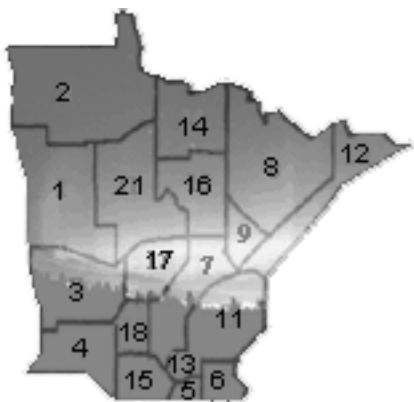
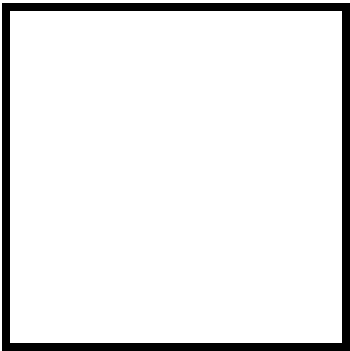


NMAA

Change Service Requested



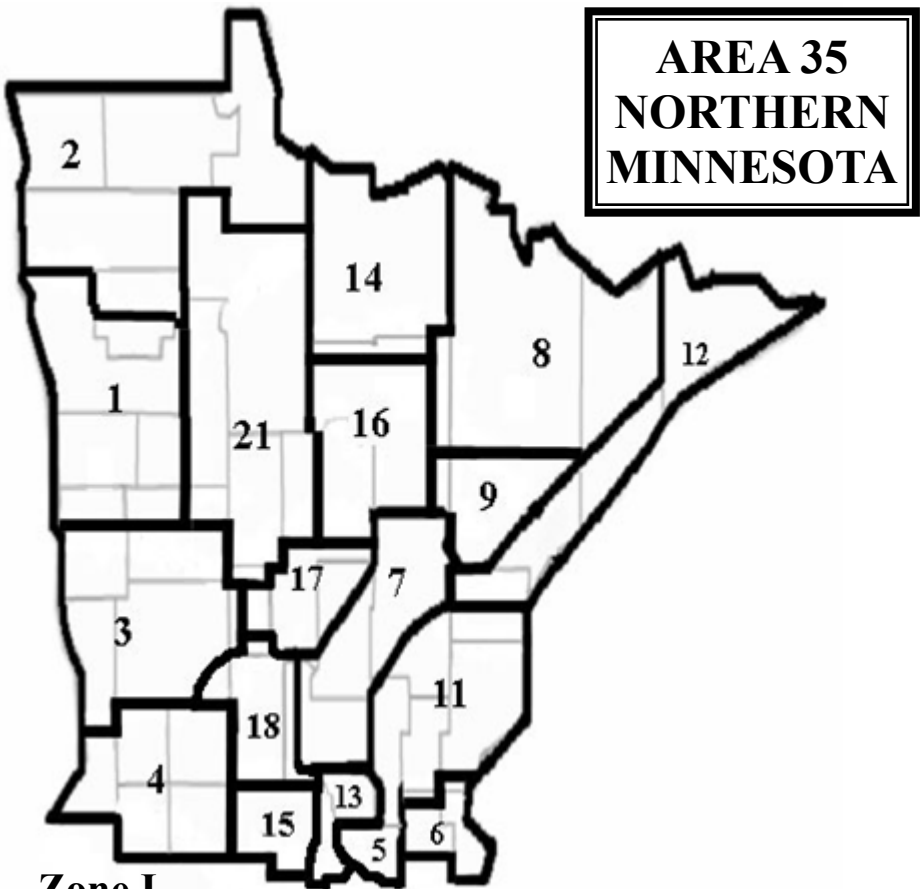
Deadline for the next
Northern Light is
May 2nd, 2016

This is YOUR Newsletter.

Please send your questions or comments for publication to
Jacob C. at NorthernLight@area35.org

Please bring extra copies to share with your group!

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



Zone I

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

Zone II

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

Wadena

- District 4** - Alexandria, Browns Valley, Carlos, Elbow Lake, Evansville, Glenwood, Herman, Kensington, Morris, Osakis
District 15 - Albany, Avon, Cold Spring, Holdingford, Lake Henry, Melrose, Paynesville, Richmond, Sartell, St. Joseph, St. Stephen, Sauk Centre, Watkins

Zone III

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

Zone IV

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

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

District Meeting Location Information

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

District 2
2nd Sunday of Odd Months, 2:00 p.m.
First Lutheran Church
210 Park Ave. N.
Middle River, MN 56737

District 3
3rd Sunday of Month, 10:00 a.m.
Alano Club
827 Summit Avenue
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

District 4
3rd Saturday of Month, 5:30 p.m.
Contact DCM for location (It Rotates)
Potluck at 6:30 p.m.
Round Robin at 7:00 p.m.

District 5
3rd Monday of Month, 7 p.m.
Freshwaters Church
12475 273rd Ave NW
Zimmerman, MN 55398

District 6
3rd Thursday of Month, 7:30 p.m.
Spring Lake Lutheran Church
8440 Erickson Rd. N.E.
North Branch, MN 55056

District 7
3rd Thursday of Month, 7:00 p.m.
First Congregational United Church
415 Juniper Street
Brainerd, MN 56401

District 8
Committee Meetings at 6:30 p.m.
General District Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Contact DCM for location “It Rotates”
Cook, MN

District 9
Last Sunday of Month, 6:00 p.m.
Hibbing Alano Club
3725 1st Avenue
Hibbing, MN 55746

District 11
1st Tuesday of Month, 7:00 p.m.
Peace Lutheran
2177 Hwy 18
Finlayson, MN 55735

District 12
3rd Thursday of Month, 6:30 p.m.
Contact DCM for meeting location (It Rotates)

District 13
1st Monday of Month, 7:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.
St. Cloud Alano Club
127 7th Ave. NE
Saint Cloud, MN 56301

District 14
2st Tuesday of Month, 5:30 Committee Meeting
6:00 p.m. District Meeting
Alano Club
410 5th Ave
International Falls, MN 56649

District 15
1st Monday of Month, 8:00 p.m.
Albany Community Center
741 Lake Ave.
Albany, MN 56307

District 16
1st Wednesday of Month, 6:30 p.m.
United Methodist Church
1701 S.E. 5th Ave.
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Handicap Accessible, Non-Smoking

District 18
1st Tuesday of Month, 6:30 p.m.
Long Prairie Alano Club
21 2nd Ave.
Long Prairie, MN 56347

District 21
2nd Monday, 7:00 p.m.
Bemidji Alano Club
3802 Greenleaf Ave NW
Bemidji, MN 56601

District 17
Not currently active or unknown

AREA 35 COMMITTEE 2015

AREA OFFICERS	TREATMENT	dcm8@area35.org
DELEGATE	Gayle R	DISTRICT 9
KELLY D	treatment@area35.org	Cathy R
delegate@area35.org	WEBMASTER	dcm9@area35.org
ALTERNATE DELEGATE	RODNEY S	DISTRICT 11
ROGER R	webmaster@area35.org	Sharla W
Alt_delegate@area35.org		dcm11@area35.org
AREA CHAIR		DISTRICT 12
JIM S	GROUP RECORDS	Steve E
areachair@area35.org	ROBERT (BOB) B	dcm12@area35.org
TREASURER	grouprecords@area35.org	DISTRICT 13
CHRISTINE G	NORTHERN LIGHT	Allan K
treasurer@area35.org	JACOB C	dcm13@area35.org
SECRETARY	northernlight@area35.org	DISTRICT 14
Rillis E	DISTRICT COMMITTEE	Paul E
secretary@area35.org	MEMBERS	dcm14@area35.org
AREA COMMITTEE	(D.C.M.'s)	DISTRICT 15
CHAIRS	DISTRICT 1	Melissa A
PUBLIC INFORMATION	Leslie H	dcm15@area35.org
Mark N	dcm1@area35.org	DISTRICT 16
pi@area35.org	DISTRICT 2	Mike F
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STEVE D	dcm2@area35.org	DISTRICT 18
archives@area35.org	DISTRICT 3	NEIL R
ARCHIVIST	Brian P	dcm18@area35.org
BRAD I	dcm3@area35.org	DISTRICT 21
archivist@area35.org	DISTRICT 4	Jeffrey L
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corrections@area35.org	DISTRICT 5	NO INFO
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Skip D	dcm5@area35.org	
literature@area35.org	DISTRICT 6	
GRAPEVINE	Renell P	
PAUL M	dcm6@area35.org	
grapevine@area35.org	DISTRICT 7	
COOPERATION WITH	Liz L	
THE	dcm7@area35.org	
PROFESSIONAL COMMU-	DISTRICT 8	
NITY (C.P.C.)	Scott M	
Jim T		
cpc@area35.org		

MOVING? ADDRESS NOT CORRECT?

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

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

GroupRecords@area35.org

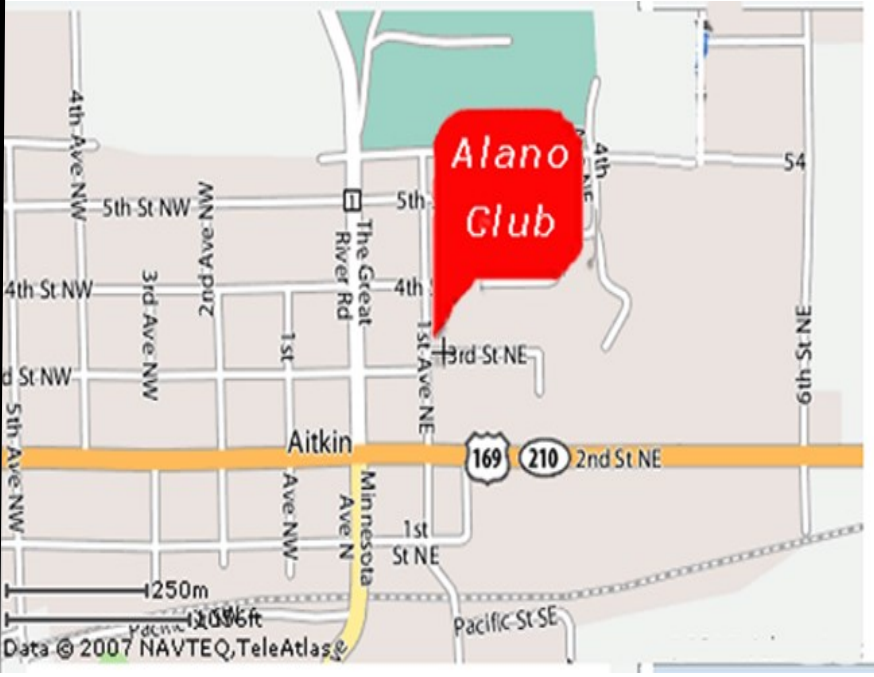
AREA 35 EVENTS

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

AREA 35 EVENTS

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.



OUR PAST DELEGATES

Panel 64 Michael “Jake J	2014-2015	Panel 28 Garfield (Duffy) S (deceased)	1978-1979	Panel 4 Wendell H (deceased)	1954-1955
Panel 62 Jim K	2012-2013	Panel 26 Vern R (deceased)	1976-1977	Panel 2 Arthur R (deceased)	1952-1953
Panel 60 Jon C	2010-2011	Panel 24 Gordon B. H	1974-1975		
Panel 58 JoAnne M. N	2008-2009	Panel 22 Frank P. J (deceased)	1972-1973		
Panel 56 Jerry S	2006-2007	Panel 20 Clarence B (deceased)	1970-1971		
Panel 54 Charlie C	2004-2005	Panel 18 Dave H (deceased)	1968-1969		
Panel 52 Tim C	2002-2003	Panel 16 Arno A (deceased)	1966-1967		
Panel 50 Tom A	2000-2001	Panel 14 Donald F (deceased)	1964-1965		
Panel 48 Susie A	1998-1999	Panel 12 Donna T (deceased)	1962-1963		
Panel 46 Bill P	1996-1997	Panel 10 Bob B (deceased)	1960-1961		
Panel 44 Bruce B	1994-1995	Panel 8 Pearl N (deceased)	1958-1959		
Panel 42 Greg G	1992-1993				
Panel 40 Bob J	1990-1991				
Panel 38 Scott J	1988-1989				
Panel 36 Louie H	1986-1987				
Panel 34 Bob P	1984-1985				
Panel 32 Tom L	1982-1983				
Panel 30 Don M (deceased)	1981-1982	Panel 6 Waldo H (deceased)	1956-1957		

The Delegate’s Duties

Though the high point is the Conference meeting, the delegate’s job goes on year-round and involves all aspects of the Conference structure. The delegate should:

- Attend the Conference meeting in April, fully prepared. Immediately upon election, every delegate is put on the G.S.O. mailing list to receive Conference materials.
- Communicate the actions of the Conference to area committee members and encourage them to pass on this information, and the delegate’s enthusiasm, to groups and to intergroups/central offices. If an area is too large for the delegate to cover in person, he or she will ask area officers and committee members to share the load.
- Be prepared to attend all area, state/provincial, and regional service meetings and assemblies. From these meetings, delegates come to better understand their own areas and can make suggestions for the Conference agenda. Here, too, they come in contact with A.A. members who might not be reached otherwise.
- Help area committees obtain financial support for the area and G.S.O.
- Provide leadership in solving local problems involving the A.A. Traditions.
- Remind G.S.R.s to inform groups and individuals about the A.A. Grapevine and Conference-approved literature.
- Cooperate with G.S.O. in obtaining information—for example, making sure that up-to-date information reaches G.S.O. in time to meet the deadline for each Issue of the A.A. directory and helping carry out the triennial membership surveys.
- Visit groups and districts in the area whenever possible.
- Work closely with committee members and officers, sharing experience throughout the year. After G.S.R.s and committee members have reported on the Conference, learn from these A.A.s how groups and members have reacted.
- Assume added responsibility if the area chair and alternate chair are unable to serve. Or, if an area committee is not functioning effectively, the delegate may take an active role in remedying the situation.
- Keep the alternate delegate fully informed and active, so that the alternate can replace the delegate in an emergency.

A Declaration of Unity

This we owe to A.A.s future; to place our common welfare first; to keep our Fellowship united. For on A.A. unity depend our lives, and the lives of those to come.

AREA OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Delegate's Report:

Greetings Area 35, I hope this finds you all well and you are thinking Spring! I am writing this after I just returned from our WCRAASC that was held in Bismarck, North Dakota March 4-6th. There was 311 in attendance with great weather, business and of course great fellowship with all our friends in service from around our region.

I had the Delegates only meeting on Thursday evening and two other separate meetings on Friday during the day for the Delegates and past Delegates. There was much discussion around the Feasibility Study that will be a part of our upcoming General Service Conference for the Delegates. I hope that all of you will be prepared to discuss this at our Spring Assembly. There are many "issues" that I will need to hear your voice on with this study. I also attended the Delegates and Trustees breakout session and got some great suggestions on how to write and give my report back to the Districts after the General Service Conference. Speaking of my report back, I need to start scheduling dates with you DCM's. I mentioned in my report at the Area 35 Aitkin Committee Meeting that it would be great if Districts joined together for this, it would save the Area costs since I live on the southern border of northern Minnesota. I am happy to report that Districts 1, 2 and 21 scheduled theirs together, I still need to hear from the rest of you. Please do not feel that you need to do this, I am willing to travel to all the Districts as part of my responsibilities as your Delegate.

We also went over all the Agenda Items at the WCRAASC and I presented on Finance, the committee I am assigned to. I hope to be most knowledgeable of all of them when we as an Area go over them together at our Spring Assembly. I also gave my two-minute Area 35 highlights along with the other 3 Panel 66 Delegates and I am happy to report I had 10 second left to spare! Looks like I won't get the "gong" when I present it at the General Service Conference. It wasn't easy putting together all the wonderful things we do in Area 35 in two minutes. The presentations given by the Areas throughout the weekend were great. Area 35 did an excellent job and I would like to thank again Melissa, DCM District 15, Al, District 13 DCM and Rich, Alternate DCM District 12 for their willingness to present. There were several people that asked Melissa and Al for their power point presentations after they were done, that speaks volumes, great job all 3 of you!

A thank you to Skip again also our Area Literature Chair for moderating the Literature/Grapevine breakout session. He was excited to let me know he did not have to give a report at the WCRAASC but you will be hearing from him on his experience I am sure in his report to the Area. I look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming Spring Assembly and at any time you have questions or I can be of further assistance please feel free to contact me. As always thank you for the opportunity to serve. In love and service, Kelly D.

Alt. Delegate's Report:

Greetings to Area 35. We are off to a great start as this rotation begins. This is due to your efforts, enthusiasm, participation and willingness to be trusted servants.

I assisted our Area in updating the Actions Book and having this book printed. I am pleased to report that we are well under the amount spent by Area 35 printing Actions Books at the beginning of the last rotation. The updated Actions Book is also available online in our Are35.org website.

I have also worked on assuming responsibilities as your Alternate Delegate. This began with on-site organization and set up through chairing and wrapping up the January Service Workshop. One highlight was picking up our speakers Brooke C. and Carl B. at MSP Airport at about midnight on the eve of the workshop. My complete report on the January Workshop was in the February Northern Light. I also delivered a presentation on the workshop and evaluations at the February Area Committee Meeting.

I participated in the WCRAASC in Bismarck ND from March 3-6. My report on this conference follows:

On Thursday March 3 I attended an evening session for Delegates and Alternate Delegates. In this session reports were given from the conference host committee. A long discussion took place on a large contribution that the host committee received from an AA member. The delegates voted to return this contribution due to its size as it was in conflict with the long-from of Tradition 7. Andrew W. who is the current West Central Regional Trustee chaired this session.

On Friday March 4 I attended morning and afternoon sessions for past and current Delegates and Alternate delegates. In the afternoon session I expressed my concerns over the Feasibility Study process recently implemented by a sub committee of our General Service Board Trustees. We will also be discussing this process at our upcoming Spring Assembly.

On Friday evening the conference began with a meet the Delegates session and discussion of General Service Conference Agenda items began. Discussion of Agenda items continued through Saturday evening. I took detailed notes on the discussions of agenda items to assist our area in our upcoming discussions of these items at our Spring Assembly on April 1-2 in Crookston, MN. I will also be assisting District 13 in discussion of agenda items and would be happy to visit any other districts for these discussions.

I attended a break-out session on Literature/GV that was moderated by Skip D. our Area Literature Chair. I also attended an informative session for Delegates. In this session Delegates discussed different approaches to their reporting back to their areas on the General Service Conference.

I also attended a number of General Session presentations. Area 35 conducted an excellent presentation on "Connecting With Each-other". On Saturday evening Scott H. Trustee At Large- Canada told his story of recovery and service. I would like to thank Area 35 for allowing me to participate in this conference. In service, Roger

Area Chair's Report:

Hi Everyone, I wanted to thank all of you for creating the opportunity for me to attend the WCRAASC. It was such a wonderful experience and I hope that I am able to provide you with well-informed information come the Spring Assembly in Crookston, MN. Hope to see you all there. DCM's, remember it is your responsibility to inform your GSR's of what you learned so they can inform their groups, thus creating an informed body when it is time to give our Delegate how we want her to vote at the General Service Conference this year. I included my notes from the sessions I attended. If your District or Group would like me to attend your meeting to help with the agenda items don't hesitate to ask. I can be reached at 701 306 9101 or at

jimmys_01@msn.com.

CPC/PI breakout session-

Collaboration with other committees: The MN depart of corrections only sees AA, not two different areas within MN. So we have the joint committee on corrections. When first making contact with a detention center do you have Cpc go in first or just corrections committee? In district 7 Bismarck, a Cpc chair started two half way homes and talks directly with the judges to get women into these homes. In district 5 Fargo, what they have tried to do is set up a committee structure that facilitates a better transition from one rotation to the next. When an institution opportunity arises a cpc rep goes in first before the institution meeting starts up so the facility understands what AA is and what AA is not. Area 36 corrections chair, when they would go into correctional facilities they would talk directly with the inmates, but when they spoke with the workers they were more interested in the traditions then the steps. Area 35 cpc chair, does not understand the difference between corrections and Cpc?

Communications between CPC/PI chairs: Historically the CPC chair would drive throughout the state to meet with professionals as an area committee chair. She would like to move towards getting the district Cpc chairs. She has not had much success with that. One district put a forum up on their website to help facilitate discussion. Fargo Cpc committee goes through the CPC workbook. Fargo CPC, it seems like most people are not well informed on Cpc when new people come to the committee.

What professionals do we approach with CPC/What are some ways to make meaningful connections with professionals: These two topics were combined Area 35 Pi committee. When dealing with the professional community be sensitive to their schedules, for instances schools, be aware of breaks and teacher conferences. If you are a committee chair, try to find people from the professions that you are interested in pursuing to help you get a leg in. One opportunity could be bringing pamphlets to emergency rooms. Montana past delegate, persistence is mandatory as you never know when the professional will be able to make time. In Bismarck, when a person comes into the emergency room that has alcohol related problems the doctor has the nurse call the hotline to make a 12 step call for the patient. If it's possible to have continuing education units applicable with the Cpc luncheon that helps get professionals there. When working with professionals documentation and organization go along way with them. AA fact file is a pamphlet that has great information for professionals.

Area Officer Breakout Session-

Does anyone have an alternate treasurer to help with the work load: Area 41 treasurer they used to have an alt treasurer but now they do not. Is an alt-treasurer an elected? Area 35 uses Quickbooks and online banking as tools to help her do her position. Area 52 has an audit performed once a year. Several areas in the discussion have finance committees to help with the work load.

Does any area have a "taper" or "recorder": One area has a recorder and it is coded under technology. Area 35 has their archivist do the recording, he records the meeting in MP3 and then becomes a part of their archives.

Does any other area combine literature and secretary: This simply seems to be too large of a job for anyone person. Were these positions combines due to a lack of participation? Area 52 ND combined the two positions did it out of financial reasons so save money, they did not understand what work load they were creating for one person. Seems like it would make more sense to combine secretary and group records/fnv/registrar.

Does any other area have a mentor program to train in the new member from one rotation to the next: Outgoing secretary is making a list of helpful hints for the next person who is coming into the next rotation. One person had made a hard copy of all of her documentation so that the next person could receive that information and receive the full rotation of minutes/news letters etc. one area does rotation meetings in December prior to the new rotation taking over. Use the golden rule, do unto others as you would like done to you.

Do other areas use emails to communicate between officers? One of the troubles in using emails is when a disagreement ensues. Then phone calls are a better choice. The use of a news letter is another way to help communicate. Area 36 has 3 assemblies a year where the area officers

(Continued from page 5)

have a meeting during these assemblies. Some area use a free service call freeconferencecall.com. It isn't necessarily free if you press the wrong button. Skype is another tool that is useful for communicating with each other.

Secretary's Report:

See Feb. Committee Meeting Report.

Treasurer's Report:

Greetings Area 35, It has been one week since my last report. Since the Area Committee meeting on Feb 28th, I have had the opportunity to attend the WCRAASC in Bismark, ND. The weekend was filled with General Sharing Sessions, Presentations and the review of the agenda items. Some of the key details that I came away with:

Opened my eyes that we may have Remote Communities in our state. How they are able to access conference approved literature? Some of these communities do not have internet access or even access to meetings. What can we do to help carry the message into these communities?

At the Area Officers breakout session we were able to collaborate and share our experiences with the other Areas. This was neat to see what is working in their Areas. Some areas shared that they do not get the agenda items and background materials made available to them in a timely fashion. Our trusted servants, in Area 35, do a great job in making sure information is passed along. The more I am able to attend these functions, the more I realize that



Last year's Area Birthday Contributions totaled \$115.00 for the year. So far this year, we have received \$23.00. Let's see how much we can contribute this year. I am giving mine and it will be reflected in March. If you had an Sobriety Birthday in January or February, it's not too late to send in your contribution!!

Here are some more graphs to show comparisons:

A few words on Social Media:

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

SPECIAL REMINDER for CONTRIBUTIONS:

With the new rotation of officers there is also a new Area 35 Treasure's address. Be sure to contact the new officers regarding contributions and look for the new address in the next issue of the *Northern Light*.

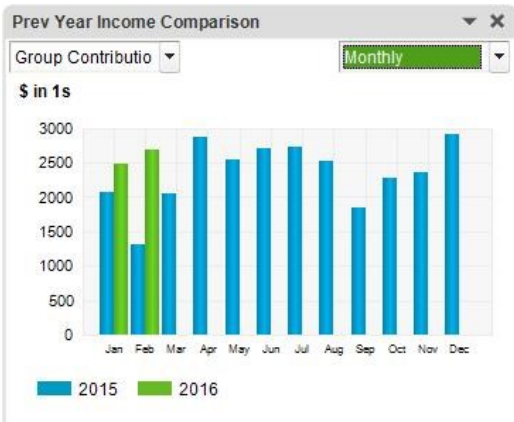
our purpose is to perpetuate AA and to ensure AA is available for the still suffering alcoholic and our future generations. This is done here so it doesn't have to happen in the groups and we are able focus on reaching our hand out to the newcomer.

Andrew W., our West Central Trustee, reported that contributions to GSO for December 2015 surpassed the \$1 million mark. The conference would like to thank the groups for your support!! Let's take a look at what our groups are contributing to support our District, Area and GSO in continuing perpetuate AA to ensure it is available for upcoming generation.

One way we can personally contribute is with the...

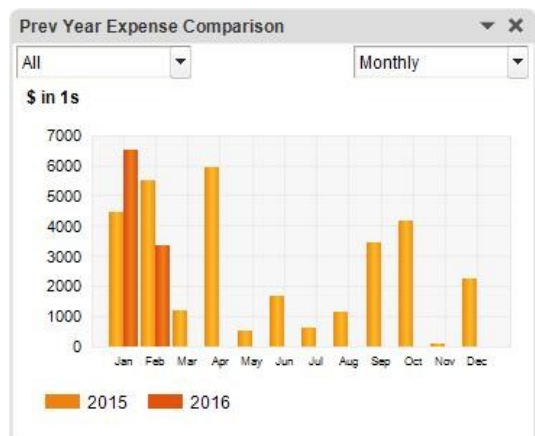
The Birthday Plan

Contributions to the General Service Office support G.S.O.'s services to members and groups throughout Canada and the U.S. and help ensure that the A.A. message is carried around the world. The services that the G.S.O. provides the A.A. groups cost more than \$6 per member per year. Members customarily contribute \$1, \$2 or even \$5 a year for each year of sobriety—others may give a penny or a nickel a day for each day of their sobriety.



For the month of February, groups have sent in double the contributions as compared to last February. We are off to a great start. It is so great to see all the support the groups are giving the Area. It is greatly appreciated! THANK YOU!
YTD Group Contribution Comparison: 2015 = \$3,384.23 versus 2016 =

(Continued from page 6)
\$,162.91



2016 January expenses are higher because we incurred the expense to send our Delegate to the General Service Conference. Last year, it was incurred in February.
YTD Expense Comparison: 2015 = \$9,957.33 versus 2016 = \$9,842.90.
If you have any questions, I will have all this information available at the Spring Assembly and would be happy to help answer your questions. See you in a month! In Service, Christine G.

Archives Committee Chair’s Report:
No Report Submitted.

Archivist’s Report:
As the result of attending 22 WCRAASC’s I have come to the conclusion that we can never underestimate the power of a frothy emotional appeal in Alcoholics Anonymous. I speak to the proposed “plain language” translation of the book “Alcoholics Anonymous” Proponents of this endeavor site several issues to said items necessity.

In response to a comment that several plain language versions of “Alcoholics Anonymous” are available on the Web from other business concerns; the response was that the intended target audience lacked web access and cell phones, yet the author of the item cites texting as a key contributor to the degradation of language skills. How do you text if you don’t have a phone?

Another proponent’s response was he, e.g. a singular he, was asking for a tool to help carry the message to an alcoholic who still suffers that is illiterate. I took a dyslexic, bi-polar FASD individual through the book “Alcoholics Anonymous” and didn’t whine that I needed AAWS to help me. I asked for help from an eminent resource with a Doctorate in Education emphasizing Learning Disabilities. She told me to use personal examples to illustrate the points and principles. We are most effective when we share *our* experience strength and hope to surmise “Working With Others”. Rewriting the “Big Book” on the level of “Green Eggs and Ham” is a derisive assault on the dignity of any suffering alcoholic and belittling to anyone trying to carry *our* message of recovery.

The background opens with an out of context quote from the “Plain Language Association International. The Institute does not espouse retro-active re writings but encourages jargon free writing to the target audience. If we follow the guidelines of said association the sentence “Some of us tried to hold on to our old ideas and the result was nil until we let go absolutely” does not pass muster. The item writer puffed out his chest with his credentials, offered a few examples, and implied that he would like to be considered to write this translation. He also takes a shot at what he refers to as “Hardliners” who will bluster at this translation. It has been “Hardliners” who have kept this program of recovery going since 6/17/1935. Oblique historical reference, self-described “Progressives” Vincent Tracy, Edward J. M.Jr. and Chuck D. Sr. had their ideas on how to simplify the “Program of Recovery”. Can you attend one of their meetings within one week of reading this?

The need to reach these suffering alcoholics is readily apparent, but can we continue to publish a book or a pamphlet that we can hand someone and then walk away patting ourselves on the back that we carried the message. This mind-set or group-think smacks of a perverse noblesse oblige and is contributing to the dilution of *our* message.
It is time for me to get off of my soap box, so in summation I deeply hope and pray that the subjective reaction to a frothy, emotional appeal at the 1993 conference is not repeated and that objective examination will prevail.

Yours in Service, Brad I Area 35 Archivist.

Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) Committee Chair’s Report:
As the incoming chair of the Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) for this rotation I first seek assistance from all members of the area and especially from the CPC committee members in each district. Our work to communicate the message of recovery in Alcoholics Anonymous needs to be delivered in many ways and in many different forums. Our CPC Workbook reminds us, “Through professionals, alcoholics may be reached who might otherwise never find this program, or they may be reached sooner with the help of informed non-AA’s.”

Professionals with whom many of us interact frequently include doctors, members of the clergy, a law enforcement officer or court official, social worker, lawyer or public health official. One of the responsibilities of CPC is to put in the hands of these community members enough information so that they can understand what AA offers, what it is and is not, and how to get in touch with us. As the CPC workbook reminds us, “A look at our history shows clearly that cooperation with professionals has been an integral part of the Fellowship since our beginnings. AA might never have gotten off the ground, or progress would have been much slower, without the help of non-alcoholics such as Dr. Silkworth, Sister Ignatia, and the Rev. Sam Shoemaker.”

So I ask those in each district and in each meeting in communities throughout northern Minnesota...from Moorhead to Duluth, from St. Cloud to Hallock...from Grand Marais and International Falls to Alexandria...to be open to means of communicating with your professional community. Please contact me through the Area Web page or call me at 218-270-3151. I will help to walk you through and discuss opportunities to connect with professionals so we can share the message of hope we have found in our recovery.

An initial plan for this year contemplates meetings with professionals in the medical field, law enforcement community and those in social services at three locations in the southern end of the Area. The Area Chair has received a proposed budget which is less than 2015, but its success will rely on much cooperation and joint efforts from many of us. Those of us in recovery who have been blessed with material success may be in a position to help underwrite some costs. But the financial toll of alcoholism on many of us leaves us challenged to meet the essentials of living. For those who want to help but fear they may not be able to afford participation, speak up. Hold out your hand to offer assistance and your needs to pay for travel, lodging and meals will be met. Join us as we Trudge the Road to Happy Destiny.
I presented a CPC event at the Brainerd Kiwanis Club in late February. Attended by a variety of professionals, it gave us a profile in the community which will at least offer opportunities for individuals or businesses a starting point for those who have a drinking problem. Yours in service, Jim T.

Corrections Committee Chair’s Report:
Since my last report I have attended a committee meeting along with the West Central regional service conference we received all the back on information I tried to take notes as best I could I also purchased the CDs in case anybody is interested in hearing the arguments that were made at the conference I enjoyed getting to meet different people and having conversations that opened my eyes two other points of view sometimes it is amazing to me that if we practice tolerance how anything can be accomplished I can understand why requests are made and I can also understand the reason why we try to deny them the West Central Regional was a wonderful experience even the drive time was spent with good friends having great conversations about recovery and Alcoholics Anonymous if any of the districts would like for me to stop in and share what I have heard please contact me ahead of time so that I can try and schedule and attend your meeting thank you again for allowing me to serve and to be of service and to participate in my own recovery. Yours in service, Servando M.

Grapevine Committee Chair’s Report:
Greetings from your area 35 Grapevine chair my name is Paul and I'm an alcoholic! I apologize for not sending a report to the Northern light for my first report however I did not know when the deadline was, I attend the January workshop bought it we had a lot of good topics I sold \$50 worth of literature and also I bought 12 grapevine subscription's I have placed an order with Grapevine for about \$300 I am waiting for it to come in the mail! Grapevine and literature met in Aiken with 13 in attendance we discussed the importance of what having a grapevine representative at the group level I sold three more subscriptions at the committee meeting we also discussed about having a workshop on writing letters to the grapevine I'm excited about being the grapevine chair! Do you have any questions or concerns or need to order literature please contact me, Paul M. and thanks glad to be of service.

Group Records Report:
[aaMeetingLocator](#): Here’s a comment about aaMeetingLocator from our contact us page.
Message:

Thank you so much for this valuable website. I am on call for the Brainerd area AA list but now live in the Bemidji area. This sight has been valuable for more than a few callers that are having trouble finding a meeting in my area and out - the caller this eve was in Albert Lea! It was also great help when I moved here to Park Rapids from Little Falls. Thank you for this Minnesota service.

Group Records: At our area committee meeting we discussed registering District Service positions. When out district service positions are registered through Area 35 Group Records will also be registered for the Northern Lights.

New Position Kits: The GSO Records department generates requests for the following new position kits only, New Groups (regular, foreign and correctional), new GSRs, new DCMs and DCMCs receive new position kits.

New Groups: New Group kits are ordered once the 30-day pending period has expired. The request moves from the Records department to the GSO’s Inventory control who forward the days requests to one of our warehouses (Kansas City, KS or Canada). Allow 7-10 business days for receipt of the kit

GSR: GSR kits are ordered when a former GSR is removed from the
(Continued on page 8)

group’s record and a new GSR is added. GSR kits are ordered the day they appear on the new position report that is generated daily from the FNV database, by the Records department. The request moves from the Records department to the GSO’s Inventory Control department which forwards the day’s requests to one of our warehouses (Kansas City, KS or Canada). Allow 7-10 business days for receipt of the kit.

DCM/DCMC : DCM kits are ordered when a former DCM/DCMC is removed from the group’s record and a new DCM/DCMC is added. We receive a daily report showing newly added DCMs. The request moves from the Records department to the GSO’s Inventory Control department which forwards the day’s requests to one of our warehouses (Kansas City, KS or Canada). Allow 7-10 business days for receipt of the kit.

New Service Positions Kits

The following service positions receive welcome/starter kits:

- Delegates/Conference members
- Public Information
- Literature
- Corrections Treatment/ Special Needs/Bridging the Gap/Hospitals and Institutions
- Cooperation with the Professional Community
- Remote Communities
- Archives
- Grapevine

For each category of these service positions a welcome letter/kit/workbook is sent directly from the service desk. Each assignment desk sends out welcome letters, kits, and workbooks on a weekly basis to the designated recipients. Bob B. Group Records grouprecords@area35.org

Literature Committee Chair’s Report:

Good day to all, Well it has only been a week since my last report, thank goodness for the West Central Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Conference (W.C.R.A.A.S.C.) or I would not have much to report. I was able to attend the W.C.R.A.A.S.C, in Bismark, N.D., I do apologize I was unable to get the afternoon off from work on 03/04/16, so I did not get to Bismark until 2 am on 03/05/16 so I missed all of Friday.

It would be nice if everybody could attend the W.C.R.A.A.S.C., for there is so much information on the Agenda Items. there were things brought up that I would have never thought of if I would have not been there. When I go through the Agenda Items with my home group they may be a little surprised. And another first in this program for me, Area 35 was to monitor the Literature/ Grapevine breakout session (thank you for your confidence Kelly) and I was able to make it through the whole session with minimal mistakes. I would like to thank all of you that have made this possible. In service. Skip D Area 35 Literature Chair

Northern Light Editor’s Report:

What a whirlwind month this has been! After some delays and missteps with layout and format, the Group Records-Webmaster-NL meeting in the cave at the February Committee meeting produced some valuable feedback. I was able to highlight all of the mistakes and update them as soon as I was made aware. One of the topics that has come up with the former Editor, Rodney S., is the appreciation to servants who submit grammatically correct reports. I’m sure the Area Secretary feels the same way. Since I have nearly 24 pages of double columns to edit, it is unlikely that I will ever have the time to edit each submission for grammar and coherence. Generally, after formatting a document for inclusion in the NL, proofing for Traditions conflicts, and having an eye for space and layout, then maybe some time may be devoted to grammar and coherence. Formatting issues will be an uphill battle as servants and contributors have a wide variety of software with many variants of file type and format for submission. Mike from Grand Rapids and I learned how having different versions of Microsoft Word could affect a document.

I attended the WCRAASC in Bismarck, ND and was able to make it to the CPC/PI, and Corrections/Treatment breakout sessions. I made all general sessions but had to take a break from the speaker. The chairs were murder, especially for someone who has a lower back injury exacerbated by prolonged sitting. Our Area Chair has delivered a fine example of how to report on an event that one attends. I will yield my CPC/PI breakout session to his report, he has everything that I noted. For the Corrections/Treatment breakout session, I brought forth to the Region a question on how other Areas are working with Committees in other states to make sure alcoholics leaving facilities across state lines are not being forgotten or underserved. There was very little input from the Region, but it was a question that came out of the Area 35 and 36 Joint Committee for Corrections Meeting in February.

This was another conference where the Region was “well behaved”. For the most part the body was respectful of the fact that other AA’s were in the room with their own well thought out ideas on how to keep our program healthy. It is never a surprise to see some of the same alcoholics commenting on every issue, as Bill W., states it roughly, “ To become an Elder Statesmen perhaps we start as Bleeding Deacons”. I don’t know where the idea came from that “Hot Topics” somehow have prestige over all of the Agenda items, but do feel anyone looking to speed up their informed consent meetings on Agenda items would be robbing our fellowship of valuable input if their groups were to skip some Agenda items. It is great to see new GSRs participate and ask questions at Regional service conferences, we are all there to better inform you after all.

After a lost laptop from the February Committee Meeting was returned to our Area Secretary at the WCRAASC, it took Rillis a few extra days to complete the Feb. Com. meeting minutes. Unfortunately, I wasn’t in a posi-

tion to complete the paper during the following week due to a heavy workload from my job. My laptop has proven to be quite finicky, and I went several days without being able to open Publisher files. I decided to start porting over to a free and open source document publisher called “Scribus” in order to avoid this problem in the future, but mid project it has proven to be quite daunting to learn a radically different software program. It is one thing to edit text, but it is another to have to build a 24 page newsletter from scratch. When I played with it before, I cheated by copying images instead of actually formatting, which is a lot of work in the long run. I will continue to work on building a document in Scribus, as I can run it with a Linux based operating system from a usb memory stick, also known as a “pen drive” or “flash stick”. This will reduce the necessity of having to find a computer with a current version of Microsoft Publisher should my computer fail again. My local library was not using Publisher 2016 and this revealed some formatting errors when trying to open the documents. In a later issue I will discuss some of the pros and cons of abandoning Microsoft Publisher and utilizing a flashdrive based operating system. Whatever I do will not affect the end product, which is a .pdf file submitted to our printer.

It has been frustrating to have the ability to serve my fellow alcoholics, but then be blindsided by learning experiences whose timeliness was less than ideal. I am in the process of getting a new business started and I have some flexibility, but usually only in swapping a couple of hours in a day, with almost no evening flexibility. Consequently, my weekends start out free but are my buffer for finishing what didn’t happen during the week, though the weekend following the WCRAASC was when I had budgeted enough time to edit this publication. This is affecting my ability to get a timely quality paper in your hands. I have done some inventory and am learning from this experience. I will resolve to making my schedule more free and flexible throughout the week of a NL deadline, as setting aside a day or two does not work when things go wrong. Last month it was my desktop and this month it has been a combination of my laptop and vehicle both successively needing repair. I am both embarrassed by the situation I am putting the Area in, and humbled by those who have been helpful and patient. I thought I was prepared to serve this rotation, in this technical capacity but it is becoming clear that my headstrong, “I’ll fix it” attitude is more of a liability than an asset. On the other hand, there will be two months open from when the Area Assembly ends and the June Committee meeting happens, allowing a couple of weeks to fix any surprises as opposed to having only a day or so to adjust for life on life’s terms.

Should I be allowed to continue in this position, as I’ve proved ineffective thus far, I would like to assemble a Newsletter that is more easily read, more GSR and member at large friendly, with more visual appeal, and less academic of a read. I intend on doing this by putting a focus on a couple of districts per issue, adding a more “flowing” visual experience while looking at the NL. I will spend more time seeking out content from past delegates aimed at educating our GSRs and members at large, with the hope of interaction persuading more to participate. Yours in Service, Jacob C.

Public Information Committee Chair’s Report:

At the February 28th Area 35 meeting in Aitkin MN the Public Information (PI) and Communication with the Professional Community (CPC) met for the Action chair committee meeting at 9:00am. Districts 9, 13, 6, 3, and 8 were represented with 9 people present. We discussed the many ways that we can be of service in the context of CPC/PI. We can bring literature or presentations, to schools, classrooms, put on luncheons, be present at fairs, keep up meeting lists, phone lines, Web pages, churches, businesses and human resource departments, nursing homes and senior centers, letters to the media concerning AA and the importance of anonymity, Public service announcements and many other possibilities. I have created a list of contacts and will keep in touch via email with District PI chairs and District Committee Members who do not have PI chairs. If your District does not have a PI Chair please contact me, I am available for assistance to you and your PI needs.

I attended the West Central Regional AA Service Conference (WWRAASC) in Bismarck ND. I roomed with a fellow named Bill W. from Sheridan Wyoming, that was cool and he was too. Its one of the many great things that happen at these events, meeting new people and making new friends. We moved through the General Service Conference agenda items fairly smoothly, nice back and forth with a sense of respect and trust kept in our hearts. Its important to remember that the people we may disagree with have the same concern and love for Alcoholics Anonymous that we do, if we stick to the language of the heart we will continue to be well served. The item that drew the most attention under Public Information Item B, and the comprehensive media plan and concerns of affiliation and anonymity traditions dealing with the many social media apps out there. Scott H. trustee at large from Canada spoke at the Saturday night speakers meeting and Andrew W. our West Central Regional Trustee gave a report on Sunday morning. We discussed the feasibility study on Sunday morning and will be bringing that to our groups and meetings for discussion as well. That’s it for now. Thank you for allowing me to be the Area PI Chair. Yours in Service, Mark N

Treatment Committee Chair’s Report:

I attended the West Central Regional A.A. Service Conference in Bismarck, ND March 4-6. The conference was at times overwhelming, but as a whole I learned quite a bit... Area 35 presented on Connecting with each other. I was impressed with the Alt DCM, Rich, from District 12 who stepped up and presented on Informed Group conscience. Melissa from District 15 presented on Be involved- Be inspired & Be of service & Al from District 13 presented Singleness of Purpose. All presenters did a great job. I attended breakout session on remote communities. Some Areas combine Special

Needs, Remote Communities & Accessibilities all together some Areas parts of these are under Treatment and the names are not the same AA wide. It was mentioned perhaps separating Remote Communities and finding unity in a name AA wide.

I also sat in on Treatment and Corrections breakout session we talked discussed three subjects. 1. What are the experiences combining Hospitals and Institutions verses having Treatment and Corrections separate. 2. What are we doing to meet the needs across state lines in treatment and corrections. 3. How to approach treatment center we do not currently serve. I enjoyed all the speakers and I even have a better understanding of the Feasibility Study and the dreaded agenda item about wanting a plain language "Big Book".. Thank you so much for allowing me to attend, I look forward to using what I have learned to better serve those who still suffer from alcoholism. Always in Service... Gayle R

Webmaster’s Report:

Greetings Area 35. If you are uncertain about exactly who the webmaster for Area 35 don’t feel alone. As the first area committee meeting approached we had a couple of possible solutions that were based on my earlier decision to step down. However, upon arriving in Aikin and talking to our area chair, Jim, I became aware of a new possibility, one which involved my staying on as webmaster. This solution as later detailed by Jim consisted of making use of a midnight hour connection who Jim discovered at a meeting. After discussing the situation with him, this new connection volunteered to convert our website from html to a Wordpress maintained website which is in line with Bob B.’s goal as stated at the December area committee at the close of the last rotation. Jim was assured that the conversion would be reasonably swift and that upon completion anyone with Microsoft Word knowledge and skill could maintain the website.

I attended the WCRAASC in Bismark, ND this past weekend. Something very important for groups to keep in mind. If you have chosen to enact your power of the purse by withholding contributions, please continue to support your district and area, specifically through a GSR, Alt. SGR, or contact person so that you are aware of the agenda items and other issues that will go forth to be discussed at the conference. Many of these items have to do with pamphlets or other literature which are a source of revenue—a source of revenue which if left unguarded basically may nullify your power of the purse. When we rely on literature sales to enable our fellowship to operate in the black, instead of relying on the contributions which make us self-supporting, you, as a group, lose your power to continue steering our fellowship in its necessary principled direction rather than a material and monetary direction

which has arisen from agenda items being passed which perpetuate the use of literature to support out fellowship.

I am always speaking at meetings on the subject of responsibility that we have to enable the continued existence of the fellowship, that gratitude alone will not do this; even though not all of us are suited to service work at the district, and area, and conference levels, we all, as individuals have the responsibility to steer members active in those service in a principled direction through, 1) sharing our view and experience, and, 2) contributing appropriately for our 7th tradition so that those within the general service structure can continue making those spiritually oriented decisions without being hoodwinked by carefully and manipulatively worded agenda items that are based on an expectation of projected funding.

The discussion during the last part of the conference involved the report from the General Service Board subcommittee on the feasibility study. I felt several strong point being made over and over throughout the discussion. These include that the delegates at the conference should overlook (forgive or forgo might be better words) the error or perceived error of the report’s inclusion of the conference discussion, should not get “hung up” on certain words or phrases used by its author, West Central Regional Trustee Andrew W. (words like brainstorming), should look to and remain aware of the meat of the report, should keep the traditions in mind at all times. The report is intended to bring about lively discussion conducive to a more open minded conscience at the Conference, which will then fall under review by the GSB to determine what issues should be brought to future conferences. Another recurring theme of the discussion was that we need to move cautiously—If not slowly—with anything that comes from the report and subsequent discussion or actions.

I thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to be a part of their recovery and serve the fellowship with them. I am especially thankful for everyone’s support through this uncertain time regarding the webmaster position and my decision to step down or remain. In loving service, Rodney S.

Statistics for Area35.org

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2016	2,191	3,398	11,832	122,650	2.31 GB
Feb 2016	1,981	3,170	10,107	113,469	2.21 GB
Mar 2016	628	857	2,533	29,307	620.59 MB



How To Write An Informative Report

After editing many reports and submissions for this issue, it has become apparent that as an Area, we do not always offer informative reports on events we are being asked to attend. This corner of the paper will be just a start to what I hope becomes an ongoing dialog.

Our Area Chair, Jim S., wrote a very informative report on what he did and what information he felt pertinent to the Area, after attending the WCRAASC. Discussion with him has shown he is very passionate about the role we play as conduits of information. After reading his report from Bismarck, ND, it is clear where we could all improve. Thank you Jim for the leadership by example! (The editor will likely highlight other hallmark submissions in the future by any AA member!)

To give an idea on where to start, we have to understand our purpose as servants. Why are our fellow AAs sending us to an event? The answer is very simple, they are sending us to gather information that they believe may benefit the group and our fellowship as a whole. They are sending us because they believe we are the best candidate to attend the whole of the event and bring back the information they may not have access to. They are sending us because they believe our presence at the event will help ensure the context of the minutes of the event stays true to the experience and tone of the event. We have an obligation to provide the most “bang for the buck” while at the event.

Since our memories have limitations, experience shows we should take notes. This thought segueways into what our notes should include:

- Each event we attended
- What topics were discussed
- Ideas that were expressed
- Who else participated and how. (Not a rolcall list, rather a resource for serving as a point of information for follow up)
 - Did an experienced service member offer insight, and if so, what?
- What questions were asked
- What answers were provided
- Were documents or other media were provided (Did you collect any)
- What information were you exposed to that the group may not receive if relying on minutes alone

This is by no means a full and comprehensive list, but a starting point. Each group is free to decide for itself what expectations it has on it’s servants, so hopefully a discussion is started.

Now, after gathering the information, what do we do with it? We take some time to reflect on our experience at the event, and begin writing a complete report, maybe organized by topics of discussion, or each individual meeting. We may begin or end the document with a clearly identified impression of the experience. Perhaps you would like to submit to the Northern Light for the benefit of the Area, an experience on receiving a poor versus a well written report. Thank you for your consideration. Jacob C. NL editor.

MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY COMMITTEE MEETING
AITKIN, MN FEB 28TH, 2016

Area 35 June Area Committee Meeting
Aitkin, MN
February 28, 2016
Minutes

Jim S. Called meeting to order and opened with the Serenity Prayer
Recognition of past delegates in attendance: Tom A. Panel 50; Susie A. Panel 44; Bruce B. Panel 48; Jim K. Panel 62.
Additions to the agenda: Update on legal case against AA, Feasibility Study, and GSC Inventory.
Minutes from the December Area Committee Meeting were approved.

OFFICER REPORTS
Delegate-Kelly D.

Greetings Area 35,

It is great to see you all here this morning and thank you for your service as we start another rotation of service here in Area 35, it is an honor and a privilege to serve as your Panel 66 Delegate. It has been a busy time for me as I have received, had 16 hard copies made (at a great price of 4 cents per copy) made 30 CD copies and have been reading and becoming familiar with our 2016 Agenda Items. As you know I also had the Agenda Items posted to our Area 35 website with a special pass protected code and want to thank Bob for taking care of it. There has been some trouble with some of you getting access however, I hope we can take care of that issue with all of you today so everyone can have access to them. I have also put together a “Hot Topic List” of the Agenda Items that I felt after going over them would be important and probably have the most discussion on. There may be some I missed or there may be some on the list that may not get much discussion. I guess we will find out soon enough. I look forward to our WCRAASC next weekend when we will be going over our Agenda Items with our friends from the West Central Region for the first time and later on at our Spring Assembly in April with all you. Again I would like to thank Skip our Literature Chair for moderating the Literature/Grapevine breakout session and DCM’s Al District 13, Steve District 12 and Melissa District 15 for their willingness to present at the conference. I have completed my 2 minute presentation on Area 35 that I will be sharing that there. Also I mentioned in my Northern Light report, I will be sitting on the Finance Committee at the GSC the next two years. I feel I am ready to present the Agenda Items under Finance at the WCRAASC and look forward to being a part of that committee at the GSC. I have also made my travel arrangements to the conference and because of medical issues my sponsor, our past Delegate JoAnne N. will not be joining me. Susie A. has graciously accepted my invitation to go in her place, thank you Susie! I wanted to mention that all expenses are the responsibility of the guest that travel with the Delegate, Area 35 and the conference do not pay anything towards their expenses. I hope you have had time to read all the information I have passed on to you through emails and DCM’s bringing it to your District meetings. Some of those would include the minutes from the last GSC meeting, the Feasibility Study and the 2015 Advisory Actions/Committee Considerations. I will be discussing the Feasibility Study more under news business today because it is an important topic that needs to be addressed. Along with that I will also be discussing the GSC Inventory that has been completed and the information/booklet that we received on the inventory. Thank you to the Districts that are currently sending me their minutes and I encourage all Districts to do the same. It is also that time when I need the DCM’s to see me and set up a time that I will be giving my report back. Due to living on the southern border of Area 35 and travel time for me, I encourage District’s to possibly join up with neighboring Districts for my report back. This will also save the Area the costs of my travels. As always if you have any questions or if I can be of service to

any of you in any way please feel free to contact me.

In love and service, Kelly D.

ALTERNATE DELEGATE-Roger R.

Greetings to Area 35.
We are off to a great start as this rotation begins.
This is due to your efforts, enthusiasm, participation and willingness to be trusted servants.
Some of my current work has been on assisting our area in updating the Actions Book and having this book printed. I am pleased to report that we are well under the amount spent by Area 35 printing Actions Books at the beginning of the last rotation. The updated Actions Book is also available online in our Are35.org website.
I have also worked on assuming responsibilities as your Alternate Delegate. This began with on-site organization and set up through chairing and wrapping up the January worship. One highlight was picking up our speakers Brooke C. and Carl B. at MSP Airport at about midnight on the eve of the workshop. My complete report on the January Workshop is in the current Northern Light and I will also be doing a presentation on the workshop and evaluations later today.
Another important part of my new responsibilities is being the under study to Kelly D. our Delegate. I am following all communications she has received from the GSO and GSB closely. It looks like one item that may well affect the future of our fellowship is a request from the GSB to receive input on a Feasibility Study and Strategic Plan that the board has conducted in the past year. As Kelly is a member of the Conference Finance Committee I am paying particular attention to these agenda items. I am also working on becoming familiar with all of the Agenda Items and background information on these items. I will be attending the WCRAASC in Bismarck next weekend. If your district would like me to be present in your discussion of agenda items, which will be disused at this conference, please feel free to contact me.
I attended the District 15 Service Workshop on February 26 and will also be leading a discussion of agenda items for District 13. I am also working with Mike F. DCM of District 16 who will be hosting our first Zonal Forum. I will also be working with our Area 35 officers on zonal forum content.
I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Area 35 Spring Assembly on April 1-2 in Crookston, MN.
I appreciate your allowing me to continue to serve Area 35.
In service, Roger

AREA CHAIR–Jim S. Well, Good Morning Everyone,
I first would like to say how honored I am to be standing before as your Chair for this rotation. I was just dumb founded to have been given the opportunity to serve in this capacity. I have been reciting an important phrase to myself over and over again for when the chance arises and that is “do not know the answer to your question, but I will do my best to find out for you.”
We have a busy day ahead of us with getting ourselves prepared for the Spring Assembly so I won’t waste a bunch of time with my report. I would like to say that yesterday, myself, Jake C, Susie and Tom A spoke in Albany on the steps, sponsorship, traditions and concepts respectively and what a wonderful time it was. Thank you Mellissa for having me.
I will be heading out to Bismarck next Friday afternoon to attend the WCRSCAA. I will get to as many breakouts as I can in order to be able to provide what I can at the Spring Assembly. For now, this is all I have, so I will keep this meeting moving along.

Secretary-Rillis E. I’m Rillis E., I’m an alcoholic, and your area 35 secretary. I look forward to being of service to our area. I attended the Service Workshop in January and enjoyed the

presentations and speakers, thank you to all participated. I will be attending the West Central Regional Service Conference in Bismark, ND next weekend and will be available to discuss agenda items with districts wishing to do so.

I will be presenting at the Zonal Forum which will be held in Zone 1 on June 25, 2016. Mike F. DCM from District 16 requested the forum and that district will host the event. Roger Rudolf, past secretary, has passed along to me the information he used and hand out he created during the last rotation.

I would prefer to have your reports sent to me by email. Please send those to me by next Sunday, March 6, so I can have the minutes ready before the Northern Light deadline. Thank you to those who have already sent me your reports. If you have a hand written report please leave that with me as you leave the podium. Yours in service.

Rillis E.

TREASURER-Christine G. Greetings Area 35!

I have been busy adjusting to my new position and learning a lot. I am overwhelmed by the amount of responsibility there is with keeping your financials up to date and accurate. If you see anything off or have any questions on the reports see me right away so we can take a look.

- I have both P-7 and P-1 information on the back table
- P-7 is the Randy's final reporting. If you have any questions regarding those reports, I will do my best to answer them.
- P-1 is my first set of reports
 - Balance Sheet
 - Detailed Exp
 - Profit Loss
 - Group Contributions

I would like to thank everyone for getting their budgets in and helping the process to go smoothly. DCM's please share these with your districts and we will be voting on these at the Spring Assembly.

There were 4 contribution checks from the last rotation that I researched at locating group numbers for them. One check was from March of 2015, I send a note of apology to those groups for the delayed credit to their account

I sent out a letter to all the groups in our Area. We have had some letters undeliverable and I am sharing this information with Bob so we can get accurate contact information for those groups.

So far, we have received 10 contributions, totaling about \$400, from groups that have not contributed since we started using QB. I will be creating a Thank You letter that will be mailed to groups that contribute.

I have two checks that came in this month that don't have group names or numbers. DCMs from District 11 & District 4, please see me.

I filed our 990N with the IRS on the 17th of February.

Please turn in your vouchers to me as soon as possible and I will get you a check written. Also, I will bring the checkbook and vouchers to the WCRAASC. If you would like reimbursement right away for the weekend.

Thank you for allowing me to serve Area35 as your Treasurer.

In Service,

Christine G. - Area 35 Treasurer

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS

CPC-Jim T. No report

District 1-Leslie H. I am Leslie Handyside, alcoholic. I am the DCM for District 1. It is an honor to be here and be sober today. Our district has 10 active AA groups. We have been able to fill 7 chair positions thus far.

District 1 AA, along with Al-Anon participation is again hosting the 34th Annual Spring Fling. It is on Saturday, March 12th, 2016 at the Fertile Community Center, Fertile, MN.

There are flyers on the back table with more information. If you would be interested in attending, you could give me a call or let me know the number that would be attending.

Over the last year our district has had the Sandhill Lake Round-Up weekend, south of Fosston and The Wild Rice Round-Up at Mahnomen, MN; both were well attended with a lot of excellent experience, strength, and hope.

I thank you for being able to serve as DCM and continue to service in AA.

Respectfully Yours,

Leslie Ann H. DCM District 1

District 21-Jeff L. Not present

Webmaster-Rodney S. No report

Literature-Skip D. Good day all,

We had 15 people in attendance this morning. Districts 3,6,7,8,9,13, and 16 were represented, and 3 visitors. I did notice that all present were Literature/ Grapevine Chairs for their Districts. I now understand why we meet at meetings together.

We did come up with some ideas for what to talk about and do at the Spring Assembly in Crookston April 2nd and 3rd. Literature Chairs are stocking up and verifying the Literature to have on hand.

I do plan on attending the WCRAASC in Bismark N.D. on March 4th - 6th 2016.

I will be placing a Literature order for the Spring Assembly, so if you would like to place an order and pick it up at the Spring Assembly, PLEASE let me know two weeks in advance. You can contact me at literature@area35.org, or call or text. The contact information can also be found in the Northern Light news letter.

In Service,

Skip D.

Area 35 Literature Chair

District 11-Sharla W. Hello everyone. I'm looking forward to being of service to District 11 as their new DCM. Our District is busy welcoming new GSRs in the last 2 months and are looking for more to join us. I appreciate the great team we have working in our District. Our new directories are coming out in March. Most commitments are filled by many volunteers. We have several prisons, jails, etc. that people go in to hold meetings. Our District presented at Area 35 workshop in Jan – it was a learning experience for me. I learned how important the steps – traditions and concepts work together. I'm looking forward to going to the West Central Regional Conference in Bismarck, ND and then our Spring Assembly in April. To listen, learn, bring it forward, and pass it on.

Yours in Service,

Sharla W.

District 7-Liz L. Greetings to All from District 7.

I am truly grateful to have the opportunity to be of service as incoming DCM for 2016-2017. We are still working to fill 3 positions in our District at this time, including Secretary, Treasurer, and CPC/PI.

It's been a blessing to have attended the January Service Conference in St. Cloud. We've also had great attendance at our January and February District meetings, with room for improvement. Looking forward to WCRAASC in Bismarck and the Spring Assembly in Crookston in April.

We also have a Transition Fair coming up in April at Crow Wing County jail. And a showing of the off-Broadway production of Bill W. and Dr. Bob in Crosslake April 13.

Like so many have mentioned, there is a steep learning curve ahead of me, but I'm excited to give it my best with the support of our great district.

Yours in Service,

Liz L.

NORTHERN LIGHT-Jake C. Greetings. My name is Jacob

Cuta and I am serving as your Northern Light editor. I would like to start by offering my amends for the late mailing of the Northern Light (NL). Due to submitting a finished NL to the wrong party, and not properly backing up the NL, I lost 23 hours of work and had to redo the whole paper in an abbreviated amount of time. I missed some formatting as well as some calendar of events items. If my shortcomings on the January/February issue cost your group or event in some way, please contact me so I can make it right with you. I spoke with both Rodney S., the previous NL editor, and Jim S., our Area Chairperson as to what went wrong, what we learned, and what has changed. Thank you for your patience, this will not happen again. Our committee met this morning in the cave, and we discussed communications between the the Group Records secretary, NL editor, and Webmaster. We discussed who is responsible for what, as it pertains towards updating information in the Fellowship New Vision database, website, and mailing lists. Yours in Service, Jacob C

GROUP RECORDS-Bob B.

Updated 4 area laptops to windows 10 and added updated Norton security software. Computers were distributed to Webmaster, Treasurer, Secretary, and Group Records.

Added an ASL feature to aaMeetingLocator. Users can now search for ASL meetings.

GSO sent my access to the GSO database on January 14, 2016. I started updating records immediately. I had a stack of updates dated back to October 1, 2015. I am caught up with updates.

GSO does a good job supporting the area Group Records person. The user manual is outstanding. So far I have been able to find answers to my questions in the User's Manual. There are also supplements to the manual and mail merge direction for printing reports. Well over 250 pages of instructions. Along with the instructions there are people in the GSO office, a google Group Records users group, I have an assigned mentor, and Rolene and other area 35 past group records chairs.

Part of my duties is to maintain an up to date Northern Light mailing list. I assumed that this list would be generated in part from the GSO database. I was disappointed to find out that this mailing list is a separate database. The first rule in database is that two databases with identical information will never be in synch with each other. This is true for our Northern Light database. For every GSR update I have in the GSO database I should have to delete 1 GSR and add 1 GSR to the Norther Light database. Right now for every 4 GSRs I add I remove 1 GSR. It is going to take some work to check and update the 600 entries in this database. By the end of my rotation I hope to automate updates the Northern Light database.

Save the best for last. I was concerned that I would tire of doing database updates. The updates I am doing have a direct impact on AAMeetingLocator and area35.org meeting lists. I when I update GSO records I updating the meeting list. In the past I was lucky to get 5 or 6 updates per year. Our meeting list has been updated over 12 times so far this year

District 14-Paul E. No report

District 6-Renell P. Hi, my name is Renell and I am an alcoholic. DCM for District 6

Greetings from all of us in the Southeast corner of Area 35.

In the next 2 years, I hope to learn as much as I can, to better serve our current AA members and the ones who cry in the shadows 1 short block away.

I am so grateful for our officers and committee chairs in District 6. I am happy to report that all position are filled for this new rotation. We have been blessed with new attendees at our monthly meetings that have offered to help carry the message.

Thank you, to the past DCMs for their encouraging words and words of wisdom.

Also thanks, to the Area members who have inspired me and offered assistance whenever I asked for it. It is a wonderful fellowship we belong to.

I attended the Area 35 Workshop in St. Cloud in January and am looking forward to the WCRAASC in Bismarck. I will have a full car going over and a full room. I know this workshop will help me understand the agenda items, better, before helping to present to our district members on March 19th.

I look forward to seeing most of you in Bismarck and/or our Spring Assembly in Crookston.

I thank my higher power for leading me here.

Yours in service,

Renell P

TREATMENT-Gayle R. From our Treatment Committee meeting we had 11 persons present, districts 15-3-12-8-5 & 18 represented with 3 new persons to Area events.. We followed an agenda type format, I requested a list of treatment facilities in each district, along with a treatment questionnaire stolen (and edited) from last rotation's corrections chair, Thank Jake C.. We discussed the purpose of the treatment workbook and kit, treatment pamphlets-AA in Treatment Facilities-Bridging the Gap-Speaking at Non-AA Meetings, AA Grapevines at treatment centers.. Handouts and discussions of "Singleness of Purpose" and then "Guidelines & Suggestions for working with-in Treatment Facility or Correctional Facility" (for inside a treatment facility) along with Handout "AA registration form for those who want to help. Temporary Contact Program-Bridging the Gap between Treatment & Alcoholics Anonymous" (for AA members)..

Questions to be discussed at the Spring Assembly, "Problems getting into treatment facilities because of political correctness due to pressure to present all form of recovery". Also how to emphasize sponsorship to treatment facilities-what is their (treatment center's) definition of sponsorship...

I had my first treatment contact request from district 13 going to Area 36.. I emailed my counter part and also the treatment temporary contact desk at Minneapolis Intergroup.. And after 2 days and no response in a panic I called Paul (last year's treatment chair), he suggested I CALL intergroup, I did so and was told to call between the hours of 5-7 pm.. I work during those hours so that isn't going to work. As I was drafting a letter to Area 36 Delegate, I thought what would I do, who would I contact if the request was coming to area 35.. I looked up Area 36 District 1 and saw they have treatment open and contacted the DCM... DCM's rock, they get things done.. I had my contact information forwarded with in a day.. So my lesson is, if you receive an email requesting information, please respond even if you don't know the answer..

I plan on attending the West Central Regional AA Service Conference in Bismarck next weekend.

Thank you for allowing me to serve, Gayle R.

District 18-BR Borders. Hello all,

Everything is going ok. We hold our dist. meeting at 6:30 on the first Tuesday of the month at the Long Prairie Alano Club. We currently are looking for a Secretary and Treasurer. We will be losing our treatment chair at the end of March due to location change. The groups in District 18 are doing ok, although we had a loss in one group. Courage to Change held their annual Round Robin at the beginning of February which was well attended. Upcoming events for our District are the following – March 19 bowling in Eagle Bend at 2:00, March 26 going over background information at Long Prairie Alano Club starting at 12:00. Our Archives Chair will be representing us at the West Central Regional Service Conference of AA. I will be traveling to Crookston for Spring Assembly as well. And last the Clarissa group Back to the Basics has started discussing movie night for this summer.

Yours in Service,

BR.

District 12-Steve E. A long awaited GSR packet arrived for one of our GSRs. She was very discouraged for some time, but suddenly came an attitude adjustment when it arrived.

A thank you to Jay Johnson for helping update our District 12 pamphlets. All positions are currently filled. Thanks to all for

their service.

Bob Brady erased some annoying, non-existing meetings from the web. Thank you Bob. A motion was made, seconded and approved, that we would register for a table at St. Louis County Health & Human Services Conferences on October 13th & 14th, 2016, and pay the registration fee. Thank you Rita Letsos for taking on that responsibility.

We will continue to clean up now existing meetings and visit meetings that aren't registered to share the need for being registered as an active meeting.

Myself and Rich Gould, alt. DCM, will attend the West Central Regional Conference April 4th-6th, 2016 in Bismarck, ND.

Thank you to District 12 for allowing me to serve as DCM this rotation.

ARCHIVIST-Brad I. Since the December Area Committee Meeting I attended the Winter Service Workshop. I emailed the recordings to several people. For future reference, the easiest way to get a recording of Area events is to bring a flash drive with you. I record in an MP3 format so I can drag and drop the recordings in a matter of seconds. I attended the District 15 workshop in Albany yesterday and I recorded so if you would like a recording bring me over a flash drive.

For upcoming events I am attending the winter Warm-Up in Moorhead and the WCRAASC in the coming weeks. I was planning on going to Akron for Founder's Day in June but my employment situation precluded that trip.

For all DCM's, please be sure I am on your mailing list for District events and minutes. I would prefer an e-copy but a paper copy is fine.

Thank you for this opportunity to be of service to you,
Brad I
Area 35 Archivist

ARCHIVES-Steve D. No report

District 8-Scott M. Greetings Area 35,

It's been a busy start to the new rotation. All of our chair positions are filled and they are getting their ducks in a row. We have 2 treatment facilities in our district, as well as 1 commitment with NERCC. Our beginners meeting meets once a week and continues to be self-supporting. We will be having an Agenda Item discussion on March 11th for our GSRs, as well as a district workshop March 12th. Both of them will be held at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 601 N. 12th Ave. Virginia, MN. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Spring Assembly.

Yours in Service,
Scott M

District 8 DCM

District 4-Deb S.

Greetings from District 4

We have had some changes in the last few months. Bonnie M. has taken over the district chair position.

Deb S. is now the alternate chair.

Our Committee secretary has also had to resign her position. We are hoping to replace this position soon

We have a new District Literature person and the Committee does continue to grow. We are planning a

GSR workshop on April 30. It is our hope that we can promote

more committee participation. Bonnie M and Debbie S will also

be scheduling visits to all of the meetings in our District. We

hope to introduce ourselves to the meetings as well as to get in-

formation about the meetings and to ask for more GSR participa-

tion. We will also be inviting these members to our GSR work-

shop.

We continue to reach out to the community and have contacted the radio station in our area.

I also want to remind all of you of the Big Ole Roundup in our area on March 11-13. You can find the

Information on the Area Website.

Our GSR's tell us that some of the meeting numbers have been down a little, but many of our snow birds are still gone for the winter.

There is a new Big Book Meeting starting on Sunday mornings at the Alano in Alexandria as well.

In closing, we continue to remain positive and hopeful that we will find more new faces on our committees in the next year.

Yours in Service

Debbie S.

CORRECTIONS-Servando M. No report

District 2-Myron H. Good morning,

My name is Myron H and I am an alcoholic. I am the DCM for District 2. District 2 has meetings in Badger, Baudette, Karls-tad, Hallock, Middle River, Roseau, Stephen, Thief River Falls, Warren, Warroad and Williams.

Our district is working on updating group information, assembling packets for events in our district (county fairs etc.), and developing packets for placement in medical facilities or law enforcement offices.

In this new rotation we are still seeking new volunteers to serve as GSRs and committee chairs. Currently we have an assistant DCM, treasurer, secretary, literature chair, corrections chair and 3 GSRs. Progress not perfection. We are looking forward to the Spring Assembly in nearby Crookston in April!

Yours in service,

Myron H

District 13-Al K. Greetings from District 13. Our District meets monthly on the first Monday of each month at the St. Cloud Alano Club at 7:30 PM. There are approximately 43 A.A. groups that meet in District 13 each week. This includes a beginner's meeting that is held each Wednesday evening at 7:30 PM. Our District is financially stable. All of our positions are filled except for P.I. and Archives. I feel confident that these positions will be filled very soon. In the meantime, other officers and chairs are helping to accomplish the work that needs to be done in our vacant positions.

I spoke briefly with Christine this morning before we left St. Cloud for the Area Committee Meeting. She asked me how it was going. I replied that there was a point about a month ago when I felt like I knew what I was doing. That moment has passed and has not yet returned. The one fact that seems certain is that I am growing just like I have grown in my previous positions.

Yours in service,

Al K

District 15-Melissa A. Greetings from District 15,

We have our District meeting the first Monday of every month at 8pm, which is located at the Albany Senior Center. We have updated our meeting cards for this year, and have 12 traditions illustrated pamphlets on hand. We have brought in meetings to several treatment facilities in district 15, 13 & 4. We had our districts yearly workshop on February 27th on the topic "Back to the basics and sponsorship", we had 25 people in attendance, we had several people present from the area level and past delegates: Jake C, Jim S, Tom & Susie A, Brad I and Roger R. A big thank you goes out to them for making our workshop truly amazing! I will be attending the WCRSCAA in Bismarck, ND. Kelly asked me if I would be willing to present on the topic "Be involved, be inspired, be of service, participating in all areas of AA." Thank you for asking me to be of service Kelly! I am going to try to attend the Big Ole that is in Alexandria the second weekend of March. We have our annual Stearns County Round Up on March 26th; I have tickets and flyers available if anyone is interested in attending we would love to have you! I will be attending the Spring Assembly in April; we also have a 5th annual open speaker meeting in Sauk Centre, MN on April 16th.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

DCM 15

Melissa A

(Continued from page 13)

PI-Mark N. At the February 28th Area 35 meeting in Aitkin, MN the Public Information (PI) and Communication with the Professional Community (CPC) met the for Action chair committee meeting at 9:00 AM. Districts 9, 13, 6, 3, and 8 were represented with 9 people present. We discussed the many ways that we can be of service in the context of CPC/PI. We can bring literature or presentations into schools, classrooms, put on luncheons, be present at fairs, businesses and human resource departments, nursing homes, and senior centers, letters to media concerning announcements and many other possibilities. I have created a list of contacts and will keep in touch via email with District PI chairs and District Committee Members who do not have PI chairs. If your district does not have a PI chair please contact me, I am available for assistance to you and your PI needs.
Yours in service,
Mark N.

District 9-Cathy R. My name is Cathy R I am the new DCM for district 9. I think I am nervous and excited all at once. Our district is on the verge of an exciting time. We have filled our committee chair positions. In April, one of the newer groups is hosting a speaker meeting. In June the district is hosting the Area 35 archivist – his topic is 75 years of AA in Northern Minnesota; in July the district will host a panel of “long timers” discussing sobriety now and then. In August (26-29) we will host a weekend celebration of 75 years of AA Hibbing; we will have a PI luncheon. Friday night speakers, a Saturday outdoor event and a Sunday morning breakfast. Our goal is to include all the AA community and the Alanon folks. We will be reviewing whether or not to continue the All About AA program. Like most districts we struggle with apathy, reaching out, and being available to all the alcoholics in our area.

District 5-Jon S. Not present

GRAPEVINE-Paul M. No report

District 3-Brian P. No report

District 16-Mike F. Mike F., Alcoholic. District 16 DCM Report, February 28th, 2016

We had 7 in attendance at our last district meeting, including the GSR from the Tuesday Effie and Bigfork groups, Ron Danielson, who has begun attending again on a regular basis since the beginning of the year.

The New Year’s Eve meeting/potluck hosted by the Saturday Night Strength group was attended by approximately 100 people throughout the evening.

Weekly meetings at the men’s county jail continue to occur every Thursday evening. I have been serving in this activity for about 18 months, and another member has now joined me. We have one an additional member approved by the jail staff to serve. Our corrections position is open, but we are serving nonetheless.

Our PI/CPC Luncheon is tentatively scheduled for April 29th, but may be re-scheduled.

Tuesday Solutions Group will be hosting their annual round-up, “A Weekend with Bill and Lois”, at Camp Hiawatha on Deer Lake on June 24 -26th.

A committee consisting of members of one of our Big Book study groups is hosting an all-day BB study workshop entitled, “The Turning Point”, to be held at the Sawmill Inn in Grand Rapids on Saturday, June 18th.

Myself and 2 other committee members went on the road earlier this month to the Friday Longville meeting, one of several trips planned to reach out and visit the meetings in our district that are not centered in Grand Rapids.

We are planning a Concepts Workshop for some time in late 2016. A few groups have volunteered to present, and we are hoping to gain more group involvement as myself and others attend a few more meetings throughout our district.

Yours in Service,
Mike F.

OLD BUSINESS

Budgets-Christine G. has sent the proposed 2016 budget to our

area 35delegate, alternate delegate, past delegates as well as DCM’s, area officers, and area chairs. Christine asked DCM’s to bring these back to their groups as we will be voting on them at the Spring Assembly.

NEW BUSINESS

Financial Oversight Committee Report-Steve L., Jim K., and Neil. The committee approves report by treasurer Christine G. Her report is consistent with bank records.

Web Technology and Group Records- Bob B. Bob discussed Area 35 Service Directories and a request for the Northern Light mailing list. Bob’s reports on these topics follow:

REQUEST FOR NORTHERN LIGHT MAILING LIST

I had a request from a Round Up for our Northern Light Mailing List.

I questioned if I had our Assembly Approval to give our Northern Light Mailing list to be used outside of area 35 Assembly business.

Prior Group Records were giving out copies of our mailing list.

Action Book -- 6/2/2002. Provide mailing labels to a round up or other outside entity for their use: reimbursement to cover best estimated costs of the labels and postage to mail them.

The Northern light mailing list is made up of names and address that are used to update GSO Group Records database.

GSO will not allow this information to be used outside of GSO business. Example. The Grape Vine cannot use data in the GSO database. National A.A. Technology Workshop cannot use the information in the GSO data base.

When collecting personal information, we do not get permission to use this information outside of Assembly or GSO business.

I provided the Round Up with our procedures to have their flyer added to the Northern Light, information to have the flyer put on our calendar, I would be happy to distribute flyers at our meetings, and that I would ask our assembly about giving our personal information to outside agencies.

I feel that personal information was given to support assembly and GSO business and not intended to be used as a mailing list for Round Ups or other outside assembly and GSO business.

At our next assembly I would like to motion. The use of personal information collected to update GSOs Group Records database, not be used for purposes other than office assembly business.

AREA 35 SERVICE DIRECTORIES

Sometime ago I asked if we had a service directory of all area and district servants in area 35. I was told that the area did have a directory at one time. I searched our action book and found:

06/05/94 Area Committee The Group Records Secretary will produce the Area 35 Directory.

10/02/94 Area Assembly Group Records Secretary produced 50 copies of the Area 35 Directory. 35 were distributed to DCMs, Area Action Committee Chairs and Area Officers. 15 copies are available for sale.

02/27/00 Area Committee The Area Directory was not completed this rotation due to not having enough information.

I requested district information from all districts only district 6, 8, and 16 responded. This information is needed for GSO group records. They like positions like treatment, PI, CPC, Corrections. Sorry, no Secretaries and Treasurers.

I have a sample area 35 servant directory for each district.

The cost would be 60 cents each.

Do we want an Area 35 Service Directory?

Bob B.

grouprecords@area35.org

Bob also discussed changing the Area 35 website content management system from HTLM to WordPress. This would make it

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

easier for the Webmaster to maintain the website. The project would require 5-6 hours of work and a fellow AA member by the name of Andre is willing to convert the website free of charge and have it ready at the time of the Spring Assembly. A motion was made to allow Andre to convert the content management system of our website. The motion was amended to cover the lodging, meals, and travel expenses for Andre. The motion was passed.

2016 Agenda Items/Area 35, District 5 Proposal-Kelly. CD's and hard copies of Agenda Items and background information were handed out. This information is available on the website, user name and password were given. Reminder given this information is confidential. Kelly brought 75 copies of the hot topics list, she will email the list to DCM's, committee chairs and officers. Kelly discussed the District 5 proposal which requests the GSO to publish a meeting directory similar to a meeting locator. **January Workshop-Roger R.** 107 people were in attendance, Carl Bud and Brook C. were the speakers. Districts 11, 5, 14, 12, 13, and 8 were thanked for their presentations. Report will also be published in next Northern Light along with evaluations of the workshop.

WCRAASC- Kelly. 8 areas from the West Central region meet yearly, this year in Bismark North Dakota. The theme is

"Our Spiritual Way of Life: Steps, Traditions, and Concepts". We will be discussing the agenda items for the General Service Conference held in April. District 15, District 13, and District 12 will give shortened versions **of their presentations from the January Workshop.**

Legal Case Against AA-Kelly. The legal case filed by the family of woman who was murdered by a man she met in AA was dismissed. The family is able to appeal the case if they choose. Kelly will keep us updated.

General Service Conference Inventory-Kelly. Copies of the inventory are available (red booklet). The cost was \$130,000.00. Disappointed that the traditions and concepts are not mentioned in the report. The strategic plan was included in the last General Service Board minutes.

Feasibility Study-Kelly. Will be discussed at the GSC in April. The topics are: improving communication internally and externally, increasing revenues, reducing expenses, and restructuring AAWS and GV/LV. In order to discuss this issue the workshop on spiritual anonymity was removed from the agenda.

Calendar of Events-Jake C. Summary of future events published in Northern Light. March 4-6, Bismark, ND; Spring Assembly, April 2-3, Crookston, MN; Area Committee Meeting, June 5, Aitkin MN

Meeting Adjourned with The Lord's Prayer

ATTENTION DCMS!

How would you like to offer a little more than a two minute overview of your District? Would you like to have your district spotlighted? Consider having a space where once a year or more, you could bring the successes and obstacles of your district to the attention of the area.

Some ideas to consider are:

- 1) What is going on in your corner of AA recovery and Service?
- 2) Is there/are there a member or members making a contribution you would like to highlight? (while carefully keeping the topic on their action and not their person)
- 3) Are there situations or circumstances making it easier for your district to support the groups carrying the message?
- 4) Do you have friends of AA that you have built a relationship with and would like to share how you did that?
- 5) What are some of the things your groups are doing as far as speaker meetings, fellowship, and service?
- 6) What obstacles are you facing this rotation?
 - Geographical (Up here on the range there is a hole so many miles wide that in the winter we are having to...etc.)
 - Participation-wise
 - Lack of ability to interact with friends or future friends of AA
 - Personalities
 - Economy of resources
 - Cultural or language barriers
 - Accessibility issues
- 7) What obstacles have you overcome?
- 8) How are you using the Traditions to help you serve your groups and alcoholics in general
- 9) Is there something your district would like the Area to have a discussion about?
- 10) What resources does your district have that could be used to help other districts? (A great speaker, extra books for a jail, willing volunteers, etc.)

Remember, this is YOUR paper! Your input here will make this an informative and fun resource to participate with!

SUBMISSIONS FROM MEMBERS AT LARGE

What Do We Stand For?

I had a sponsor who used to say “AA stands for Attitudes and Actions”. He believed that our attitude is the catalyst of our behavior. He believed if I have an attitude of gratitude, if I believe that I am “happy, joyous, and free”, I will act in consort with that attitude. This philosophy echoes the title of chapter six of the Big Book - “Into Action”. This also assumes to be true what Abraham Lincoln once said “most people are as a happy as they make up their minds to be”.

In a recent discussion with an AA friend we talked about responsibility in the program. I told him I though AA could stand for “Accountable Alcoholics”. This program teaches accountability. This program teaches me that “I am responsible”. Whether I am making coffee, or serving as a GSR, or District Chair, or at Area, I have a responsibility to carry out the duties of my position to the best of my ability.

Sometimes being accountable means doing things that are hard. Sometimes it means showing up at a meeting early to get the coffee started, even though the weather is less than desirable and I’d rather stay home, and I don’t even drink coffee. Sometimes it means staying late to help clean-up not because I want to, but because it’s the “right thing to do”. As a recovered alcoholic I try to live my life according to the tenets of an Accountable Alcoholic.

Being an Accountable Alcoholic means I focus on “my side of the street”. I keep my attention on my words and my actions. Being an Accountable Alcoholic means I use the principles of this program as my moral compass. I use the principles of the 12 Steps like: loyalty, duty, responsibility, service, honesty, integrity, and perseverance, to guide my everyday thoughts and actions.

But what do I do when I come across behavior within my group or district that is not in accordance with my values and principles? What do I do when I notice that there are unexplained shortages in the group’s funds? What do I do when I notice that a member of the group is becoming a little too friendly with the newcomers? What do I do?

As an Accountable Alcoholic I feel duty bound to say something. If I remain quiet and turn a blind eye and deaf ear to the behavior, I have endorsed it – silence condones.

In my office place we have a mantra for safety that goes “see something – say something”. That’s also a pretty good slogan for recovery especially when we know that “secrets keep us sick”. If I ignore the safety risk or try to wish it away, I have moved from being accountable to being avoidant.

There are those in our program who decry this “see something, say something” sort of behavior. They believe that raising an issue or concern is not in keeping with our first tradition of “unity”. They think it is better to let “sleeping dogs lie” for the good of the group or the fellowship.

Unfortunately, I cannot afford that kind of thinking anymore. For it was that type of thinking that led me to believe I could address my drinking problem tomorrow. It was that kind of thinking that taught me to run from problems rather than to face them.

When Bill W. had his spiritual awakening in December of 1934 he said “it burst upon me that I was a free man.” To paraphrase another famous author...the price of freedom is eternal vigilance. If this program has truly given me my freedom, do I live up to that responsibility by being an Accountable Alcoholic or an Avoidant Alcoholic?

John D., Big Lake MN

Upcoming Events in Areas 35 & 36

note: Area 35 events take precedence !

- Superior Round Up

Apr 22 – 24, 2016

4700 Tower Ave, Superior, WI 54880
- Area 35 Committee Meeting

Sunday, Jun 5, 2016

Aitkin Alano Club, Aitkin MN
- Iron Range Get Together

Apr 29 – May 1, 2016

Sawmill Inn of Grand Rapids, 2301 U.S. 169, Grand Rapids, MN 55744
- A Weekend With Bill And Lois

June 24th-26

Camp Hiawatha, Deer River, MN
- Gopher State Roundup

May 27 – 29, 2016

DoubleTree Bloomington Hotel, Bloomington, MN
- Delegate’s Report Back

Start scheduling your district’s now!

What Should Go Here?

Do you have an idea to help make your Northern Light a better newsletter? If so, you could help the AAs in the Northern half of the state by submitting an article, or perhaps even just an AA appropriate joke or experience.

A WEEKEND WITH BILL AND LOIS

Camp Hiawatha — Deer River, MN
June 24-26, 2016

Friday Events 4:00 P.M. Registration begins 5:30 P.M. – 6:30 P.M. Dinner – Friday Evening Speakers – 7:00 P.M. Karyn R. Al-Anon, Grand Rapids 8:15 P.M. Mike S. A.A., Grand Marais Saturday Events 8:00 A.M. AA and Al-Anon Meetings 10:00 A.M. Brunch	11:00 A.M. – 1:30 P.M. A.A. History – Scott J. Al-Anon History – Tuesday Tools AFG 1:30 P.M. Games/Activities on your own 5:00 P.M. Dinner – Saturday Evening Speakers – 7:00 P.M. Fred H. Al-Anon, St. Cloud 8:15 P.M. Sue H. A.A., St. Cloud Campfire Call-Up following speakers Sunday Events 8:30 A.M. Breakfast 10:00 A.M. Planning Committee
FEES FOR THE WEEKEND – Registration Fee – \$30/person Limited camping available – first come, first served \$35/night Room costs: \$29/person/night (bring your own bedding and towels, showers are available) All 4 Meals: **Adults – \$43 per person **Children ages 4-12 \$20 per person Per meal: Adults – Friday/Saturday Dinner: \$13 Saturday Brunch: \$10 Sunday Breakfast: \$9 Children – Dinner \$5.50 Brunch \$4.50 Breakfast \$4.50 **Children under 4 free ** You may bring snacks for the weekend **	

Directions to Camp Hiawatha

-Take Hwy. 169 (or Hwy. 2 from the East) to Grand Rapids (Camp Hiawatha is about 40 miles from Duluth). -Take Hwy. 38 North out of Grand Rapids for 12.4 miles. -Go left (west) onto CR 14 for 2.3 miles. -Camp is on the left. -There are two driveways available, park in the upper parking lot.	-From Deer River – take Hwy. 6 North out of Deer River for 4 miles. -Go right onto CR 14 for 7 miles. -Camp will be on the right. -There are two driveways available, park in the upper parking lot.
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For Questions Please Call or Email:
218-244-2111 / 218-259-9170 / 218-910-0173 / billandloisw@gmail.com
**** Friendly Reminder: No pets! ****

46th Annual

Iron Range Get-Together

April 29, 30 & May 1st, 2016

Subjects of King Alcohol

Sawmill Inn

2301 S. Pokegama Avenue • Grand Rapids, MN 55744
218-326-8501 • 800-667-7508

"Tropical Shirt Night" JOIN IN.

Friday, April 29

5:00 pm ... Registration Opens

8:00 pm ...AA Speaker, Stephanie H., International Falls, MN
Open Meeting following speaker

Saturday, April 30

10:00 am Out State Panel

1:00 pm ... AFG Speaker, Julie H., Palo, MN

3:00 pm ... Call-up Meeting

7:00 pm ... AFG Speaker, Germaine L., Rapid City, SD

8:00 pm ... AA Speaker Jim VV., Toronto, Ontario - Canada

??? till 11:00 pm ... 7th Tradition Ice Cream Social, Poolside

Sunday May 1st

8:00 am ... (Open) BB meeting

10:00 am ... AA Speaker, Charlie C., Gilbert, MN

IRGT Pre-Registration Form
AA \$16.00 AFG \$16.00
Alanon \$6.00 Other \$16.00
Name _____
City/State/Zip _____
Group Name _____

IRGT Pre-Registration Form
AA \$16.00 AFG \$16.00
Alanon \$6.00 Other \$16.00
Name _____
City/State/Zip _____
Group Name _____



“The Turning Point”

Admission, Submission, Restitution, Construction

With Dennis B. and Roger B.

Saturday June 18th., 2016

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Sawmill Inn

2301 South Hwy. 169

Grand Rapids, MN 55744

- Free Registration.
- Bring Your Big Book.
- Books will be on hand to use or buy.

Dennis B. AA Farmington, MN and Roger B. AA St. Louis Park, MN have over 70 years of combined recovery experience. The Turning Point is about deciding to move in the direction of a Spiritual Awakening or go back to the old ways. Admit, Submit, Restitution and Construction of a new life.

This will be fun, interesting and challenging! Bring your Big Book.

This event will be recorded and available at www.gstl.org

Directions: Hwy. 169 South, Grand Rapids. Across the highway from Target and Cub Foods.
Call Jerry: 218-326-3057 , Yvonne: 218-256 7909 or Jim: 218-398-0050

“We stood at the turning point.”

“Alcoholics Anonymous” page 59



71st Superior Roundup

Serenity, Courage and Wisdom

April 22nd, 23rd, & 24th 2016

Superior Fairgrounds Curling Club,
Superior, Wisconsin

Tickets \$20.00
Required at all Events

FRIDAY EVENING 4/22

4:00 PM REGISTRATION OPENS
8:00 PM AA SPKR – BETH H., CARY NC
ICE CREAM SOCIAL TO FOLLOW

SATURDAY MORNING

9:00 AM REGISTRATION OPENS
10:00 AM MEDITATION WORKSHOP

SATURDAY AFTERNOON & EVENING

2:30 PM SERVICE WORKSHOP
3:30 PM ALANON WORKSHOP
6:15 PM ALANON COUNT DOWN
6:30 PM ALANON SPKR - JACK C., SYLMAR CA
7:45 PM AA COUNT DOWN
8:00 PM AA SPEAKER – MIKE F., CHANDLER AZ
9:30 PM DANCE DJ (TBA)

SUNDAY MORNING

10:00 AM AA SPEAKER - JANE S. MINNETRISTA MN

Please visit our website:
Superiorroundup.com



MORA A.A. SPEAKER MEETING

What is it?

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

Please bring your favorite dish to share!

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

When ?

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

Where?

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

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

Pg.164 Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous

THERE IS A SOLUTION

BIG BOOK STUDY GROUP

EVERY THURSDAY

START TIME 6:30 PM

WRIGHT, MN

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

HIGHWAY 210 AND COUNTY 20 TAKE

A RIGHT CHURCH ON THE LEFT

FOURTH THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

POTLUCK DINNER AND SPEAKER

DINNER STARTS AT 5:30 PM

SPEAKER STARTS AT 6:30 PM

CONTACT

ANDY L. 218-343-6385

NORTHERN LIGHT PRIMARY PURPOSE:

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

- ♦ Publish an informative and attractive newsletter to the Area in a timely fashion.
- ♦ Encourage District reports and be available to work with Districts on communications. One or more of the N.L. Committee should try to attend area events to report on what’s happening in their areas. If they are unable to attend, encourage local members to write short articles about events and happenings to be published in the N.L.
- ♦ Provide encouragement for writing articles, particularly to D.C.M.s and Area Action Committee Chairs. This should include the strong encouragement to submit their reports for each issue, if no report is submitted it will be stated, example “Northern Light Report - NOT GIVEN” this is currently being done in the Southern Minnesota Area newsletter.
- ♦ Keep informed of activities and issues going on within Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. The N.L. Committee could subscribe the Grapevine or other pertinent A.A. news sources.
- ♦ Gather useful service information to publish from sources within the Area, Region and A.A. as a whole. Obtain, read and use other Area newsletters.

EDITORIAL POSITION & N.L. COMMITTEE:

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

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

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

N.L. COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

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

NORTHERN LIGHT SUBMISSIONS:

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

Submissions are preferred electronically using a Word or WordPad document to the Area’s newsletter e-mail address: northernlight@area35.org. Most other file formats can also be accepted. You may also send articles or letters to my postal address, listed on page 2. The deadline for each Issue is printed on the front page.

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

Northern Light Editor,
Jacob C.

Directions for putting a flyer into the Northern Light newsletter:

1. First & foremost **contact the Northern Light Editor** at northernlight@area35.org or call the phone number for the Northern Light Editor listed on page 3 of the hard copy, print version of The Northern Light (this will change every 2 years).
2. Email a pdf of the flyer to northernlight@area35.org for approval. Upon approval it will be forwarded it to the webmaster to place in the Area 35 website calendar of events.
3. Upon approval mail 600 flyers to:

**Cold Spring Record
PO Box 456
403 West Wind Court
Cold Spring, MN 56320
with an attn: Northern Light on the mailing address.
Include a note stating they are to be inserted into the next Northern Light.**

4. Cost is \$75. This is to defer the cost of inserting the flyers into the Northern Light. Make check payable to NMAA.
5. If you wish to have Cold Spring Record print the flyers to be inserted in the Northern Light, I will forward the pdf file of your flyer to them, along with your copying instructions; printing costs are: 600 one-sided copies - \$48; 600 copied on both sides - \$60. This will be on top of the initial \$75.
6. Mail payment and 1 copy of the flyer to:

**NMAA
PO Box 401
Becker, MN 55308**

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE MOST CURRENT ADDRESS!!!

RELATED INFORMATION

- Only Area 35 A.A. members may submit flyers. Flyers must be for A.A. sponsored events.
- Flyers needed – 600.

Northern Light deadlines are as follows:

- January 21: flyer will be include in the January – February Issue
- March 1: flyer will be include in the March - April issue
- May 1: flyer will be include in the May - June issue
- July 1: flyer will be include in the July - August issue
- September 1: flyer will be include in the September - October issue
- November 1: flyer will be include in the November - December issue

TWELVE CONCEPTS for WORLD SERVICE (Short Form)

- I. Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

II. The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.

III. To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A.—the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional “Right of Decision.”

IV. At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional “Right of Participation,” allowing a voting representation in a reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

V. Throughout our structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.

VI. The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.

VII. The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon traditional and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.
- VIII. The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.

IX. Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.

X. Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.

XI. The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.

XII. The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

TWELVE TRADITIONS of ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS—LONG FORM

- Our A.A. experience has taught us that:*
1. Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.

2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience.

3. Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.

4. With respect to its own affairs, each A.A. group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience. But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee, or individual should ever take any action that might greatly affect A.A. as a whole without conferring with the trustees of the General Service Board. On such issues our common welfare is paramount.

5. Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose—that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

6. Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to A.A. should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An A.A. group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to A.A., such as clubs or hospitals which require much property or administration, ought to be incorporated and so set apart that, if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the groups. Hence such facilities ought not to use the A.A. name. Their management should be the sole responsibility of those people who financially support them. For clubs, A.A. managers are usually preferred. But hospitals, as well as other places of recuperation, ought to be well outside A.A.—and medically supervised. While an A.A. group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied. An A.A. group can bind itself to no one.

7. The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source,
- or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.

8. Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we may otherwise have to engage nonalcoholics. Such special services may be well recompensed. But our usual A.A. "12 Step" work is never to be paid for.

9. Each A.A. group needs the least possible organization. Rotating leadership is the best. The small group may elect its secretary, the large group its rotating committee, and the groups of a large metropolitan area their central or intergroup committee, which often employs a full-time secretary. The trustees of the General Service Board are, in effect, our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which we maintain our A.A. General Service Office at New York. They are authorized by the groups to handle our 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.

AGENDA

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

1:00 p.m. Assembly Convenes

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

GSC Agenda Item Sharing Session I

- Agenda
- Cooperation With the Professional Community
- Corrections
- Finance
- Grapevine

2:30 p.m. Break

- Literature
- Policy and Admissions
- Public Information
- Report and Charter
- Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities

4:50 p.m. BREAK

5:00 p.m.

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

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

7:30 P.M. GSC Agenda Item Sharing Session II

- Trustees
- Archives
- International Conventions/Regional Forums

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2014

7:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. Big Book Meeting

9:00 a.m. Assembly Reconvenes

- GSR Sharing Session Report
- DCM Sharing Session Report

OFFICER REPORTS

- Delegate – Kelly Dempskit
- Alternate Delegate – Roger Rudolph
- Chair – Jim Steen

- Secretary – Rillis Eklund
- Treasurer – Christine Gerth

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS

- CPC – Jim Thoreen
- District 1 – Leslie H.
- District 21 – Jeff L.
- WEBMASTER - Rodney Savary.
- LITERATURE – Skip Deutchman
- District 11 - Sharla W.
- District 7 – Liz L.
- NORTHERN LIGHT – Jake Cuta
- GROUP RECORDS – Bob Brady
- District 14 – Paul E.
- District 6 - Renell P.
- TREATMENT – Gayle Rykowski
- District 18 – BR Borders
- District 12 – Steve E.
- ARCHIVIST – Brad Iverson
- ARCHIVES – Steve Dixon
- District 8 – Scott M.
- District 4 – Deb S.
- CORRECTIONS – Servando Malich
- District 2 – Myron H.
- District 13 – Al K.
- District 15 – Melissa A.
- PI – Mark Neisham
- District 9 – Cathy R.
- District 5 – Jon S.
- GRAPEVINE – Paul Mattson
- District 3 – Brian Peterson
- District 16 – Mike F.

OLD BUSINESS

-
-
-

NEW BUSINESS

- New Area Website

-
-
-
-

- Calendar of Events
- Ask It Basket (Past Delegates)
- Adjourn

NOTES:

Mail Area 35 Group contributions to:

NMAA
PO Box 401
Becker, MN 55308