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# This is YOUR Newsletter

## Area 35

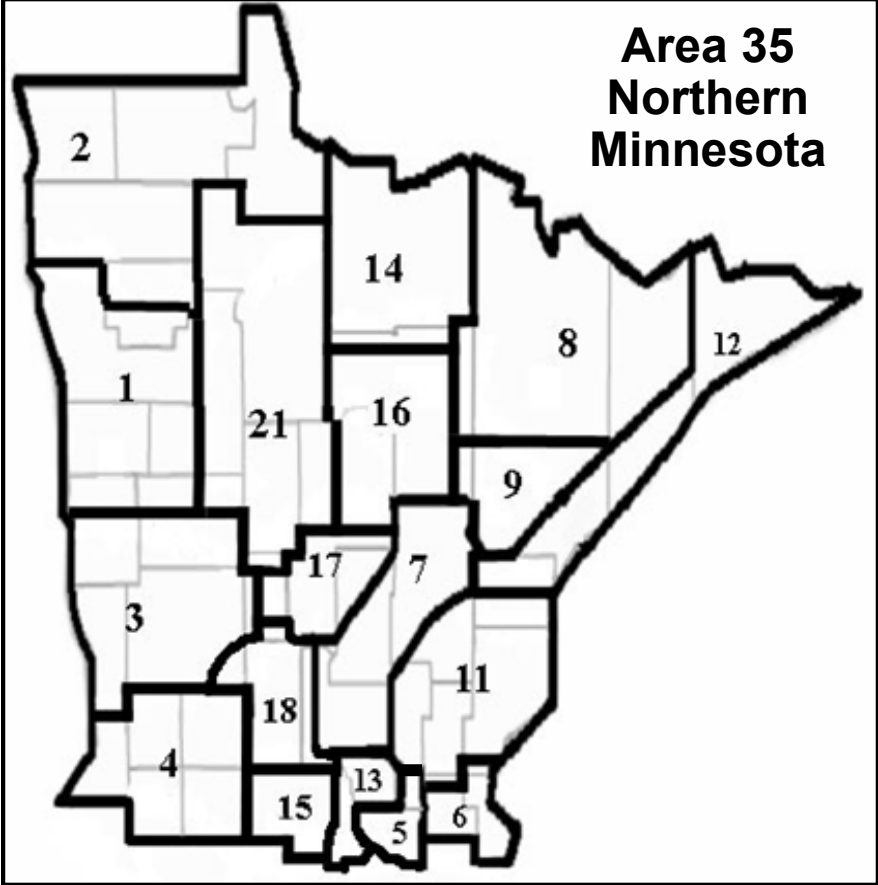
Ada, Aitkin, Akeley, Alango, Albany, Alexandria, Audubon, Aurora, Avon, Babbitt, Backus, Badger, Bagley, Barnesville, Barnum, Battle Lake, Baudette, Baxter, Beaver Bay, Becker, Bemidji, Bethel, Big Lake, Biwabik, Blackduck, Bowstring, Boy River, Braham, Brainerd, Brimson, Brookston, Browerville, Browns 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, Foxboro, 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, Mahnommen, 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

**Attention SNOWBIRDS let us know you are leaving!**  
**Send address change request to**  
**grouprecords@area35.org.**

**Send articles and comments for publication to**  
**northernlight@area35.org**

Don't forget to visit and bookmark your Area 35 web site! - <http://area35.org>





Zone I

- District 1** - Ada, Crookston, Erskine, Fertile, Fosston, Mahnomen, Naytahwaush, Red Lake Falls, Twin Valley, Waubun,
- District 2** - Badger, Baudette, Halma, Middle River, Roseau, Stephen, Thief River Falls, Warren, Warroad, Williams
- District 16** - Bowstring, Boy River, Cohasset, Deer River, Effie, Grand Rapids, Hill City, Lawrence Lake\*, Longville, Remer
- District 21** - Akeley, Bagley, Bemidji, Blackduck, Cass Lake, Debs, Menahga, Onigum, Park Rapids, Red Lake, Shevlin, Solway, Squaw Lake, Walker

Zone II

- District 3** - Audubon, Barnesville, Battle Lake, Cormorant, Deer Creek, Detroit Lakes, Dilworth, Elizabeth, Erhard, Fergus Falls, Frazee, Hawley, Henning, Lake Park, Moorhead, Osage, Ottertail, Pelican Rapids, Perham, Underwood, Wadena

- District 4** - Alexandria, Browns Valley, Carlos, Elbow Lake, Evansville, Glenwood, Herman, Kensington, Morris
- 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, Pillager\*, 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, Osakis, 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,
- District 9** - Chisholm, Floodwood, Goodland, Hibbing, Keewatin, Kelly Lake, Lawrence Lake\*, Nashwauk\*, Zim
- 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, Rainy River (Ontario,Canada)

\* 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		
<p><b><u>District 1</u></b> 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Even Months, 2:00 p.m. Fertile Community Center 101 S Mill St, Fertile, MN 56540</p> <p><b><u>District 2</u></b> 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Odd Months, 3:00 p.m. Thief River Falls Alano Club 614 Davis Ave Thief River Falls, MN 56701</p> <p><b><u>District 3</u></b> 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Month, 10:00 a.m. Alano Club 827 Summit Avenue Detroit Lakes, MN 56501</p> <p><b><u>District 4</u></b> 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of Month, 5:00 p.m. Contact DCM for location (It Rotates) Potluck at 6:30 p.m. Round Robin at 7:00 p.m.</p> <p><b><u>District 5</u></b> 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of Month, 7 p.m. (use side door that opens to parking lot) Trinity Lutheran Church 111 N 6<sup>th</sup> Ave Princeton, MN 55371</p> <p><b><u>District 6</u></b> 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of Month, 7:00 p.m. Spring Lake Lutheran Church 8440 Erickson Rd NE North Branch, MN 55056</p>	<p><b><u>District 7</u></b> 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of Month, 7:00 p.m. First Congregational United Church 415 Juniper Street Brainerd, MN 56401</p> <p><b><u>District 8</u></b> Committee Meetings at 6:30 p.m. General District Meeting at 7:00 p.m. Contact DCM for location “It Rotates”</p> <p><b><u>District 9</u></b> Last Sunday of Month, 6:00 p.m. Hibbing Alano Club 3725 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue Hibbing, MN 55746</p> <p><b><u>District 11</u></b> 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of Month, 7:00 p.m. Peace Lutheran 2177 Hwy 18 Finlayson, MN 55735</p> <p><b><u>District 12</u></b> 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of Month, 6:30 p.m. 1100 E Superior Street Duluth, MN Handicap Accessible,</p> <p><b><u>District 13</u></b> 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of Month, 7:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. St. Cloud Alano Club 127 7<sup>th</sup> Ave NE Saint Cloud, MN 56301</p>	<p><b><u>District 14</u></b> 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of Month, 6:30pm Coffee Landing 444 3<sup>rd</sup> Street International Falls, MN 56649</p> <p><b><u>District 15</u></b> 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of Month, 7:00 p.m. Albany Community Center 741 Lake Ave Albany, MN 56307</p> <p><b><u>District 16</u></b> 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of Month, 6:30 p.m. United Methodist Church 1701 SE 5<sup>th</sup> Ave Grand Rapids, MN 55744 Handicap Accessible, Non-Smoking</p> <p><b><u>District 17</u></b> Not currently active or unknown</p> <p><b><u>District 18</u></b> 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of Month, 6:00 p.m. Long Prairie Alano Club 21 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave Long Prairie, MN 56347</p> <p><b><u>District 21</u></b> 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of Month, 7:00 p.m. Bemidji Alano Club 3802 Greenleaf Ave NW Bemidji, MN 56601</p>



Area 35 Spring Assembly Minutes  
Ely, MN  
April 2-3, 2022

**Call to Order:** Christine G called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 2, 2022, and opened with the Serenity Prayer. There were 127 people in attendance.

**Recognition of Past Delegates In Attendance:** Area 35 – Scott J, Panel 38; Susie A, Panel 48; Tom A, Panel 50; Charlie C, Panel 54; Jim K, Panel 62; Jake J, Panel 64; Kelly D, Panel 66; Jim S, Panel 70. Area 36 – Scott A, Panels 57 and 59

**Removal of Motion:** Sally L. withdrew her motion made at the Dec. 5, 2021, Area Committee Meeting. The motion was “**We move on and accept what happened at the Fall Assembly and discuss with the groups what we want to do, in the future, with Past Delegates serving the Area as Officers or Area Chairs.**” There was no opposition, and the **MOTION WAS WITHDRAWN.**

**Additions to Agenda:** None

**Approval of October 2021 Fall Assembly Minutes:** Nels P. motioned to approve the minutes, Jim R. seconded, **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Agenda Item Sharing Sessions** were facilitated by Delegate Steve L.

**OFFICER REPORTS**  
**DELEGATE – STEVEN L**  
Good Evening Everyone,

Are you full of knowledge about agenda items? Have you had your fill yet? There is a lot more to discuss at this assembly. Thank you for coming and participating in this process. I now have a good sense of what our Areas conscience is pertaining to the agenda items discussed here this weekend.

At my last WCR Delegates meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup>, Mike L., our West Central Trustee, gave a report about what happened at the GV board meeting. There was good news and bad news. The GV’s preliminary year end audit was showing a surplus of 24K, but after the final audit analysis, the GV ended up with a 46k loss for the year. The GV board had projected a 300k deficit for 2021. So, the good news is we beat the 300k deficit, the bad news is our end of the year surplus dived into a yearend loss. This happened because of personnel shuffles and departures which caused some bills to be misplaced. Some of these bills were changes in GV distributers, Software overrun and bad debt forgiveness. (For your comfort-please note that GSO is in the process of hiring a new auditor to prevent surprises like this from happening again.)

Stacy M., Area 36 Delegate, gave a report on how this year’s WCRSC went. She stated the final count was 438 people in attendance with approximately 83 by zoom. The WCRSC had a revenue of \$9,521 Stacy had a rough breakdown of expenses, unfortunately we ended up with a loss of \$2,005.40. Two big expenses were \$1,920 for the signing interpreters (which weren’t needed this time) and a surprise gratuity cost which came to 33%, which Stacy said was buried in the contract saying the hotel could charge what it wanted for its gratuity. I know we warned the next host Area to keep an eye out for that clause. On the bright side the WCRSC is now incorporated in Montana (I think) and 501(c)4 nonprofit approved by the IRS.

I’ve put on a few miles on my truck in the past few weeks going to different districts and sharing thoughts and ideas about the agenda items. Attendance was varied from 8 to 50 participating. Some meetings had a lot of GSRs some had a few GSRs. Hopefully the intimacy of sharing in the small groups helped in the process this weekend. I want to thank everyone who attended these agenda item discussions. Your Insite was inspiring and educational.

We have some very important topics to discuss at this assembly. We have Archives to debate. We have been warned for the last couple of years that we had to find a new storage place for our archives. So, first we have to decide if we want to continue having an archive. Then, do we want to pay to have a storage location that is suitable to store the archive and monetarily support the archive of possibly up to \$6,600 a year (\$550 a month)? We have to discuss if the assembly body wants to let past delegates continue to serve the Area as an officer and/or action committee chair if they haven’t held that position before. It’s been said in our literature, “that the good is the enemy of the best”. Let’s all remember this. It’s up to you GSRs to determine what is best for Area 35.Please take the time and discuss these issues during breaks, eating lunch and at dinner.

Any past Delegates that would be interested in the WCR secretary position (Dennis B’s job) let me know. Dennis 2 year fill in is done. We will be voting in the WCR lunch at the conference on this.

Lastly, I want to thank all of you for allowing me to be your voice at the general service conference. I’m now well armed with the voice of Area 35.

Steven L

**ALTERNATE DELEGATE – JUSTIN W**  
Alternate Delegate Report – April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 – Spring Assembly  
Greetings. I did attend the West Central Regional AA Service Conference the first week of March and was able to attend the Delegate’s Meeting on Thursday March 3<sup>rd</sup> as an observer. In attendance were Mike L - the West Central Regional Trustee; all 8 Area Delegates and their Alternates, Dennis B - the WCR Administrator, as well as Bob W – General Manager of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous. The West Central Region is a bit more organized than I realized, registered as a non-profit with a bank account. All of the money comes from registration fees for attendance at the West Central Regional Conference. We discussed some proposed changes to the West Central Regional Guidelines mostly centered around the scope and composition of the Administrator position and responsibilities. Some remaining logistical issues with the Conference itself were addressed, and Bob W mentioned that GSO is returning to the office building in New York City. It was my first time in attendance, and I appreciated the opportunity to attend.

As well, I attended the Delegates and Past Delegates Meeting on Friday. It was like an orientation where the new delegates got to ask questions and hear the shared experience from the folks who have gone before them. There was a live zoom feed with around 8 participants and a room full of experience. I didn’t get a count, but I believe there were as many Past Delegates as there were currently serving Delegates and alternates combined, including several from Area 35. Again it was a privilege to have had this opportunity.

Some of the highlights of my experience there were the opportunity to talk to AA friends from other areas within the region, as well as getting to meet and talk with our new General Service Manager – Bob W. We did spend some time with him after his talk expressing our concerns about some recent communications from the general service office, specifically the safety document SMF-209 that was published to aa.org. He seemed to share our sentiment that the ideas that were expressed in the document were unprincipled and stated that the document had been taken down off of the website for editing. While some societal issues will inevitably make their way into Alcoholics Anonymous, we should all recognize this fact as contrary to our principles; a shortcoming rather than a virtue. Each group has but one primary purpose and if we are to develop and express opinions on all of the societal issues outside of AA, we will be drawn into controversy and tread the path of the Washingtonians. We did cover all of the Agenda Items as planned.

The event itself was well put together in my opinion and I enjoyed the hospitality suite that was hosted by Area 36. There was always coffee in there, as well as a whole bunch of stuff we should have eaten, but more importantly a constant supply of great fellowship with the folks in there.

I have done some reading of last year’s final conference report and other conference materials like quarterly GSB Meeting Minutes and Highlights. I have not completed these as of yet. As well, I am preparing for next years’ service workshop after having something of a fire lit under my....chair....by this guy named Jim. It will be held here in zone 4 and I expect to have the venue selection and speaker selection completed by the June ACM. Thank you for listening and for the opportunity to serve.

**CHAIR – CHRISTINE G**  
Greeting Area 35, Since the West Central Regional Service Conference, I have been working on getting the agenda set for this assembly. It sure is a learning process and making sure that you have everything on there and it is formatted correctly. Also, I would like to remind you that if you have something to add to the June 5<sup>th</sup> ACM agenda, please get with me by May 1<sup>st</sup>. We may have to add items after the fact but it is nice to see how much business we will have to take care of in June. Please remember that we will be setting up a special meeting in August, before the regular scheduled ACM, for the GSRs to attend if we have some GSC Agenda items to vote on as an area. More information will follow on that.

Jointly with A36 Chair, we have decided to create an Ad Hoc committee to review the current aaminnesota.org joint meeting locator to determine its purpose and usefulness. As this joint committee meets, they will report to the areas of their work.

On 3/2/2022, App Support notified Area 35 Group Records that all of the groups/meetings, listed with the General Service Office (GSO) within District 13, had been routed to an entity not within the service structure of Area 35, nor the upside-down service triangle of Alcoholics Anonymous. This means that when a group listing is viewed on the Meeting Guide App, any updates to the group information, via the Meeting Guide App would be routed to this entity.

After discussions with the Area 36 Chair, I decided to contact App Support immediately asking how this change was made without any communication with me, serving as the Area 35 Chair. Area 35 is a part of the A.A. service structure. I stated to App Support staff, that I do not authorize any further changes. Through continued communication, I learned App Support is managed by staff at GSO. The Meeting Guide is defined by the Meeting Guide App “It is a service of A.A. World Services and the General Service Board. Our goal is to create a resource that provides accurate, up-to-date information to our fellowship, and, in doing so, more closely link our members and service entities.” This information is noted from the Contact area on the Meeting Guide App version 3.9.30. In the meantime, Area 36 and Area 35 Chairs had a meeting at the WCRAASC with the West Central Regional Trustee, Mike L., and Bob W., General Manager at the General Service Office, to get a better understanding of the involvement of App Support and

how decisions are made.

The General Manager and our Trustee affirmed that the role and responsibility of being Area Chairs is the maintenance of an Area. I know that this responsibility includes safeguarding the Unity, Health, and Safety of Area 35. I will continue to be focused on this.

On 3/7/22, I received an email from the Digital Product Manager asking for further clarification. On 3/8/22, I emailed the Digital Product Manager, laying out all the concerns which included concerns from groups in District 13. By the end of day, the problem was fixed, and most of the errors have been addressed and/or been fixed.

On 3/22/22 a correspondence was sent to GSO General Manager and WCR Trustee regarding decisions made in 2017 that have had a negative effect on joint A35/A36 unity.

On 3/30/22, I was asked to attend the Wednesday Night Primary Purpose Group in Waite Park to answer some questions they had about the election. The questions and responses were as follows:

**What happened leading up to the Assembly?** I was asked if I would be willing to stand for Area Chair about 1 week prior to the assembly. I mentioned that once a person has served as delegate they are generally done serving at this capacity. My statement was challenged by stating that there has not been anything noted in the Action Book about past delegates not being able to stand and that there have been some discussions going on about it. I said I would pray about it. Nothing was brought up to me again until Sunday morning of the Fall Assembly and I said I would accept the nomination. I made sure that Gayle was informed so she could take care of her business. I was then questioned why I didn't let the Chair of the election know; I was not aware I was supposed to do that.

**Why did I accept the nomination?** I have been taught that if I am able and willing, I should serve. I did not realize this was a contentious issue and by no means was my intent to be deceiving, malicious or take this position on for any sort of prestige. I have seen other areas, in the WCR, have their past delegates serve.

**Why did I accept the subsequent position?** If you are asking why I didn't resign at the December ACM, this should be a group conscience decision. If the area assembly feels like they made a mistake and that the third legacy voting process that was followed, was not proper, then proper action would be made to remove me from the position. I came out of the hat and now I need to fulfill the position until I am told otherwise through an informed group conscience.

This explanation was followed by questions, comments, and participation from the homegroup members that were present. I appreciate the group members for asking me to attend their meeting and giving me the opportunity to hear their concerns.

I have reached out to the DCMs in Zones 2 and 3 for facility suggestions for the 2023 assemblies. Thank you to District 13 for checking into the River's Edge Convention Center. I have a facility that may be an option for our Fall Assembly that is located in Isle. I will be visiting with them to see what they have to offer. Once I get the 2023 assemblies set, it will give me some breathing room to work on the next rotation, per the guidelines we should have the assemblies booked out 2 years. If you have any suggestions for venues that fall in these zones, please let me know.

In Unity and Service, Christine G

**SECRETARY – SALLY L**

Greetings, Area 35. I am continuing to learn about my position, and that I need to be mindful of the words I use in the minutes. It was suggested that I not use the word "defeated" when stating that a motion did not pass and use the words "motion failed" instead. I will do this in the future.

Since the WCRAASC, I have been busy helping with creating flyers and helping with other things that keep the Area running smoothly. I am enjoying this work, and I hope to keep improving. I have attended a couple of agenda items review sessions on Zoom so that I can be more informed about the items and make informed votes this weekend.

When you make a motion during the meeting, please write a clear and concise motion and provide it to me so I can make sure to put exactly what the motion says into the minutes.

Please email your reports to me by April 11, 2022. If you do not have email, please provide a written report to me by the end of the weekend. If I do not receive a report by the due date, I will have to write "No Report" in the minutes.

In service, Sally L.

**TREASURER – CINDY SK**

Hi, I'm Cindy your Area 35 treasurer. I am eternally grateful for Justin helping me with these reports. We are definitely getting back to some sense of normal as you can see on the balance sheet for this year we are -9775.63 compared to last year we had a +4151.95. Total liabilities and equity comparison as of March 31st: year 2022-\$29,598.54; year 2021-\$23,877.47.

In service, Cindy S-K

**COMMITTEE CHAIR & DCM REPORTS**

**CPC – GREG C**

My name is Greg and I am an Alcoholic. I am also your Area 35 CPC chair. Over the past few months I have been reaching out to a variety of professional groups; Hospital Emergency room staff, Hospital Community relations Directors, County and State Probation officers, County and Regional Sheriff departments and Regional post-secondary Education Coordinators. In working with these various groups and individuals, I have been working toward a greater awareness of how best to reach Alcoholics Anonymous, while exploring both traditional and new ways of working with them as a tool for reaching the still suffering Alcoholic. I and Arden A, AREA 35 Corrections Chair, will be appearing as a vendor at the upcoming annual convention of the Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers in May and am on their list of potential speakers at their 2023 convention. I also met with members of District 9 at their request as they began planning CPC and PI activities in their area. We shared lots of wonderful ideas, including reaching out to many of the groups already listed. There also seemed to be renewed interest in developing a District website. Mary from District 16 was present and shared some ideas from that district as well. I plan to continue reaching out to all our Districts in an effort to assist and further the efforts of CPC work in Area 35. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

**DISTRICT 18 – SCOTT S**

No report.

**DISTRICT 15 – LISA M**

My name is Lisa and I am an alcoholic. I serve as the DCM of District 15. At the end of March we hosted the Stearns County Roundup. This is a one night roundup, which included dinner, two speakers - one AA and one Al-Anon, plus a whole lot of ice cream. We weren't able to hold the Roundup in 2020 and 2021. Approximately 200 people attended the Roundup this year.

Delegate Steve L was able to attend our March 7th District 15 meeting. We discussed a few of the GSO agenda items.

Lastly, we have had only a few GSRs attend our district meetings so far this year. I am hopeful we can increase GSR attendance.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve, Lisa M.

**LITERATURE – PAT M**

Hello Area 35. I'm your area 35 literature chair and my name is Pat M and I am an alcoholic. We had eight at attendance at our committee meeting - districts 13, 5, 9, three from district 6, myself, and our Grapevine chair. We discussed whether or not literature chairs should work with the Alano Clubs. We think that's a good idea to work with the Alano as long as the club honors the Traditions. We also talked about having the proper literature in our groups, such as Spanish Big Books. If we do not have the literature on hand, why would they come back if we have nothing to offer them. We also talked about a couple of books that would be really good reads, such as AA Comes of Age and Our Great Responsibility. At the spring assembly literature sales were tremendous! We had a total of \$2947.29. Thank you to all who purchased literature and thank you for allowing me serve as your area 35 literature chair.

Pat M

**DISTRICT 12 – TERRY A**

Our district has approved 2 billboards in Duluth that read "If you want to drink, that's your business. If you want to stop, we can help". We did receive the permission from Twin Ports Intergroup to use their phone number. I did meet with the Intergroup Board to discuss using their phone number for the Billboards and inclusion on our website. And to build a good working relationship with them.

We are starting a District Budget this year to show groups how their contributions are spent and what is needed for projects we are taking on. (Transparency and accountability to the groups)

Veterans Outreach and Treatment Chair is very busy getting in touch with 12 facilities handing out literature and contact information.

After a couple of attempts, our website is under construction. It will provide resources to new people in sobriety and people new to service. It will have links to many resources in AA as well as local information and events. It will also provide about Twin Ports Intergroup. We had a healthy discussion about General Service Conference Agenda Items.

Yours in Service, Terry A

**DISTRICT 5 – JARRIN V**

Hello everyone. I'm Jarrin and the district 5 DCM like to start out with sharing that district 5 holds its district meeting on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran church in Princeton Minnesota. last month we had 21 people president our meeting all of the chair positions are filled and we have 16 gsr. most groups have been doing a great job and getting together and going over agenda items and bringing them to the district meeting and sharing what their groups conscience is. I have managed to get to all of the meetings in district 5 I did have help from one other chair member that went to all of the am meetings which helped out because my schedule did not permit me to get to morning and day meetings. I found some great meetings that I never knew about in doing this process of getting up to date group information. Our district chairs have been out trying to be of service at our area jails and correctional facilities also our treatment chair has been out to the treatment centers and we have some commitments for bringing meetings into some of the facilities in our district through this winter and we also are bringing a meeting into Sherburn Co probation. I have been able to



(cont'd from page 5)

attend the winter workshop where our district put on a presentation. This was a new experience for me. Thankfully I had some great help through the other participants in getting our presentation put together. It was a challenge but a fun one. I was able to also go to the West Central regional conference. I thought it was awesome that it was so close to home for me and that I was able to attend almost all of the time that the conference was taking place. I also had some of the GSRs attend with me and they got the opportunity to see some of the assembly type activities and start getting aware of agenda items. Then we were able to meet Steve L in Isanti. We were invited by district 6 to come and go over agenda items with district 6 and 11. I also got to attend my first area committee meeting in Aitkin and had one of the district chairs attend and also a couple of GSRs came along. They do have great food. I was told of this and what I was told was very true. I'll have to say that everything that is taking place in district 5 has been cooperation throughout all of the people that participate: the chairs, the GSRs, past secretaries, treatment chairs, DCMs. They've all stepped in to help share with us that are new how to get things put together and help answer any questions that we have. Looking forward to all the months to come. At first I thought to myself oh good only 23 more district meetings to get through, now I'm starting to look at it as how many more new things can we try to accomplish during this rotation. Will have upcoming workshop opportunities to share in the future. I'd like to also say thanks to all of the GSRs that made the trip to Ely for the spring assembly. I feel that everyone has gotten a good understanding of how much work goes into trying to gather all of the groups conscience throughout the district to bring to the area so our Delegate can have a good idea of our thoughts and feelings. I can truly say that I'm thankful for this opportunity to serve. Looking forward to the June area committee meeting already.

Yours in service, Jarrin V

#### **WEBMASTER – KYLE H**

No Report.

#### **NORTHERN LIGHT – HEIDI B**

Welcome to Ely! The Northern Light/Webmaster/Group Records committee met this morning with 9 in attendance. We discussed guidelines for submissions to the Northern Light and have developed a new submission policy. All articles will be approved by the Northern Light/Webmaster/Group Records committee, in accordance with Tradition Two; For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

The second issue of the 2022 Northern Light was shipped over a week ago. If you did not receive your copy or would like to be added to the mailing list, please let either myself or our Group Records Chair, Denise R, know. I appreciate all of your article submissions. Please continue to share your experience, strength, and hope by submitting your articles to me at [northern-light@area35.org](mailto:northern-light@area35.org).

If you'd like your event flier printed in the Northern Light, please email it to me. There is no cost to include it in our events section. If you'd like it printed as a separate piece and blown into the Northern Light there are costs. Please follow the guidelines printed in the Northern Light.

Thank you to all who attended my home group, Happy, Joyous and Free, last night. Best home group meeting ever! We pulled up to the church and found a group of recovered drunks from District 6 grilling brats on the street! I've never seen anything like it. Local police and a Sherriff drove right by and left us alone. We had 34 in attendance, our usual attendance is 5 – 10, and spent the hour discussing gratitude. We ended the evening with cake for our friend Cindy's 37-year sobriety anniversary.

Area Committee and Officer reports for the Northern Light, as well as article submissions, are due May 1.

Thank you for allowing me to serve. Heidi B

#### **DISTRICT 3 – GENE M**

District 3 meeting is on every third Sunday of the month however this month our meeting is changed to the 4th Sunday April 24th 10a.m. Our District 3 Grapevine rep is here at the assembly Melissia M. There is a round robin on April 9th at the same location we hold the District 3 meeting at Detroit Lakes Alano Clubhouse Detroit Lakes Formers Group. Our CPC/PI chair Pete S. and our Webmaster Roger J. are making updates on the website Pete is helping Roger. Treatment Chair Patti D. is continuing contacting treatment centers sending literature and schedules out. Helpline chair Bill D. answers the phone and returns calls District 3 AA phone line. Gene G. is our Treasurer with the treasurer report. More literature ordered and received for District packets for groups. Been in contact with area group records to update meetings. A couple new GSR's showing up to District. A few positions were looking for qualified members to fill DCM open, Alternate DCM, Corrections and Literature. Flier for Zonal Forum in August at Perham Alano Clubhouse is here District's 3, 4 and 15.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve. Gene M

#### **GROUP RECORDS – DENISE R**

Greetings Area 35, I attended the Quarterly Area Registrar's meeting with about 40 other Registrars and GSO Staff. Since it was my first meeting I really listened and learned, it was nice to meet others and put faces to some of the names I have seen. One of the things I learned was that a GSR for a New Group has to wait the 30-day period before receiving their GSR Kit. Each new group is subject to a 30-day pending period according to a 1990 Conference Advisory Action. I also wait the 30 days to list New meetings

on aameetinglocator.org. If you have a new group and don't see your meeting listed on the Meeting Guide App or Minnesota meeting locator, that is why, we wait the 30 days.

I continue to use my personal computer, I am finding I can do what needs to be done, it is just taking a bit longer. I am hopeful once I received the new computer that I can use for just the Area, things will be faster and smoother. Thank you for your patience.

I am getting quite a few NL returns for a variety of reasons. If you haven't received your Northern Light, please check with me to make sure your address is correct- if you want to receive the Northern Light, please send me your address and I will add it to the list.

Thank you to the DCM's that have verified your groups and returned the contact forms. I appreciate the time taken to do this as this is how we keep our information current.

I received a comment through Minnesota Meeting locator from a couple that was visiting from out of town. They attended several meetings and stated they walked out of all but 2 as it was felt they were not Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. Their opinion was the meetings were listed as closed AA meetings and yet they had people speaking that identified as only drug and sex addicts and not alcoholics. They stated they would not be back to AA in Minnesota and would let others in their area know that we don't have AA here. Although this is just 1 couple from out of town, it sure is upsetting that this is what they felt they experienced and they will be passing that information on to others. I did ask the gentlemen if he could give me some specific information on the meetings and he did so. I will be getting in touch with the DCMs of those meetings.

I did bring the new Group Forms and Group Information Change forms that GSO distributed to us, however I am finding some needed information is not included in their new forms. Things like the day and time of the meeting and if it is open, close, big book etc. GSO states they don't need that information to be listed as a group, however, to be listed on the Meeting Guide App and AA Minnesota meeting locator, we need that information. So stay tuned for news on that in the near future.

I look forward to this weekend at the Area Assembly and getting to know you all more. It is so good to be back in person!!!

Thank you for allowing me to serve, Denise R

#### **DISTRICT 16 – DAVE C**

Hi I'm Dave C. and I'm an alcoholic, DCM for District 16 Most of our meetings In District 16 are within the Grand Rapids area going north to Effie and south to Longville. In March we had Steve L. go through the Agenda items with us and District 9. I also attended the West Central Regional A.A. Service Conference. Some of the things around District 16 this Summer are The Iron Range get-together On May 6th, 7th and 8th at the Eagles Club in Grand Rapids. Then Bill and Lois (14th annual, we think) get together at Camp Hiawatha, Deer River Mn. and last but not least we are looking to do a 3-day weekend big book study tentatively in October. Flyers will be added to our website [district16online.org](http://district16online.org) when we have them.

Yours in service, Dave C

#### **TREATMENT – RICCO R**

We held our committee meeting with 6 members present. Julie N., Nate C., Mike P, all three from District 6, Peggy M. District 13, Bob N. District 7, And Ricco R. District 9. We went around the room discussing issues relating to treatment access and the possibilities of working with the Cooperation with the Professionals Committee, (C.P.C.) and the Public Information Committee (P.I.) in our District. In District 9 the Treatment Chair is working cooperatively with the (C.P.C./P. I.) Committee to help contact the Treatment Facilities to inform them of what A.A. can do and not do for their Treatment Facilities. It will enhance the opportunities to get access for the A.A. members to have meetings or chances to give A.A. talks to the clients in the facilities. The District 9 (C.P.C./P I.) Committee was started by Tom T. the District 9 Chair of (C.P.C./P.I.).

During the committee meeting Julie N., Nate C., Mike P., and Peggy M. formed a Service Workshop Committee to start doing workshops in their districts to inform and explain the A.A. services we provide. Nate C. is the Chair of the committee.

I am continuing to learn from literature and asking many previous Treatment Chairs both in the districts and the area to help me to do the best service I can for Area 35.

Greg C. past Area 35 CPC committee chair attended our District 9 CPC / PI committee meeting on the zoom platform on 3/26/2022 and shared his experience doing CPC service work and responded to our questions. Because I will be working with Tom T. our District 9 CPC Chair in cooperation with the Treatment Committee, I also joined Tom's CPC committee. Greg also answered some of my questions about the experience he has had with treatment issues. Greg did a fantastic job in giving his experience and answering our questions.

We now are working with District 8, 16, and 9 in our efforts to put on service workshops. I also am a member of this committee and the committee voted to give our Treatment Committee a one-hour slot in our service workshop in June/18/2022. We plan on giving 3, 10-minute talks on different aspects of treatment service and then opening it up to a 20-minute question and answer session. Our presenters are Sally T. District 8, Glen M. District

16, and Jeff J. District 9 all Treatment Chairs.

I attended a Conference Agenda meeting on 3/12/2022 with Steve L. our Area 35 Delegate held in District 16. Steve did a super job giving his take on the Agenda Items and answering a lot of questions we had on some of the agenda items. We also had a wonderful time enjoying being with the fellowship and of course having a potluck lunch.

In Unity and Service, Ricco R

**DISTRICT 6 – MIKE P**

Our district is doing wonderful, we are still growing. We just got a Corrections chair and a PI chair last month. We have more district chairs and GSRs in this and last rotation then we have had in the past few. We have some ideas of reaching AA's and getting them interested in district by doing potluck, barbecue or tailgating. Going out to meetings in the district and getting contact Information email's, phone numbers. and sending them information from district, area and GSO we're still getting business done laughing and having fun in our district meetings.

Yours and service Mike P

**DISTRICT 7 – ROBERT N**

Greetings from District 7. We meet the third Thursday of every month. At our meeting in March we had Steve L our Area Delegate at our meeting to discuss key parts of the agenda items. We had about twenty in attendance, with several new GSRs. Attendance at meetings is starting to pick up. We still have a few positions to fill. Jails are starting to open up.

Your trusted servant, Bob N

**ARCHIVIST – MARC N**

(This report of Archivist does not necessarily reflect what was spoken at Spring Assembly, rather it is a recap of what I said.)

I traveled to Fargo to get a look at the archive materials in storage. There is a lot, most is boxed, I did not open boxes, so don't know content. There are several file cabinets, a few bookcases, and some open shelf units. There is also a lot of loose paper, open top boxes, etc. The entirety should be easily accommodated by the proposed 450 sq ft of storage space. We will vote later regarding archive repository move and budget changes.

The digital archives that are accessible only go back to 2018 with a few items from the recent period still missing. There had been a lot of effort extended to digitize older recordings from cassette tapes to a cloud drive or other external storage. I had conversation with Brad I. (past archivist) he said that there should be thumb drives with the digital copies of some recordings, I am hoping to find these after the archive move, and then add them to the cloud storage. I am hoping to find that many paper items had been scanned and saved as well. I am continuing to search for the lost cloud storage, it seems that around every corner, at every dead end new information to help recovery of these lost files becomes available.

At my home I have PCs (no MACs, no UNIX, or LINUX) running Vista, Windows7, Windows10, and Windows11. I have a single sheet scanner, I have optical character recognition software (it does read cursive). I partnership with my son's business we will buying a sheet feed scanner, I will use this to scan documents for area archives at my home. My cell phone does not have the app to tolerate shaky hands when taking pictures.

Please contact me to search for items of historical interest, but also note that until archived materials are moved research is limited. Being a newby in this service role I am not certain of my ability to present a display or to speak about AA history at group or district meetings or at events such as roundups, but I will make an honest attempt.

We are at all times receiving new items for archiving. Please send digital items to be archived to [Archivist@area35.org](mailto:Archivist@area35.org). Don't be concerned if you are not techy, I will accept archive items of any form, cursive writing is ok, a copy from a hand kept ledger is ok, pictures are ok, cassette tapes are ok, send non-digital items to my home address or deliver to Marc at the ACMs. Items to archive:

- Audio recordings of AA speakers, written stories of recovery, etc
- Items of interest to AA, Area, District, or Group
- Area and District meeting minutes and treasury reports

PS, other discussion items:

The assembly voted and approved the relocation of archives repository to Aitkin, about two blocks from where the ACMs are held. This will enhance the ability of those who attend the ACMs to visit the archives. If you don't attend the ACMs in Aitkin, you may arrange a time with me to visit the archives. The archives committee will begin to sort and organize the archive materials after the move. The committee will also do an assessment of what should be included in archives, nothing will be discarded without first review of the area committees and maybe with approval of proposal at fall assembly. I will be taking boxes of materials from the archives to my house for digitizing.

The Area Archives has drawn the attention of many, it is exciting! Steve L is getting the big red record translated to digital format and has handed the archives digital copies of Northern Lights 1982 – 1999. During the assembly breaks I found a crafter/carpenter to build easily transportable display cases. A person volunteered to help digitize some of the recordings. Others volunteered to assist with sorting and organizing. Many others approached me to offer help in various ways with the work that will begin after archives are moved. My apologies for not writing down names, please contact me at

[Archivist@area35.org](mailto:Archivist@area35.org).

**ARCHIVES – RENELL P**

No report.

**DISTRICT 11 – VICKI R**

7 regular attendees. Pine City Group hosted the Dist Mtg in Mar 7, 2022. Dist put on a potluck and invited the groups. Held the Dist Mtg after the meal and attended their Mtg.

Successful- treatment position filled. We plan to have May 7 Dist Mtg in Mora Sat Speaker Mtg and June 2 Dist Mtg with Thursday night group in Moose Lake. We are changing things up to try and inspire involvement. We are working on a fiscal policy to guide approval of expenditures. Our district registered our first virtual meeting- What's the Point with GSO.

Attended WCRAASC -

We met with Dist 6 with Steve to go over agenda items. We met as a district to discuss them as well

Vicki R

**DISTRICT 14 -**

**CORRECTIONS – ARDEN A**

We had another good meeting today with six in attendance. Aaron from Dist. 6 was given contact info for Isanti Co. Jail in Cambridge taking speakers. Chisago Jail is starting to open for meetings. Gary from Dist. 11 Pine Co. is open. Sandstone Fed is open. Orientation for State Prison, they are asking that we start filling out applications to go in. Diane said no jails in Dist. 9 have opened, but they are asking for meeting schedules for St. Louis Co. Jail. Tim, Dist. 7, and I went to orientation for Sandstone with 8 others from AA in Aitkin & Crow Wing.

Yours in service, Arden A

**DISTRICT 9 – DIANE R**

My name is Diane R. and I am an alcoholic. Hello from District 9 which includes the Hibbing, Nashwauk, Chisholm, and Zim areas.

We continue to meet the last Sunday of the month at the Hibbing Alano Club at 6pm and on the Zoom platform. We had 7 - 14 attendance the last two months.

We had our first CPC/PI Committee meeting of this rotation. Tom T, our CPC/PI chair, invited Greg C, Area CPC, to attend. Greg shared his experience with us. Thank you Greg. We will be meeting weekly in the beginning to get a good start on the CPC/PI work in our district. This meeting finished with an ice cream social.

Sandy, our literature chair, will be putting together some packets for new GSRs.

A motion to have a district website failed. The district felt they needed more information from the businesses and professionals in our area that an AA website would be helpful to them. The CPC/PI Committee will be working to gather this information.

Sandy, GSR from the Hibbing Downtown Group, made a motion that stated: We are making a proposal regarding the translation of the book Alcoholics Anonymous (4<sup>th</sup> Edition) into plain and simple language. We propose that the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts will stay in the existing form in English as in the Fourth Edition of the book of Alcoholics Anonymous and that Steve L, our Area 35 Delegate, bring this proposal up for a floor vote at the 72<sup>nd</sup> Conference. The motion passed with substantial unanimity.

Thank you, Steve L, for going over the Agenda Items in Bovey on March 12, 2022 with Districts 16, 8, 9 and some from 12. Thank you everyone who make these workshops a success.

Our District 8, 16 and 9 Workshop Committee met on February 27. We plan to have a Workshop on June 18, 2022 and are still working out the details. Maybe we will even make the Northern Lights this time.

I attended the West Central Regional Conference. We met the new General Service Manager Bob W. He told his story and participated on the Trustee ask-it-basket. We went over all the agenda items but as the night went on, the agenda items at the end did not receive as much discussion as the beginning items. I learned a lot about the some of the agenda items. We also had presentations. I especially like the presentation on the Warranties. I also shared for Area 35 with Julie on 'How to Reach Anyone, Anywhere'. Thank you, Steve, for asking me to share. Thank you to Julie for excellent presentation.

In Service, Diane R

**DISTRICT 8 – HEATHER L**

My name is Heather L District 8 DCM. Our district meetings are scheduled for the first full week of each month and rotate Monday through Friday at 630 p.m. Different groups from our district sign up to host the meeting.

Since the last Area Committee Meeting, a lot has happened. I attended the WRAASC in the cities. It was very informative about the agenda items. I



(cont'd from page 7)

attended in person the district 9 and 16 Potluck and other members joined via Zoom. There is so much information for the Assembly, I am sure it's not just me, but I have a hard time absorbing it all.

At our last district meeting, we voted to cancel the April workshop and start working with districts 9 and 16 as part of the workshop committee. I wasn't able to attend the meeting they had on March 27<sup>th</sup>, but I can't wait to hear all about it at our next meeting.

Being that most of our district committee members are new to their positions, we have decided to read 15 minutes of the Service Manual at each district meeting, so we can all make sure we understand what our positions are supposed to do, and how the service structure works. I am very excited about doing it as a whole.

I appreciate all the help I have received coming into this position from all of the district members. I truly believe that with our Higher Powers' direction our district is going to do great things in the next few years.

In Unity and Service

**PUBLIC INFORMATION – NELS P**

Greetings Area 35

We had 7 participants at our committee PI/CPC meeting.

District 4 has had success utilizing the district webpage and participating with the medical community and asking them to add the district webpage to their resource list posting the link along with other resources.

District 12 reported that covid has still been slowing them down as far as getting into facilities to carry the message. They are working with veterans groups and the medical community. They also have two billboards going up in Duluth as public service announcements.

District 8 has been utilizing their webpage and I have been talking with their current PI chair about providing information to assisted living facilities as well as the VA clinic and medical facilities.

District 9 is reporting that they have been slowed by covid as far as getting into facilities. They are currently getting information to law enforcement and hospitals and clinics.

District 13 is utilizing their hotline and webpage as well as providing info to law enforcement, hotels and nursing homes. They are looking into billboards and bus signs for Public service announcements. They are also doing phone line training for their hotline.

District 6 has a new PI chair and they have been looking into their dated phone line and usage of it. They have been utilizing their webpage to carry the message and they have been able to get into some facilities to carry the message.

District 21 has been close to going dark due to losing 5 meetings during covid and they have not had a PI chair but they are working on it.

Greg C the current CPC Chair suggested doing a multi-district presentation on phone line training due to concerns on how incoming calls are being handled. We talked about fielding calls from people having a mental health crisis or loved ones calling about sobering someone up and how critical it is and how we can handle these and all calls accordingly.

Thank you everyone for coming to Ely and making our spring assembly so much fun. Yours in service, Nels P

**DISTRICT 2 –**

**DISTRICT 4 – BUMPER L**

No Report.

**GRAPEVINE – MIKE U**

No Report.

**DISTRICT 1 -**

**DISTRICT 13 - JIM R**

I attended the Area 35 committee meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup> in Aitkin Mn. I also attended the west central regional AA service conference.

District 13 had an agenda item zoom meeting with our Delegate Steve L. on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

District 13 is currently working on Ideas for 1-2 workshops for this year, we will share the topic, times and dates with the area when we decide. District 13 meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month at the Alano club in St Cloud, all are welcome.

Thank you for allowing me to serve, Jim R

**DISTRICT 21 – BRENT T**

My name is Brent T, I am a grateful recovering alcoholic and DCM for District 21.

At our last District meeting, we were fortunate to have our Delegate, Steve L there to share information on our 3 Legacies, and discuss the agenda items. Normally we have about 6 in attendance, at our last meeting there

was about 18. It pays to visit meetings in our district. As Covid hopefully ramps down I hope to see better attendance and participation in our service work.

I have learned a lot from today's sessions, and value the feedback from all opinions of the agenda items.

In service, Brent. Thank you.

**Sunday morning session**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Area Inventory** – The last one was in 2010 when Kelly D. was the Area Chair. Discussion – Do we have a standard procedure/method for the inventory? We have a format, someone from outside of Area 35 chairs the inventory. Last time it was Denny B. from Area 36 who chaired it in International Falls.

**Tabled Motion from February ACM re: Archives Storage** – The motion made by the Webmaster at the February 27, 2022, Area Committee Meeting was **“to move the Archives to the space in Aitkin.”** This motion was tabled to get the groups' input and vote on the motion. Discussion: Archivist said costs of moving and the annual costs are included in the budget. Other discussion: the roof is being replaced this summer. A lot of info was digitized and saved in the Cloud. The info can't be accessed because passwords are not known. Would it be possible to get two hard drives, one to keep with the archives and one for the Archivist to use at home? The one at the Archives would be updated when Archivist works at the storage space. The archives cannot remain where they are and must be moved. Annual cost needs to be considered, and groups would have to send more money to the Area. Volume may be reduced due to digitizing. Paper is the most secure way to store, digital is vulnerable. Would it be possible to get a fireproof safe? **Question was called, Motion to move the Archives to the space in Aitkin PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**2022 Budgets** – Corrections Chair wants to meet with Area 36 Corrections. Travel to the Twin Cities may be added. Three trips would cost \$150 to \$180. \$180 was added to the budget. CPC had added \$700 for booths, fairs, etc. Webmaster said budget does not include cost for SSL for website. This would make the site secure and provide us with a certificate that would allow us to be accessed by more websites. \$150 is added to Webmaster budget. **Cathy R. made a motion to approve the budgets. John (a GSR) seconded. Motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Past Delegate Service Discussion** – Past Delegate is doing an excellent job as Area Chair. Whether past delegates can do more service at the Area level is not a new discussion. No decision was ever made. Other areas allow this. Area acted in good faith. This happened at the 2021 Fall Assembly. We were pushed to be out of the venue by noon. There has been inadequate discussion. There is nothing in the Actions Book about past delegates serving. Actions Book is a guide. Service Manual doesn't say anything about it other than that past delegates should not be GSRs. If past delegates can serve, what happens at next election? This discussion should have taken place at the Fall Assembly. Decisions should be made with substantial unanimity. Another Area in the West Central Region had a negative experience when a past delegate served. Bernard Smith article in the Northern Light explains why we need rotation. Area 35 already has a good way to use past delegates. If a past delegate has not served as Area Chair before, they can serve as Chair. Actions Book is not a guide. Wheels of AA grind slowly but they grind firmly. One group in the Area discussed this topic and arrived at their group conscience, and the GSR from this group, **Dani L., made a motion stating, “Past Delegates are eligible to be nominated for Area service positions not previously held.” Kyle H. seconded.** Another motion was subsequently made by **Rachel to table this motion. Seconded by Cathy R. Motion was tabled with two people in opposition.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**DCM Sharing Session Report – Diane R.**

There were 12 DCMs and 1 alternate DCM at our DCM Sharing Session. We opened with the Serenity prayer. We were from Districts 13, 3, 15, 16, 11, 21, 5, 6, 8, 6, 7, and 9.

The Three questions that we discussed were:

How do we get people involved especially old-timers?

Passed a list around at the meeting to get their emails. District and area minutes were sent out to keep them informed what was going on. Lots of members showed up at the next business meeting.

Visited groups and brought group packets. Encouraged them to participate and kept them informed what the district was doing and brought a list of literature that is available.

Contacted each group and sent them a newsletter telling them of district activity. Created a budget with the hope that groups would again help support the district.

Try something different like a trip to visit meetings on snowmobiles. Have a barb-b-que.

Host the district meeting in a different place. Tell them we need their help.

Rotated meeting places worked and visited groups.

Attend all meetings in the district. Arrive ½ hour early. When you go, update meeting information and try to get an email contact. Explain what a GSR is.



Explain how important AA is in your life including service work. Sponsors others into service. Have fun while doing service work. Email out a flyer. Have a topic that will get people excited.

How do we get our foot in the door at Medical and Correctional Facilities?

There is a pamphlet on how to sponsor your health professional. Bring them meeting directories Have your action chairs filled so they can contact these Medical and Correctional Facilities. Shoe leather (visit them). Take pamphlets when go to the doctor Make telephone calls to them.

How do we handle disruptions at district meetings?

Have an agenda  
A Statement is read at the beginning of the meeting: Before we get into tonight’s business let’s remember we are here to serve, bring the group conscience of our home groups forward and allow God to express himself through this group’s conscience. All of our opinions are equally valuable and necessary if we are to develop this group’s conscience. To encourage participation we should refrain from cross-talking or directly responding to another member’s comment. Once we submit our ideas to the group then they belong to the District Committee as a whole, to be considered and discussed when raising our hands.  
Talk to members before and after the meeting.  
Ask them to move on.  
Remind the group that time is of the essence.  
The DCM should shut down disruptions immediately.

Thank you, Vicki, for taking notes.  
In Service Diane R.

**GSR SHARING SESSION REPORT – Sarah C.**

Spring Assembly 2022 GSR Sharing Session 1  
It was decided to gather a list of questions from members in the room and then open each question up for discussion.

What if I don’t have a group conscience, should I vote or how do I vote? It was encouraged to make every effort possible to get a group conscience from their group with some suggested ways to do this: Copy the materials for group members; hold a business meeting and share information on agenda items; keep meeting minutes showing how the group conscience presented in the group; ask permission of your group to trust you to vote the group conscience on items that may not have been discussed. Others shared it is important to always vote the group conscience to the best of their ability.

If I financially support myself to come to the assembly, is it ok if I vote the way I want and vice versa, if my group supports me financially, should I only vote group conscience?

It was suggested that it doesn’t matter who’s paying the bill you have a responsibility to vote the group conscience no matter how we get here. Someone shared when I give my group info they don’t give a group conscience. Another suggested to encourage the group to use time to be productive as it is the GSRs responsibility to present agenda items with importance and support them in understanding the items. Give the group an opportunity to have a group conscience, stay positive, and encourage others to get involved. If I change my vote, I better have a good reason.

Am I supposed to register as a GSR somewhere?  
A member shared that their sponsor helped them register and they found the registration form online (area35.org & aa.org). It was suggested to add the alternate GSR, if there is one, to the registration form. It was suggested to ask the DCM for help, if needed. It was suggested to send a copy of the registration form to the area as well as the GSO and that the GSR will receive a welcome kit.

How can I get a group conscience from my groups with the short amount of time we had to review/discuss a large number of agenda items? It was acknowledged that everyone had a short amount of time because everyone received the agenda items in mid-February. It was suggested that using email to communicate information with the group is effective and it is possible that multiple meetings may need to be held and to pay notice to the agenda items noted as “consider.” Several GSRs attended a meeting to learn more about the agenda items and others shared they discussed the items in their district meetings. It was also shared that some used a regular AA meeting to discuss the agenda items.

How can I learn more about the roles and responsibilities of being a GSR? It was suggested to do the following: review the information in the service manual; review the GSR orientation handout received at the Assembly; consider getting a service sponsor; attend service workshops; talk to past GSRs; review the welcome packet information when you register. It was noted that service manuals are on

backorder and it was shared that they are available for purchase at the assembly for \$4.

How can I get backordered information from the GSO? Go to AA.org; type “GSR” in search box – the materials in the welcome kits will be available electronically. The service manual can be downloaded and printed.

Are individual votes recorded at the assembly? Names/group names are not recorded. Only the number of votes are recorded.

If my group is not large or financially stable, how can I raise funds to attend assemblies and workshops? Several smaller groups in the district double up rooms and sometimes the district service members offer to share rooms with smaller groups. It was suggested to plan ahead for necessary expenses, start a separate fund, or keep a prudent reserve since groups are responsible to send GSRs to assemblies, etc. Other ideas shared include: carpool; share rooms; ask the district to help. It was stressed that it is important to attend district meetings as it is a place to ask for help. It was also suggested that a district meeting can pass a basket to help fund smaller groups.

2<sup>nd</sup> Sharing Session:

The question was posed to GSR group if we wanted to go back to the way GSR orientations used to be held. A member asked the more experienced GSRs to share their thoughts. Several reported they found it was helpful to have the area officers deliver presentations. Someone asked why it changed and it was shared that GSRs were in the process of deciding the direction to go with orientation right before COVID. Someone suggested new GSRs attend area committee meetings and available forums to learn more. There was a motion to begin offering the area officer presentations during the first sharing session and use the 2<sup>nd</sup> sharing session to discuss questions; to occur at both assemblies, beginning fall 2022. A second was made. There was one oppose who stated to only do the area chair presentations during the fall assembly, possibly every other year in order to focus on the agenda items during the spring assembly; acknowledged that new GSRs are “in the dark” and we are all “in the dark.” It was suggested a separate workshop could be offered. The motion carried.

It was proposed to use the remaining time to review the service manual review. Someone asked how many had read the GSR responsibilities in the service manual and expressed the importance of reviewing the agenda in advance because we are the greatest link to groups, and we need to get the group conscience. In preparation for the assembly, it was shared by a member that they planned meetings in advance to get a group conscience and reviewed the available materials, as well as the informational meeting with our area delegate. It was also discussed the importance of current GSRs to help the alternate and/or new GSRs learn the role. Suggestions were made on what information should be brought to groups when the list of agenda items are so long to include identifying hot topics and reviewing the “consider” agenda items as they have a higher likelihood of going to vote. It was shared that previous delegates have produced a hot topics list, and it was suggested the GSRs could ask them to do this again.

The group decided to read aloud the GSR chapter of the service manual which happened through several members. After the reading was completed, a member referenced page 113 for the Group Information Change form, and page 103 for the service structure triangle. There was a question about the spirit of rotation which is referenced in the FAQ.... several members indicated they felt obligated to stay on as GSR since no one else was offering. It was suggested this may prevent others from volunteering and it was stressed the importance of rotation to avoid “taking charge.” It was suggested to identify a replacement GSR in advance and prepare them by helping them learn the roles and responsibilities.

**Officers/Action Chairs Session Report** – It was discussed that we should start a conversation with Area 36 about re-establishing the Joint Workshop. We also discussed our potential path as it relates to technology with entities outside Area 35 service structure. The Northern Light/Group Records/Webmaster developed a strategy for acceptance of articles for the Northern Light.

**GSR Sharing Session at future Assemblies** – Sarah C. made a motion stating “GSR Orientation for the first sharing session at Fall and Spring Assembly to be presentations by Area officers, to begin at the Fall Assembly 2022.” Motion seconded by Rolf H. **Motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Area Technology Road Map** – Webmaster explained that technology is important for communication and carrying the message. We can improve this for the Area and get more people involved in service. We should treat Area 35 as a business, and also maintain access to information. We should provide devices to all Officers and Chairs; we should negotiate the best agreements for services. We ought to have supportable and sustainable system to be able to pass on smoothly. We ought to form a technology committee to gather requests for each officer/chair and to gather quotes and determine the best solutions. We would need at least eleven laptops/tablets for breakout sessions if we use virtual meetings. Districts could consider using such a system. **Vicki R. made a Motion to form a technology committee. A friendly amendment to call this an ad hoc committee was added. Amendment accepted. Seconded by Jeff.** Discussion: Who will be on the committee? Some people don’t have the ability to meet virtually, and sometimes people can’t attend. **Motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Fall Assembly** will be in Crookston in October. Area Chair will visit the hotel to firm up some details.

**General Service Conference Floor Action – Diane R.**, District 9 DCM, made a motion stating, **“District 9 would like to make a motion that the Area 35 Delegate bring forth a Floor Action to the 72<sup>nd</sup> General Service Conference that the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, and the Twelve Concepts will stay in the existing form in English as in the Fourth Edition of the book of Alcoholic Anonymous.”** Jeff seconded. Ricco R. made a friendly amendment to the motion that stated, **“No translated Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions or Twelve Concepts will be put into the translated version of the Fourth Edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous.”** There was discussion about this motion and the friendly amendment being confusing, so the **motion was withdrawn**.

There was more discussion: According to Mike L., West Central Region Trustee, the Twelve Steps may have a translation into plain language under the original text. Bill’s Story and Dr. Bob’s Nightmare would remain as they are and would not be translated. The background material from the AA Service Manual, Article 3, talks about needing 3/4 of the AA groups as described in the Resolution adopted by the 1955 Conference and Convention. Are they trying to get around this Article?

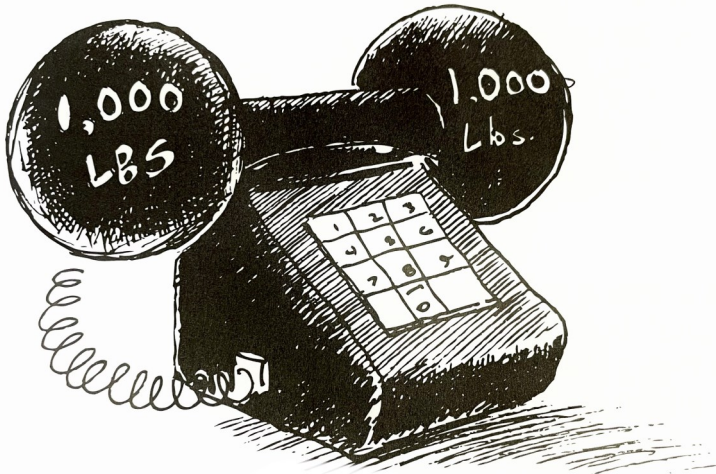
**Diane R.** then made the motion in Section 1 of their proposal, **“We are making a proposal regarding the translation of the book Alcoholics Anonymous (fourth edition) into plain and simple language. We propose that the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, and the Twelve Concepts not be translated into Plain Language in any way; that these remain in the existing form in English as in the Fourth Edition of the book of Alcoholics Anonymous, and that Steve L., our Area 35 Delegate, bring this proposal up for a floor vote at the 72<sup>nd</sup> Conference.”** Cathy R. seconded. **Motion PASSED WITH SUBSTANTIAL UNANIMITY.** Minority opinion – Not translating the Steps defeats the purpose. If Steps are not translated, people can’t understand them. Trust the process – they have our backs. Side-by-side translation is needed.

**Calendar of Events** was read.

**Ask-it-basket** questions were answered by Past Delegates.

**Motion to adjourn – Jim R. made a motion to adjourn, Cathy R. seconded.** Meeting adjourned at 1:17 p.m. Closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Sally L.



**NEW AREA CONTRIBUTION ADDRESS**

**Effective immediately, please send all AREA contribution checks to:**  
**NMAA**  
**126 13th Ave S**  
**St Cloud, MN 56301**

Tradition Two by Bill W.  
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Sooner or later, every AA comes to depend upon a Power greater than himself. He finds that the God of his understanding is not only a source of strength, but also a source of positive direction. Realizing that some fraction of that infinite resource is now available, his life takes on an entirely different complexion. He experiences a new inner security together with such a sense of destiny and purpose as he has never known before. As each day passes, our AA reviews his mistakes and vicissitudes. He learns from daily experience what his remaining character defects are and becomes ever more willing that they be removed. In this fashion he improves his conscious contact with God.

Every AA group follows this same cycle of development. We are coming to realize that each group, as well as each individual, is a special entity, not quite like any other. Though AA groups are basically the same, each group does have its own special atmosphere, its own peculiar state of development. We believe that every AA group has a conscience. It is the collective conscience of its own membership. Daily experience informs and instructs his conscience. The group begins to recognize its own defects of character and, one by one, these are removed or lessened. As this process continues, the group becomes better able to receive right direction from its own affairs. Trial and error produces group experience and out of corrected experience comes custom. When a customary way of doing things is definitely proved to be best, then that custom forms into AA Tradition. The Greater Power is then working through a clear group conscience.

We humbly hope and believe that our growing AA Tradition will prove to be the will of God for us.

Many people are coming to think that Alcoholics Anonymous is, to some extent, a new form of human society. In our discussion of the First Tradition, it was emphasized that we have, in AA, no coercive human authority. Because each AA, of necessity, has a sensitive and responsive conscience, and because alcohol will discipline him severely if he back slides, we are finding we have little need for manmade rules or regulations. Despite the fact that we do veer off at times on tangents, we are becoming more able to depend absolutely on the long-term stability of the AA group itself. With respect to its own affairs, the collective conscience of the group will, given time, almost surely demonstrate its perfect dependability. The group conscience will, in the end, prove a far more infallible guide for group affairs than the decision of any individual member, however good or wise he may be. This is a striking and almost unbelievable fact about Alcoholics Anonymous. Hence, we can safely dispense with those exhortations and punishments seemingly so necessary to other societies. And we need not depend overmuch on inspired leaders. Because our active leadership of service can be truly rotating, we enjoy a kind of democracy rarely possible elsewhere. In this respect, we may be, to a large degree, unique.

Therefore, we of Alcoholics Anonymous are certain that there is but one ultimate authority, "a loving God as he may express himself in our group conscience."

### **\*\*\*NEW GSO CONTRIBUTION ADDRESS\*\*\***

For decades, all correspondence to G.S.O., including our contributions, have been sent to Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163. Over the years, Box 459 became such an integral part of A.A. that we named the G.S.O. newsletter after it.

Now, your office and board are excited to announce that we are embracing a new method of processing our Seventh Tradition contributions that will reduce costs, ultimately allowing for more investment in services to members and groups. To this end, we are excited to announce that a separate post office box has been established for Seventh Tradition contributions only. This change will enable us to process contributions much more efficiently and at a significant savings to the Fellowship.

**Effective immediately, please send contribution checks to:**

**Post Office Box 2407  
James A Farley Station  
New York, NY 10116-2407**

Over the next few months, we will be updating and reprinting our contribution envelopes and literature to reflect this change. To help this change be embraced as fully and quickly as possible, we ask for your assistance in sharing this information with fellow A.A. members and groups.



AREA OFFICERS & ACTION COMMITTEE NL REPORTS

**Delegate - Steve L**

Howdy Everyone, Well, it's been quiet on my part for the last few weeks. Looking forward to telling you all about this crazy dream I had. I dreamt I had been going to meetings, listening to reports and voting on a lot of things all day long for seven days in New York City and then it was over. Killing time I walked across the Brooklyn Bridge waiting for my flight, somewhere between the hotel I was staying at and boarding the airplane I lost one of my hearing aids. TSA looked for it and I tried to call the hotel but, was put on hold for ten minutes and gave up. I flew to Minneapolis, transferred to another plane, drove home, chatted a bit, emptied my pockets on the dresser with the solo hearing aid and went to sleep. Upon waking, I saw two blinking yellow lights. Two blinking lights mind you. I looked and sure enough there were two hearing aids in the charger. I asked Karen how was that possible? She said that after unpacking my suit cases and putting things away she looked down and there on the rug in front of the closet was my missing hearing aid and she put them both in the charger. So, I am convinced the week of meeting was just a dream, I just have no other explanation.

I sent this email out and it rates repeating:

I'm back, and what a week it was. I'm looking forward to giving my report and hopefully some insight to this year's conference. I'm giving you a heads up on one specific advisory action that was passed.

Everyone likes to receive the agenda Items along with the background information as soon as possible. Well, this year the background in English was distributed Feb 15<sup>th</sup>, the French translations started to be distributed March 4<sup>th</sup> and the Spanish translations started to trickle in starting March 5<sup>th</sup> and ending March 15<sup>th</sup>. This year an advisory action was passed to make background information in all three languages available at the same time. The intent is to have the GSO do what is necessary to make background information available earlier to everybody.

2023 is the first year to implement this new advisory action. I would like to error on the side of caution and I would like to push back the 2023 Spring Assembly two weeks to April 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. I understand the Area action book states that the Spring Assembly be held on the first full weekend in April. I ask for a one-time waiver to see how the implementation of this new advisory action pans out. Please discuss this topic at your District meeting. We have to make a decision at the June ACM.

I have sent all DCMs copies of the reports and presentations that were given at the 72<sup>nd</sup> GSC. If you are interested ask your DCM for a copy or email me and I will forward you a copy of the R & Ps.

Thanks for allowing me to serve

Humbly, Steve L

**Alt Delegate - Justin W**

Greetings Area 35. There isn't much to report from my perspective since the Spring Assembly a month ago. I have been working on selecting a venue in Duluth for the service workshop next year. In the past, we have hosted it on the first and second weekends in January. This year we're looking at the second weekend, January 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023. I have contacted multiple hotels in the area and have room rates ranging from \$155 to \$179. All prices are definitely up from what we would have expected a few years back. We have the dates on hold while the decision is made. The cheaper hotel can only accommodate 95 in the meeting space, but we only had 70 registered last year so I'm considering it at the moment. We'll have a signed contract here soon. I've been in touch with 2 past alternate delegates who had experience organizing this event and will only identify them by name if it doesn't work out.

I'm continuing the reading of conference materials from last year and looking forward to finding out how this year's conference went.

I have also committed to helping with the Treasury responsibilities between now and the Fall Assembly.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

**Area Chair – Christine G**

Greetings Area 35, Since the Spring Assembly, I have reviewed all the evaluations and created a list of responses that I will share at the June area committee meeting. I would like to give a big shoutout to District 8 for hosting the assembly and doing a great job at making sure all volunteer positions were accounted for.

I continue to have weekly conversations with Area 36 Chair regarding the health of our respective areas and have communicated about requests to resume the A35/A36 Joint Workshop. I should have more information on this at our June area committee meeting.

I have put together the agenda for the June area committee meeting along with doing research on past area inventories. The last two inventories were done at the 2008 and 2010 fall assemblies in breakout rooms and each breakout room went over about 2-5 questions and them these outcomes were delivered and further discussed as an assembly. I have heard of other areas doing their inventories via Survey Monkey. That may be an idea and provide better input from the participants because we may get more participation from those who are not accustomed to going to the microphone and it

could reach more individuals in the area.

I have been working on getting facility proposals for the upcoming 2023 assemblies. I have received one from Holiday Inn in Alexandria. I am waiting for a proposal from Holiday Inn in Detroit Lakes. Once I get those two back, I will be making a decision. I have been working with Group Records with some challenges that we are continuously being faced with regarding meeting listings in Meeting Locator.

I will be attending the Statewide Corrections Meeting that is hosted by Area 36 in May to get a better understanding of this meeting and to support Area 35 Corrections. These are great steps that our area is taking to rebuild our relationship with Area 36 and learn more how we can be of service to the alcoholic that is getting released from facilities.

I look forward to seeing all of you in June. If you are not able to attend the June ACM and you are on the agenda to give a report, please send in your report to the Area Secretary so we can be sure to get your activities listed in the minutes.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service. In Unity and Service, Christine G.

**Secretary - Sally L**

I attended the Spring Assembly in Ely. It was good to see so many people there. It was also nice to have only a 45-minute drive to get there!

Since the Spring Assembly, I have been helping Area Officers in any way I can. I emailed the minutes to DCMs, Area Officers, Action Committee Chairs, Past Delegates, our Regional Trustee Mike L, and to GSO.

When you make a motion during the meeting, please write a clear and concise motion, and provide to me so I can make sure to put exactly what the motion says into the minutes.

In service, Sally L.

**Treasurer – Cindy SK- Not Given**

**CPC – Greg C**

Greetings fellow travelers! Just putting some finishing touches on materials for the up coming MACPO (Mn Association of County Probation Officers) State Conference this month at Maddens. Area 35 will be represented as a Vendor for the first time. I along with Arden A your Corrections Chair will man the booth with material and videos of AA approved PSA's as well as short presentations directed at Professionals. The conference is 4-18 thru 20.

Other work since the Spring Assembly has included putting together a few Power-Point presentations to use when addressing various Professional groups. One for Probation, one for Law Enforcement and one that is a general over-view of the AA program more directed to those that may not know much about our program. GSO has also produced a video directed at Medical professionals. If any District in Area 35 would like a copy of any of these to use in presentations in your service area, or would like me to come and put on a presentation, please contact me and we'll get it done. As mentioned earlier, I am working with area Hospitals attempting to get District Websites linked to Hospital websites under Education and Support. Slow-going so far.

Looking forward to seeing you all again soon!

**Literature – Pat M**

Hello Area 35, I'm your area 35 literature chair, my name is Pat M and I am an alcoholic. We had eight at attendance at our committee meeting district 13, 5, 9 and three from district 6 and myself and the Grapevine chair. We discussed whether or not literature chairs should work with the Alano Clubs. We think that's a good idea to work with the Alano as long as the club honors the traditions. We also talked about having the proper literature in our groups such as Spanish *Big Books*. If we do not have the literature on hand, why would they come back if we have nothing to offer them? We also talked about a couple of books it would be really good reads such as *AA Comes of Age* and *Our Great Responsibility*

At the spring assembly literature sales we're tremendous. We had a total of \$2947.29. Thank you to all who purchased literature. And thank you for allowing me serve as your Area 35 literature chair . Pat M

**Webmaster – Kyle H**

We ordered new laptops for group records and archives - hopefully they will arrive soon so that I can get them setup. We have updated the version of WordPress the website uses, and are looking at a couple of different calendar tools that will be a bit more user friendly for mobile users. The next step is to deploy the security certificates to ensure that the site is viewable by modern web browsers which should be completed in May. Since the spring assembly I have received some interest in the Technology Ad-Hoc committee, if anyone is interested in participating please let me know. We are going to try to have our first meeting in the middle of May.

In Service, Kyle

**Northern Light – Heidi B**

Since Spring Assembly, I have been working on the 3rd issue of the Northern Light for this rotation. So far, it's a pretty slim issue with not many events happening in the next few months. I reached out to our Area Archivist, Marc N, for some photos and articles to share. And he definitely delivered. Thank you, Marc! I hope you all enjoy this peek into the past.

Share your experience, strength and hope with Area 35 by sending an article to be printed in the Northern Light. I want to hear from you! Did you have a great time at Spring Assembly? Write about it and send to me at [northern-light@area35.org](mailto:northern-light@area35.org). Is your home group bringing a meeting to a local treatment center or correctional facility? Please tell us about it.

And a reminder: If you'd like your event flier printed in the Northern Light, please email it to me. There is no cost to include it in our events section, however it must follow guidelines printed in the back of the Northern Light. If you'd like it printed as a separate piece and blown into the Northern Light there are costs, which can also be found in the back of the Northern Light. Please note that only Area 35 AA members may submit a flyer and fliers must be for AA sponsored events only.

**Group Records – Denise R**

Greetings all! Since the Spring Assembly I have updated most of the Group Change Forms that were given to me at the Assembly with the exception of District 5's Group Information Sheets. I am almost done with those as of this report. Thank you for your patience. Please continue to send any meeting changes or any new groups to me at [grouprecords@area35.org](mailto:grouprecords@area35.org). As I have been learning these jobs I have found that it is much easier when I have a Group Service Number or FNV to help locate the meetings. It would be very helpful if you can include those numbers when requesting any changes.

I have made many additions to the Northern Light mailing list. I hope you are all receiving them. As always, if you are not, please let me know so I can check my information.

I have spent a great deal of time working on meeting changes through [aaminnesota.org](http://aaminnesota.org) meeting locator and Meeting Guide App. Working with and discussing these issues with GSO Group Records and App Support as well as our Area 35 Chair. Again what would be helpful is including the group service number or FNV number if you know it. I am finding there are duplicate listings for some groups and it just makes it so much easier to discern which group and listing is the correct one to make changes to.

I look forward to seeing you all at the June Area Committee Meeting and listening to our Delegate Steve's report from the General Service Conference.

In Service, Denise R.

**Treatment – Ricco R**

Since the Area 35 Spring Assembly, I have been working with the PI/CPC committee in District 9, as I had mentioned previously, I am a member of that committee. There is one veteran, (Skip), on the committee and one direction we are going is working with the Military as it is considered a remote community and we are considering ways on how to get our A.A. message out to them. Our Treatment Committee is also looking at ways of getting the message out to remote communities. Peggy M. has already some knowledge of getting into the Veterans Hospital to give our message of recovery. There is a saying, that, a remote community could be just around the corner. That means there is a lot of people with a drinking problem that are not reached mainly because we haven't looked hard enough to find them. I made some preliminary Workbooks out of an assortment of relevant information taken out of A.A. literature to have something to move forward with in working with the Military. The workbook will have to be worked on and added to as we go along and find more information and procedures to move forward with our efforts to share the A.A. message of recovery.

I know that my main responsibility for being a Treatment Chair is to provide assistance and experience in developing projects that would further carry the A.A. message into treatment facilities. It is another responsibility for the Treatment Chair to coordinate and work with Districts on Special Needs/Accessibilities projects. The Accessibilities workbook has suggestions for working with Underserved or Remote Communities. The Area 35 Northern MN Area Actions Book has my Trusted Service Guidelines in it to do so. That is why I am interested in working with remote communities. In my Treatment Committee workbook, it asks me to invite Corrections, Cooperation with the Professionals (CPC), and Public Information (PI) liaisons to our committee meetings. There are many overlapping responsibilities involved in our service responsibilities and we are encouraged to work with each other to help carry the A.A. message. I felt I had to put some more of my responsibilities in about working with each other so it wouldn't look like I was working out of my boundaries.

I am also on the Tri-District Service Workshop Committee for Districts 16, 8 and 9 and we have got all the planning done and sent the flyer out. The flyer is in the current Northern Light issue you are reading now.

Diane and I would like to Thank Everyone for your Thoughts, Prayers, and Concerns for me and my medical issues and Diane's devoted caring for me that she went through. I am feeling very good and have also been Thanking my God for being with us and I am sure he was listening to your prayers for us, as he was watching over us.

In Unity and Service, Ricco R

**Archivist – Marc N**

Hello again, it's me your Archivist for the next while. "I" volunteered for this role when I became aware of the open service opportunity. "I" quickly became immersed (of my own doing) with finding a new home for our archives. "I" soon gained the knowledge that "I" can't, but "We" can. It has been with the insight and help of many that "I" found the serenity, courage, and wisdom to move forward. At one of my two home groups I was asked "How does what you do at the district or area carry the message to still suffering alcoholics?" "I" did not have an answer. Prayer and meditation on this topic has led me to a new understanding of what "our" archives are. "We" have a collective history many years in the making, a rich history of individual stories. These are our stories that are able to help the still suffering alcoholic. From my business experience it seems a mission statement may help (suggestions for edits are welcome):

**AA Archives: A collection of stories telling what it was like, what happened, and what we are like now. A record of "the business" of AA to validate that the 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, and 12 Concepts remain steadfast.**

So where to go from here? We need to make our archive materials available to those who seek help, either for themselves, to help others, or to achieve lasting, serene, sobriety. With that in mind we ought to lean on one another in our service roles to seek the best message to present to a still suffering alcoholic. In my humble opinion, that is to be the best copy of the Big Book that we can be, so that we attract others based on our appearance and behavior. When asked about our sober lifestyle we ought to be able to draw on the experiences of others to relate to the newcomer. The archives are here to serve our various area and district committees that have focus on subsets of people of various interests. Now, my personal goal is to provide service of searching for and providing relevant materials to carry our message forward.

Repository move: As this goes to press the archive materials should have been moved to the new location. The materials will not be organized at the time of the June ACM but interested people will be allowed to have a peak at what there is, ask me for a tour after the ACM is adjourned.



*Marc N and the Archives moving crew headed to Aitkin.*

**Archives – Renell P**

They are on their way! By the time you read this, the Area 35 Archives will have arrived at their new home, located at:

**9 3rd Street NE  
Aitkin, MN 56431**

We are excited to get them settled in and available for others to see. The Archives committee and other interested fellows, will be meeting at the new location on **Saturday, May 14th, starting at 9 am**. Our initial meeting will be to share our thoughts on how to proceed. It will definitely take some time and work, to look through all the materials and decide the best way to organize and preserve what we have. More exciting news will be flowing through these pages as we uncover the hidden treasures.

I encourage all District Secretaries/DCMs to forward your meeting minutes to me at: [archives@area35.org](mailto:archives@area35.org) Or to our Archivist Marc N at: [archivist@area35.org](mailto:archivist@area35.org) (you do not have to send to both of us, but to, at least, one of us). Thank you. Yours in service, Renell P

**Corrections - Arden A**

Hello Everyone, Things are starting to open up. A lot of the county jails and some of the Federal Prisons have opened and I have been in contact with some of them.

I was contacted by Laura, the temp contact coordinator, that someone was being released from prison and I passed that on. I am happy to say a couple of days later I heard that contact had been made.



(cont'd from page 13)

We are going to start a zoom meeting with area 36. I have invited all the DCMs and district corrections chairs and anyone else that is interested in corrections work to attend. The first meeting will be on May 4 and after that the first Wednesday of every month.

Yours in Service, Arden A

Public Information – Nels P

Greetings Area 35! I hope everyone is doing well and celebrating the arrival of spring (yay). I have been contacting radio stations about public service announcements as well as working with PI in my area. We have talked about making sure that hospitals and clinics have our district webpage information so they can post it on their website with a link for resources. I have been in contact with Patrick S, PI Chair from Area 36, about the state fair and had a great conversation with him that I will share at the Aitkin Area Committee Meeting. I also have been in contact with Greg, Area 35 CPC Chair, about the state fair as well.

I look forward to seeing everyone. Nels

Grapevine – Mike U

Greetings everyone, I'm Mike U your Grapevine chair and an alcoholic. I attended the spring assembly in Ely started Friday night with a tailgate and meeting with the Happy, Joyous and Free group. It was awesome and perfect weather for tailgating. Saturday we talked about the agenda items and finished Sunday with the upcoming events. I would like to ask all DCM's if they would like me to come and give a talk on the Grapevine and what is available for your groups and chair people. I could do this at the end of your meeting or when it would work best for your district. Please let me know.

Thank you for letting me serve, Mike U.

ATTN GSR'S, DCM'S & DISTRICT CHAIRS:

We are here for you! Area Officers & Action Committee Chairs are available for presentations and workshops. What would you like to hear about? Contact us and let us know! Contact Christine at areachair@area35.org.

2022 Spring Assembly Evaluations Summary

GSRs (29 total – 11 First-time attendees)

What part of the assembly was most beneficial?

- 12 GSR Orientation
- 6 Area Committee Reports
- N/A Breakout Sessions
- 13 Old/New Business
- 21 General Agenda Item Sharing From the Floor
- Other
- 12 GSR/DCM Sharing Sessions

In what way did it (they) help?

- Let me know what being a GSR is all about
- How this part of service works
- Informative
- New points of view
- Provided more informed decision making
- Hearing from experienced members
- Raise awareness of how GSO and AA is changing/evolving

How do you feel the format went? Do you feel we had enough time to cover GSC agenda items, reports, and business?

- Have GSR orientation right away
- Utilize Friday evenings
- Saturday was a long day
- Check out of rooms before meeting starts so we don't have to break for that
- Prepare on your own for background material
- Stay on topic/enforce 2 minutes at the microphone
- More spread out over the two days
- Ask It basket should not have been used for amends
- Duplicate agenda questions could have been combined
- Put background on screen
- 13-hour day too long
- A lot of wasted time
- Hotel didn't have a couple reservations
- Inventory should be done in breakout sessions
- Went smooth
- Very organized
- Good amount of time spent on topics
- Cost of hotel was a bit high
- Too long of a dinner break
- Very informal

DCMs (8 total – 3 First-time attendees)

What part of the assembly was most beneficial?

- N/A GSR Orientation
- 1 Area Committee Reports
- N/A Breakout Sessions
- 3 Old/New Business
- 3 General Agenda Item Sharing From the Floor
- 4 Other
- 6 GSR/DCM Sharing Sessions

In what way did it (they) help?

- New Ideas
- Hear from other DCMs
- Sharing information
- Connecting with other positions
- Clarifying agenda items
- New ideas on workshops

How do you feel the format went? Do you feel we had enough time to cover GSC agenda items, reports, and business?

- Informative to hear the GSO agenda items
- Good format and execution
- Great discussion
- Too much agenda items and background/trim down to a more realistic amount
- Hot water available for TEA
- Inappropriate to use the Ask-it basket time for sharing their apologies

Other Positions (12 total – 3 First-time attendees)

What part of the assembly was most beneficial?

- 1 GSR Orientation
- 6 Area Committee Reports
- N/A Breakout Sessions
- 6 Old/New Business
- 2 General Agenda Item Sharing From the Floor
- Other
- N/A GSR/DCM Sharing Sessions

In what way did it (they) help?

- Good information
- Good discussion
- Keep me informed
- New information
- Perfect reminder "Love and Tolerance is Our Code"

How do you feel the format went? Do you feel we had enough time to cover GSC agenda items, reports, and business?

- Good job keeping assembly on track
- Great experience
- Good format
- Time limits should be followed and enforced better
- Good Fellowship and information shared in the hallways
- Plenty of time to deal with business
- Surprised how quickly we got through agenda items
- Coffee was great
- Trusted Servants at the display tables were great
- Tickets for coffee
- Orientation of room was not ideal/packed in like rats
- Could not see or hear
- GSR Orientation/go over more of GSR responsibilities and microphone etiquette



"I know we're supposed to be emotionally immature but do we have to meet in the school kindergarten?"





## Your experience, strength and hope...

### Area 35 Let's Return to Being United

The events that occurred during the Fall Assembly are, hopefully, not going to make us drink, which, in my mind, is of the utmost importance. The vote to place a previous Delegate to be Area Chair was not a *terrible or destructive* occurrence/vote. We all want to vote for a capable person for each service role and the Area followed the voting procedure. Should we have discussed the possibility since it had not been custom prior to voting. Probably. But we didn't. Maybe the result is a God reason.

Service position openings ebb and flow regarding availability of people and numbers of positions we like filled. We experience this in District 13. Why not allow past delegates to serve again in a different capacity if we deem (by voting) a person is an excellent choice?

**I do not believe** this was a *sneak* move on anyone's part. Attacking people personally is not our code; This went on to my great dismay and sadness.

**I do believe** God was part of this circumstance and *acceptance is my answer*.

**I do not believe** we are in a state of imploding like I've heard unless we continue the behaviors currently going on regarding this issue.

**I do believe** change is inevitable in addition to collectively following our Traditions. Let us decide together how we will proceed and document this decision.

**I do not view** the vote as a means of circumventing our customs or traditions even though many in Area 35 were passionate that the vote passed, *after the fact*. I remind myself of the spiritual principles Bill and Bob laid out for us. I am not in control; My Higher Power is in ultimate control. I must trust this, or I will fail in life.

This letter is a plea to discuss this further at our Fall Assembly **with the spiritual principles as our guide** in how we behave in front of each other and behind the scenes. Let us come together and understand that no ill intentions or personal self-will were at play, whatsoever, in the vote. Let us trust one another and trust that our Higher Power is involved with me, you, and our beloved Area 35.

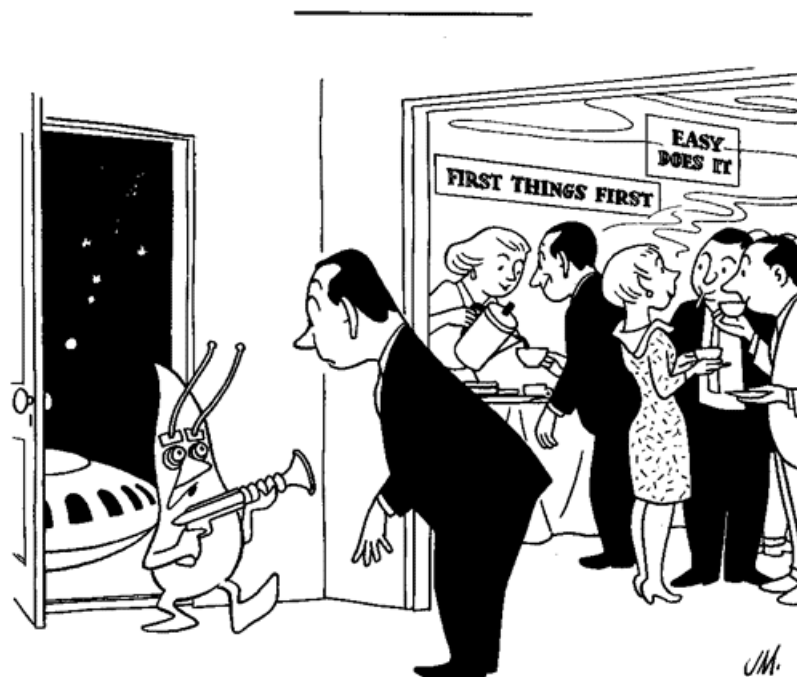
Sincerely,  
Robin J/St. Cloud

*Recovery, Unity, Service — these are the Three Legacies given to the whole membership of A.A. by its founders and their fellow oldtimers. When this heritage was announced, at the St. Louis Convention in 1955, celebrating A.A.'s 20th birthday, Doctor Bob was already gone. But Bill W. spoke for him and the other pioneers, as well as for himself, in turning over to all of us the responsibility for A.A.'s continuation and growth.*

*"The A.A. Service Manual," current version of the handbook first known as "The Third Legacy Manual," may seem to be simply a guide to organization and procedure, and its approach is indeed practical. At the same time, it is based firmly upon spiritual principles, as Bill explains in his introduction to the manual, reprinted here to recall the development of our Third Legacy.*

**Share your experience, strength and hope with Area 35 by sending an article to be printed in the Northern Light. We want to hear from you!**

**Did you have a great time at Spring Assembly? Is your home group bringing a meeting to a local treatment center or correctional facility? Please tell us about it. Send an email to: [northernlight@area35.org](mailto:northernlight@area35.org).**



*"Take me to your humble, trusted servant."*



The NORTHERN LIGHT

NEWSLETTER FOR THE NORTHERN ASSEMBLY

ISSUE No. 5, August 15, 1983 Box 957, Moorhead, MN 56560

GRATITUDE = SERVICE

THERE ARE TWO BIG EVENTS COMMING UP THIS FALL  
THE FALL ASSEMBLY AND THE FALL WORKSHOP  
EXPRESS YOUR GRATITUDE IN SERVICE

The grateful members in Pike Sandy put it this way:

Yesterday looked at honestly and used wisely  
Can lead to today's growth.  
Tomorrow, not worried about  
Can help me concentrate on today.  
I cannot change yesterday,  
I may not be here tomorrow.  
But I have today, I can listen, I can  
Learn, I can share a part of me with  
Someone else and I can grow. God has  
Given me all of this thru all of you in  
A.A.

(Signed), Grateful in Pike Sandy



BLAST  
FROM  
THE  
PAST!

TIMELESS ADVICE FROM A FAITHFUL  
SERVANT

Vern R., our past delegate from Grand Rapids, was rummaging through some old papers and writings from the time he was a delegate and came across this letter written to the fellowship five years ago. It contains some sage advice and pearls of wisdom which can be of value to us all. Editor.

The letter is printed verbatim as follows:

"Our fellowship is for alcoholics and alcoholics only."

"Dear GSR's, Assembly Officers and all A.A.'s,"

"This will probably be my last personal letter to you as your Delegate and I want to thank each of you for allowing me to be your trusted servant. I hope to be able to continue being active and to serve this beautiful fellowship."

"There are a few things I would like to bring up as I think they are very important."

"First of all, I would like to remind all of you, especially the GSR's to share all of the correspondence you receive with your groups. There may be someone who would like to be active but they just don't know how to get started. The theme of the last Conference in April was **The A.A. Group, Where It Begins.** From active A.A. Groups come active GSR's - from active GSR's come active DCM's and from active DCM's come active Delegates. From all of this activity we see growth and strength in our groups because we are learning from each other and this growth and strength insures the survival of A.A. for those yet to come. One of the pitfalls that we seem to get into is that we would like to be "all things to all people" and get the whole world straightened out. Sooner or later we come to realize that this is not possible. We are alcoholics trying to help alcoholics and our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety. There are problems other than alcohol that have benefited by using the A.A. program which they have adapted to their particular problem, and as individuals we can help these programs get started, but we have many, many drunks that we are not helping and I think we need to take a long hard look at just where we are in our own program of Alcoholics Anonymous. We have agencies and treatment centers sending us non-alcoholics. Do we lead them to believe that they are members of A.A.? If we do, we are hurting them as well as ourselves and we are depriving them of help they might otherwise be getting from a group who has their same problem. I'm sure that none of us want to hurt anyone anymore. Our Fellowship is for alcoholics and alcoholics only."

"One of the pitfalls that we seem to get into is that we would like to be "all things to all people"..."

"I almost hate to mention the next subject because it seems that I'm always bringing it up. You may say - then don't bring it up. However, it is a very necessary part of our Fellowship and does need to be talked about. **MONEY!** Our preamble states that we are self-supporting through our own contributions. This means that as a group we support A.A. and A.A. only. All of the Districts in our area voted to contribute \$1.00 per member per year to the District, \$1.00 per member per year to the Assembly and the suggested contribution to G.S.O. is \$3.65 per member per year which totals \$5.65. If we add another \$5.00 for a yearly subscription to the Grapevine, this brings the total of all these things to \$10.65 per member per year. This is a small price to pay for continued sobriety and the rewards we reap from the love and fellowship we find in A.A. I think I am safe in saying that when we were practicing only a mother could love us and even that was "touch and go" at times. In A.A. we are equals and we are accepted and loved wherever we are in sobriety. Our first priority is for the good of the group and most certainly we need a meeting place which is adequate for the group. Because we are self-supporting we pay rent, as a group, for a place to meet. However, in my travels throughout the area I notice that some groups are allowing group funds to be handled by Alano Clubs and these group funds are not being used for A.A. purposes. We should pay rent to the Alano Society (if we have one) but as a group we should also be responsible for purchasing Conference Approved Literature from G.S.O., for taking care of contributions to the district, the area assembly and to G.S.O., and for other necessary expenses of the group. If we say we are A.A. then let's be A.A. all the way and not confuse ourselves and newcomers by being half and half. At this point I must say that there was a time when I thought - What difference does it make and why do some make such a fuss about this? but as I read and studied the A.A. Service Manual, the Guidelines, the Steps, the Traditions and the Concepts, etc. I **came to believe** that it was necessary to adhere strictly to the guidelines of this Fellowship or there won't be a Fellowship. Someone has said that "we will not be destroyed from without, but that our destruction will come from within if we do not learn from the experience of those who have gone before us." Let's keep our minds open and learn from the painful experiences of those early A.A.'s."

"Let's keep our minds open and learn from the painful experiences of those early A.A.'s."

"Service is the "life blood" of  
Alcoholics Anonymous..."

"Another subject dear to my heart is service meetings. Service is the "life blood" of Alcoholics Anonymous and thank God we have some very dedicated hard working people who are active in service work. If it weren't for them we wouldn't be here. Those of you who share my feeling for service know who you are and I want you to know how very grateful I am to you. All GSR's and DCM's and officers are expected to attend the service meetings. One such meeting coming up is the Fall Assembly which will be held in Brainerd on October 9. There will be an open meeting for the "early birds" on the evening of October 8."

(Editor's Note: Incidentally, our Fall Assembly for 1983 falls on the same date; October 8th and 9th at Cragun's Resort located just a few miles out of Brainerd.)

"Some of you did not attend the DCM meeting in Moorhead on August 13. It was a good meeting with Bob P. from G.S.O. sitting in on the meeting. We missed those of you who did not attend as we need each of you at these meetings to share your experiences with us. We need everyone's participation and involvement so we will have a strong and well informed assembly area."

"On November 11, 12, and 13 the Annual Service Workshop will be held at the Rainbow Inn in Grand Rapids. This service workshop is especially for GSR's and DCM's and all A.A.'s who are interested in serving the Fellowship. Make your plans early to attend - we need to know how many will attend to finalize the plans."

(Editor's Note: The 1983 Fall Workshop will be held on identical dates; November 11, 12, 13, 1983 at the Rainbow Inn, Grand Rapids, Min.)

"One final thing and then I'll close. We have had a special request from the Grapevine staff to ask each group to elect a Grapevine Representative for their group. The last Conference voted to encourage each group to do this. I want to ask each group to elect a Grapevine Representative (**GVR**) and send his or her name to Grapevine, P.O. Box 1980, Grand Central Station, New York, New York, 100017. Please do this as soon as possible. The Grapevine will send you all the necessary information to help you become an effective Grapevine Representative for your group. I know the Grapevine staff will appreciate this a great deal."

"We have had many new groups in the last year and a half and I want to extend a most hearty welcome to each of you. We need all of you. If any of the groups are having problems or if you have questions about some of the things in my letter please let me hear from you. I will be glad to sit down and talk things over - we can learn from each other."

"I also want to thank each of you for your support and encouragement during my term as Delegate. There were times when the road was "rocky" and I was discouraged. I wondered if it was all worthwhile, but whenever I needed you you were there to share and make the road seem more smooth. I cannot fully express in words what this has meant to me. I know that your gratitude for this Fellowship has helped you give a little "extra" when it seemed that you were already doing your share."

"Again, I thank you for the privilege of serving you and I love you all for giving me this chance. God bless you."

Much A.A. love to all,  
(signed) Vern R.  
Delegate  
NORTHERN MINNESOTA A.A. AREA ASSEMBLY

SERVICE EVENTS  
SCHEDULED

These are a couple of important service events scheduled for fall. If you can't make it to anything else, be sure to try your very best to attend these two.

**FALL ASSEMBLY: OCTOBER 8th and 9th at CRAGUN'S RESORT, BRAINERD, MN.** All A.A. members are welcome to attend and in fact, are encouraged to come to the meeting. Elections are going to be held to elect a new delegate and to elect new officers of the assembly. Other business will be conducted. It is important that the fellowship understand that all AA's are welcome. The voting procedure provides that voting will be done by GSR's, DCM's, and the Area Officers (except the editor of the Northern Light). No one has been denied an opportunity to express his or her views and all can participate in the meeting except as to the limitation on voting. If you have questions, please ask your representative.

Cragun's resort has been selected for the meeting because of the fortunate problem of out-growing the Holiday Inn. One of the things to be discussed at the Fall Assembly will be the meeting place for the next Area assembly.

**ANNUAL FALL WORKSHOP AT GRAND RAPIDS, NOVEMBER 11, 12, 13, at the RAINBOW INN.** This meeting is a must if you are new or have any interest in service work. There is also great fellowship at this meeting. Vern R. has arranged a great program. Susan D. form the General Service Office will be on hand and will give a talk.

(For more information about these two important meetings, you can call or write Bob R., or Patty R. by reaching us at the office, Box 1588, Fargo, ND, 58107 or calling Area Code 701-232-1199.)





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 15<sup>th</sup> 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

September 15<sup>th</sup>

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

February 15<sup>th</sup>

Delegate receives Agenda Items from the General Service Office and sends them along with background information to the Area 35 Webmaster.

The Webmaster posts the material on our website (area35.org) with a protected password. The Delegate sends out an email to the Area 35 Committee with the password information, which is used to download the Agenda Items and background information off the Area 35 website.

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in February

Agenda Items are distributed to Area 35 by hard copy or CD from the Delegate at the Aitkin Committee Meeting.

1<sup>st</sup> Weekend in March

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

1<sup>st</sup> Weekend in April

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

3<sup>rd</sup> Week in April

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

FOR MORE  
INFORMATION  
CONTACT

Steve L.  
Area 35 Panel 72 Delegate  
delegate@area35.org  
(218) 780-0905



## UPCOMING EVENTS IN AREA 35

\*See area35.org for printable flyers

### 2022 Service Events

- June 5:** Area 35 Committee Meeting  
Aitkin, MN  
9:00am
- August 7:** Area 35 Committee Meeting  
Aitkin, MN  
9:00am
- October 1 - 2:** Area 35 Fall Assembly  
Crookston Inn & Convention Ctr  
Crookston, MN

### 2022 Fellowship Events

- June 18:** Tri-District Service Workshop  
Districts 8, 9 and 16  
1pm - 4pm - Live & Zoom  
Peace United Methodist Church  
303 S 9th Ave, Virginia
- July 1 - 3:** 9th Annual  
Crow Wing River 3 Legacy Campout  
Motley, MN  
Contact BR 218-296-1512
- August 13:** Zonal Forum & Potluck  
Districts 3,4 and 15  
Perham Alano Club 11:30am  
43452 Hwy 34  
Perham, MN

### Tri-District Service Workshop

Saturday, June 18, 2022

Districts 16, 9, & 8 are working together in AA unity to have a workshop for all AA members.

Live and on Zoom

Meeting I.D. - 864 6643 4429 Passcode - 242687

Coffee served all day.

In Virginia at The Peace United Methodist Church.

303 South 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. Virginia, MN.

**Starts at 1:00 P.M. - Topic - "Treatment"**

One speaker from each District (10 min. each)

Questions from audience (20 min.)

**2:00 P.M. - Topic - "CPC/PI"**

One speaker from each District (10 Min. each)

Questions from audience - (20 min.)

**3:00 P.M. Guest Speaker - Heidi B. from Ely**

**4:00 P.M. "Ice Cream Social"**



### 9th ANNUAL CROW WING RIVER 3 LEGACY CAMPOUT JULY 1-3 2022



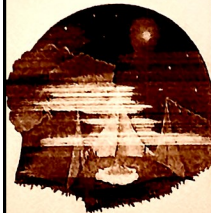
**FRIDAY**  
12:00 MOTLEY NOON MEETING  
1:00 CHECK-IN  
DINNER ON YOUR OWN  
7:00 AA SPEAKER  
10:00 CAMPFIRE MEETING  
**SATURDAY**  
EARLY MORNING CAMPFIRE AND DEVOTIONALS  
BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN  
9:00 OPEN MEETING  
11:00 CANOEING/TUBING/FREE TIME  
5:30 POT LUCK SUPPER-BRATS AND HOTDOGS PROVIDED-  
PLEASE BRING A DISH TO SHARE  
6:30:00 AL-ANON  
8:00 AA SPEAKER  
10:00 CAMPFIRE MEETING  
**SUNDAY**  
10:00 OPEN MEETING

OPEN FIRE TO COOK OVER WILL BE AVAILABLE. PLEASE  
FEEL FREE TO BRING A GRILL. SINK STATION WILL BE  
AVAILABLE FOR WASHING DISHES.

**NO PETS ALLOWED**

**ADULTS AND KIDS 11 AND OLDER \$15**  
**KIDS 8 AND UNDER ARE FREE.**

FIRST COME FIRST SERVE FOR CAMPING SPOTS  
CONTACT: B.R. 218.296.1512  
281 MORRISON ST E. MOTLEY MN



### St. Cloud Roundup October 21 - 22, 2022

Excellent AA & Alanon Speakers  
Fun Workshops  
Fellowship!  
Hospitality Rooms

### St. Cloud River's Edge Convention Center

10 - 4th Avenue South  
St. Cloud, MN 56301

### Information:

320-296-1693  
stcloudroundup@gmail.com



### ZONAL FORUM/POTLUCK

DISTRICTS 3, 4 AND 15

August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022

LOCATION: PERHAM ALANO CLUB

43452 Co Hwy 34, Perham, MN 56573

- 11:30am or noon: Potluck starts
- 1pm - 2:30 pm Zonal Forum starts: Speakers Steve L., Delegate, Justin W., Alt Delegate, Christine G., Area Chair, Cindy K., Treasurer and Sally L, Secretary
- 2:30pm - 2:45pm **Break**
- 2:45pm - 3:30pm Jim S (topic: rewards of being in service and results of it, includes Q & A)
- 3:30pm - 3:45pm **Break**
- 3:45pm - Steve Lere, Area 35 Delegate, Delegate's report back from General Service Conference

FOR MORE INFORMATION: contact Gene M. at (218) 850 2298

Bring your favorite dish or dessert to share with the rest  
and hear about the Area 35 service structure and the  
results of the 2022 General Service Conference.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN AREA 35

\*See [area35.org](http://area35.org) for printable flyers

Area 35 Fall Assembly

October 1st-2nd, 2022

Crookston Inn & Convention Center

2200 University Ave  
Crookston, MN 56716

**Room Rates:** Two Queen Beds or One King Bed \$92.99 + tax per night  
(Wi-fi & continental breakfast included)

To make **reservations** please call: (218) 470-1000

Reserve under: Area 35 Assembly Block

Cut Off Date: **AUGUST 30, 2022**; After that rate is \$99.99 + tax per night

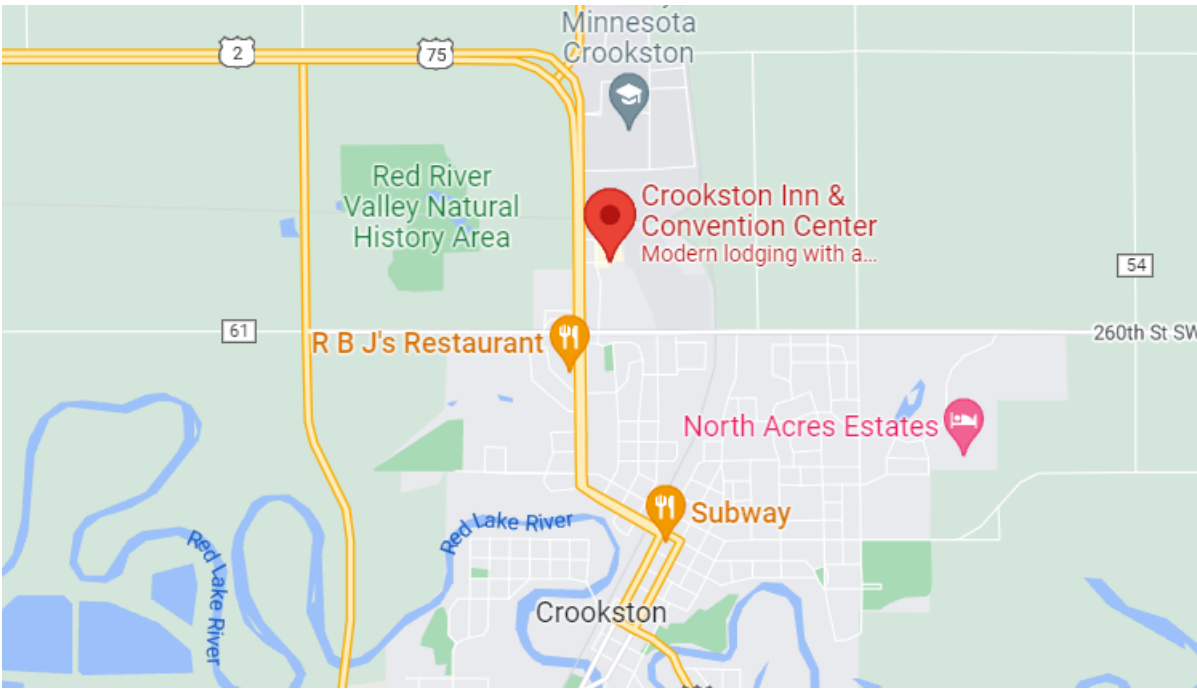
Saturday, October 1

9:00 AM Registration

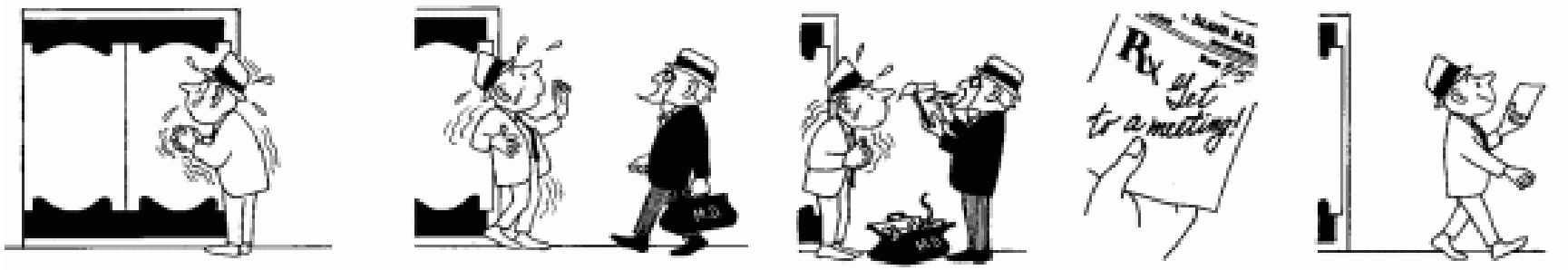
10:00 AM Assembly Convenes

Sunday, October 2

9:00 AM Assembly Reconvenes



All DCMs, GSRs, Area Officers and Committee Chairs, Delegate, Alternate Delegate and Past Delegates are encouraged to attend as well as all others interested in carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic. The only requirement is a willingness to serve.





**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 to 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 of 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 the Area Group Records Chair, Area Webmaster and Area Audio Technician along with two D.C.M.s in Area 35. DCM's are picked randomly at the start of each rotation and 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.

**N.L. COMMITTEE MEETINGS:** The Committee meets every other month, before the start of the Area Workshop and at Spring and Fall Assemblies. If needed, additional meetings may be called.

**NORTHERN LIGHT SUBMISSIONS:**

General submissions are welcome! Feel free to send letters or articles that are pertinent to AA and Area 35. All submissions will be approved by the Northern Light committee, in accordance with Tradition Two; For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern. 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.

Please send submissions to [northernlight@area35.org](mailto:northernlight@area35.org) or my address on page 2. The deadline for each issue is printed on the front page.

All submissions should have a title. Please include the first name, last initial and city where the author is from. Anonymous submissions will not be accepted. 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, Heidi B

**Directions for Inserting a Flier into the Northern Light**

1. First & foremost, **Contact the Northern Light Editor** at [northernlight@area35.org](mailto:northernlight@area35.org) or call the phone number listed on page 2 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](mailto:northernlight@area35.org) for approval. **Upon approval** a copy will be forwarded to the webmaster to be placed on the area35.org calendar of events.

3. **Once approved** 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  
126 13th Ave S  
St Cloud, MN 56301

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—725 mailed only or 1000 for mailed and handouts.

**Northern Light Deadlines for 2022 are as Follows:**

- ◆ January 19<sup>th</sup> : Flier will be included in the January/February Issue
- ◆ March 8<sup>th</sup> : Flier will be included in the March/April Issue
- ◆ May 1<sup>st</sup> : Flier will be included in the May/June Issue
- ◆ July 8<sup>th</sup> : Flier will be included in the July/August Issue
- ◆ September 1<sup>st</sup>: Flier will be included in the September/October Issue
- ◆ November 2<sup>nd</sup> : Flier will be included in the November/December Issue



Area 35 Event Flyer Guidelines

To be included in the Northern Light, all flyers must answer the following questions.:

- Who is involved or sponsoring the event? Examples:
  - AA Group
  - District
  - Area
- What type of event is it? Please include itinerary. Examples:
  - An open or closed meeting
  - Speaker meeting
  - Call up meeting
  - Big Book meeting
  - Workshop with itinerary
  - Conference with itinerary
  - Fellowship (ice cream socials, potlucks, chili cook offs, etc.)
  - AA must appear somewhere on the flyer
- When is the event to take place?
  - Date and time
  - Does it reoccur
- Where will the event take place?
  - Name of the facility and the address
  - Maps are sometimes helpful but not necessary
- Why is the event taking place?
  - The reason for AA events is to carry the AA message to the still suffering alcoholic (this doesn't have to be printed on the flyer)
  - 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.

Only Area 35 AA members may submit a flier.  
Fliers for AA sponsored events only.

Please submit flyers in PDF format when possible. Flyers will be posted on area35.org and in the Northern Light at the Area 35 Webmaster's and Northern Light Editor's discretion. Email northernlight@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)

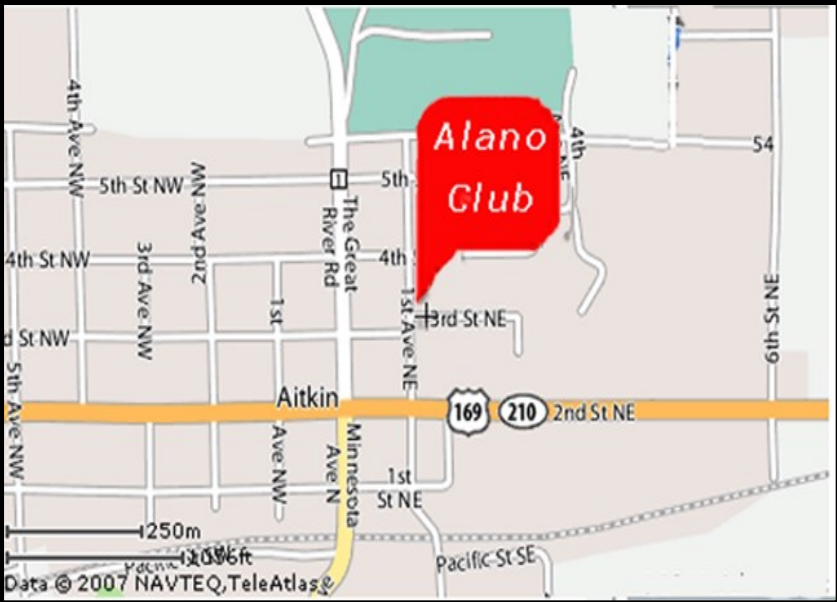
AREA 35 EVENTS  
INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURE

- Area Chair asks for weather reports from all DCMs from respective Districts, either by email or phone.
- Meeting format (virtual, in person or hybrid) is based on DOT report and national weather service, individual safety being paramount. Decisions will be made by 9pm the day before the meeting.
- Chair contacts webmaster with meeting format information (including any virtual links) which will be posted on area35.org
- Chair notifies the Alano Society in Aitkin on food preparations.
- Chair remains available and in close contact as they are the focal point and main contact; Chair must make the decision and be available for calls.
- Districts contact their DCM in inclement weather for updates on meeting format.

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



12 Traditions of  
Alcoholics Anonymous (Long Form)

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

12 Concepts of  
Alcoholics Anonymous (Short Form)

- I. Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.
- II. The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.
- III. To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A.—the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional "Right of Decision."
- IV. At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional "Right of Participation," allowing a voting representation in a reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.
- V. Throughout our structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.
- VI. The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.
- VII. The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.
- VIII. The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.
- IX. Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.
- X. Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.
- XI. The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.
- XII. The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.







AREA 35 COMMITTEE MEETING  
Agenda  
Aitkin, MN  
June 5th, 2022

<div><div>_____ 9:00 A.M. Action Chair Committee Meetings (9:30 a.m. Financial Oversight Committee)</div><div>_____ 10:30 A.M. Area Committee Meeting</div><div>_____ Call to Order Open with the Serenity Prayer</div><div>_____ Recognize Past Delegates</div><div>_____ Add to Agenda</div><div>_____ Approve Minutes from last ACM</div><div><div>OFFICER REPORTS</div><div>_____ Delegate – Steve L</div><div>_____ Post Conference Report - Delegate</div><div>_____ Alternate Delegate – Justin W</div><div>_____ Chair – Christine G</div><div>_____ Secretary – Sally L</div><div>_____ Treasurer – Cindy SK</div><div><div>COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS</div><div>_____ WEBMASTER – Kyle H</div><div>_____ NORTHERN LIGHT – Heidi B</div><div>_____ District 3 – Gene M</div><div>_____ GROUP RECORDS – Denise R</div><div>_____ District 16 – Dave C</div><div>_____ LITERATURE – Pat M</div><div>_____ District 12 – Terry A</div><div>_____ District 5 – Jarrin V</div><div>_____ PUBLIC INFORMATION - Nels P</div><div>_____ District 2 –</div><div>_____ District 4 – Bumper L</div><div>_____ TREATMENT – Ricco R</div><div>_____ District 6 – Mike P</div><div>_____ District 7 – Robert N</div><div>_____ CPC – Greg C</div><div>_____ District 18 – Scott S</div><div>_____ District 15 – Lisa M</div><div>_____ ARCHIVIST – Marc N</div><div>_____ ARCHIVES – Renell P</div><div>_____ District 11 – Vicki R</div><div>_____ District 14 -</div><div>_____ GRAPEVINE – Mike U</div><div>_____ District 1 -</div><div>_____ District 13 – Jim R</div><div>_____ District 21 – Brent T</div></div></div></div>	<div><div>_____ CORRECTIONS – Arden A</div><div>_____ District 9 - Diane R</div><div>_____ District 8 - Heather L</div><div><div>12:00 P.M. Lunch</div><div>12:45 P.M. Reconvene</div><div><div>OLD BUSINESS</div><div>_____ Financial Oversight Committee Report</div><div>_____ Tabled motion: “Past Delegates are eligible to be nominat- ed for Area service positions not previously held.” - Fall Assem- bly</div><div>_____ Area Inventory – Fall Assembly</div><div><div>NEW BUSINESS:</div><div>_____ Election of Treasurer - Fall Assembly</div><div>_____ Spring Assy 2023 Dates - Delegate</div><div>_____ 2023 Budgets - Chair</div><div>_____ Spring Assembly Review / Evaluations - Chair</div><div>_____ Ad-Hoc Technology Committee - Web</div><div>_____ State Fair – PI Committee Chair</div><div>_____ Hybrid August ACM - Chair</div><div>_____ Statewide Correction Committee - Corrections</div><div>_____</div><div>_____</div><div>_____ Calendar of Events</div><div>_____ Adjourn</div><div><div>NOTES:</div></div></div></div></div></div>
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\*\*\*Note - New Address\*\*\*

Mail Area 35 Group contributions to:

Please remember to include your group service number on all contributions.  
This will ensure that your contributions get credited to your group.

NMAA

126 13th Ave S

St. Cloud, MN 56301