuable when discussing these at the conference. Next Thursday I will have a zoom meeting with District 12 to go over the agenda items. I am excited as this will be the first time I have done this. I was in Hibbing a month or so ago before the stay in shelter restriction started and had a wonderful time. Ricco was a gracious host and I enjoyed the time we all had together. I hope those who attended felt their time was well spent.

As for the conference itself, it sounds like the actual zoom conference will be from May 16th to 23rd, but not all the days. Tom A. believes it will be about 3 days in length. I will have a joint conference call with the Trustees committee on Agenda and the Conference committee on Agenda to determine what motions will be discussed and those that won't. Being that the conference has been scaled down for several reasons, each committee will review their current list of motions to determine if something needs to be addressed sooner rather than later versus what can wait til next year. It sounds as if the zoom meeting will start around noon and end at 6 pm. I do not know what other committee meetings or elections will be held outside of those times. There will be some training sessions in the upcoming weeks I will be able to attend to help get acclimated to how this will work. I have set up a couple delegate reports so far but we will have to see if the restrictions will be lifted by then or not. I have been thinking about a Plan B in case the restriction have not been lifted. Right now, I am leaning towards a zoom meeting with each district or with the area as a whole since we have a paid for account that would accommodate everyone. Only time will tell, but I do believe it is good to have a back up plan just in case.

The Area officers and I had a zoom meeting a couple weeks ago and then Gayle set up zoom meetings with the committee chairs and DCM's. It was great to hear that while we are in these times that people are continuing to reach out as best they can. I know some places have kept meetings going and others are zoom only. I do not take a stand on what each meeting does or does not, but I am glad to see that whatever can be is being done.

One thing we talked about was the Northern Light. We print 1000 copies each printing. We hand out some to DCM's to take back to their districts and some are mailed out. There are quite a few handed out to DCM's to distribute themselves. But, if any member of Area 35 would like to get put on the mailing please email your name and mailing address to grouprecords@area35.org.

There is no cost to you for this and during these times it can or may provide you some type of contact with other AA members. It is always welcomed to submit an article as well. This is most important as you never know who may read your article and need to hear what you wrote. I would love to hear how things are going for you.

Any GSR that would like to be included in my mass emailing's just shoot me an email asking to be added to the group and I will get that done. Email me at delegate@area35.org.

I hope to be able to see you all as soon as reasonably possible.

In Service, Jim S., Area Delegate

ALTERNATE DELEGATE – Steve L.

Good Day Ladies and Gentlemen,

Alcoholism is a disease of loneliness. How are you holding up with the lock down? Do you miss attending meetings in person? This is a fellowship, reach out; the suffering alcoholic you are helping just might be you. Are you finding meetings by zoom or by other means? I like to go to virtual meetings to keep up my routine and be a part of AA.

I've been involved with a couple of zoom meetings with the Area Officers and Action Committee Chairs and one zoom meeting with DCM's from around the Area. Very uplifting the solutions to problems Groups and Districts are facing.

I have been working on the 2021 Area Workshop which will tentatively be held January 16th, 17th 2021. I've narrowed it down to two places one in St. Cloud and one in Brainerd. Rates are good in St. Cloud but the Ice Cream Social is a sticking point. Still working on the Topics.

I recently found out a friend, former sponsor, and guide along the with founding father of my home Group (1973) is fading from us. Tom L., Panel 32 Delegate, just received his big L medallion and found out he has stage 4 pancreatic cancer. Tom is as fine example of an elder statesman as you could find. Give him a moment in your daily prayer and meditation. He is an exemplary example of what AA can accomplish. Thank You Tom for all you have done. You will be missed.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service
Steven L.
Area 35 Alt-Delegate

AREA CHAIR – Gayle R.

Greetings Area 35. This rotation has had a rough start, but one thing that has not stopped is the willingness to serve the still suffering alcoholic. Keeping in touch with each other to see how we can be of service. A conference call was set up with the Area Officers on whether to cancel the Spring Assembly, and we did cancel before the "Stay-at-Home" order. We also had a Zoom meeting set up with the Area Officers and Committee Chairs talking about how to keep in touch with our committees and the fellowship. We went around each committee that was logged in and discussed not what we can't do but what can we do, or can we do it differently. We talked about communication with DCM's and the Districts needs. How are we getting Literature to groups, what about contributions. Most of our entities still have their expenses. Our groups still have rents. Justin talked about online group contributions options such as the Square. Without me taking a report away from others, are we collecting old Grapevine's for jails and treatment centers. How about sending a subscription to a facility? How are we getting AA information to the public that we are still meeting and how we are meeting. Cindy needs articles for the Northern Light. Share your experience on how you are staying sober during this time.

Sally and Thomas are working hard getting updated information on area35.org and aaminnesota.org. Are cancelled meeting having online meetings? Are meetings having a zoom meeting at the same time. Please get them updates for online accuracy.

The Area Officers had a zoom meeting with DCM's with 10 Districts participating. We talked about the extra Northern Lights that I have in my car and encouraging GSR, district committee chairs and any other member that would like the Northern Light mailed to them would need to contact Group Records and get on the mailing list. Some Districts are having district meeting via zoom as well.

I am saying lots of prayers that we can get together in June, at this point (late April) only time will tell.

Thanks for allowing me to serve Area 35- Gayle R

SECRETARY – Heidi B.

Greetings Area 35, I hope this finds you healthy and happy. This is certainly a strange time. I am so grateful for the technology that is allowing us to continue our meetings. My home group is meeting weekly on Zoom. I also started a women's Zoom meeting for the women in my district. It's wonderful to stay connected to my fellow alcoholics and I look forward to each weekly meeting.

The Area Officers, Area Committee Chairs and DCM's have met via Zoom several times over the past month. We're discussing ways to stay connected to our fellow AA members and the still suffering alcoholic. This week, I sent our district (District 8) phone number to my physician so that the local clinic would have a resource to pass on to the newcomer. I also gave her the email address for our DCM in case someone had questions. I'm concerned about our newcomers and how they will find us.

Thank you all for sending your reports to me in a timely manner! Also, thank you to the DCM's that have sent me their district meeting minutes. It helps me stay connected to what's going on in the area.

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service, Heidi B.

TREASURER – Justin W.

Hello Area 35. I hope you are all staying safe and healthy during this unprecedented time. I never thought I'd see the day when doing the right thing involved not going to an AA meeting. Although it has been tough, it has also been a great opportunity to practice the principles I have learned in this program, specifically the idea that the right place for me to be is half-way between the extremes. I have tried both extremes...disregarding the government orders and circumstances on the one hand, and being afraid to live my life on the other, and both have failed me miserably. Instead, I've had to ask Him each day..."what's the best I can do today?" "What would you have me think and believe today?" If I'm willing to listen, change my mind, that is, the answer is usually something like..."Be grateful for what you do have. What can you do to be of service to someone besides yourself? What can you give to this fellowship instead of trying to take all you can? You're a law abiding citizen now...follow the rules. Call someone."

I thank God that I have the opportunity to be of service in Alcoholics Anonymous, and I'm grateful to you all for allowing me to do so. It's a privilege, not a burden.

It occurred to me that our fellowship as a whole will certainly be impacted financially if our groups aren't able to collect 7th tradition contributions from their own members because they aren't meeting. All of the money in AA comes from the individual group members in the rooms. Our home group and another in the area now have a simple, free, website and we can accept online contributions. I should also mention that you don't need a website to accept online contributions, you can just create a link and make sure you only share it with AA members and your group members can use a credit or debit card to electronically transfer money into your bank account. If anyone is interested in this please let me know and I'd be glad to set this up for you.

I would encourage us all to remember that the reason we put money in the basket is because we need to make sure our fellowship survives, because it costs money to carry the message, and because we as a fellowship need to make sure that we are the ones who are responsible for this thing; it is our privilege as well as our responsibility.

We have asked our literature folks to make sure they can deliver their inventory before making any additional purchases. The Area recently purchased a Zoom subscription so we can continue to hold regular meetings. We have retained all of the expenses typically associated with the Area Assembly.

In the month of April so far this year, we have seen a 86% decrease in contributions compared to April of last year, an 89% decrease compared to last month. I know this sounds pretty grim, but we've also seen a significant decrease in expenses to the Area, 82% less compared to last year, and 84% less compared to last month. So our bottom line for the month of April (-\$659.48) is actually 87% better than it was last year during the same period (-\$5,125.64). For the period of 2/16/20 - 4/20/20 we are pretty much in the same shape as last year, 3% better actually. I have included an additional report showing these details. Thank you for allowing me to be of service. Justin (see pages 9-12 for financials)

COMMITTEE CHAIR & DCM REPORTS

CPC – Brian P.

This has been a challenging time to Cooperate with the Professional Community.

Hospitals have been overwhelmed with Covid-19. Treatment centers not allowing people in or out to meetings. Churches are shut down. Everybody has been concentrating on the Covid-19.

I think about how difficult it would be to try and sober up during this "Shelter in Place".

When I first quit drinking I went to meetings almost everyday. If left to my own desires I would of isolated myself. That is a natural and easy choice for me. Feeling I don't fit in is easy to isolate.

A friend reminded me the other day how Bill W. and Dr. Bob did whatever they needed to do and had very limited resources when working with other alcoholics. We also have to use the resources that are available. I find it difficult to keep myself and people I sponsor focused on our recovery and working with others. It's easy to not do the work when we have to change how we work with others and change how we used to do it.

We need to try and reach out with the phone calls and get to the people that make the decisions. Get their emails and contact info and start reaching out with those resources.

We still have more resources than Bill and Dr. Bob ever had. Through online research we can gather information on treatment centers, Judges, Juvenile detention centers, whatever other Social programs are out there. I encourage each district to gather the information and start their own database of contacts.

This could be useful for future CPC/PI people who come into your position when you leave.

The new CPC/ PI representative will not have to start from scratch everytime. Yours in service, Brian P.

DISTRICT 9 – Ricco R. (no report)

DISTRICT 4 – Colleen S. (no report)

WEBMASTER – Thomas H.

Greetings all, I would like to open this by expressing how much I appreciate the opportunity to serve and the trust that has been placed in me by Area 35 and its members.

Essentially immediately after taking the position the Coronavirus spread throughout the nation and quarantine procedures were introduced. Many of our awesome meetings were forced to temporarily cancel, and it became extremely important to document and spread this information among our fellowship.

Almost daily I was receiving reports of meetings being cancelled and was updating the calendar and document on the Area home page. In the last couple weeks this flow of communication has slowed. I am expecting at the end of the quarantine when the meetings rev back up the flow of information will continue again but with opposite positive information rather than closings.

After accepting this position, I immediately removed the footer from the webpage that stated: "Powered by WordPress". The theme we are using is free, we are not required to advertise or display this text. I also added the general service conference agenda item surveys to the menu bar on the left-hand side of the page. The last request I am currently investigating is to resolve the format issues of the calendar displaying on mobile devices.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to serve, and I look forward to seeing you all again hopefully soon!

Thomas H.

LITERATURE – Bruce M. (no report)

DISTRICT 14 –

DISTRICT 3 – Tom O'M. (no report)

NORTHERN LIGHT – Cindy S.-K.

Hi everyone!

Watching this pandemic unfold has been an experience. It kinda knocked the wind out of my sails so to speak. There is so much we can learn from it. I would hope everyone is documenting their experiences for future generations.

How have you adapted with your AA meetings? I personally have found out how technically inept I am. It has been the younger AA's that have helped get everyone online in one way or the other. I have asked each person I have talked with to write about their experience and send to me so I can publish it in the Northern Light.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve, Cindy

DISTRICT 8 – Nels P.

Greetings from District 8, We have been updating online meetings and we will be having our district meeting on May 4th via Zoom. I have reached out to people asking them if they have any questions about the survey and I have asked that they get them filled out and turned in. I also have been in contact with Range Treatment Center in Virginia about online speaker meetings and their preference would be to have people record their short story and send those to them. Our district phone line is listed in the local newspapers and zoom meetings are mentioned and people are instructed to call for the information. At meetings in Ely, we have posted contact information for those that are looking for a meeting or if they need to speak with someone. We are still in need of a Secretary and also our Alt DCM has stepped down. This has been a challenging time for everyone and I am looking forward to the day we can all be together. Yours in Service, Nels P.

GROUP RECORDS – Sally L.

Greetings, Area 35, The last few weeks have been crazy. The state has been given a "Stay at Home" order and many meetings and meeting places have been shuttered. My home group meets in a church that was closed to everyone, including outside groups, on March 16. We are now meeting on the internet. The Area chairperson, Area webmaster and I asked for DCMs in their districts to let us know which groups were not meeting in person so we can have a list of suspended meetings on Area 35.org and mark those groups on aaMinnesota.org. We have such a list and I have been updating the groups on aaMinnesota.org. Since that time, groups have been starting to hold meetings on the internet, which has prompted me to start asking the DCMs for information on groups that have online meetings so I can show that on aaMinnesota.org. The information needed to do this is the URL of the meeting to put directly into the group information, and the phone number along with the meeting ID and password so people can call in to the meeting. If groups do not wish to share information about the meeting on the website, they can provide a contact email or phone number for people to get information on the meeting. So far, I have received information on only a few of the online meetings.

We need to remember what our primary purpose is so we can help the newcomer. The more information we have out there, the better. At the same time, we can't be sending people to places that are not physically holding meetings. The Meeting Guide phone app gets its information about meetings in Area 35 from aaMinnesota.org and the Minneapolis StarTribune recently had an article that referenced aaMinnesota.org as the place to go to find meetings, so we need to keep current. Please send information about closed meeting places and online meetings to me as soon as possible! Send to grouprecords@area35.org. I have been in contact with the Area 36 group records person, and we have agreed on some changes to the home page of aaMinnesota.org so people have some guidance on how to find online meetings. GSO has a list of some online meetings at aa-intergroup.org, along with information on how to start online meetings.

GSO staff have been working remotely to make group records changes, so things have been going slowly. If other areas are like Area 35, they have not been receiving a lot of change information from the groups, so hopefully GSO is catching up on the backlog. There has been no word on when all the bugs may be worked out of the My Portal program.

In service, Sally L.

DISTRICT 2 – Danny W.

District 2 held its bi-monthly meeting March 1st at the Twin Rivers Clubhouse in Thief River Falls, MN. There were 9 people in attendance including the DCM, District Treasurer, and GSRs or representatives from 7 groups. A positive turnout.

Group reports from 6 groups were given with highlights that included the local correctional facility allows certain residents to attend meetings in TRFs, and that a group in Warroad is considering starting a social squad to provide members with an alternative for safe social events.

Another concern discussed was the lack of contributions. It is a concern that needs further attention.

AA meetings at the local correctional facility – this was discussed once again and the form was reviewed that is required by the facility for anyone wanting to provide this service to those residents who are not allowed to attend outside meetings. This will need to be picked up by someone who can/will make the commitment to see this through. Probably someone from one of the TRFs groups. DCM will explore this option more. The agenda items for this year's General Service Conference were reviewed. DCM stated the importance of groups to have a representative attend the Area Spring Assembly in Hibbing where these items will be voted upon for approval or not. This will ensure that they have a voice and that provides our Delegate with the Area conscience when he attends this year's GSC.

Respectfully submitted, Daniel W.

DISTRICT 15 – Stephanie S. (no report)

TREATMENT – Melissa M.

Greetings Area 35, I hope that everyone has been staying healthy and safe during this scary time. I have to humbly admit that I have not done as much in my Area Treatment Chair position than I would have liked.

I know that Alcoholics Anonymous has saved my life and I need to continue to be of service the way that Area 35 deserves.

I was unable to attend the Zoom meeting that the Area had on April 11th, 2020 due to being ill (No it is not COVID-19 related) and I am recovering well.

I have had some discussion with others on ways that we can provide services at treatment centers. Since we are unable to physically go into treatment centers, will treatment centers be willing to implement Zoom meetings? And do we have people willing to commit to these Zoom meetings? There are a few obstacles that we have to overcome but I have faith that we will be able too.

I have had some discussions on finding ways to implement the Grapevine into treatment centers.

A GSR in District 6 called me and had questions about the Agenda Items and the best way to access them, along with a Hot Topic List. I guided him to our website along with giving him the password to get the background information. I emailed him a Hot Topic List (only based off of the discussions that took place from the West Central Regional Forum)

What I am currently working on is the following:

I am in the process of contacting all the DCM's in Area 35 to receive their treatment chair's information. I am also going to be emailing the treatment chairs (whose information that I have) to see what they have been doing within their districts and if we can set up some kind of meeting to discuss the obstacles that we are facing.

It truly is a pleasure to serve Area 35; I will be keeping all of you in my prayers during this difficult time.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service, Melissa M.

DISTRICT 13 – Denise R. (no report)

DISTRICT 18 – Janie F.

Greetings from District 18. My name is Janie and I am an alcoholic, currently serving as the new DCM for District 18. Regretfully, I was unable to attend the January workshop in Grand Rapids due to circumstances beyond my control and I feel like I missed out. I have read and heard great feedback from that gathering.

As this pandemic has shut everyone/everything down, we continue to practice safe distancing while we all journey through this together. We find creative ways to keep our sobriety and fellowship healthy as we keep in touch and stay connected...many of us reach out to one another with texts and phone contact and here in Little Falls we are conducting AA meetings via ZOOM every day at 10 AM and 8 PM, seven days a week. As a result, we have reached new comers as well as a resurgence of members that have moved away or simply been out of touch with these interactive meetings. The attendance of Zoom meetings has been an average of 8-10 and the feedback has been positive regarding ease of use as well as meeting the need for fellowship. I have been in contact with random groups within District 18 and they have reported positive responses with their interactive meetings as well.

As are others, I personally miss the comradery and the opportunity to touch base with other groups at our traditional roundups and large events that we have been accustomed to attending every spring. THIS TOO SHALL PASS...and we will be better people as a result of this self discipline.

Thank you for allowing me to serve, Janie F

ARCHIVIST –

ARCHIVES – Peter T. (no report)

DISTRICT 16 – Katy P.

Greetings from District 16. I hope everyone is safe and well. This has been a very different time for all of us, but there will be some good coming out of it. I believe we have all learned new ways of connecting with people, and for me, those connections have a meaning they didn't have before.

In District 16, we have several zoom meetings going on. We have had a few minor issues, but most have been resolved. I've sent information to Thomas and Sally to be posted on website.

We've also had a few small groups (4-6 people) still meeting. I do believe campfire meetings are a great idea!

We are still working on ways in our district on the 7th Tradition donations that have been lacking. More to come on that.

We will be having our second Zoom District meeting on May 6, 2020.

Our delegate report back meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 29, 2020.

We may have to make other arrangements, but for now we are living one day at a time and doing what we can.

Thank you for allowing me to serve. Yours in Unity and Service, Katy P.

DISTRICT 12 – Shelley H.

Greetings from District 12, Dealing with life on life's terms! These past few months have been challenging and we have people stepping up from all over the district to help coordinate efforts to bring meetings to the still suffering alcoholic. We have a listing of zoom recovery meetings on the "Duluth Area People in Recovery" facebook page that is updated in real time. Copies of this have been given to some of the treatment centers and professionals in the community at this time and also distributed via email. We had our first District Zoom meeting and it went well and the coffee was delicious lol. We had to cancel our hot topic meeting with the Area 35 delegate last month as the church shut its doors in response to the pandemic. But we rescheduled the meeting with our delegate via Zoom for 4/30 at 630 pm. A big thank you to Jim Steen for being so generous with his time. And many thanks to the folks who have offered support, encouragement and direction during this challenging time. Your thoughts and examples have been so helpful. You are much appreciated! Yours in service, Shelley H.

CORRECTIONS – Butch R.

Not much going on in Corrections as all facilities are locked down. I have forwarded all requests I have to the proper Districts and will inform all any info I may receive. In Service, Butch R

DISTRICT 1 – Laura C.

District One report: We currently have only one or two AA meetings that are still meeting during this Stay At Home Order. We had to cancel our April District meeting for the same reason. There are a handful of members meeting on Zoom and/or keeping in touch via emails, phone calls, and texts. Some of us old timers are concerned about new members not being able to find needed

help and are frustrated we can't do more but this too shall pass as we look forward to being together again as soon as possible.

Yours in Service

Laura C.

DCM District 1

DISTRICT 11 – Kurt N.

District 11 successfully conducted its April Monthly meeting by way of Zoom. We had 8 participants, I believe, not far off the "norm". I participated in the March Zoom meeting of DCMs with area 35 officers present. It was great to get a picture of the state of affairs and activities in other Districts because of the Covid-19. District 11 has reached out to most of its meeting contact persons to see what they are doing for meetings, if anything. We are offering help, particularly with online video meeting information. Also, we are conveying area 35 information to these meetings by way of e-mail. I am reassured at how groups are, for the most part, taking the initiative in forming online meetings, but there are those who just stop going to meetings and make phone contact only, if any. More will be revealed!

In Service, Kurt N.

PUBLIC INFORMATION – Greg C.

Greetings AREA 35! As acting PI Chair for AREA 35, I'm trying to stay as active and engaged as our quarantine allows. I have put out a couple of emails to the PI/CPC action committee as well as all the active DCM's; outlining some possible solutions to getting public information out during these unusual circumstances. With most churches and many Alano houses closing, there are a lot of meetings that have suspended. Many have gone to video or audio meetings. But we need to make available initial points of contact for new comers... the still suffering alcoholic that we have all committed to being there for. If meeting types/locations/formats/etc. have changed; we as an organization have a responsibility to get that information out to the public so that we can still be FOUND! I have also spent the past three days calling all the DCM's in the AREA, just to chat/share about what methods and actions are going on in their Districts to serve both the Fellowship and the still suffering alcoholic. Without sharing ALL the information, which would take too long here, I CAN tell you that it has been profoundly encouraging to hear of so many people who are going above and beyond to adhere to our Primary Purpose of staying sober and helping the still suffering alcoholic find recovery. In addition, I have asked the State for clarification of meeting size during the Stay at Home Order, and also to reconsider our status as a none essential organization. I expect information soon. If we agree that Alcoholism, if left untreated, is a fatal disease; then an organization who has been providing temporary and long-term relief of that disease for over 80 yrs. MIGHT be considered essential. Food for thought. Anyway, it is a pure joy to touch bases with so many of you during this troubled time. I miss our gatherings and fellowship more than you know...correct that; you DO know. Let's keep doing what we do best, living one day at a time. Please stay positive and talk to each other whenever possible. Hope to see you soon. Greg C.

DISTRICT 7 – Tim V. (no report)

DISTRICT 6 – Mike U. (no report)

GRAPEVINE – Pat M.

Greetings area 35 Grapevine chair Pat M alcoholic. Hope this report finds everyone well. We have lots Grapevine literature and I was geared up for the spring assembly which we did not have so I am sitting on all kinds of literature. So if there's anything anyone needs contact your Grapevine chair, contact your DCM, or contact me I will get it to you. I would like to talk to you about the Grapevine magazine the meeting in print which offers so much hope, strength and experience something we're all looking for right now as we all know Area 35 has a vast rural population. Is the hand of alcoholics anonymous reaching the homebound, the newcomer, the newcomer coming out of treatment and are we reaching the alcoholics in the jails. At this time the meeting in print was actually designed for times like this where we could not carry a meeting into where people could not be reached, so maybe this would be a good time to find it in our hearts to send some of the still suffering a gift subscription or gift certificate. I personally have purchased three gift subscriptions. I'm willing to bet we all can think of somebody who could use some hope right now in these trying times, the gift certificate is a great way to get Grapevines to the still suffering alcoholic coming out of treatment centers or jails. You can purchase them from Grapevine if you don't know where to send them or take them. I'm sure your treatment chair or your corrections chair would be more than glad to help you find a place to send them. What a great way to carry the message, there are several ways to purchase, you can call Grapevine at 1 (800) 631- 6025 or you can order a gift subscription at www.aaGrapevine.org You can use also the card in the Grapevine magazine and send it to Grapevine if anyone has any questions please contact me at (320) 241-3909. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Grapevine chair, Pat M.

DISTRICT 5 – Terry P. (no report)

DISTRICT 21 – John W. (no report)

Responsibility Statement

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.

We Could Blow the Whole Thing

BY: R. S. | QUEENS, NEW YORK

What if suddenly there was no AA? If, in some nightmare future, AA groups forgot all about the Twelve Traditions. . .

NOTHING IN my life had prepared me for the six months through which I had just lived. Not my education, not my drinking, not my recovery in AA. I'd been assigned to the field as a representative for my company, to oversee the operation of an experimental system for mining copper in South America. It meant spending exactly 180 days cut off from civilization, living and working with a hard-drinking bunch of men from everywhere, assembled for the project.

Fresh from the office, a lovely home and family, and an active life in AA locally, I was suddenly thrust into a dark and treacherous existence in a jungle camp, thousands of miles away.

Right from the beginning, it was every man for himself. There were bosses and sub-bosses, some of whom knew only the authority born of physical violence. Cliques were everywhere, and because of the extreme isolation, men's nerves wore thin. Recreation ended in drunken brawls almost every night. In the morning, sick and hung over, everyone got back to work.

I kept asking myself, "What's a nice AA like you doing in a place like this?"

At the end of my stint, there was only one thought in my mind: How fast can I get to a meeting? As it happened, there was a day's layover on my trip home, and I knew there'd be a meeting *somewhere* nearby.

I remember the feeling of excitement as, in the rented car, I pulled out of the hotel parking lot. My *International AA Directory* was safe at my side, and my anticipation grew as I found the street, and then the address of the meeting.

What a welcome sight that church was, as I walked briskly to the side door. I could almost smell the coffee, and I reached for the handle.

The door was locked. In fact, there wasn't a sign of life anywhere. I checked the directory, and it showed clearly I was in the right place. A glance at my watch told me the meeting scheduled should begin in ten minutes. I scratched my head--where *was* everyone?--and I walked back to the car.

I stood on the street for a few minutes more, and when no one appeared, I shrugged and got in, and turned on the light. Well, I thought, there should be another meeting somewhere nearby. Looking down the list, I found a Step group across town. Within a few minutes, I pulled up to a large church, its lights beckoning everywhere. My enthusiasm was short-lived, however. A thorough search of the parish house revealed a number of empty rooms, one vestry meeting, and no AA to be found.

The eerie feeling that had begun to grow in me now turned to anger. What the heck was going on here? I left the church and headed my car back out of town, toward my hotel. As I drove, I ranted and raved. Some way to treat a visitor! I was sure nothing like this could ever happen back home--*we* knew how to keep AA together a lot better! I was halfway through the blistering letter I'd fire off to the AA General Service Office upon my return home, as I pulled into the hotel lot and went to my room. Still grouching, I went to bed.

The next morning, as I stepped out of the shower, I hadn't shaken off the indignant rage that haunted me. On an impulse, I looked at my watch. It was about half past ten in New York, and I knew GSO would be open. I picked up the phone, not trusting my anger to last till I returned home, and placed the call.

The operator and I listened to the recording: "The number you have reached is not in service at this time." My shock was indescribable. A verifying operator obtained the same message, and I hung up. Now, for the first time, I was genuinely afraid. There was obviously something really wrong, and I wasn't sure I knew what to do. Funny, all I could think of was that old saw "Don't drink, and go to meetings." What a laugh! Later, I turned the car in at the airport and boarded a plane for home, arriving late that evening.

Naturally, the first thing I did when I was settled in with my family was to get on the phone to some of my AA friends. There was no one home anywhere I called, and I felt the oddest sensation. I was suddenly in the *Twilight Zone*. Everything I knew about the AA program, all the tools I'd been using for the past few years, were suddenly gone!

The next morning, I was out early, and I drove to the roadside coffeehouse that had become the unofficial AA club. It had always provided an all-day meeting, of sorts, and surely *there* someone could tell me what was going on.

There was only one car in the parking lot. I walked inside, and I saw only George T., who owned the place, sitting at the end of the counter. He greeted me warmly. "Well, hello, buddy. Where've you been? It's been an age since I've seen you!"

I shook his hand eagerly but decided to skip the small talk. "George, what's going on?" I began at the beginning and told him of all the strange things that had happened to me.

George never really changed expression, and when I finished my tale, he just looked at me. Then, staring into his coffee, he said, "Y'know, buddy, I'll bet you're the last guy on earth to hear the news, and I'm sure sorry I gotta be the one to tell you. It's all over, buddy--AA is just a figment of your alcoholic imagination now. It's all gone."

I stared at him. "What are you saying?"

"Just that, buddy. There is no more AA--not here, not anywhere!"

"But--but how can that be?" I stammered.

"Well now, that's a long story," George said, like a man retelling something for the umpteenth time. "It was a case of benign neglect, I guess you could say. Sorta slow, like a cancer, it was. You know, there was always lots a groups--thousands of them--and folks to carry the message all over the place. And that GSO office in New York to send out stuff. Who'd ever think a thing like that could just fall apart? But y'know, buddy, that's just what it did. It just went to seed and died,"

I couldn't speak. I just stared openmouthed at George.

After a minute, he went on. "I guess it was in the spring, just after you left on that trip of yours, that we got a letter from New York appealing to all A As for help. They said it felt like they were under attack from all sides, and the structure was beginning to fall apart. That rash of anonymity breaks, y'know, that started last fall--and that national telethon didn't help, with all those AAs getting their faces on TV. Seems like all our friends at the churches just started closing out our meetings faster than we could get new places. Didn't want any part of the 'new AA,' they said!

Then, in April, there was that last General Service Conference. Boy, it must've been something! See, there was this bloc of delegates that got together, nobody seemed to know how, and just *took over!* They said it was about time the *real* group conscience had its day. Threw out the whole board of trustees and did over the whole general service structure. Yep--they really did it, vote by vote. What a bunch of supersalesmen! Of course, they were only the tip of the iceberg. It turned out they had a regular organized bunch of drunks all over the country.

"Well, the rest was predictable. Before you could blink, they sent out a long 'restructure bulletin' from this new World AA Office, and they laid down a whole set of rules and new procedures, and began to badger the groups for pretty heavy 'donations.' In a few weeks, almost a third of all the groups in the whole Fellowship had already folded. They died like flies! The rest were all confused and couldn't cope with the load, plus all the bickering that broke out. Finally, I guess everybody just gave up. There've been some halfhearted attempts around town to keep it going, on an independent basis--y'know, in homes, here at the club--but believe me, it just ain't the same, if you know what I mean. Nobody feels like a *part* of anything anymore"

George blinked. "The Twelve what?" he asked. . . .

Of course, it's all a fantasy. I'm not even a mining engineer. And one thing I've learned in AA is not to be an alarmist. Still, around the groups I attend, it *does* seem that we A As sometimes get a little funny about the Traditions. That's what prompted me to wonder: What would happen if we *all* decided to let somebody else safeguard these twelve foundation stones?

If you woke up one morning, and found there was simply *no more* AA, where would that leave you?

Yeah, that's the feeling I got, too.

(We Could Blow the Whole Thing by R. S. Queens, New York. AA Grapevine January 1979
REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION AA-GRAPEVINE.)

Area 35 Group Records April 27, 2020

Greetings, fellow AAs.

As you know, the state has been given a "Stay at Home" order and many meetings and meeting places have been shuttered. My home group meets in a church that was closed to everyone, including outside groups, on March 16. We are now meeting on the internet. Many groups are in the same situation and have also been having meetings on the internet. In order for the aaminnesota.org website and the Meeting Guide phone app to correctly show which groups are not physically meeting and may be having online meetings instead, I am asking for information from the groups to do this. If the "Stay at Home" order is eased, some groups may still not want to meet in person. If groups do decide to meet in person at that time, let me know that also so I can show them correctly on aaminnesota.org. Information for the Meeting Guide app is taken directly from aaminnesota.org.

The information needed to show if a group is having online meetings is the URL of the meeting to put directly into the group information, the meeting ID and password, and the phone number so people can call in to the meeting if they don't have or don't want to use video conferencing. If groups do not wish to share that information about the meeting on the website, they can provide a contact email or phone number for people to get information on the meeting. So far, I have received info on a number of the online meetings. There must be more out there!

We need to remember what our primary purpose is so we can help the newcomer. The more information we have out there, the better. At the same time, we can't be sending people to places that are not physically holding meetings. The Minneapolis StarTribune recently had an article that referenced aaMinnesota.org as the place to go to find meetings, so we need to keep current. Please send information about closed meeting places and online meetings to me as soon as possible! Send to grouprecords@area35.org.

Thank you to those that have already provided their online meeting info and to those who have sent info about closed meeting places.

In service,

Sally L. Area 35 Group Records Secretary
grouprecords@area35.org

Group Contributions

	Feb 16 - Mar 31, 20	Jan - Mar 20
Ordinary Income/Expense		
In-		
come		
4000 · Group Contributions		
4000-01 · District 01 Contributions		
676989 · 104920-Fosston Thursday Night	0.00	100.00
Total 4000-01 · District 01 Contributions	0.00	100.00
4000-02 · District 02 Contributions		
107529 · 21206-Warren AA Group	150.00	150.00
117847 · 110006-Helping HandsGroup	0.00	50.00
161335 · 33539-Williams AA Group	0.00	40.00
723325 · 59124-Roseau Women's AA	100.00	100.00
Total 4000-02 · District 02 Contributions	250.00	340.00
4000-03 · District 03 Contributions		
107624 · Moorhead Thurs. Nite Group	0.00	10.00
107702 · 104860-The Formers Group	0.00	50.00
107855 · 26128-Thur Night Group Moorhead	40.00	40.00
Total 4000-03 · District 03 Contributions	40.00	100.00
4000-04 · District 04 Contributions		
137624 · 5284-Kensington Wednesday Night	0.00	30.00
647047 · 84237-Sun Night 630 12 & 12	50.00	50.00
Total 4000-04 · District 04 Contributions	50.00	80.00
4000-05 · District 05 Contributions		
107570 · 42545-Zimtown AA Group	0.00	71.00
668617 · Squad 11 Elk River Alano	0.00	80.00
674610 · 96059-Big Lake BB Group	0.00	48.28
704281 · 5616-The Way Out Group	100.00	100.00
705752 · 84634-Big Lake Sun Night Sol	17.00	17.00
709933 · 35289-Twelve And Twelve On Main	0.00	50.00
724470 · 6019-There Is A Solution Group	100.00	100.00
Total 4000-05 · District 05 Contributions	217.00	466.28
4000-06 · District 06 Contributions		
107681 · 97742-Cambridge Community Group	0.00	30.00
122300 · 14065-Tues Night AA Isanti	0.00	9.80
124462 · 77760-Squad 3 Isanti Thurs	0.00	44.95
140016 · 85613-Fri AM AA North Branch	0.00	15.00
167901 · 7282-Thursday Night 7 pm AA	0.00	210.00
171884 · 17191-Unity AA	30.00	30.00
666121 · 24817-Isanti Mon Night Open	80.00	80.00
672898 · 70426-Simple Not Easy BB Group	0.00	30.00
680382 · 100899-Dalbo A.A. Group	0.00	50.00
684775 · 91822-A Woman's Way Group	25.00	25.00
684788 · 26582-Wed Nite AA 6 PM	30.00	30.00
Total 4000-06 · District 06 Contributions	165.00	554.75
4000-07 · District 07 Contributions		
??CLSD · Tuesday Women's AA	0.00	12.50
107749 · 106946-Mon Garrison Group	0.00	100.00
123531 · 71823-Sleepy Hollow Group	77.00	77.00
129660 · 16875-Malmo Rhymer Reason AA	0.00	92.00
179367 · 12589-New Hope Group	50.00	50.00
609161 · 39348-Wednesday Woman's Work	26.55	51.94
609418 · 67938-Serenity in the Pines	0.00	50.00
641020 · 641020-Life Begins Here Group	0.00	68.10
642096 · 90198-11th Step Group	0.00	100.00
652451 · 24947-Monday Night Step Group	50.00	50.00
652706 · Practicing the Principles	0.00	50.00
699165 · Mille Lacs Primary Purpose AA	0.00	66.17
705579 · Isle Big Book Meeting	0.00	50.00
716950 · Lots of Love Group	0.00	60.00
719598 · Spiritual Awakenings Group	0.00	50.00
722626 · Road To Recovery AA	0.00	25.00
Total 4000-07 · District 07 Contributions	203.55	952.71

	Feb 16 - Mar 31, 20	Jan - Mar 20
4000-08 · District 08 Contributions		
107553 · 94034-Aurora Big Book	100.00	200.00
107876 · Orr Tues. Nite AA	0.00	103.00
107970 · Virginia Friday Nite Open	0.00	100.00
120255 · Palo Kitchen Table #1	52.33	52.33
142087 · Cook Sun. Night Big Book Group	80.00	80.00
674017 · Happy, Joyous & Free Grp Ely	30.00	30.00
716110 · Lake Vermillion 12x12	0.00	60.00
Total 4000-08 · District 08 Contributions	262.33	625.33
4000-09 · District 09 Contributions		
107762 · Thursday Morning Downtown	0.00	100.00
107764 · 110172-Hibbing Downtown Group	0.00	30.00
107765 · Tues. 8PM Hibbing Alano Grp	0.00	30.00
121039 · Zim Group	0.00	150.00
128162 · Sunday 12 & 12 Step Group	20.00	40.00
138250 · Hibbing Alano Sat. Morn. AA	0.00	50.00
634677 · Happy Hour 6 pm Hibbing	25.00	25.00
646421 · Sunday Morning Daily Reflection	20.00	20.00
694149 · Tuesday Afternoon Hibbing Group	50.00	50.00
719309 · Hibbing Thursday Noon Group	20.00	40.00
Total 4000-09 · District 09 Contributions	135.00	535.00
4000-11 · District 11 Contributions		
122533 · Thurs. Ogilvie AA	0.00	50.00
141987 · QUAMBA Mon. AA	100.00	100.00
173665 · Saturday Sobriety Group	75.00	75.00
685409 · 685409 - Mora Wed Morning Women	0.00	25.00
724683 · Moose Lake Vision of Hope Group	0.00	10.00
Total 4000-11 · District 11 Contributions	175.00	260.00
4000-12 · District 12 Contributions		
???? · It's Quitting Time Friday Grp	0.00	25.00
107512 · Wed. Afternoon Group	100.00	100.00
107550 · Peace Church AA	0.00	17.00
107573 · Crossroads A.A. Group	0.00	11.40
107708 · Phoenix AA Group	0.00	25.00
107719 · Saturday 10 A.M. Group	60.00	60.00
114416 · 1609 Group	39.10	71.07
125933 · Rule 62 Group	0.00	50.00
127270 · Back to Basics	50.00	50.00
132613 · Serenity Club Inc.	45.00	135.00
135592 · Duluth "Nuts at Noon" Grp	0.00	50.00
140763 · Thurs.Noon Big book	0.00	50.00
164917 · Fri. Night Special Topic Group	25.00	55.00
169328 · Finland AA Group	0.00	20.00
635620 · Pattison Park Group	0.00	100.00
637117 · On Awakening Group	0.00	150.00
643667 · We Aren't a Glum Lot	0.00	10.00
695769 · Grand Marais Tue Nite 7th Trad	10.00	10.00
708011 · Steps at Copper Top	0.00	35.00
711810 · Barnum AA Group	0.00	60.00
Total 4000-12 · District 12 Contributions	329.10	1,084.47
4000-13 · District 13 Contributions		
107498 · Wed. 6 p.m. Happy Hour group	50.00	50.00
107580 · Early Evening Group (Tues. Nt.)	87.50	87.50
107601 · Thurs. 830 Candlelight Group	0.00	100.00
107914 · Primary Purpose Grp (Wed. Nt)	100.00	100.00
120679 · West End 12 Step Group	100.00	100.00
123538 · Fri. 10 A.M. Big Book	0.00	30.00
139018 · Older Adult Group	60.00	60.00
146993 · Thursday Morning Big Book	0.00	120.00
164180 · Womens AA Group (Sat. 1030 am)	0.00	50.00
603252 · There is a Solution Fri. Night	0.00	50.00
697239 · Heard it Through the Grapevine	0.00	75.00
718334 · Keep It Simple	0.00	60.00
726022 · Thursday AA Group	0.00	35.00
Total 4000-13 · District 13 Contributions	397.50	917.50

Group Contributions

continued

	Feb 16 - Mar 31, 20	Jan - Mar 20
4000-13 · District 13 Contributions		
107498 · Wed. 6 p.m. Happy Hour group	50.00	50.00
107580 · Early Evening Group (Tues. Nt.)	87.50	87.50
107601 · Thurs. 830 Candlelight Group	0.00	100.00
107914 · Primary Purpose Grp (Wed. Nt)	100.00	100.00
120679 · West End 12 Step Group	100.00	100.00
123538 · Fri. 10 A.M. Big Book	0.00	30.00
139018 · Older Adult Group	60.00	60.00
146993 · Thursday Morning Big Book	0.00	120.00
164180 · Womens AA Group (Sat. 1030 am)	0.00	50.00
603252 · There is a Solution Fri. Nght	0.00	50.00
697239 · Heard it Through the Grapevine	0.00	75.00
718334 · Keep It Simple	0.00	60.00
726022 · Thursday AA Group	0.00	35.00
Total 4000-13 · District 13 Contributions	397.50	917.50
4000-15 · District 15 Contributions		
167100 · Sauk Centre Thurs. Morning Grp	0.00	50.00
695601 · Cold Spring Mon. Night	0.00	50.00
718858 · Back 2 Basics	40.00	40.00
721677 · Thursday Night Big Book Mtg Grp	0.00	25.00
Total 4000-15 · District 15 Contributions	40.00	165.00
4000-16 · District 16 Contributions		
107766 · Hill City AA Group	0.00	80.00
118696 · Fri. Night AA Grp Longville	0.00	50.00
640458 · Monday Night Big Book Longville	0.00	100.00
665046 · Tuesday Nite Solutions Group	0.00	189.00
696926 · Cohasset North Group	0.00	170.00
697943 · Saturday 6pm Group	50.00	50.00
718339 · Bigfork Group	95.00	95.00
Total 4000-16 · District 16 Contributions	145.00	734.00
4000-17 · District 17 Contributions		
?CROSSL - ?CROSSL - Crosslake Thurs AA	0.00	50.00
123762 · Crosslake Tuesday Night Group	0.00	250.00
Total 4000-17 · District 17 Contributions	0.00	300.00
4000-18 · District 18 Contributions		
107722 · Eagle Bend AA Group	0.00	50.00
107785 · Little Falls AA Club Mtg Grp 2	0.00	150.00
107787 · Long Prairie Alano Society	20.00	40.00
Total 4000-18 · District 18 Contributions	20.00	240.00
4000-21 · District 21 Contributions		
107658 · Blackduck AA	40.00	40.00
139141 · Spiritual Awareness Group	0.00	208.23
145909 · Nooners AA Group Park Rapids	0.00	250.00
Total 4000-21 · District 21 Contributions	40.00	498.23
Total 4000 · Group Contributions	2,469.48	7,953.27
4100 · Birthday Contributions		
4100-05 · District 5 BDay Contributions		
B674610 · Big Lake BB	0.00	20.00
Total 4100-05 · District 5 BDay Contributions	0.00	20.00
4100-06 · District 6 BDay Contributions	0.00	44.00
Total 4100 · Birthday Contributions	0.00	64.00
4500 · Service Workshop Registration	0.00	1,170.00
4550 · Service Workshop Coffee	0.00	295.75
4700 · Grapevine Sales	136.00	443.50
4710 · AAWS Literature Sales	516.90	992.65
4750 · NL Flyer Insert Income	123.50	322.00
4800 · Interest on Deposits	0.27	0.43
Total Income	3,246.15	11,241.60
Gross Profit	3,246.15	11,241.60

Area Expenses

	Feb 16 - Mar 31, 20	Jan - Mar 20	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Expense				
5100 · Committee Meeting Rent	100.00	100.00	50.00	200.00
5120 · Grapevine Inventory	1,079.80	1,527.30		
5125 · AAWS Literature Inventory	1,154.83	2,838.52		
5200 · Service Workshop				
5201 · Coffee	0.00	335.00	150.00	150.00
5202 · Printing	0.00	0.00	25.00	25.00
5203 · Room Rental	0.00	1,268.34	886.00	886.00
5204 · Speaker Expenses	0.00	731.83	50.00	50.00
Total 5200 · Service Workshop	0.00	2,335.17	1,111.00	1,111.00
5300 · Spring Assembly				
5301 · Room Rental	0.00	0.00	0.00	795.00
5302 · Coffee	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Total 5300 · Spring Assembly	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,295.00
5360 · State Fair	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
5400 · Fall Assembly				
5401 · Room Rental Costs	0.00	1,050.00	0.00	2,100.00
5402 · Coffee	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Total 5400 · Fall Assembly	0.00	1,050.00	0.00	2,600.00
6550 · Finance Oversight Committee				
6550-01 · Meals	14.75	14.75	14.00	56.00
6550-02 · Travel	18.00	18.00	40.00	160.00
Total 6550 · Finance Oversight Committee	32.75	32.75	54.00	216.00
Total Expense	2,367.38	7,883.74	1,215.00	5,922.00
Net Ordinary Income	878.77	3,357.86	(1,215.00)	(5,922.00)

Officer and Action Chair Expenses

	Feb 16 - Mar 31, 20	Jan - Mar 20	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Other Expense				
6100 · Delegate				
6100-01 · Meals	93.25	163.50	162.00	293.00
6100-02 · Travel	233.29	277.04	88.00	1,225.00
6100-03 · Lodging	323.79	529.37	560.00	3,240.00
6100-05 · Supplies	0.00	0.00	25.00	50.00
6100-06 · Printing	997.06	997.06	700.00	1,650.00
6100-08 · Other	15.00	15.00	25.00	625.00
Total 6100 · Delegate	1,662.39	1,981.97	1,560.00	7,083.00
6200 · Alternate Delegate				
6200-01 · Meals	165.00	222.75	307.00	513.00
6200-02 · Travel	79.50	106.50	296.00	1,087.00
6200-03 · Lodging	214.86	452.19	474.00	744.00
6200-05 · Supplies	0.00	66.04	150.00	150.00
6200-06 · Printing	0.00	19.51	50.00	50.00
6200-08 · Other	15.00	25.00	30.00	30.00
Total 6200 · Alternate Delegate	474.36	891.99	1,307.00	2,574.00
6300 · Chairperson				
6300-01 · Meals	67.32	127.84	177.00	373.00
6300-02 · Travel	99.00	132.00	257.00	568.00
6300-03 · Lodging	151.09	421.39	470.00	610.00
6300-05 · Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
6300-06 · Printing	0.00	0.00	35.00	375.00
6300-08 · Other	15.00	25.00	25.00	25.00
Total 6300 · Chairperson	332.41	706.23	964.00	2,001.00

Officer and Action Chair Expenses

Continued

	Feb 16 - Mar 31, 20	Jan - Mar 20	YTD Budget	Annual Budget	Feb 16 - Mar 31, 20	Jan - Mar 20	YTD Budg- et	Annual Budget
6400 · Secretary					7700 · Northern Light			
6400-01 · Meals	171.80	205.35	287.00	528.00	7700-01 · Meals	66.02	90.07	107.00
6400-02 · Travel	190.61	213.11	255.00	510.00	7700-02 · Travel	93.26	112.26	145.00
6400-03 · Lodging	343.21	506.92	440.00	790.00	7700-03 · Lodging	151.09	269.76	260.00
6400-06 · Printing	803.35	803.35	40.00	280.00	7700-06 · Printing	346.00	346.00	375.00
6400-08 · Other	30.00	40.00	25.00	25.00	7700-07 · Postage	247.96	247.96	300.00
Total 6400 · Secretary	1,538.97	1,768.73	1,047.00	2,133.00	7700-08 · Other	15.00	25.00	25.00
6500 · Treasurer					Total 7700 · Northern Light	919.33	1,091.05	1,212.00
6500-01 · Meals	39.03	132.84	193.00	570.00	7800 · Public Information			
6500-02 · Travel	0.00	0.00	299.30	665.15	7800-01 · Meals	73.29	73.29	167.00
6500-03 · Lodging	215.86	402.30	480.00	640.00	7800-02 · Travel	156.05	156.05	305.00
6500-05 · Supplies	0.00	50.52	0.00	319.95	7800-03 · Lodging	435.35	435.35	420.00
6500-07 · Postage	0.00	0.00	0.00	240.00	7800-05 · Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00
6500-08 · Other	15.00	15.00	25.00	25.00	7800-08 · Other	15.00	15.00	30.00
Total 6500 · Treasurer	269.89	600.66	997.30	2,460.10	Total 7800 · Public Infor- mation	679.69	679.69	922.00
7000 · Archives Chair					7900 · Treatment			
7000-01 · Meals	7.00	37.00	122.00	318.00	7900-01 · Meals	37.00	77.00	112.00
7000-02 · Travel	8.00	28.00	185.00	340.00	7900-02 · Travel	127.50	150.50	135.00
7000-03 · Lodging	0.00	120.87	540.00	810.00	7900-03 · Lodging	128.86	260.86	320.00
7000-06 · Printing	0.00	0.00	10.00	40.00	7900-08 · Other	0.00	10.00	25.00
7000-08 · Other	0.00	0.00	25.00	25.00	Total 7900 · Treatment	293.36	498.36	592.00
Total 7000 · Archives Chair	15.00	185.87	882.00	1,533.00	7950 · Webmaster			
7100 · Archivist					7950-01 · Meals	93.62	123.62	147.00
7100-01 · Meals	0.00	0.00	67.00	258.00	7950-02 · Travel	97.00	115.75	145.00
7100-02 · Travel	0.00	0.00	170.00	700.00	7950-03 · Lodging	108.00	198.10	260.00
7100-03 · Lodging	0.00	0.00	280.00	840.00	7950-05 · Supplies	13.27	13.27	0.00
7100-05 · Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	7950-06 · Printing	0.00	0.00	0.00
7100-08 · Other	0.00	0.00	15.00	2,415.00	7950-08 · Other	134.40	144.40	145.00
Total 7100 · Archivist	0.00	0.00	532.00	4,363.00	Total 7950 · Webmaster	446.29	595.14	697.00
7200 · Corrections					8050 · Audio Technician			
7200-01 · Meals	197.00	239.00	227.00	428.00	8050-01 · Meals	0.00	0.00	67.00
7200-02 · Travel	64.00	79.00	224.00	596.00	8050-02 · Travel	15.00	43.00	50.00
7200-03 · Lodging	162.00	222.00	560.00	840.00	8050-03 · Lodging	0.00	316.00	240.00
7200-08 · Other	15.00	25.00	30.00	30.00	8050-05 · Supplies	197.65	197.65	0.00
Total 7200 · Corrections	438.00	565.00	1,041.00	1,894.00	8050-08 · Other	0.00	10.00	10.00
7300 · CPC					Total 8050 · Audio Techni- cian	212.65	566.65	367.00
7300-01 · Meals	34.18	34.18	72.00	163.00	Total Other Expense	8,224.85	11,561.37	15,423.62
7300-02 · Travel	260.00	260.00	284.00	698.00	Net Other Income	(8,224.85)	(11,561.37)	(15,423.62)
7300-03 · Lodging	238.95	238.95	200.00	690.00	Net Income	(7,346.08)	(8,203.51)	(16,638.62)
7300-05 · Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00				
7300-08 · Other	15.00	15.00	25.00	175.00				
Total 7300 · CPC	548.13	548.13	581.00	1,751.00				
7400 · Grapevine								
7400-01 · Meals	97.00	130.75	112.00	253.00				
7400-02 · Travel	177.69	200.69	135.00	440.00				
7400-03 · Lodging	288.86	452.57	320.00	790.00				
7400-08 · Other	15.00	15.00	25.00	25.00				
Total 7400 · Grapevine	578.55	799.01	592.00	1,508.00				
7500 · Group Records Secre- tary								
7500-01 · Meals	89.65	120.82	302.00	478.00				
7500-02 · Travel	131.61	149.41	240.00	420.00				
7500-03 · Lodging	257.93	346.28	690.00	970.00				
7500-05 · Supplies	0.00	72.80						
7500-06 · Printing	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00				
7500-07 · Postage	0.62	0.62	7.32	37.82				
7500-08 · Other	15.00	25.00	25.00	25.00				
Total 7500 · Group Records Secretary	494.81	714.93	1,264.32	2,030.82				
7600 · Literature								
7600-01 · Meals	7.00	43.94	239.00	460.00				
7600-02 · Travel	20.00	20.00	182.00	258.00				
7600-03 · Lodging	0.00	0.00	420.00	980.00				
7600-05 · Supplies	(705.98)	(705.98)						
7600-08 · Other	0.00	10.00	25.00	25.00				
Total 7600 · Literature	(678.98)	(632.04)	866.00	1,723.00				

Northern MN Area Assembly of Alcoholics Anonymous Rolling Balance Sheet Period 1 - February 15th, 2020

	<u>End of P2 March 31,2020</u>	<u>End of P1 Feb 15,2020</u>	<u>End of P7 Dec 31,2019</u>	<u>End of P6 Nov 30,2019</u>
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
1000 · Area 35 Checking Account	12,354.71	19,999.92	20,708.65	17,230.77
1100 · Savings - Prudent Reserve	6,048.97	6,048.70	6,048.54	6,048.24
Total Checking/Savings	<u>18,403.68</u>	<u>26,048.62</u>	<u>26,757.19</u>	<u>23,279.01</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>150.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
	<u>18,553.68</u>	<u>26,048.62</u>	<u>26,757.19</u>	<u>23,279.01</u>
	<u>18,553.68</u>	<u>26,048.62</u>	<u>26,757.19</u>	<u>23,279.01</u>
Equity				
3000 · Opening Bal Equity				
Net Income	26,757.19	26,757.19	26,757.19	25,362.39
Total Equity	<u>(8,203.51)</u>	<u>(708.57)</u>	<u>(1,394.80)</u>	<u>(2,083.38)</u>
	<u>18,553.68</u>	<u>26,048.62</u>	<u>25,362.39</u>	<u>23,279.01</u>
	<u>18,553.68</u>	<u>26,048.62</u>	<u>25,362.39</u>	<u>23,279.01</u>

Northern MN Area Assembly of Alcoholics Anonymous IEC Summary_P2_2020 Monthly Compared to 2019.xlsx

	<u>Feb 16 - 29, 20</u>	<u>Feb 16 - 28, 19</u>	<u>Mar 20</u>	<u>Mar 19</u>	<u>Apr 1 - 20, 20</u>	<u>Apr 1 - 20, 19</u>	<u>Feb 16 - Apr 20, 20</u>	<u>Feb 16 - Apr 20, 19</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense								
Income								
4000 · Group Contributions	746.33	490.05	1,723.15	1,548.79	203.78	1,398.62	2,673.26	3,437.46
4100 · Birthday Contributions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.00	0.00	14.00
4600 · Spring Assembly Coffee	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	241.35	0.00	241.35
4700 · Grapevine Sales	37.00	0.00	99.00	349.00	0.00	172.00	136.00	521.00
4710 · AAWS Literature Sales	516.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	516.90	0.00
4750 · NL Flyer Insert Income	123.50	0.00	0.00	48.00	0.00	0.00	123.50	48.00
4800 · Interest on Deposits	0.15	0.15	0.12	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.27	0.28
Total Income	<u>1,423.88</u>	<u>490.20</u>	<u>1,822.27</u>	<u>1,945.92</u>	<u>203.78</u>	<u>1,825.97</u>	<u>3,449.93</u>	<u>4,262.09</u>
Gross Profit	1,423.88	490.20	1,822.27	1,945.92	203.78	1,825.97	3,449.93	4,262.09
Expense								
5100 · Committee Meeting Rent	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
5120 · Grapevine Inventory	689.55	0.00	390.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,079.80	0.00
5125 · AAWS Literature Inventory	0.00	0.00	1,154.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,154.83	0.00
5300 · Spring Assembly	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,245.34	0.00	2,245.34
6550 · Finance Oversight Committee	32.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	32.75	0.00
Total Expense	<u>822.30</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,545.08</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,245.34</u>	<u>2,367.38</u>	<u>2,245.34</u>
Net Ordinary Income	601.58	490.20	277.19	1,945.92	203.78	(419.37)	1,082.55	2,016.75
Other Income/Expense								
Other Expense								
	<u>2,339.59</u>	<u>144.00</u>	<u>5,885.26</u>	<u>5,356.84</u>	<u>863.26</u>	<u>4,706.27</u>	<u>9,088.11</u>	<u>10,207.11</u>
Net Other Income	<u>(2,339.59)</u>	<u>(144.00)</u>	<u>(5,885.26)</u>	<u>(5,356.84)</u>	<u>(863.26)</u>	<u>(4,706.27)</u>	<u>(9,088.11)</u>	<u>(10,207.11)</u>
Net Income	<u>(1,738.01)</u>	<u>346.20</u>	<u>(5,608.07)</u>	<u>(3,410.92)</u>	<u>(659.48)</u>	<u>(5,125.64)</u>	<u>(8,005.56)</u>	<u>(8,190.36)</u>

Responsibility Statement

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.

Thoughts from the Fellowship

For me, the global pandemic wasn't real until the day I found out my Alano Club was closed.

I felt extreme panic because, like most of us, my solution starts and ends with a meeting.

Those first few days were a flurry of Facebook invites, copy-and-pastes and Zoom troubleshooting. I was relieved to see there were AAers ahead of the game, creating spreadsheets and resource lists, and emails and invites poured in from all over.

I made it through those first few days by thinking of others, reaching out and checking in. Sharing all the information through all the platforms. And when the dust settled, I had to get knee-deep into the basics. Calling women, sometimes 10 a night. Doing daily gratitude.

An hour's worth of guided meditation before I could even think straight.

I was in my daily readers again.

It felt familiar, reminding me of my earlier days in recovery, grasping at suggestion with wild desperation, only this time, I had faith in the work and its workings.

I thought I was doing OK until I saw my sponsor's face during an online meeting. I sobbed through it all in relief to "be" there, and to see the comforting faces of my Friday-morning meeting people, who have watched me recover from alcoholism.

I cried during a lot of them in the beginning. Frustration, grief, relief, love.

Seeing the fellowship do its thing was something else, too.

We started a gratitude thread. Women added women, some of them newcomers. My heart went out to them, not knowing what I would've done if I'd gotten sober at a time like this.

I invited one woman to a walk with another AA. She canceled last minute, and I wondered if I would've had the courage for the added pressure of hanging with total strangers outside the structure of a meeting.

What's been a great joy during this is watching another newcomer fight for his life.

I'd been in in-person meetings with him before everything shut down, and he always shared with a raw honesty, the kind that saves our lives. A couple of months sober, he's doing the work. Steps, sponsorship, fellowship.

During Zoom meetings, I see him smoking, playing guitar, petting a cat. Scribbling away in a notebook. All the mindful, soothing things that help you stay present and best of all, remember.

Reminds me of early recovery, and the gift of desperation. The gift that has again landed flat in my lap.

Thank God for AA.

Melinda L., Duluth

I was recently at one online video meeting in which there was a newcomer to AA who wanted to see if AA was the answer to his drinking problem. The meeting immediately pivoted from the 4th Step to a 1st Step meeting. In another such meeting, a long time member of the group with 30 years of sobriety reported a 3 year relapse and the group quickly rallied behind the member. In other meetings regular member express fears and anxiety. Luckily in these cases there were enough smiling faces on the screens to support the struggling AA members. In this era of the Coronavirus, we need to be there for each other as much as ever before-maybe even more so. That may mean overcoming fears about technology or picking up the 500 pound phone a few times a day. One thing is for sure, newcomers, falling off the wagon and regular struggling members are there as much as ever-perhaps even more so-and they may fall through the cracks and die without an AA member to touch base with.

We don't really know how long the Coronavirus may linger, suppressing the numbers of people attending regular AA meetings-if and when they resume-perhaps months, a year, or more. We don't know what "normal" will look like going forward, but whatever it is, we will need to be ready to adapt our efforts appropriately to carry the AA message to newcomers and current members who may remain more isolated due to ongoing virus outbreaks.

Kurt N.

"I think we simply fail to recognize miracles for what they are. Sobriety -- one-day-at-a-time -- is truly a miracle."

Prineville, Oregon, February 2004, "Miracles: Yours and Mine," , Beginners' Book

Version of the Big Book?

During these difficult and stressful times, I think it is fair to say a lot of us are reacting in fear. I must always remember that I may be the only version of the Big Book and the program that someone might see. With Minnesota's shelter in place, social media has been our way to reach out to one another. I am working hard to not get into outside issues that may offend someone, but especially someone who might know I am a member of Alcoholics Anonymous. Its easy to engage in something that hits a chord with us. But after all, we are human and may react or comment in anger. How would I behave in a meeting? Would I bring up a topic that I know would surely agitate someone? Of course I wouldn't, because love and tolerance is our code. Does it need to be said? Does it need to be said right now? Does it need to be said by me? No, no and no. I will do my best to behave in a way that is attractive to the newcomer.

Nels P

Some Self Examination.....

I have been blessed with the opportunity to have held a position within Area 35 for the past 10 years now and what a blessing it has been. I remember when I became DCM for District 3, between going to my groups steering committee, District meetings and the Area meetings I was attending either 26 or 27 events a year depending on if there was a Forum or not. I was able to travel all over northern MN and to a couple places throughout the Regional attending these functions. Most importantly I got to meet a tremendous amount a great people that have become good friends to me. My gratitude for these opportunities is immense. But, have I given the person reading this article who put the dollar or more into the basket that made this all possible for me their monies worth? When I went to all these functions, did I attend the whole function? Did I bring back information in the form of a report either oral or written? If there was action I was supposed to take was that action taken? Did I read all the agenda items or just what I thought was important and skipped the rest? I assume the fellowship has been happy with my performance so far since I have continued to have these opportunities, but in my heart of hearts when I sit quietly at night and reflect upon the day, can I honestly say I have done my best. Sometimes I can say yes, but truthfully sometimes I have to say no. Today, with the current situation we are in, while physically attending meetings and events just isn't possible, I wonder if I am doing everything I can for my position. I think this is an important question I need to add to my 10th step inventory as my actions reflect my sincerity.

Jim S

Hi my name is Deb H. and I'm a grateful member of Alcoholics Anonymous. It's become quite a challenge to stay in a serene state of mind among all the uncertainty during our current situation. I'm proud and grateful for my sobriety and the fellowship. It really is a blessing to belong to a group of people who are just amazing. We really are the lucky ones! I can't thank everyone enough who have had a hand in keeping our meetings going through Zoom. It's amazing how many new faces I've met, just wonderful.

I stay sober every day by doing my morning meditations and talking to at least one other alcoholic.

Stay safe everyone,

Deb H.

Daemon from the Deep Black Hell

My personal experience during this insanity called Covid-19 pandemic has been a rollercoaster ride for sure. My roller coaster was named "Daemon from The Deep Black Hell" and the ride had the steepest inclines and most unbearable drops I have ever experienced. The fear was almost paralyzing. I was scared for my husband, who has daily contact with the public, I was scared for my children and grandchildren, who were at risk because each family had a person that had to continue to work with the public, but in all honesty, I have never been so scared for myself. I had suffered through a life ending viral infection 6 years ago, and I am not sure if my body could be revived and survive it one more time, let alone go through the months and months needed to recover from another horrible virus. My problem? Some of us who suffer from depression don't like to be alone in our own world. I was not a very happy person. I have several years of sobriety and here I was, feeling sorry for myself. I wasn't trusting my Higher Power or thinking about other AA's at all. I really needed meetings, but that wasn't possible due to the shut down because of the Daemon from the Deep Black Hell. Then along came a few people with enough smarts and ambition to start Zoom AA meetings. I was miserable and desperate enough to give it a try. It turned out to be my salvation. I was going to many AA meetings each week before the virus, but these Zoom meetings are available everywhere, anytime and on any subject imaginable! I get to meet new people and hear new things, while still Zooming my regular weekly AA meetings. What a blessing for newcomers to be able to reach out, and what a blessing to get to be there for them. I will be forever grateful to those people who have spent time and resources setting up these meetings and continuing to make them available as regular meetings throughout this viral blip in our lives. I don't feel so desperate, lonely or selfish anymore.....OH, the wonders of our AA Program!

Lee Ellen O.

Parting thoughts as WCR Trustee

By invitation from the Northern Light Editor, I'd like to share some parting thoughts in my waning days of service as West Central Regional Trustee. Rotation will take place at the 70th [virtual] General Service Conference, where one of the seven past delegates standing for election will succeed me. Our eight current delegates in the West Central Region (WCR), along with four delegates chosen at random from the Conference Trustees Committee and four trustees from the Trustee Nominating Committee will be the voters for this election.

I look back to when I received the call from our delegate Kelly D. in 2016 that my name had come out of the hat. I had never envisioned it ever even making it into the hat, so I was a bit stupefied to find out the results. It seems that even though I had known all the trustees dating back to the late 1980's and saw the service they provided, I suddenly didn't seem to effectively grasp what I was about to undertake.

Between April and July, when I was to attend my first General Service Board (GSB) meeting, I was informed about three GSB committees I was assigned to, and also was placed on three sub-committees, one of which I was to chair. Yes, a bit of the "baptism by fire" if you will. At that first board meeting, on the first day, we had a brief orientation on fiduciary responsibility, a finance orientation, and a couple other items I am but dimly aware of and have little recall. I quickly discovered that the GSB runs on a robust committee system and always tries to accomplish a week of work in a weekend.

The October Board meeting in Rye was right after the World Service Meeting. I had some lasting experiences meeting world service meeting delegates from all around the world. One interesting result of those new friendships was a number of requests for information on the Concepts.

One of the more poignant memories of year one was that at the January Board meeting, I made a video presentation of a minority opinion on an agenda item that came out of the Public Information Committee, where I was a member. The vote set 19-1. It likely set the stage for other votes of similar nature. I had to accept the group conscience, but the GSB always gave me the opportunity to be heard.

In my first year I also was a member of the Trustee International Committee. It was one of the most mind-changing committees during my four-year tenure. Approaching it in the first year, trying to find ways to eliminate expenditures for this committee and to keep our AA dollars focused on services locally, I came to appreciate how, with relatively few dollars from our overall budget, A.A. has the opportunity to carry the message in some incredibly large-scale ways. Also, to see what was happening in countries where A.A. is newly-established showed how much you can do with so little, and how passionate these new countries' memberships were in spreading the A.A. message. In fact, I came to realize how much we could learn from them.....

My second year had committee changes, two of which I've been on for the last three years – Finance and Nominating. Over the course of the three years we've had a broad spectrum of important issues take place on these committees, and I will always be grateful to have been a participant. For example, Nominating has been working on evaluating and considering changes to the GSB that will make it more effective in service to the fellowship. Finance has been wrestling with how to divest ourselves of the large liability on our balance sheet, the pension plan.

There's no doubt that the Printers Copy Manuscript issue that took place over the first and second year proved to be very trying and was easily the most divisive issue during my tenure. Between the challenges during the process as well as the 2018 General Service Conference's discussions on the issue, my serenity and peace of mind were challenged.

The second and third years also brought on a second position: being a director for an affiliate. In a rare departure for a WCR trustee, I was seated on AAWS's corporate board. This doubled the travel to NYC and more than doubled the workload. The hallmark experience is how embedded I was in the operations of AA. Several committees and sub-committees, plus I had the opportunity to be the inaugural chair of the AAWS Internal Audit Committee and I chaired the DELTA Committee, which was put into place to evaluate the literature sales and pricing process.

Year three had me chairing my first Trustee Committee: Nominating. This brought with it an extra benefit, which was the process for selecting two new Class A trustees. This will also go down as one of the best memories of service as a trustee. I was also seated on Trustee International Conventions-Regional Forums, and with the 2020 International Convention looming, I knew it would be a challenging place to serve.

Participation in Regional Forums will also carry lasting memories. I had the opportunity to chair two in the West Central Region. As a region we introduced a process to forums that coordinated meals with trustees, nontrustee directors and staff members with the AA members attending the forum. It became a huge success not only in our region, but it is now being embraced by other regions, too. I also had the chance to be the AAWS director to the Eastern Canada Regional Forum in 2018. One of the most notable memories of that was I was a 2nd-language attendee, as we were in the heart of French-speaking Quebec and wearing a headset for the weekend for translation proved to be an eye-opening experience.

It was a big transition from year 3 to year 4. That is because I left AAWS, which was 60+ percent of my time in service as trustee. However, what I thought was going to be a quieter fourth year didn't occur. I had become part of a committee in my third and fourth years with the goal of improving the orientation process for new trustees. I was tasked with a myriad of writing and presentation topics for orientation. And just when I thought I was done after the July orientation in 2019, I was asked to stay on to help author an orientation manual. Hence, my fourth year can be characterized by a extended writing projects, and I'll barely get it all done by my final GSC in May.

I recently wrote an article for an intergroup newsletter about my experience as a trustee serving the eight delegate areas in the WCR. I won't go into detail on that facet of service, but I want to note it as the highlight of service as trustee. I've had the opportunity to visit all eight delegate areas, some as many as three times, and the spirit of service surely pervades all the areas.

So many "lasts" have been occurring over the past year, and just a couple weeks ago I had my last Board weekend. I must note to everyone that it takes a bunch of drunks on the GSB to label a period of Wednesday to Monday as a "weekend". So a word of warning to those of you who may become the WCR regional trustee: delusion still can run rampant, even on the GSB!

I bid you farewell as the WCR trustee. Area 35 provided three fine delegates that I had the opportunity to serve with over the past four years. It is now time for me to return to my home group and stand by the door, make coffee, and serve were asked once again --- just the way you do, too. I am grateful to have been of service to Area 35 and the West Central Region.

Yours in Service,
Tom A.
WCR Trustee

Thoughts from the editor:

This edition of the Northern Light is a bit different. I asked people to write about their experiences. I hope you enjoy their insights and thoughts.

The current pandemic has affected Alcoholics Anonymous in ways we were not prepared for. It is truly making us think outside the box to have meetings. Serving the fellowship has brought out creativity and made the internet our friend. I never thought in my many years in this program I would sit in front of a screen to be part of an A.A. meeting. My first thoughts as the world shut down was how can I help the still suffering alcoholic while I'm stuck at home? I watched as the internet blew up so to speak. The word was spreading, the meetings were happening! But what about the anonymity? I watched the news where even there A.A. recovery support was mentioned a few times. I have few answers to any of these questions but, I have people in my network that do, I am grateful for that.

You will also notice financial support is mentioned many times in this newsletter. How are you supporting A.A. during this? I personally have been putting my basket contributions aside so when I can put money in the basket again it will be like this never happened. I also set up prior to this an automatic withdrawal monthly with the General Service Office.

How many of you miss the hugs and bad coffee as much as I do? I will not take meetings for granted in the future, whatever that future is.

Cindy S-K

"If I remove my hate and anger, what is left is love. If I remove my anxiety and fear, peace will result. If I believe in God's promises, the obstacles that I created between God and myself will be lifted. When these defects are removed, then I can start to be an instrument of peace."

Chicago, Illinois, February 2009, "Clean Slate," Step By Step

UPCOMING EVENTS IN AREA 35

*See area35.org for printable flyers

Service Events

2020

June: **14th : Area Committee Meeting**
Alano Club 9am – 2pm
322 1st Ave E
Aitkin MN

Fellowship Events

2020

Many events have been canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic it is suggested you check prior to an event for the latest update



Area 35 General Service Conference Agenda Items Process

Greetings Area 35,

The Agenda Items do not come out any sooner to the Delegate than the week of February 15th due to the January General Service Board Meeting.

We realize that this timeframe does not give us a lot of time for discussion within our home groups before our April Spring Assembly.

It is the responsibility of the DCM's to get the Agenda Items along with the "Hot Topic List" to the group GSR's in their District. It is important that this information be passed on as soon as it is received.

Thank you for your Help.

Agenda Deadline Dates

December 15th

Deadline to receive proposed Agenda Items and submit Agenda Items to GSO from our Area 35 Delegate

February 15th

Delegate receives Agenda Items from the General Service Office. Then creates a "Hot Topic List" and sends it along with the Agenda Items and Background Information to the Area 35 Webmaster.

The Webmaster posts the material on our website(www.area35.org) with a Protected Password. The Delegate sends out an email to the Area 35 Committee with the "Hot Topic List" along with the password information. Which is used to get the Agenda Items and background Information off the Area 35 Website.

4th Sunday in February

Agenda Items are distributed to Area 35 by hard copy or CD

along with the "Hot Topic List" from the Delegate at the Aitkin Committee Meeting.

1st Weekend in March

Agenda Items are discussed at the West Central Regional AA Service Conference.

1st Weekend in April

Agenda Items are discussed and voted at the Area 35 Spring Assembly with the Area 35 Delegate

3rd Week in April

Delegate attends the General Service Conference and carries the voice of Area 35 to New York.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

James S.
Area 35 Panel 70 Delegate
delegate@area35.org

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 knowledge MS Publisher, MS Word, MS Excel and other misc. computer programs as needed. 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. 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,
Steven L.

Directions for Inserting a Flier into the Northern Light

1. First & Foremost **Contact the Northern Light Editor** at northernlight@area35.org or call the phone number listed on page 3 of the hard copy, print version of the Northern Light, for the Northern Light Editor (remember this will change every 2 year rotation).

2. Email a pdf version of your flier to northernlight@area35.org for approval. Upon approval a copy will be forwarded to the webmaster to be placed on the Area 35 websites calendar of events.

3. Upon approval mail 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. **OR** if you wish to have Cold Spring Record print your fliers to be inserted into the Northern Light. The NL Editor will forward a copy of the pdf flier to Cold Spring Record, along with your printing instructions (paper color, one or two sided printing). Currently there are 1000 copies printed with @725 pieces to mail. What is not mailed is passed out at the Area meetings.

Number of Copies	Printing Costs		Insertion Fee	Total Cost
	1 Sided	2 Sided		
725	\$ 48	\$ 60	\$ 75	\$ 123/135
1000	\$ 80	\$ 120	\$ 75	\$ 155/195

5. The cost for having a flier inserted into the Northern Light is \$75. Make Checks payable to NMAA and mail to :

NMAA
PO Box 114
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE MOST CURRENT ADDRESS!!!

RELATED FLIER INSERTION INFORMATION

- ◆ Only Area 35 A.A. Members may submit a flier. Fliers must be only for A.A. Sponsored Events.
- ◆ Fliers needed—625 mailed only or 1000 for mailed and hand outs.

Northern Light Deadlines for 20 are as Follows:

- ◆ January 13th : Flier will be included in the January/February Issue
- ◆ March 6th : Flier will be included in the March/April Issue
- ◆ May 1st : Flier will be included in the May/June Issue
- ◆ July 8th : Flier will be included in the July/August Issue
- ◆ September 1st : Flier will be included in the September/October Issue
- ◆ November 2th : Flier will be included in the November/December Issue

Money and Spirituality

Where money and spirituality meet.....

Over the past month I have had the opportunity to hear some financial reports from both the Area and GSO. Neither have sounded good in terms of 7th tradition donations. I know my home group hasn't had much in the way of 7th tradition donations as well as we simply aren't meeting. But, that doesn't mean that these groups do not still have bills to pay and the monies that each of them have are being used up to pay these bills. Currently, my home groups checking account hasn't been this low in the 25 years attended this particular meeting, the Area still has money but mainly because we canceled the Spring Assembly, there were very few physical meetings on the agenda items and there won't be any real expense for the service conference, but the Northern Light is still operating at full steam everything other month to bring you the news of what is happening within the Area and any news from GSO. GSO is still moving along as best it can even in these times. But, it still has bills to pay. I'm sure the reader of this article knows plain well I am talking about needing money for these groups as well as district. And that is exactly what I am doing. I am still benefiting in some way from these groups but I am not currently supporting them through my contributions. I need to ensure these groups are still financially stable to provide the services they are during these times, not just so they are there for me, but we still have people looking for AA. In a phone conference with the Regional members the other day, it was decided that GSO would need to draw down 3 million from our cash reserves to be able to pay bills through the end of JUNE, not the end of the year but through JUNE because donation are down about 50% and literature sales are down about 75%. The Area which if I recall from Justin's report has about \$1,200 in monthly donations during this time, and he has seen a couple hundred. We can individually donate to any of the groups, Districts, Area or GSO. While it is always best to go through the group so they represent a group conscience decision about how best to donate, we can do this on our own. I realize 3 million is a large number, but put into perspective, with a fellowship of 1.3 million it would only take \$2.30 on each members part to recoup that money. Even less for the Area to get on track. Same with Districts and Groups. So I encourage each and every one of you to do what you can for these entities so they are still functioning for the still suffering alcoholic when we all can get back to meetings. Jim S.

Area 35 Guidelines

for flyers to be posted on the website or in the Northern Light

A good flyer should answer the following questions:

1. Who is involved or sponsoring the event? Examples:
 - a) AA Group
 - b) District
 - c) Area
2. What type of event is it? Examples:
 - a) An open or closed meeting
 - b) Speaker meeting
 - c) Call up meeting
 - d) Big Book meeting
 - e) Workshop
 - f) Conference
 - g) Fellowship (ice cream socials, potlucks, chili cook offs, etc.)
 - h) AA must appear somewhere on the flyer
3. When is the event to take place? Examples:
 - a) Date and time
 - b) Does it reoccur
4. Where will the event take place?
 - a) Name of the facility and the address
 - b) Maps are sometimes helpful but not necessary
5. Why is the event taking place?
 - a) The reason for AA events is to carrying the AA message to the still suffering alcoholic (this doesn't have to be printed on the flyer)
 - b) Usually covered in Who and What

*For safety reasons, if a phone number is listed on the flyer consider NOT putting a name in association with the number.

Please submit flyers in PDF format when possible. Flyers will be posted on the Area 35 Website and in the Northern Light at the Area 35 Webmaster's and Northern Light Editor's discretion. Email the webmaster at area35.org with any questions.

Acronyms

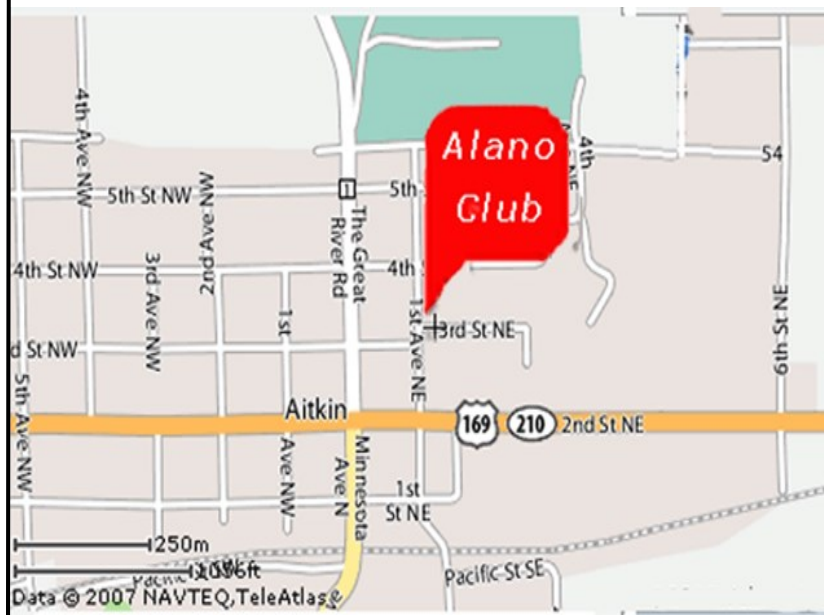
(Spaghetti Soup)

- AAWS - Alcoholics Anonymous World Service
- ACM - Area Committee Meeting
- BB - Big Book (Alcoholics Anonymous)
- BTG - Bridging the Gap
- CCS - Corrections Correspondence Service
- CFCP - Correctional Facility Contact Program
- CPC - Cooperation with the Professional Community
- DCM - District Committee Member
- FNV- Fellowship New Vision Database
- FOC - Finance Oversight Committee
- GSB - General Service Board
- GSC - General Service Conference
- GSO - General Service Office
- GSR - General Service Representative
- GV- Grapevine
- GVR - Grapevine Representative
- ICYPAA - International Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous
- NL- Northern Light
- NMAA - Northern Minnesota Area Assembly
- PI - Public Information
- Panel - The Two Year Rotation a Delegate Serves (Ours is an Even # Starting with Panel 2 in 1952)
- WCRSC - West Central Regional Service (Conference)
- WCRAASC - West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference (same as above)
- WCRF - West Central Regional (Forum)
- WCRAAF - West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Forum (same as above)

AREA 35 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Where is the Aitkin Alano Club?

Area 35 holds Committee Meetings in February, June, August and December at the Aitkin Alano Club
 322 1st Ave. N.E.
 Aitkin, MN.
Come join us!



OUR PAST DELEGATES

Panel 68 2018-2019 Christine G	Panel 42 1992-1993 Greg Gits (deceased)	Dave Harvey (deceased)
Panel 66 2016-2017 Kelly D	Panel 40 1990-1991 Bob J rj197644@gmail.com	Panel 16 1966-1967 Arno Adams (deceased)
Panel 64 2014-2015 Michael "Jake" J mjacobson35@gmail.com	Panel 38 1988-1989 Scott J	Panel 14 1964-1965 Donald Formo (deceased)
Panel 62 2012-2013 Jim K kathmuskiehunter@gmail.com	Panel 36 1986-1987 Louie H lhall@sequoiacenter.com	Panel 12 1962-1963 Donna Thomton (deceased)
Panel 60 2010-2011 Jon C crj64rich@gmail.com	Panel 34 1984-1985 Bob Picard (deceased)	Panel 10 1960-1961 Bob Bergum (deceased)
Panel 58 2008-2009 JoAnne M N jnels@charter.net	Panel 32 1982-1983 Tom Letourneau (deceased)	Panel 8 1958-1959 Pearl Nikkinen (deceased)
Panel 56 2006-2007 Jerry S finncities@yahoo.com	Panel 30 1980-1981 Don Mellen (deceased)	Panel 6 1956-1957 Waldo Hall (deceased)
Panel 54 2004-2005 Charlie C cdcraven@mediacombb.net	Panel 28 1978-1979 Garfield (Duffy) Salvog (deceased)	Panel 4 1954-1955 Wendell Haben (deceased)
Panel 52 2002-2003 Tim C tcalthoun@fallsnet.com	Panel 26 1976-1977 Vern Radtke (deceased)	Panel 2 1952-1953 Arthur Robertson (deceased)
Panel 50 2000-2001 Tom A tom@ardolf.com	Panel 24 1974-1975 Gordon B. Hagen (deceased)	
Panel 48 1998-1999 Susie A susie@ardolf.com	Panel 22 1972-1973 Frank P. Juola (deceased)	
Panel 46 1996-1997 Bill Perrizo (deceased)	Panel 20 1970-1971 Clarence Berg (deceased)	
Panel 44 1994-1995 Bruce B	Panel 18 1968-1969	

Q: Why list our past Delegates?

A: They are a resource to you!

In Alcoholics Anonymous we value experience. Our Twelve Steps did not exist when Bill stepped into the lobby of a hotel in Akron, Ohio. Even after meeting with Dr. Bob and soon founding our program, there were only six steps until the experiences of 100 Alcoholics were summed up. Soon after a book followed, but it was a few years later when the Twelve Traditions were discussed and agreed on. Twelve Traditions that were "hammered out on the anvil of experience". Our past Delegates are a wealth of experience, an interactive living archive if you will. When you plan your next service workshop or need an outside voice to offer help, consider this resource available to you. Some of them even offer great company while fishing!

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)

Resting on our Laurels

How are you doing in this troubled time? Finding meetings and staying sober? Are the Traditions still in your recovery? Still trying to live by the principals AA has presented to you? Why am I asking these questions?

I was thinking what will Alcoholics Anonymous look like after the Covid-19 shelter in place restrictions are lifted. AA has been shut down over the whole country for the past seven weeks (as of this writing). There are roughly 66,000 registered Groups in the United States and who knows how many unregistered meetings. How many will reopen? How many people will attend meetings? It won't be like a light switch and everything is back to how it was. How long before people feel comfortable gathering even after the shelter in place restrictions are lifted. The hat or the basket at meetings will be light because many people's lives have suffered catastrophic financial hardships. It will be slow going for getting Groups back to a regular flow. It could take three or six months even a year or more before AA Groups return to some semblance of normalcy.

It's been seven weeks now since my home Group has held a meeting in a building and able to pass the basket. With a possible three more weeks of isolation. If you extend that to 66,000 Groups that is a lot of contributions not being sent to the GSO. Like you and me, we still have bills to pay even if no cash is coming in. I know from experience. Being laid-off over five times in thirty-nine years while I was working in the mines. Twice for the duration of two years. I owed bills for the house payment, car payment, groceries, and utilities that still needed to be paid. I understand the hardships of meeting expenses.

GSO has rent, payroll and other expenses that still need to be paid, even if Groups are not sending in contributions. Along with lack of book sales GSO is looking at severe financial troubles. Expenses are outpacing income at an unsustainable rate. GSO only has a nine-month operating prudent reserve. They have burned through two months of that already with Groups being shut down for roughly two months. What happens if there is a resurgent? We have a long and hard road ahead.

Picture if you can what AA would look like if GSO went bankrupt. No General Service Office. No Works Publishing. No General Service Conference. How would AA be united? What about the offshoot of AA's wanting to take God out of AA's recovery program? What about people and Groups that believe a drug is a drug and everyone with an addition is welcome? What about the faction of Groups wanting to rewrite the Big Book? What about Areas wanting to take monies from Google and have a strong presence on the Web and social media. It would be utter chaos to rebuild a new General Service Office and Conference. AA would no longer exist, as we know it today. It takes all three legacies for Alcoholics Anonymous to function Recovery, Unity and Service.

Sure there are some out there who say, "Who cares we don't need GSO". Heck, I've had my disagreements with GSO, but I still want a GSO to disagree with. Without Works Publishing who would print your Big Book, 12X12, Daily Reflections and other AA literature? Without Works Publishing instead of Big Books costing \$9.50 they would run about \$25 to \$35 or more to purchase from an outside publisher and buy at a retail outlet. With no GSO who would answer all the calls for help, distribute literature.

It's easier to stop the bleeding now when there's just a small scratch then in a few months and we could have a major hemorrhage. Now is the time to act on Tradition 7 which states, "the hat is where spirituality and money mix".

There are solutions to this dilemma. I hate to give more than two choices pink or blue (cotton candy joke).

We can say, "Whatever God's will is for us, so be it, or it will all work out in the end and let AA go bankrupt and see where the chips fall".

This would be a great time to send in a personal contribution to GSO. If every person in AA sent GSO \$2.00 a month until this Covid-19 pandemic is over then we would remain solvent. Or, you as an AA member, can just send a contribution to GSO in any amount up to \$5,000 or as little as \$1.00.

Now is a great time to use and send a birthday contribution. I was at a speaker meeting a while back. The speaker stated he had heard of Birthday contributions when he was first sober. Years passed and he got into service and once again heard about Birthday contributions. Since he never started, he decided he would pony up and start from year one. Well, he had over 25 years of sobriety when he told his story and he said it was a contribution over \$351 and that it's always easier to start at the beginning than play catch-up. Well I just did the same thing. I always gave more than a buck into the basket so figured that was enough. Especially since the Group sent monies to the GSO, I figured I was covered. Well now, that isn't the case. I ponied up and showed my gratitude with a Birthday contribution from year one to now 39 years later.

You can contribute by mail to **General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163**, or on line at **AA.org** they take Paypal or Credit Card.

Why all this fuss about sending contributions to GSO? When you put money into the hat/basket it belongs to Alcoholics Anonymous. The Area will be OK for the next six to eight months. Districts will be OK for a few months for the same reason. GSO on the other hand, *the heart of AA*, is on the verge of being in dire straights or possibly Bankruptcy.

Are you resting on your Laurels?
Steven L. - Area 35 Alternate Delegate

An email to the outreach coordinator at AA Grapevine/La Vina

Hi Victoria, Area 35 Grapevine chair Pat M. in reference to our conversation yesterday that we of Alcoholics Anonymous are not just fighting the disease of alcoholism, we're fighting the coronavirus, both are deadly. Yesterday we were talking about the remote areas of northern Minnesota. It seems to me the only thing everyone is talking about is having online meetings, zoom meetings, what about the elderly, the homebound, the newcomer, the alcoholic who does not have access to the internet? I don't hear anyone talking about the meeting in print the magazine that was designed for times just like we are in right now. So my thought is how can we utilize the Grapevine magazine, the magazine that offers hope, strength and experience? Hope comes to my mind in these trying times how we can help the still suffering alcoholic, how can we get this magazine into the hands of alcoholics, they're looking for hope so desperately? Things that come to my mind, maybe we can gather up all our old Grapevines and give them out to treatment centers, jails and prisons. Just sitting here I can think of three or four people that could use a gift subscription of the Grapevine magazine that cannot afford to buy one due to the circumstances that we are all in right now. I hear a lot about gratitude in Alcoholics Anonymous, for myself gratitude is something that I must show not just talk about so I believe I will purchase three or four gifts subscriptions of Grapevine magazines that's the least can do. I have been blessed in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, I receive so many promises mentioned in the big book of Alcoholics Anonymous. Now I must give back what was given to me so freely. So, I ask my fellow alcoholics what can you do, what are you willing to do, are you still suffering?

Yours in service,
Pat M.

"I do not agree that the newcomer is the most important member at any meeting. In my opinion, equally important are those old-timers who showed me the way, and any middle-timer who may today be suffering. If newcomers are indeed the lifeblood of AA, old- and middle-timers are its skin and backbone. What a bewildered mess we would be in without them!"

New York, New York, June 1970, "Tradition Five," The Best of the Grapevine, Vol. 3

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 Light
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 Committee Meeting Agenda Aitkin, MN June 14, 2020

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

OFFICER REPORTS:

_____ Delegate – Jim S
_____ Alternate Delegate – Steve L
_____ Chair – Gayle R
_____ Secretary – Heidi B
_____ Treasurer – Justin W

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS:

_____ CPC – Brian P
_____ District 9 – Ricco R
_____ District 4 – Colleen S
_____ WEBMASTER - Thomas H
_____ LITERATURE – Bruce M
_____ District 14 –
_____ District 3 – Tom O’M
_____ NORTHERN LIGHT – Cindy S-K
_____ GROUP RECORDS – Sally L
_____ District 2 – Daniel W
_____ District 15 –
_____ District 8 – Nels P
_____ TREATMENT – Melissa M
_____ District 13 – Denise R
_____ District 18 – Janie F

_____ ARCHIVIST – (no one at this time)

_____ ARCHIVES – Peter T

_____ District 16 – Katy P

_____ District 12 – Shelley H

_____ CORRECTIONS – Butch R

_____ District 11 – Kurt N

_____ District 1 – Laura C

_____ PI – Greg C

_____ District 7 – Tim V

_____ District 6 – Mike U

_____ GRAPEVINE – Pat M

_____ District 5 – Terry P

_____ District 21 – John W

12:00 P.M. Lunch

12:45 P.M. Reconvene

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

_____ FOC Report – Christine

_____ State Fair

_____ Calendar of Events

_____ Adjourn

**Mail Area 35 Group contributions to: NMAA
7633 15th Avenue NE
Rice, MN 56367**