

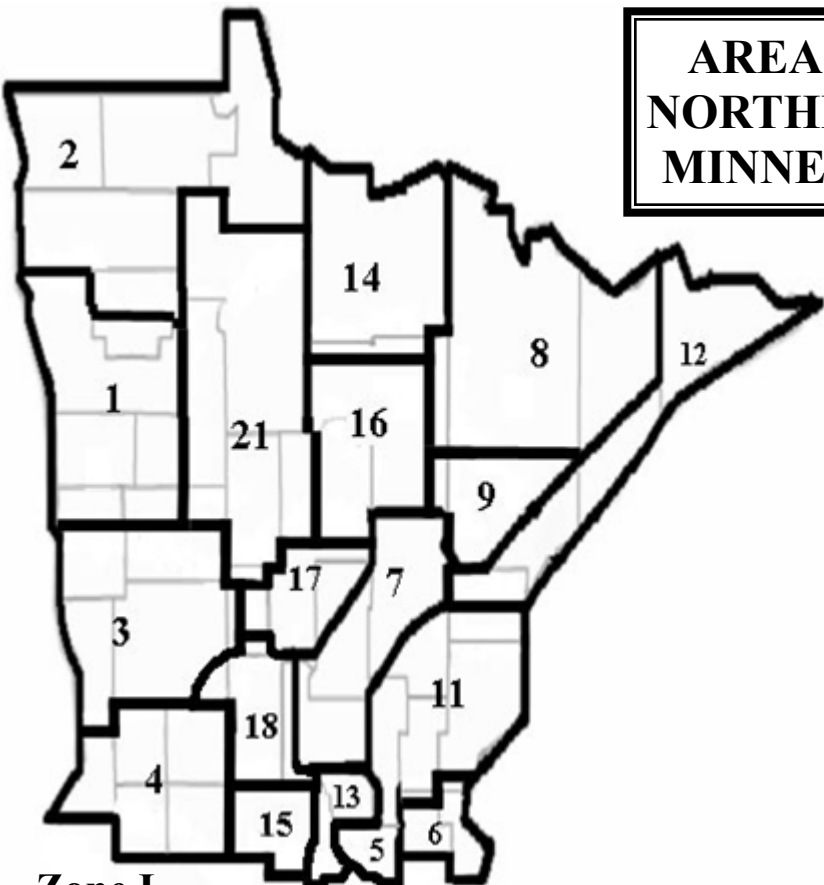
Deadline for the next
Northern Light is
July 5th, 2016

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
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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
CORRECTIONS	Debbie S	dcm21@area35.org
SERVANDO M	dcm4@area35.org	DISTRICT 17
corrections@area35.org	DISTRICT 5	NO INFO
LITERATURE	JOHN S	
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

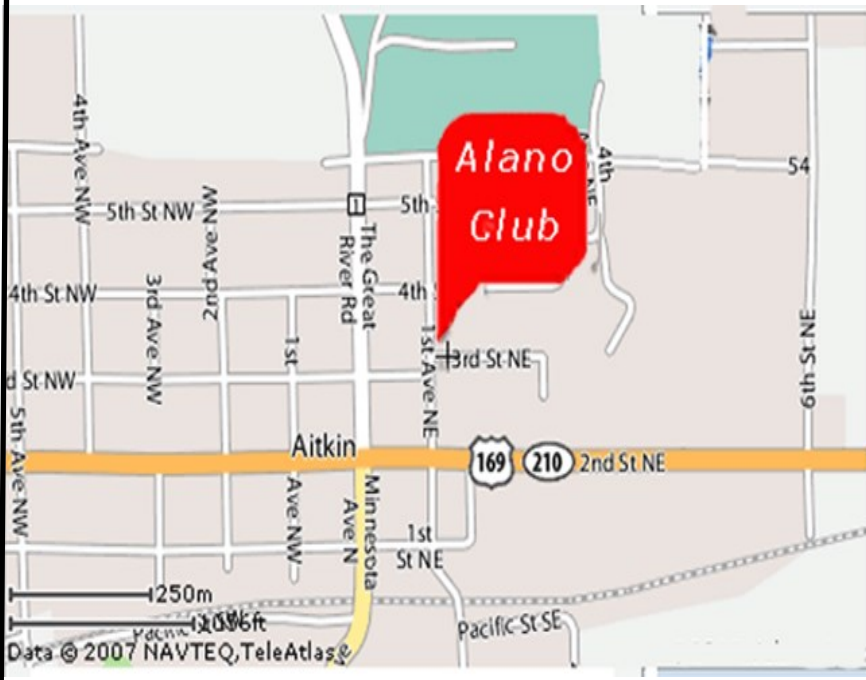
AREA 35 EVENTS

- ◆ 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	2014-1015	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,

As I am writing this a week has gone by since I returned from the 66th General Service Conference. What a truly amazing experience it was for me to be a part of! I have been busy working on my report back and hope to have it completed soon. I look forward to sharing it with all of you. There are still some of you DCM's that have not contacted me to set up a time for me to visit your Districts and share everything that happened while there which does include a lot of information on issues we are facing today in Alcoholics Anonymous. My calendar is filling up fast so please if you have not already done so contact me so I can get you scheduled.

If you have not already heard, again I would like to congratulate Tom A. from our Area 35 on becoming the new West Central Regional Trustee. I was very excited to send out the email to all of you on the Area with the great news, I hope you have passed it on. We do know that Tom will serve our Region well! This is the first time that we have had a Trustee from Northern Minnesota and I felt honored to be a part of the voting process that took place at the General Service Conference.

Thank you all for your confidence in me to serve as your Delegate, it truly is an honor and a privilege to serve you. I look forward to seeing many of you as I make my travels around northern Minnesota in the next few months. In love and service, Kelly D Area 35 Panel 66 Delegate

Alt. Delegate's Report:

I enjoyed seeing you all at our Spring Assembly on April 2-3, 2016. At his assembly we as an area prepared Kelly D. our Delegate, to attend the General Service Conference with a good sense of our Area's group conscience on the agenda items that were discussed and in some cases voted upon by the conference. My job as Alternate Delegate was to become familiar with each of these items and relevant background information as Kelly's backup person. I also examined a Feasibility Study and Strategic Plan discussed at the conference. I am looking forward to learning more about what actions took place at the General Service Conference. I can congratulate Tom A. who was nominated by Area 35 and elected to become our next West Central Regional Trustee on AA's General Service Board. I am confident that Tom will be well prepared to represent our West Central Regional well in his upcoming four-year term as a trustee.

I have also been planning for our 2017 January Service Workshop. This workshop will take place in Bemidji on January 14 and 15. I have invited Howard L. who is a past Delegate and Southwest Regional Trustee of the General Service Board to be our guest speaker and work with us in the workshop. Howard has accepted our offer. In other activities I attended the West Central Regional AA Service Conference in March, our Area 35 Febru-

ary Committee Meeting, a District 15 workshop, coordinated a discussion on GSC agenda items for District 13 and presented at the GSR Training session the Spring Assembly.

The first Area 35 Zonal Forum of this rotation will take place in Zone 1 in Erskine MN on June 12 from 2:45- 5:15 following Kelly D's conference report. We are looking forward to visiting Zone 1 and presenting this forum.

I very much appreciate the opportunity you have given me to serve Area 35.

Roger. R.

Area Chair's Report:

Hello Everyone,

For the most part my position has been quieter since the Spring Assembly. I have a date set for the Joint Workshop. It will be Nov 19th from noon to 5 at the Calvary Community Church in St. Cloud, MN. The same place as we had it last year. I am working with the Area 36 Chair on the agenda as I do not know for certain that the agenda stays the same each year. Last year, the agenda has a hour discussion on CPC, then an hour discussion what the two Areas have accomplished together, the breakout sessions for the committees and finishing with a general discussion. I am waiting the hear back from Area 36 chair on her thoughts about the agenda. Once that has occurred I will have a flier made up quite quickly. I am also talking with Deb D. about assisting us in finding places for the next year's Spring and Fall Assemblies which are to be held in Zones 3 and 4 respectively. If you have any suggestions for communities we should be looking into please forward them over to me. As I have come to understand, we need to find facilities that can accommodate a group of 130 people with room rates around \$109 and finding coffee under \$20 gallon including taxes and any gratuity the facility may charge. It is also my understanding that most people prefer to have the meeting hall located within the facility we are staying at.

I will have a completed list of all the evaluation forms from the Spring Assembly for your review at the June ACM. It was discussed at the Area officers/committee chair meeting at the Spring Assembly that we would have a couple workshops, one by the Grapevine Chair and one from the PI chair. I will be working on the agenda for the Fall Assembly so it would be ready by June as well.

If you have any questions, concerns or comments please contact me Jim S. Area Chair

Secretary's Report:

See Spring Assembly Minutes

Treasurer's Report:

Greetings Area 35, Since my last report at the Spring Assembly, I have mailed out all Thank You letters to the groups that have contributed to Area 35 during 1st quarter (Jan, Feb, Mar) so you should be seeing

(Continued from page 5)

those in your mailbox soon. Area 35 would like to thank everyone for their contributions! With your contributions, we are able to send our Delegate to NY to carry our Area’s group conscience. We are able to pay for the costs to print this Northern Light to keep you and your groups updated on what is happening in Alcoholics Anonymous in your districts. We are also able to have assemblies to bring everyone together to share what you are doing in your groups and district to keep this fellowship alive and healthy.

Birthday Contributions are coming in and I would like to congratulate everyone celebrating their sobriety! What a great time to show your appreciation by contributing to the Area. You can send in one dollar for every year sober OR whatever you can afford. It is one way that you can make a difference.

Please include your group service number on both your Group and Birthday Contributions.

Our YTD Birthday Contributions are at \$107.00. Let’s see if 2016 can pass 2011’s amount of 365.70! The race is on...

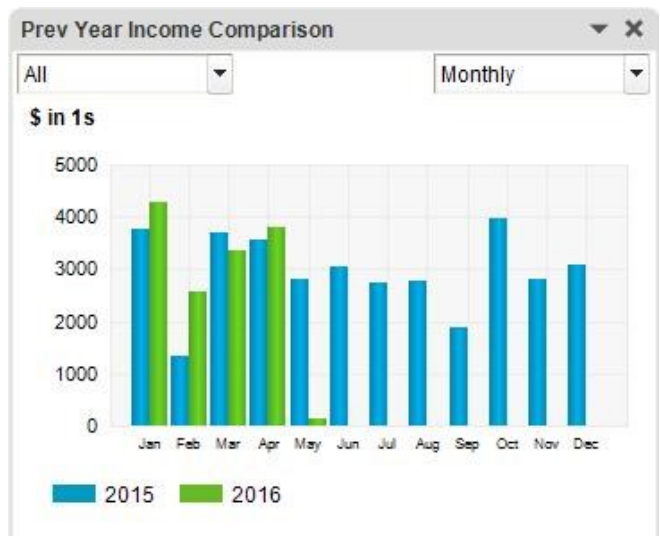


On April 30th, I had the opportunity to present at a GSR Workshop in District 4 at the Alexandria Alano Club. There were about 13 people in attendance and 3 of those were brand new GSRs. I presented on what the responsibilities are of the GSR to the Group and the Group to the GSR. The more I have the opportunities to present on various topics the more I learn. We had some great questions after the meeting like, “Where do our group contributions go when we contribute to the Area?” If your district is planning a workshop and would like presenters, please feel free to ask myself or any of Area Officers or Committee Chairs. We are here to help you in whatever way we can.

Your Area checkbook has a balance of \$12,859.37 plus \$6,041.89 in savings for your prudent reserve. All bills received to date have been paid and all contributions deposited.



For the month of April, we received \$3,783.68 in income and paid \$6,524.77 in expenses. Year-to-date, we have received \$13,999.01 in income and paid \$19,931.75 in expenses. Most of our larger expenses come the first 4 months of the year. As we receive more contributions over the upcoming months, our YTD ratio of income to expenses should even out.



Contributions compared to last year are up by \$2,213.06. That is good because we always have more expenses at the beginning of a new rotation. If you have any specific questions about Area 35 finances, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for allowing me to serve, Christine G., Area 35 Treasurer

Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) Committee Chair’s Report:

NOTES FROM CROOKSTON

Those of us who gathered at the Spring Assembly heard great discussion regarding the General Service Conference issues to which Delegate Kelly D. listened, took notes and prepared herself as well as anyone can. The upcoming reports to the Area from her will help all of us to take heart that A.A. is indeed a superb answer to alcoholism. Thank you to various District CPC Chairs or interested members who are curious regarding CPC’s role. Those in attendance included Gail and Larry N. from District 3; Jon S. from District 5; Beth E. from District 9; Richard G. from District 12; Jim H. from District 13; and Mark N., PI Committee Chair.

The CPC Committee has a commitment to present to the Baxter Kiwanis Club in mid-May and we await confirmation that the Minnesota Probation Officers Conference in Breezy Point at the end of May will permit us to display materials during the three day gath-

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ering. Some of the most useful contacts we encounter are those who work in the Courts system on a daily basis and can direct to us those individuals who seek an answer to their alcohol problem.

Please contact me if you know when a group of professionals meets in your community. This year we have adopted an approach to take CPC to those who can assist us. So if your local ministerium, hospital staff, or law enforcement department hold regular training meeting, CPC wants to be present for a 20-30 minute presentation. As you speak with those in your city or town, and you find that they want more information about recovery from alcoholism, please contact me on the web site.

WHAT IS THE NEXT GENERATION OF A.A.'S?

For decades, members of Alcoholics Anonymous have focused on the youth of our society and how we create for them...through our steps, traditions and concepts...an attractive, welcoming place to recover from alcoholism. Each day our local media outlets hammer home the auto accidents, accidental drownings, and in rare acknowledgements, suicides attributable to alcohol abuse or personal histories of alcoholism in the young. Many in our fellowship work feverishly to bridge real or perceived generational differences so that behaviors of "Bleeding Deacons" won't send a sixteen-year-old running out the door.

It is all well and good that we look to the youth, our young men and women who come through the doors willingly or otherwise. The newcomer is our lifeblood. The young and the middle aged in many meetings dominate the group. But what of the aged, the men and women who have happily moved into a well-earned retirement, such as the Big Book recitation of the man who retired at fifty-five after a long period of sobriety with the belief that he could drink as other men; "out came his carpet slippers and a bottle." Hospitalized in two months, puzzled and humiliated he gathered all his forces and found he could not stop. He went to pieces quickly and was dead within four years.

So is our "next generation" solely the youth of the headlines or the jails and institutions? What of those in "carpet slippers"? In 1935, the year of our fellowship's founding, our nation's population of 65+ totaled approximately 7 million; in 2010 we had 35 million; by 2050 it is predicted that the U.S. will hold about 72 million age 65 and older. No matter who estimates the per cent of our population to be alcoholic or alcohol abusers, we face huge numbers of senior citizens who qualify for our program of recovery.

In my community there doesn't appear to be a concentrated effort through PI or CPC to reach out to our seniors or to their families. So what is our responsibility? Yours in Service, Jim T.; CPC Chair

Corrections Committee Chair's Report:

So after leaving the Spring Assembly I realized that I wasn't going to make it back in time for the meeting I usually volunteer at, at the North East Regional Corrections Center. I phoned a friend and asked if he could cover for me. After conferring with his family he accepted and I thanked him for helping out.

Later that evening he called and thanked me. He said that he had an awesome meeting and stayed after the meeting talking with the speaker whom he had just met that night. He also talked about connecting with a few of the residents from the facility and how refreshed he felt just from being there.

This was not new to me as it's one of the reasons why I have committed myself to this facility and also to service work in general. Later, this same month, when I arrived at the Iron Range Get Together, in Grand Rapids, I was greeted by an excited young man who had been a former resident of that same facility. He told me how he was almost 8 months sober and was having a tough time finding a sponsor. Because of service work I knew of several men in that general area that I was able to introduce him to. I also gave him my number so that we might stay in contact. Also while attending this event I ran into some friends who began their sober journey in Superior where we became friends. They have since moved to Grand Rapids and are members of that community and it was great to see how well they are doing and how lovely their little family have turned out. At the Superior Round-up I was introduced to an extended family member of one of their friends.

I guess what I'm really trying to say is that sometimes it seems really difficult to get people involved in service work. If only there was a way for me to show how much love and joy and happiness there really is to it all and the feeling of fulfillment I have just by being of service to my fellow AA's. If everyone knew how good it felt, we would probably be waiting in line to commit to these positions!

This last week I was able to attend the Statewide Corrections Meeting and was really impressed to all of the people who showed up to be a part of carrying the message. I want to thank the members of Area 35 who gave their time to attend yet another service opportunity to make and build personal relationships.

Grapevine Committee Chair's Report:

Greetings from the grapevine chair! What is the grapevine? It is our meeting in print! It is used by various groups institutions to help carry the message! Since the spring assembly I ordered \$380 worth of literature, I plan on attending the Iron Range get together in Grand Rapids this weekend! If any other round ups or Speaker Meetings would like the grapevine brought to their meetings let me know! It's a great way to attract people to the grapevine! Please select a grapevine representative for your group! I've also got a bunch a new subscription forms from GSO! I would like to thank area 35 for a lawn me to do this position! I also appreciate our delegate Kelly for Sending me postcard from New York! I can't wait to hear about her experience! That's it for now! Any questions or concerns about the grapevine feel free to call me, Paul M area 35 Grapevine chair!

Group Records Report:

Three years ago we started updating our meeting lists on aaMeetingLocator.org and area35.org by taking the data directly from our GSO FNV Records database. Sandy started cleaning up our Group Records database and Rolene did an excellent job keeping the GSO database up to date. The data from our GSO Group Records

(Continued on page 8)

database was used to update our meeting lists on the WEB. Our area, area 35, sponsored letters to GSO to encourage them to use the Group Records database for a Nationwide WEB AA meeting locator.

Today my concerns were confirmed. I was asked to send our webmaster one meeting update at a time so our new website could be update one meeting at a time. The majority of our visits to area35.org are to look up meeting information. Before our new web site went live we should have had a procedure down to automate the meeting updates. My recommendation would be to use aaMeetingLocator.org for our meeting lists. Our web site area35.org should refer users to aaMeetingLocator.org until we can manage the updates. Rule #1 is database management. 2 separate databases with the same information will never be in sync. The meeting lists on area35.org will not be in sync with the GSO Group Records database. Bob B. Group Records

Literature Committee Chair's Report:

Good day,
I would like to thank you all for allowing me to attend the Area35 Spring Assembly in Crookston 4/1 - 4/3/2016. The Assembly was busy, but at the seemed to be a little more relaxed then other voting Assemblies. Must have been the company. We were able to sell \$552.90 in literature at the Assembly and i do have orders for Districts 3 and 11 which wil be at the Area Committee Meeting on June 5th in Aitkin. If you would like to order literature to be picked up in Aitkin, PLEASE contact me and allow 2 weeks before the Aitkin Committee Meeting, so I may have it available for you without shipping costs. I do look forward to seeing you all again at the Committee Meeting in June. In service, Skip D. Area 35 Literature Chair

Northern Light Editor's Report:

Hello all. This has been a grueling but cathartic experience. I am humbled by the trust put on me to continue in the duty of being the Northern Light Editor, despite some of my deficiencies. Attempting to serve fellow AA's and receive input of both support and criticism has not been the easiest thing for me as of late. Certainly I cannot appease all people but have done considerable inventory on myself to highlight strengths and weakness within myself, and address concerns by others. Of course because of the tardiness of two NL's in a row, there exists an understandable concern for whether I can do this job. Technically I am finding this a very easy role to fill, but spiritually and working with other alcoholics has been hard. I thank everyone who has offered support and guidance.

One of the things that has become a theme is that when I have asked many servants of their opinion of our newsletter, almost all have said, "I didn't read that" or "I don't read it as much as I should.". Very few have given me any feedback as far as my appeals for content. I pressed a couple of servants to participate, with both stating a lack of writing skill as a reason why their levels of participation are low. This highlighted how easily as a fellowship we take for granted the skills and abilities of our fellow servants. Getting creative, one of the servants said he'd be happy to write out his thoughts and send me a picture of his hand written submission. I was in tears as I transcribed the shared experience.

Both from the beauty of his expressed experience and the ability to help a fellow servant out. Our two "halves" made a whole and that is the essence of serving alcoholics. We are in the business of helping people grow towards being God's people, and organizing our fractions so as to make whole servants. We shouldn't have to carry everyone, everyday, nor do we, but it is amazing what a cup of coffee or a phone call can do.

I have spent the month before the due date mapping the templates for publishing the newsletter for the express purpose of building a webpage that can edit our Newsletter. For the last couple of years Google's Android operating system is the most popular and common operating system in the planet, eclipsing Apple, Microsoft, and their mobile derivatives, put together. In English this means most people access information either by tablet pc or smartphone, and so bulky publishing suites like Microsoft Publisher, are diminishing in popularity and offerings. My successor may choose to use the foundation I build for a webpage, Publisher or other document creating choice, but the technology is such now, a person can plug in a key sized device into a television and use it like a computer, with modern televisions having QWERTY keyboards built into the remote or the ability to be attached to a tablet pc or smart phone. Hopefully, whatever outside trends and technology are, our Newsletter is more easily accessed and more widely read. The latter I fear is a big problem today. I cannot create the content to encourage readership, you have to. You can do this by submitting experiences from service, encouraging others to do the same, ie., GSRs, home group members with great stories, etc.

I have stated that I have wanted to start spotlighting Districts in a regular article but am finding I need to find a better way to communicate the concept. I appreciate the time a couple of DCMs have put into the idea, though it is not ready to be printed yet. I have been reading several different newsletters from both professionally put together pieces and local clubs to see if there is something that may benefit our publication. Because we cannot use pictures of people, and we are printing in black and white, trying to make something that is appealing to alcoholics of all reading levels and backgrounds is proving difficult. Your participation is appreciated. Thank you to all who have helped out so far, and to those who contribute to the Northern Light. Yours in service, Jacob C.

Public Information Committee Chair's Report:

Good Morning from the Area 35 Spring Assembly.

We had 12 people attending our break out session, representing districts 7, 5, 9, 12, and 13 as well as 2 past delegates and 1 past delegate/trustee. The first half of the meeting we spoke to Communication with Professionals and Public Information working topics. Such as the Importance of using the Information kits we get from the General Service Office they contain pamphlets and literature that has been vetted through the experience of PI chairs and delegates. These kits are updated yearly and are excellent tools to use in getting started in our general service.

Things we are working on are CPC/PI luncheon that will be held in conjunction with the Hibbing area AA 75th anniversary celebration August 26 at noon in the Hibbing Memorial building.

The upcoming St. Louis County Health and Human Service Conference in October 2016, 3 districts were involved with it last year and may work together again this year.

Other things we talked about were Public Speaking and giving presentations, it was suggested that if we are nervous about presenting perhaps we could practice our gig in front of our home group. Practice and play/acting are good tools to use to help improve our personal approach and material. Get on the mailing/phone list and use them to keep in communication with our fellow CPC/PI chairs. Take the presentations to the people we want to inform, such as when the social service department holds a monthly meeting perhaps we could be invited to attend, or nurses and doctors when they meet at the hospital, or for college public safety or nursing programs or high school health classes. There are many opportunities for us to inform the public of the presence of Alcoholics Anonymous.

There are also Public Service announcements available from the GSO for radio and television. We must also keep people informed on the importance of anonymity at the level of press, radio, film and social media. There is information in our kits to help with this. We can have booths and displays at the local and state fairs. Keep the meeting lists up to date, maintain a website and phone help line.

We are working on a presentation/workshop the we will bring to the fellowship to help inform them about the General Service Conference and the General Service Office. How in 1955 Bill W. turned the role of responsibility of these entities over to the fellowship and how important it is that they know this and take a larger role in it. The second part of our break/out session we devoted to discussing the conference agenda, to be better prepared for the session informing our Delegate, Kelly D. Thank you for allowing me to be your Public Information Area 35 Chair. Mark N.

Treatment Committee Chair's Report:

Hello, Gayle Alcoholic Treatment Chair.. From our Treatment Committee meeting we had 6 persons present, districts 3,7,12,9 and 14 represented. We followed an agenda type format, District 15, is meeting commitments. They are working with District 4 & District 13 to get more volunteers which is going well. District 3 is getting Temporary Contact forms to the Treatment centers along with Pamphlets and schedules. District 7's new treatment chair, Tony, stepped in in February so she has not really started getting to facilities however she knows she has 5 facilities and that Teen Challenge really does not want us to come in... District 9 has 3 facilities one in which the share with District 8 and one they share with District 6.. A facility in Hibbing wants us to go in every 8 weeks. They also have a beginners group for treatment and that is not supported or encouraged by a local non 12 step treatment facility.. They are planning a CPC luncheon in August and considering inviting treatment centers. District 12 has volunteers to cover all facilities they go in.. Working on getting into the facilities we don't go in. They are working on a treatment committee meeting. Bethal is an open speaker meeting that is now showing 60-100 persons attending.. District 14 (GSR filling in for

Treatment chair) Unsure of what we should be doing, are we carrying in the wrong message.. There is an inpatient facility that host a non-GSO registered closed AA meeting that opens to AA members only, passes the 7th tradition basket that only outside AA's contribute-she is wondering why??? I INCOURAGE ANY THOUGHTS ON THIS!!

I encouraged Districts to find 1 male and 1 female for a temporary contact person in their districts, perhaps even 1 on each in the larger communities.. We discussed the Purpose of the Treatment Committee.. Most of those attending we not at the Area Committee Meeting in February so I handed out forms used for treatments...

We discussed questions formed at the Committee Meeting, "Problems getting into treatment facilities because of political correctness due to pressure to present all forms of recovery" (seems as if facilities wants a generic 12 program... and also, "How to emphasize sponsorship to treatment facilities, defining their definition of a sponsorship." We closed with the Responsibility Statement.. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Area 35 Treatment Chair... Gayle R.

Webmaster's Report:

Greetings Area 35,

I attended the Spring Assembly in Crookston. Reviewing and voting on the agenda items seemed to go quite smoothly, for the most part, and I believe we were able to send our delegate, Kelly, off with a reasonable degree of confidence and feel for the Area conscience. I attended a Correction's breakout session and the one on Special Needs-Accessibilities and Remote Areas. The latter was quite intriguing as there were a lot of new topics and possible solutions to old issues brought into the discussion along with some history type information, like the fact that Special Needs was coupled with Treatment a few years ago basically because there was no other place to put it.

At this writing I am working on restoring the website flyers in our upcoming events calendar. While it's evidently an easy fix for Bob B. it hasn't proven to be that for me—yet, anyway. At least I do understand the communications he has sent me regarding this fix, so I am confident I will be able to catch whatever it is I am missing.

At this time, it has only been a week since I have received password/setup information for our new site and been able to log in successfully, so I am still exploring. I have also received the Area 35 Group Records updated FNV database meeting list, from Bob. After adding headers to the spreadsheet I should be able to import this into our website meeting list. From now on, I will update the meeting information on the website as soon as Bob makes those changes, as it will be easier to edit one meeting at a time rather than adding and/or changing all headers for a spreadsheet containing a list of 600 plus groups.

In service,
Rodney S.

Here are the current 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	2,186	3,450	10,270	119,191	2.29 GB
Apr 2016	2,597	3,727	17,214	97,808	2.74 GB
May 2016	165	176	567	1,245	59.03 MB
Total	9,120	13,921	49,990	454,363	9.61 GB

MINUTES FROM SPRING ASSEMBLY
CROOKSTON, MN APRIL 2-3, 2016

Area 35 Spring Assembly Minutes
April 2-3, 2016
Crookston Inn, Crookston, MN
Rillis E. Area 35 Secretary

1:00 Assembly Convenes

Jim S. called the meeting to Order-Open with the Serenity Prayer
Why we need a conference: Read by Kathy
Recognize Past Delegates: Suzie A., Tom A., Bruce B., Tim C., John K., Jim K.
Recognize GSRs: all GSRs were recognized and new GSRs were recognized.
Add to Agenda: Chair asked for additions to agenda, none were offered.
Approval of 2015 Fall Assembly Minutes: Minutes were published in the Northern Light. Motioned by Chuck R. and seconded by Melissa A. Motion carried unanimously.

GSC Agenda Item Sharing Session

Kelly discussed the order of the Spring Assembly agenda and who is qualified to vote.

Agenda

Review suggestions for the theme of the 2017 General Service Conference
No discussion.
Review presentation/discussion topic ideas for the 2017 General Service Conference
No discussion
Review the General Service Conference Evaluation Form
No discussion.
Discuss report on the Conference Agenda Process from the trustees' Committee on the General Service Conference
Concerned that the trustee's committee chooses the agenda items and the delegates have no voice in the process. The trustee's committee goes through the agenda items and decides which trustee committees to

send each item to. In 2015 the trustee committee decided there was no role for the conference agenda committee, which is made up of delegates, in selection of the agenda items and suggested renaming the committee to the programming committee. Suggested we ask for a list of agenda item brought forward from AA member/groups not chosen for the General Service Conference agenda. Comment made if we are unhappy with their decisions at GSO we can withhold 7th tradition donation along with a letter explaining our decision.

Discuss adding review of the Conference week schedule (Conference Agenda) to the standing items on the committee agenda.

No discussion.

Cooperation with the Professional Community

Consider discontinuing the pamphlet "Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W."

Pamphlet was written in 1940's. Talked about retiring pamphlet to archives due to antiquated terminology. Revision discussed but not realistic as it was written in Bill's own words. Vote passed to consider discontinuing pamphlet.

Consider adding text regarding AA and medication to the pamphlet "If You are a Professional"

Discussion to update terminology and adding text regarding use of medications. Voted yes to consider adding text.

Consider adding text to the pamphlet "Is there an Alcoholic in the Workplace?" regarding A.A. as a resource for small businesses.

Discussion to remove the word "small". Vote passed to consider adding text

Review draft revision of the pamphlet "How A.A. Member Cooperate with Professionals.

No discussion

Review contents of the CPC Kit and Workbook

No discussion

(Continued on page 11)

Corrections

- Review draft of video created to replace “It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell”
No discussion
- Discuss the Corrections Correspondence Service (C.C.S.)
No discussion
- Review contents of Corrections Kit and Workbook
No discussion.

Finance

- Review suggested area contribution for delegate expense for the Conference.
\$1600 at the present time. The cost for each delegate, trustee, and staff member is approximately \$5000-6000.00. Point made that our contributions already fund the GSC.
- Review the Conference approved level of \$5,000 for individual bequests to the General Service Board from AA members.
No discussion.
- Review the Conference approved maximum annual contribution the General Service Board from an individual A.A. Member of \$3,000.
No discussion.
- Discuss material from AAWS Self-Support Committee
No discussion.
- Review Self-Support Packet.
No discussion.

Grapevine

- Review Audio Strategy status update
No discussion.
- Consider the list of suggested Grapevine book topics for 2017 or later.
4 new topics on a slate. The stories have previously been published in Grapevine. Grapevine is self-supporting. Vote passed to consider list of suggested topics.
- Review AA Grapevine Workbook.
No discussion.

Literature

- Consider developing a plain language version of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous.
Members have taken people with intellectual issues through the current form of the Big Book with success. Dumbing down of Big Book unacceptable and may interfere with the person reaching out for help. Sponsorship interprets Big Book to plain language. Big Book has been translated into 86 languages; would all need to be translated to plain language version? Would this book eliminate the need for sponsorship? The item came from an individual member not a group so it doesn’t have the strength of coming from a group. Roger R talked about one example being to change step one to say something similar to ‘we agreed that alcohol was stronger than us and our life was out of control’ which changes the meaning of this step. Roger also commented you can’t translate English to English so that we are looking is paraphrasing the Big Book. Another member made a comment that translating the Big Book into other languages often changes the meaning and some foreign groups prefer to read the English version and do their own translating. Point made we have correspondence programs for people in correctional facilities, could the same be done for people in other countries. Bruce B. stated the proposal came

from an individual who does this sort of paraphrasing for a living and this individual suggested he would do the paraphrasing. Voted no to consider this agenda item.

- Review A.A.W.S. report on “pagination” of Conference-approved digital books.
Brail book pages do not correspond to Big Book pages.
- Review progress report on the revision of the pamphlet “AA for the Woman.”
No discussion.
- Review progress report on the development of the pamphlet “AA and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic”.
No discussion.
- Review progress report on the development of literature for the A.A.s with mental health issues and those who sponsor them.
No discussion
- Review progress report on the development of plan for the systematic review of A.A. recovery literature.
No discussion
- Review revised draft pamphlet “Inside A.A.: Understanding the Fellowship and Its Services.”
No discussion.
- Consider request for revision to the pamphlet “Young People and A.A.”
A person’s story in this pamphlet has relapsed and request was made to remove her story. YPAA (Young People in A.A.) requested their conferences listed in the pamphlet. Vote did not pass to consider this agenda item.
- Consider request to update the pamphlet: “Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”
Suggestion made to white out phrase “free beer at your first meeting. Vote did not pass to consider agenda item. Minority spoke.

Policy/Admissions

- Approve request for observers from A.A. in the Ukraine to attend the 2016 General Service Conference.
GSC will cover expenses for meals and hotels.
- Review progress report on plans for French and Spanish translation of all Conference background
Comment made this would be helpful for foreign language speakers.
- Review report from the trustees’ Committee on the General Service Conference regarding Conference observers from other fellowships.
Suggestion made that rather than they observe our conference our trustees could go to them and educate them about our program.
- Consider request that all Conference members be sent the same background material with the exception of digital media and works in progress.
“For your eyes only” item.
- Review dates for the 2019 General Service Conference.
No discussion
- Other: Scott M. suggested conference be held in Rye rather than New York City to save on expenses.

Public Information

- Review 2016 annual report from the trustees’ Public Information Committee regarding aa.org and aa-grapevine.org.
No discussion.
- Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan.
 1. Review the trustee’s Public Information Committee report on Public Information

Comprehensive Media Plan. No discussion	Manual left alone for one year. Discussion about cost of removing the end note. The end note was written by a staff member.
2. Review 2016 Public Information Comprehensive Media Plan. A.A. already has a presents on You Tube, Twitter, Facebook. Comments made: young people are more apt to access social media, anonymity tradition discussed, need someone to oversee what is being said about A.A. in the Media.	Voted yes to consider removing end-note #4.
Review the July 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 distribution and tracking information for the video PSA “Doors”.	Consider request to revise text in the Concept Eleven essay regarding “male/female” distinctions in the Twelve Concepts of World service.
No discussion	Voted no to consider request for revision
Review the 2015 report from the trustees’ Public Information Committee on the Usefulness and Relevance of Public Service Announcements.	Consider A.A.W.S. recommendation regarding an alternative publishing schedule for The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service.
1. Consider centralized distribution, tracking and evaluation of the English and French language versions of the video P.S.A. “Tengo Esperenza” at a cost not to exceed \$40,000, in addition to the distribution work of local public information committees.	Change schedule to every two years which would save \$45,000 to \$50,000 every two years. Discussion about an addendum with changes rather than entire reprint.
No discussion. Vote did not pass to consider agenda item.	Voted yes to consider alternative publishing schedule
2. Consider discontinuing the P.S.A. “I Thought”.	Discuss the AA Directories: (Canada, Eastern U.S., Western U.S., and International)
Members thought this was a worthwhile video and if only problem is that it isn’t in HD that should be addressed before discontinuing it. Vote did not pass to consider agenda item.	Consider that the category title “ONLINE MEETINGS” be changed to “ONLINE GROUPS/ONLINE MEETINGS” in A.A. Directories.
	Would support the change if traditions were being followed and groups were self-supporting. A matter of semantics
	Voted no to consider change
Discuss a request to reconsider the 2011 Advisory Action regarding the “Policy on Actors Portraying A.A. Members or Potential A.A. Members in Videos Produced by the General Service Board or Its Affiliates”.	Discuss the General Service Conference Final Report.
Gayle R. stated the actors are shown full face but do not have speaking parts only the professional speak. Mark N. reported full face is helpful for the deaf to read lips.	For committee eyes only
Review contents of PI Kit and Workbook.	Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities
No discussion.	Consider removing “Special Needs” from Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities’ name and throughout the committees’ Composition, Scope, and Procedure.
Other subjects.	Replace Special Needs with Accessibilities.
Jake C. discussed a political statement in the Hope video where a woman states “Uncle Sam is not going bail us out” when talking about self-support. The video is on the AA.org website.	What will the cost be? Jake C. stated a policy exists for staff to keep literature updated or notify the fellowship of significant changes. The cost would be nothing because the service is already paid for.
	Changes would occur in the next printing.
	Voted Yes to remove “Special Needs” from literature
Report and Charter	Review contents of Treatment Committee Kit and Workbook.
The AA Service Manual, 2016-2017 Edition:	No discussion.
Review list of editorial updates.	Review contents of Special Needs/Accessibilities Kit and Workbook.
No discussion	No discussion.
Consider adding definition of “Service Manual” to Glossary of Service Terms.	
Voted no to consider adding definition	
Consider adding text in the Third Legacy Procedure chart in Chapter One.	
Discussion about candidate with least number of votes is automatically withdrawn in the fourth round of voting.	
Voted yes to consider adding text.	
Consider draft text for a section on “Local Forums” to be added to Chapter nine.	
No discussion	
Voted yes to consider draft text	
Consider removing endnote #4 in Concept Twelve of the Twelve Concepts of World Service.	
Scott M would like to see Service	

of Regional Trustees.

If voted on and accepted it will be added to our by-laws in 2017.

Voted yes

Other: Gayle R. introduced Tom A. as a candidate for West Central Regional Trustee.

Archives

Explore way to encourage groups to write or update their histories.

Suggestion made to have notes from this session available to all.

Review Archives Workbook

No discussion.

International Conventions/Regional Forums

Discuss ways to encourage interest in Regional Forums and attract first-time attendees.

Renelle asked for information about local forums. Regional Forums held every other year and will be discussed in feasibility study.

Discuss report on the 2015 International Convention in Atlanta, Georgia.

A subcommittee has been formed to look into why we lost \$250,000 on the International Conference.

Sunday April 12, 2014

GSR Sharing Session Report
DCM Sharing Session Report:

OFFICER REPORTS

Delegate: Greetings Area 35.

It is good to be with all of you here this weekend at our first Assembly of the new rotation. Us Area Officers presented at the GSR Orientation this morning. We had 28 in attendance and 17 of them were new GSR's. Our time spent with them at our Assemblies is always a highlight for me. Again I would like to welcome them and thank them for their commitment to service. Well we made it through the Agenda Items and northern Minnesota has spoken. I will be off to the General Service Conference in two weeks and I will be carrying your voice. Thank you all for your service and commitment to Alcoholics Anonymous! Just a couple of updates, I received an email from Rick W. from GSO asking questions about our state wide meeting locator. I forwarded the email to Bob, so that he could answer his questions. As you remember District 5 had a proposal in 2015 to "develop and maintain an on-line meeting locator for all registered groups in North America." It was not the first time we had this proposal in Area 35, the difference this time was we want to know why it could not be done. It looks like they are taking a longer look at it, I will keep you all posted when I hear anything further on it. I received our Areas contributions to GSO for 2015 and a breakdown by Districts that I emailed out to everyone. I made a copies of that breakdown and have that here today. The question I want to ask all of you is what can we do to change this? On March 19th I was invited by Renelle, and District 6 to come and talk to them about the Feasibility Study and Strategic Plan. I also had the opportunity to go over the Agenda items with all of them. They had a potluck and a great turnout for this event. We had great discussion and many questions were asked. I want to thank them for the opportunity to be of service and their input on some of the challenges we are facing in Alcoholics Anonymous. It was a great day of business and fellowship. As you know we will be having the same discussion under new business this weekend, your input on the study and plan are important. I emailed the information to all of you and I hope you had time to discuss it at your District meetings and with your groups. Many of us that attended our WCRAASC a few weeks ago got to hear the presentations on this subject so we already know the impact this

is having on our fellowship. I have had four District's schedule my report back from GSO with them. I encourage the rest of the DCM's to see me sometime this weekend to get yours scheduled. Again I live on the southern part of Area 35 and it would be great if Districts joined together to save the Area costs however, I am willing to travel as part of my responsibilities if you choose not to do it that way. I want to thank the Districts that currently send me their minutes and I encourage all District to do the same. I also want to thank each and every one of you in your confidence in me to serve as your Panel 66 Delegate, it is truly an honor and a privilege.

In love and service, Kelly D.

Alternate Delegate: Welcome everyone to our Area Spring Assembly!

I've been serving you all by preparing for this assembly which is also known as our Delegates Assembly. In this process we as an area prepare Kelly D. our Delegate to attend the upcoming General Service Conference with a good sense of our Area's group conscience on the agenda items that will be discussed and is some cases voted upon by the conference. My job as Alternate Delegate has been to become familiar with each of these items and relevant background information as Kelly's backup person. I have also examined a Feasibility Study and Strategic Plan that will likely be discussed at the conference.

I have also been planning for our 2017 January Service Workshop. This workshop will take place in Bemidji on January 14 and 15. I have invited Howard L. who is a past Delegate and Southwest Regional Trustee of the General Service Board to be our guest speaker and work with us in the workshop. Howard has accepted our offer.

In other activities I attended the West Central Regional AA Service Conference in March, our Area 35 February Committee Meeting, a District 15 workshop, coordinated a discussion on GSC agenda items for District 13 and presented at the GSR Training session this morning.

I very much appreciate the opportunity you have given me to serve Area 35, Roger. R.

Chair: Good Afternoon Everyone.

Now that my first ACM has been completed and the WCRAASC is over my focus now will be finding places for next year's Spring and Fall Assemblies. I have been in contact with the Area 36 chair regarding the Joint 35/36 workshop. It will be held Nov 19th this Fall. I plan to set the location same as last year. I do have the flier so I will be getting ahold of them in the coming weeks. The Area 36 chair and myself agreed that we would have the workshop from noon to 4 so we wouldn't have the need to provide a lunch.

I have been in contact with Andre, the gentleman I mentioned in the motion passed at the Feb ACM that could redo the website. He and I had a training session this past Monday. It took about an hour. I am overly pleased to say that the new program to edit the website is quite easy to use. Andre will be here tomorrow morning around 930. At that time, I will put up what the new website looks like for your approval or disapproval. If approved, Andre will train a hand full of people for about an hour afterwards. I would suggest Rodney S the webmaster, and any current district web masters in attendance this weekend. I do want to prepare you that the website has not been prettied up. That we decided that the webmaster could do. The new website will have no cost to us, but we will be reimbursing him for the travel expense to and from here. I would also like to mention that AA meeting locator has been updated in this simple format as well. I

(Continued from page 13)

was shown how to update that as well. This too is quite easy.

As chair I am completely at your disposal. Feel free to contact me by phone email or text with any questions you may have.

In Service, Jim S, Area 35 Chair.

Secretary Report: My first attempt with the Area Committee Meeting minutes was challenging in part due to other commitments. I first forget my computer in Aitkin, then needed to attend an out of town funeral and tended to a sick family member, I also went on vacation. All things I get to do today because of the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. I would like to apologize to Paul Matson for not including his report in the minutes when he had emailed them to me but I either lost or misplaced them. The minutes can be read in the current issue of the Northern Light which is available on the Area 35 website. I also sent the minutes via email on Thursday, if you did not receive a copy and would like to please let me know. I'm will to accept any suggestion on how to improve the quality of these minutes.

If you are giving a report today or tomorrow, please send your report to me via email. If you have a hand written report leave it with me as you leave the podium. The next Northern Light deadline is May 2nd so please send your reports to me before April 17th.

I attended the WCRAASC last month and was impressed by the passion and concern over matters affecting AA that was expressed by fellow AA members. Since the conference I spent time reviewing the background information on the agenda items. I continue to review my duties as the area secretary and preparing for the GSR orientation which took place this morning. My portion of the orientation was to discuss resource which might be helpful to GSR's.

Yours in service, Rillis E.

Area 35 Treasure: Greetings Area 35.

I have been busy adjusting to my position. I am continuously learning something new.

Kelly, our Delegate emailed out reports to the DCMs from GSO regarding 2015 group contributions. In 2015, of the 573 Area 35 groups that are listed active with GSO, 264 have contributes which equals 46%.

I would encourage all DCMs to review this document and make sure that all the groups on that list are still active. So far 2016, 115 of 573 groups have contributed to the Area which is 20%.

I am working on a quarterly thank you letter for all the groups that have contributed to the Area. I hope to have that out in the mail this month. Please continue to send your contributions and don't forget to include your group number. This helps me get the contribution applied to the right group.

I have been emailing DCMs when I receive a contribution from a group that does not put their group number on the checks. Thank you for responding to me in a timely fashion.

When you celebrate a sobriety birthday please remember to show your gratitude for your sobriety by contributing a dollar a year to GSO, Area and your district.

Financial statements have been condensed into one report because I was seeing the same information being printed in different reports. This report is now called the Income, Expense and Contribution Statement. I hope that by condensing all the reports into one, it will be easier to read and follow. The Balance Sheet will still be printed as it is.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns regarding the Area's finances.

In Service, Christine G., Area35 Treasurer.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS

CPC:

District 1: My name is Leslie H.; I am an alcoholic. I am the DCM for District 1. We meet the second Sunday of every other month, at 2pm, at the Fertile Community Center. Our last meet-

ing was held on February 14, 2016. In attendance were 7 out of 11, due to weather conditions.

Our district AA along with Alanon, sponsored our annual 34th Spring Fling in Fertile, MN on March 12. The turnout was good. We had 2 groups of panels from Grand Forks doing panel discussion on "Are we doing enough for the new comer?", and on the principles behind the 12 steps. Our evening speakers were Adam K from Moorhead AA, and Elaine for Alanon. It was a great day of sharing growth, and learning.

I continue to do an AA meeting at the Clearwater CO. jail for the women one time a week. This site is very close to my home. It is in District 21; I also attend meeting at Bagley. My home group is Fosston Thursday Night, at the Kingo Church, 7 pm. If you are ever in the area, please stop and join us.

I also assist with a step study every Tuesday night at 7 pm located at the Lighthouse in Bagley. I want to thank all those from the area Crookston AA groups that have offered and are manning the registration table and helping the motel to keep up with our high coffee consumption.

Yours in service, Leslie H.

District 21: We have had a pretty great turnout for our district meeting for the first three months. We have an almost full action committee. We have an end of the month potluck at the Alano Club in Bemidji and had almost 70 people at the February potluck. Attendance seems to be growing in individual groups, people have really focused on being inviting to the newcomers. We have plenty of money and just got a large donation from the Heartland Roundup. We have a lot of help from AA member reaching out into the community to spread the message. Uncle Harvey's second annual potluck will be held in July at a district member's property and turnout was great last year. We have had several new groups start. I feel that we have enough money to really try some new things while still donating to area and world service office in New York. We will have some new topics on the plate for our upcoming April 11 district meeting. I'm really looking forward to making the rounds at meetings I haven't attended in our district, which stretches out pretty far. I've stayed engaged in talk with our DUI court and the county attorney and judge that presides over the program. We will keep working hard to help spread the message to those that suffer from the chronic disease of alcoholism.

Thanks, Jeff L

WEBMASTER: I attended the West Central Regional Forum in Bismarck. The theme or feel I took from the forum was that there are changes coming our way, changes that need to be made, and that our delegates and future delegates can embrace these needs with openness, but also proceeding with caution and that holding firm to our traditions will always keep us on track, and get us back on track when we make mistakes.

The webmaster position and my role in it have been quite uncertain. After meeting with Bob I was able to start and become proficient in adding flyers and documents to the area events calendar.

At the February committee meeting in Aitkin Jim brought forth information on an A.A. in his home town who could and would convert the website to a WordPress, content based website. A proposal was made and approved for this to take place. It is my understanding that the site will be brought forth tomorrow for approval in new business. I am anxious to see the new website and am hopeful that I will enjoy this role more than I have so far.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve, Rodney S.

LITERATURE: Good day all,

We had 16 in attendance this morning, Districts 3,6,7,8,9,12,13, and16 were represented. We did come up with pamphlets to be used in a beginner's packet. We did come up with three different prices \$.77, \$1.27, and \$1.57. These are just some pamphlets that the committee thought would be useful for the beginner in Area 35, we will make a decision on what to recommend to the groups in Area35 at the Area 35 Committee Meeting in June 2016.

Please remember all groups can use any or all of these pamphlets for their own group. In December 2015 the beginner packets were brought up as a concern that some groups did not know what pamphlets to use, or what the cost would be. So as committee members we have come up with some ideas.

\$.77 wallet cards, New Comer Asks, Problems Other Than Alco-

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hol, Understanding Anonymity, Questions and Answers On Sponsorship, AA at a Glance.

\$1.27 all of the previous plus, Frequently asked Questions, Is AA for You, meeting locator card, Information on AA.

\$1.57 all of the previous plus, This Is An Introduction To The AA Recovery Program, Do You Think You're Different. We would like to get down to less pamphlets, that is why we will make a decision in Aitkin in June. We do understand that each group is autonomous, this is just something to work from.

Thank you for allowing me to serve, Skip D., Area35 Literature Chair

District 11: We meet the first Tuesday of the month. We have been busy changing some of our committee chairs and filling a couple of empty ones. I've had a chance to go to my first West Central Regional Conference. I learned a lot about Conference Agenda Items before today. So it helped me pass on to other more information.

In service, Sharla W., DCM District 11

District 7: Greetings from District 7! I want to start by expressing my gratitude to my district for sending me to Bismarck in March for the West Central Regional AA Service Conference. It was a privilege being there! I'm so happy to see 13 people from our district represented here this weekend.

We as a district have filled 9 of our 11 Service/Chair positions, which is a vast improvement from even 3 months ago. Of course, we still continue to enthusiastically look for volunteers to take meetings into treatment and correctional facilities, for our phone list coverage, and for various event committees.

With over 95 groups in our district our Alt. DCM (Carl P) and I look forward to getting out to visit as many groups as possible during this rotation and hopefully increase participation (and possibly contributions) in our district. Our meetings are the third Thursday of each month in Brainerd.

Finally, we wish safe travels to Kelly on her upcoming adventure to the 2016 General Service Conference. We look forward to her report.

Yours in service, Liz L., DCM-District 7

NORTHERN LIGHT EDITOR: Good morning. My name is Jacob C., and I am serving as your Northern Light (NL) Editor. To start, we should address the elephant in the room. You do not have the current NL in hand and will not be receiving it until later this week. The website version has been online for over a week. As much as I would like to blame everyone else and everything else the truth is that it is my fault. I had a very short window to produce the NL and believed I could do it in a span of a couple of days. According to the Area Actions Book, I am supposed to set the deadline about a month before the next area event which would have been the day after the February Committee meeting. This is unrealistic for your servants as they would have less than 36 hours to submit a report. I was overly ambitious by setting the deadline to March 8th, knowing I would not have time to work on the reports until March 11th. I did not receive all reports until March 13th in the late afternoon, and had a submission to the Cold Spring Record (CSR) deadline of March 14th. I was unable to complete the NL until March 24th due to software issues. This left 8 calendar days for the CSR to print, assemble, and mail out, instead of the suggested 14 days. I did not find out until Saturday morning of the Spring Assembly that the paper was printed and ready for assembly and mailing on March 28th. I did talk to the CSR requesting it would be mailed before the Assembly, and followed up 5 business days after submission, though I did not know to ask if the paper had been printed.

What I learned is to give myself the 10-14 days to edit the paper, to check up via email with the CSR, and utilize email to ensure documented communication. I will mail the extra NL to districts as soon as I receive them. My apologies to you for the shortcomings fruited by my actions. Moving on, I made the paper 20 pages this edition for lack of editorials submitted by you. I put a section in aimed at DCMs to encourage participation. I will be "shaking down" many DCMs over the month until the submission deadline to spotlight their district. I would also like to encourage all Area Chairs, DCMs, and any members at large to make article submissions. On a final note, the page numbers were messed up in the

current edition. It is only 20 pages long, there are no pages missing from page 17-21.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. Jacob C., Northern Light Editor.

GROUP RECORDS: Not in attendance

District 14: We meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 5:30 the Alano Club.

We have 6 meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous in International Falls and 2 meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous in Littlefork. Five of the meetings have GSRs and two GSRs are actively attending our District meetings each month. We also have a meeting at the county jail each Tuesday at 7:00.

We have five of our District Committee Chair positions filled. Those positions are DCM, Secretary, Archives, Corrections and Treatment. Our open chair positions of PI, CPC, Literature and Grapevine have been meeting as committees of the whole to take care of the business of carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Each District Chairperson and GSR have stepped up to serve on those committees.

Our literature committee met two times in January and one in February to see where we needed to distribute literature first. We got literature to three treatment centers, the county jail and a community action organization.

While meeting in literature committee one of our members volunteered to talk to two of our doctors at one of the local clinics to hand our literature and to let them know that AA wants to help anyone who wants to quit drinking. That information generated contact with two suffering alcoholics for us to help in a span of less than a month. Hopefully this experience will generate excitement among other AA member to join in our district and help those who need it the most.

Attending this Spring Area Assembly has given me encouragement and a reminder that even at the end of the road in International Falls we are not alone in Alcoholics Anonymous and that Area 35 has much to offer our district. Thank all of you so much for your service, for without your service I would not have the opportunity to learn and grow and share the great things I have learned here.

Paul E.

District 6: Greetings from District 6, nestled in the Southeast corner of Area 35.

This is my first appearance at a Spring Assembly as a DCM. I have had the privilege to watch and learn from our previous DCMs and I'm feeling very excited about the growth of our District, and the increased involvement of our groups. We still have members to reach and work to do. We have been in contact with most of the groups and continue to find ways to reach out and educate them on the need and purpose of continued financial and service support for the District, Area and GSO.

Last month, it was a privilege to attend my 1st WCRAA Workshop in Bismarck. My plans were to go and gather and comprehend all the information available on the agenda items. I would come back and dazzle my district members with my knowledge and professionalism. Wow! I was overwhelmed as I juggled my papers and tried to take notes. It was a humbling and rewarding experience.

We held our District Workshop to go over the Agenda Items and were thrilled to have our Area Delegate, Kelly D. attend and get us through the process. As we were stumbling along, she always picked us up and found the answers to the questions and concerns of those in attendance. We had 22 attendees. The best turnout in some time, so that was positive and exciting!

I am looking forward to continue learning new ways to reach out to fellow AA members and learning from others, what works for them.

I hope you have enjoyed your weekend.

Yours in Service, Renell P., District 6 DCM

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TREATMENT: Hello, Gayle Alcoholic Treatment Chair. From our Treatment Committee meeting we had 6 persons present, districts 3,7,12,9 and 14 represented. We followed an agenda type format, District 15, is meeting commitments. They are working with District 4 & District 13 to get more volunteers which is going well. District 3 is getting Temporary Contact forms to the Treatment centers along with Pamphlets and schedules. District 7's new treatment chair, Tony, stepped in in February so she has not really started getting to facilities however she knows she has 5 facilities and that Teen Challenge really does not want us to come in... District 9 has 3 facilities one in which they share with District 8 and one they share with District 6. A facility in Hibbing wants us to go in every 8 weeks. They also have a beginners group for treatment and that is not supported or encouraged by a local non 12 step treatment facility. They are planning a CPC luncheon in August and considering inviting treatment centers. District 12 has volunteers to cover all facilities they go in. Working on getting into the facilities we don't go in. They are working on a treatment committee meeting. Bethel is an open speaker meeting that is now showing 60-100 persons attending. District 14 (GSR filling in for Treatment chair) Unsure of what we should be doing, are we carrying in the wrong message. There is an inpatient facility that host a non-GSO registered closed AA meeting that opens to AA members only, passes the 7th tradition basket that only outside AA's contribute- she is wondering why??? I ENCOURAGE ANY THOUGHTS ON THIS!! I encouraged Districts to find 1 male and 1 female for a temporary contact person in their districts, perhaps even 1 on each in the larger communities. We discussed the Purpose of the Treatment Committee. Most of those attending we not at the Area Committee Meeting in February so I handed out forms used for treatments... We discussed questions formed at the Committee Meeting, "Problems getting into treatment facilities because of political correctness due to pressure to present all forms of recovery" (seems as if facilities want a generic 12 program... and also, "How to emphasize sponsorship to treatment facilities, defining their definition of a sponsorship." We closed with the Responsibility Statement.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Area 35 Treatment Chair. Gayle R.

District 18: Not in attendance

District 12: Hi, I'm Steve, alcoholic and DCM FOR District 12.

I'm very grateful to be of service in district 12. I missed the WCRAAC in Bismarck because of personal problems and also our last District. 12 meeting as I was on vacation. I would like to thank our Alt. DCM, Rich Gould, for attending the conference and speaking on an informed group conscience and also for bringing back much information to Dist. 12 and for running the Dist. Meeting and sharing on the agenda items for the G.S.C.

We finally have District 12 pamphlets printed up for this rotation that we hope to get to all meetings. We also plan to reach out to unregistered meetings to encourage them to register and to have a GSR, treasurer and get involved in district 12 service work. All district 12 positions are filled at present. We could use more help on committees. Thanks to all from our district that were able to make it here this weekend.

Upcoming in district 12 is the 71st Superior Roundup titled Serenity, Courage and Wisdom on April 22,23 & 24th 2016 at the Superior Fairgrounds Curling Club, Superior, Wi. Tickets are \$20.00. Also down the road is the 34th Annual St. Louis County Health and Human Services Conference. Dist. 12 has a table for the conference. Our PI/CPC Committee chair Rita Letsos took care of that. It will be held Thurs. and Fri. Oct. 13 & 14, 2016 at the DECC in Duluth. Lastly, The Duluth Roundup will be Fri. & Sat. Sept. 16 & 17, 2016 titled Courage to Change. It is only two days this year. That is all the information I have on it at this time. Thank you all for the experience of this weekend. We would like to wish Kelly a rewarding experience of service and learning in New York and we are looking forward to her report.

Yours in service, Steve E.

ARCHIVIST: Since the February committee meeting I attended the WCRAASC in Bismarck. I attended the Literature and

Archives breakouts. Due to the nature of several agenda items I expected the Conference to be rancorous but it was quite civil. Friday night's opening session was a tremendous experience. The leader was a Spanish speaker who had a translator so I got to experience what it was like to have the meeting in a language where I lack extensive comprehension. The Agenda item discussion was civil and enthusiastic. It is always reassuring to find that others from different areas share our views and our passions for service to Alcoholics Anonymous. I attended the Literature and Archives breakout sessions. In the Literature breakout we discussed the business model of AAWS printing and how treatment centers and Intergroups get such large discounts and small orders by groups have to pay a handling charge.

During Andrew's last service conference report he talked about his qualms with the process used in replacing the workshop with the Strategic Plan. He was politely chastised by more than a few people for not making a stand on principle. The candidates for Regional Trustee were introduced and I felt we are in good hands no matter who is elected.

I also had the Display and gave a history talk at the Winter Warm-Up in Moorhead. I brought a small display to the Stearns County Round-Up. I am going to the Superior Round-Up in April and I have been invited to bring the display, give a history talk and be the speaker at the Thunder Bay Round-Up.

I hope all of you have enjoyed Crookston. I grew up near here and am staying at the Golf Terrace Motel across the street for multiple reasons. It is cheap, you park right by your door, you can smoke and for nostalgia. 40 years ago I was seeing a woman who lived in the dorms at the University so we spent some time at the Golf Terrace. The furniture is still the same as it was in 1976.

Brad I., Area 35 Archivist

ARCHIVES-Steve D. Good morning to all from Area 35. We had an exciting committee meeting. We had 9 people present. Brad I. shared some valuable information regarding the history of AA and how we as Archives Chairs from our districts can help perpetuate the history and continuity of Alcoholics Anonymous. We asked that each district represented share what has been done in their districts and asked if there were questions. This was our first meeting so it was more of getting to know each other and developing an action plan for the next two years.

Here are some of the ideas that were generated:

- Have each district put together a time line of their district history.

- Have a history moment at each District meeting on a group or district event in the past

- Develop district archives presentations that could be given at Area functions such as the Winter Workshop.

- Ensure each district archives chair has the Archives workbook.

- Provide groups with group history form

- Remind groups that Brad collects our archival material.

- Begin the process of identifying old-timers for either history interviews or oral history interviews.

This may sound like a lot, but we have a group of enthusiastic and capable committee members to make sure we preserve the legacy that those who came before us have set down. It is truly an honor to be of service to the fellowship and to experience the passion that others have for sobriety.

Yours in service, Steve D., Area 35 Archives Chair

District 8-Scott M. Greetings Area 35.

It's good to be here at the Spring Assembly. District 8 is moving right along this rotation. All of our committee chair positions have been filled and they are busy with their responsibilities. Our district is solvent due to good participation in our 7th tradition. I was proud to see that 80% of our group have contributed to GSO! Recently we held our Agenda Item discussion along with District 9. We had a fair turnout.

We also had our annual District Workshop. It was enjoyed by those in attendance. Our presentation topics included a GSR orientation, a traditions skit, and one on dealing with relapses and the importance of sponsorship.

Yours in service, Scott M., DCM District 8

District 4-Bonnie M. Greetings from District 4.

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Our district meetings are held the 3rd Saturday of each month prior to a Round Robin meeting the location rotates throughout the district. We are pleased to say we are gaining more participation from group GSR's on the district level. We are excited to announce that we are hosting a GSR Workshop on April 30th from 12 – 3 pm at the Alano Club house located at 1604 Jefferson St. in Alexandria. Flyers are also available on the area35 website calendar. Our district is also putting together A.A newcomer packets that myself and the Alternate DCM will be delivering to groups when we visit them this year.

Thank you. In Service, Bonnie M., DCM 4

CORRECTIONS-Servando M. No report.

District 2-Myron H. Good morning, My name is Myron H. and I am an alcoholic. I am DCM for district 2, which is north of here, believe it or not. Our district is sparsely populated, with Thief River Falls being the only town of any size. Many of our meetings are very small, 5 or less attendees. Some cities have more than one meeting but only one GSR or treasurer. My home group has only 3 people many times, and after paying room rental fee, we take turns contributing to district, area and GSO. This rotation can take a year and a half. These things may partially explain why not all groups show up on the contribution sheet. Some groups simply have a resentment over some long ago incident and don't contribute. Some think they send money to the district, the district sends it to the area and the areas send money to GSO. We who are in service work can't assume everyone knows what we have learned. As DCM I need to help educate the groups in my district about our purpose and how we spend our money. Sending letters to the groups does work, as long as we provide the proper addresses to our treasurer. District 2 is financially sound and always looking for ways to involve more people in service. Out next meeting is at 2 pm on May 8, at the 1st Lutheran Church in Middle River, MN.

Yours in Service, Myron H.

District 13-Al K. No report

District 15-Melissa A. Greetings from District 15.

We have our district meeting the first Monday of every month at 8pm at the Albany Senior Center, which is located out of Albany Minnesota. We have most of our chairs filled which is amazing! We have a new literature chair Matt B. who we are extremely thankful for, he is excited to take on the position. I attended the West Central Regional Service Conference in Bismarck and gave a presentation titled "be involved, be inspired and be of service, participating in all of AA"; I learned a lot at the conference and appreciate Kelly D. asking me to be of service. Our district went over the agenda items and had great discussion. We had our annual Stearns County Round Up on March 26th, we had 232 people in attendance and had great speakers, and wonderful food and we want to thank Brad I. for setting up his archives display at the event. I had the privilege of speaking at the St. Cloud Alano club this past Thursday evening which had an amazing potluck and a great turnout of people, I want to thank District 13's Treatment Chair Amanda for asking me to share my story and be of service. I am in the process of planning out traveling to groups and bringing information to them and discussing the importance of the 7th tradition and also the importance of service work. Our district is in the process of putting together newcomer packets for our groups. We are trying our best to help the still suffering alcoholics by going into treatment facilities in both St. Cloud & Alexandria. Our treatment chair Pat has been in contact with both districts and going to meetings in our district asking for people to get involved in the bridging the gap program. I want to thank our district for sending me to the West Central Regional Service Conference it was an amazing experience.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service, Melissa A., DCM 15
PI Committee Chair-Mark N. Good Morning from the Area 35 Spring Assembly.

We had 12 people attending our break out session, representing districts 7, 5, 9, 12, and 13 as well as 2 past delegates and 1 past delegate/trustee. The first half of the meeting we spoke to Communication with Professionals and Public Information working

topics.

Such as the Importance of using the Information kits we get from the General Service Office they contain pamphlets and literature that has been vetted through the experience of PI chairs and delegates. These kits are updated yearly and are excellent tools to use in getting started in our general service.

Things we are working on are CPC/PI luncheon that will be held in conjunction with the Hibbing area AA 75th anniversary celebration August 26 at noon in the Hibbing Memorial building. The upcoming St. Louis County Health and Human Service Conference in October 2016, 3 districts were involved with it last year and may work together again this year.

Other things we talked about were Public Speaking and giving presentations, it was suggested that if we are nervous about presenting perhaps we could practice our gig in front of our home group. Practice and play/acting are good tools to use to help improve our personal approach and material. Get on the mailing/phone list and use them to keep in communication with our fellow CPC/PI chairs. Take the presentations to the people we want to inform, such as when the social service department holds a monthly meeting perhaps we could be invited to attend, or nurses and doctors when they meet at the hospital, or for college public safety or nursing programs or high school health classes. There are many opportunities for us to inform the public of the presence of Alcoholics Anonymous.

There are also Public Service announcements available from the GSO for radio and television.

We must also keep people informed on the importance of anonymity at the level of press, radio, film and social media. There is information in our kits to help with this.

We can have booths and displays at the local and state fairs.

Keep the meeting lists up to date, maintain a website and phone help line.

We are working on a presentation/workshop the we will bring to the fellowship to help inform them about the General Service Conference and the General Service Office. How in 1955 Bill W. turned the role of responsibility of these entities over to the fellowship and how important it is that they know this and take a larger role in it.

The second part of our break/out session we devoted to discussing the conference agenda, to be better prepared for the session informing our Delegate, Kelly D.

Thank you for allowing me to be your Public Information Area 35 Chair, Mark N.

District 9-Cathy R. District 9 has begun to become busy "as a bee." There are a number of events coming up this summer. They are:

June 11th -The Area 35 Archivist, Brad Iverson, will present the history of northern Minnesota.

July 16th -There will be a Long-Timers workshop. The panel, with at least 30 years of sobriety each, will discuss how things have changed.

August 26-28th -We will celebrate 75 years of AA in Hibbing, Minnesota. Starting with a PI luncheon on Friday afternoon and ending with a pancake breakfast on Sunday morning. In between there will be speaker meeting, swimming, and fun at the local Cary Lake. Saturday evening, we will host a pie and ice cream social, sobriety countdown, a call up meeting along with lots of fun.

All of Area 35 is invited. There are fliers on the outside table. Or you can contact me.

On April 9th we have a chili cook off and cribbage contest and a speaker meeting April 16th.

Thank you to District 8 for organizing the Agenda Items meeting.

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We all learned a great deal.

In Service, Cathy
District 5-Jon S. Hello all. My name is Jon S., I’m an alcoholic and the DCM for District 5. Things are going pretty well. We are in the 4th month of our new rotation. We still have Alt. DCM and CPC/PI positions open. For those of you who don’t know, we were invited not to come back to Sherburne County. We have certain requirement to meet before they will let us back in. The biggest problem we are facing is needing volunteers. We currently have 5, they won’t let us back in without 12. The requirements are as follows: 2 years sober, off paper, 5 years since incarcerated -10 years if in Sherburne County. If you can help in any way please speak with Todd C. out District Corrections Chair or myself and I’ll get you in touch with Todd. Thank you to Kelly for the update on District 5’s proposal.

Yours in service, Jon
GRAPEVINE-Paul M. Greetings from the grapevine chair! We met with literature at the Spring Assembly, we discussed the topic about having it Grapevine Workshop, it was decided we may do this as an Area event. More details to follow! I sold about \$280 worth of literature! Also 2 Grapevine subscriptions! Literature committee also put together a newcomer packet, I’m attending the Iron Range get together in Grand Rapids and bringing in the Grapevine literature with me! This excites me! We talked about the importance of your group have been a Grapevine Representative, I hope more groups elect one! This is AA, I love this place!

Paul M., Area 35 Grapevine chair
District 3-Brian P. My name is Brian P. I am an alcoholic. Meet on the 3rd Sunday of every month in Detroit Lakes at the Alano Cub. Busy month for with lots of stuff going on. I attended the West Central Regional. First time I have been to one. Very overwhelmed, but left there feeling very informed about the agenda items. Good discussion on both sides of the topics. We had several members from District 3 attending which also made me very happy for the participation.

The Moorhead Thursday Night Group had a roundup on the weekend of March 11-13. They had a Q and A on Friday night with Don M. from Louisville Kentucky, Dorothy W. from Dickinson, Angie E from Eagan MN. Saturday Brad I. talked about the beginnings of AA and Don M. spoke about Steps 10,11,12. Saturday night was Mary from Waubun, MN. Al-Anon and Don M told his story. Sunday morning, we had Dorothy share her experience strength and hope.

The District meeting was moved up a week to accommodate Easter and Palm Sunday and work in connection with the roundup. At the District meeting we went through the agenda items and had discussions about them. We are continuing our Round Robin meetings throughout the district and I look forward to visiting meetings in the District.

We are also planning our District Roundup on Aug. 20th in Battle Lake. More info to come on that.

Yours in Service, Brian P., DCM Dist. 3
District 16-Mike F. My name is Mike F. and I am the DCM for District 16.

We hold our district meeting on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm in Grand Rapids. Our district is represented today by myself, our district Literature/Grapevine Chair, and the alternate GSR from our Tuesday Night Solution group. We were notified last week that one of our groups had gone inactive - the Scenic Sober Exposures group, which met in Bigfork on Thursday evenings. Apparently two long-time members had been running the meeting, and both had moved out of the area. We now have 21 meetings per week. The district is solvent, and we have a prudent reserve.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service, Mike F.

OLD BUSINESS
(None indicated in submission to NL)

NEW BUSINESS
New Area Website-The purpose for new site is to make it easily

editable by the vast majority of trusted servants the would like to hold the Webmaster position. Presentation given on new area website given by Andre. Jake C. made a motion to move forward and implement the version of the website presented her today. A friendly amendment was made to continue the development of the website with the editing of “gummy bears”. The motion was seconded by Melissa A. Discussion followed. The motion was passed. Several minority opinions were heard. Jim K., past delegate answered the procedural question for Jake C. about the chair asking if anyone wants to change their vote

Feasibility Study-Includes four topics: 1. Improving internal and external communications. 2. Ideas for increasing revenue from 7th tradition contributions, literature profits and new publications. 3. Ideas for reducing expenses. 4. Changes in corporate structure. Discussion and comments followed about: staff retirement plans, cost of the conference, increasing 7th tradition contributions, multiple copies of publications being received by members which is costly and unnecessary, G.S.O. spends more than it takes in, this study came from the top down, should a spending freeze be considered, we need to focus on spiritual solutions rather than the monetary solutions, we created the problem we need to find the solution combining of the boards is against concept 11. Important to apply traditions, concepts, and A.A. principles to this matter. Kelly thanked everyone for their comments.

Budgets-2016 Budgets for Area 35 delegate, alternate delegate, officers, committee chairs and area events were reviewed. Jon S. made a motion to approve the 2016 budget, Melissa A. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Joint Corrections Workshop- Date has been changed to May 10th. Servando will have a report at the next Area Committee meeting.

Calendar of Events-Jake C. Events between now and end of June.

Superior Round Up: April 22-24, 2106. Superior, WI
Iron Range Get Together: April 29-May 1, 2016. Grand Rapids, MN
Gopher State Round Up: May 27-29, Bloomington, MN at Double Tree Hotel
Area Committee Meeting: June 5, Aitkin Alano Club, 322 1st Ave NE, Aitkin, MN
A Weekend with Bill and Lois: June 24-26. Camp Hiawatha, Deer River, MN

Ask It Basket (Past Delegates)
Jim K: What are your thoughts about the feasibility study? GSC Feasibility Study is similar to the review of the Area budget. A difference is the GSO receives revenue from book sales. Looks at the services and things we want in A.A. and how they will be paid for.

Tom A: Are the two people from Ukraine Adult Children of Alcoholics and is this an outside issue? Is this breaking tradition 6? They are AA members. People do come from other conference structures; they are there strictly as observers. Not against traditions.

Suzie A: Should Alano events be announced at Area meetings? Alano clubs are there for us to hold meetings and we pay rent. Suzie would say “No”.

John K: How can we get delegates to do a puppet show? Bring puppets! Our function is to do anything we can to help anyone in this room carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic. Try to do the best we can at answering our questions.

Jim C: Have we plateaued in the fellowship growth because of courts and treatments centers? We have stopped doing what we used to do in the early days of A.A., we let other people do things for us. Encouraged involvement in jail meeting and going to treatment centers.

Jim K: Twenty years ago was there a greater understanding of the role of Alano Clubs and non-affiliation to A.A.? Depends on Alano Society itself. Education needs to be done. Alano boards and societies and A.A. are not affiliated. They provide a service by providing a meeting place for us, it is strictly a landlord/tenant situation.

Tom A: What message should I bring back to my group regarding donations/ contributions? Some say G.S.O. is spending

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irresponsible others say we aren't donating enough. It's about the traditions, we need to abide by the group conscious. We need basic services offered by G.S.O.

Suzie A: Please share a time at the G.S.C. She wondered how a drunk like her get to the G.S.C.! Later in the week she realized it was just like one of our assemblies. Second year a French speaking delegate from Quebec learned the Serenity Prayer in English and resisted it at the end of the conference.

John K: Workshop on Robert's rules of Order? How many people know what call the question means? Suggested fliers on tables explaining the rules. Also suggest it might be a good idea

for January Workshop topic.

Tim C: Strategic plan talks about trustees available for service at the local level, who would we talk to and who would pay their way. The Area would pay their way and they are busy most weekends attending AA events.

Kelly D, Delegate: Relieved to get through Agenda Items. Thanks those who helped. "I'm honored to service as your delegate." Looking forward to report back to the groups. Suzie A. will be her traveling companion.

Adjourn: with the Lord's Prayer.

SUBMISSIONS FROM MEMBERS AT LARGE

Addressing Singleness of Purpose

Singleness of purpose is ever common issue and topic within our groups and members. So how can we keep the singleness with in our fellowship. The very life of our fellowship requires its preservation, states Bill in the book Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age page 106. That book and also the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions compares our fellowship and others like ours to doctors. Each fellowship has their own specialty but still a fellowship so we can mix and match right? Would anyone send a heart patient to a baby doctor? Still a medical doctor, they are all the same right? Would that patient live, maybe but the heart issue may never get better without a cardiologist. How about an alcoholic to a fellowship of over eaters, that alcoholic may lose some weight but most likely still drink. Yet it is so common for treatment centers to send drug addicts to alcoholics anonymous. They teach it's all the same, we are the ones who say it's not. If we look at that drug addict as that heart patient, and Alcoholics Anonymous as that Pediatrician doctor the drug addict may live but the drug problem is not being treated and his heart may stop beating. One member once said, by allowing those without a drinking problem in our fellowship we are not helping them we are in fact hurting them, which could kill them.. Something to think about.. Gayle R. Area 35 Treatment Chair

An Observation

When I came into Alcoholics Anonymous some 19 years ago I was not made aware of general service in the beginning. I had a definite spiritual experience at my first meeting and new from day one that I would do what ever was asked of me to get what the people in that first meeting had. I knew what ever it was, had to be better than what I was experiencing at the time. I focused on the 12 steps and the inventory taking and the work that that entailed with making amends and practicing these principles in all my affairs a large undertaking needless to say but I stuck with it and felt I had made a complete turn around by year five. The meetings that I went to back in them days did not do the General service routine. I ended up moving to another state and went to a lot of great meetings but there again I was not put in touch with general service, I did make the coffee and lead the meetings and all the other things, working with alcoholics and 12 step work, so I wasn't a complete slacker but I pretty much remained in the dark concerning the goings on at the District/ Area/ General Service Conference and related entities. It just wasn't shown to me, I do remember a friend mentioning going to an assembly type event in Wisconsin but never did it nor felt compelled, I suppose if he had roped me like a calf and hauled me in I might have got there but no go there. So you see a person can exist in AA and really have no clue as to the General service structure and its importance to their sobriety/serenity. I am exhibit number one.

So what happened? I moved back to my hometown and joined a new home group that had a past Delegate as a long time member and numerous people in the group who were involved at the District and Area level. It did not take long in that meeting for them to rope me like a calf and haul me into a District meeting, just kidding I did what was suggested to me and went to a District meeting just to observe ha hah. I observed for two meetings and became secretary at the second meeting imagine that.

Then a DCM and so on, it has been a great experience and a humbling one with a lot of personal growth. So what does all this have to do with anything anyway?

I will attempt to explain, I went to the Winter Workshop in Saint Cloud this past January, it was my first time back to Area in 4 years, do to employment issues so I am relearning things that I had forgotten about. I was listening to Brook the past Delegate from Wyoming talk about Bill W. and his experiences and trials getting the Trustees and Fellowship on board with the idea of a General Service Conference, and it occurred to me that the bulk of the Fellowship remains in the dark concerning The General Service Conference and the immense personal exertion that Bill W. had put into getting it off the ground and here we are 75 years later and we pay so little attention to it and remain so much in the dark concerning it. We do such a great disservice to Bill and the founders for this lack of interest, it borders on disrespect, I feel ashamed thinking of this and feel compelled to do what I can to change the situation. I feel I can speak to this, I am one of the many who remained in the dark them 10 years, I was never really educated on it nor taken to a service meeting, the groups I went to did not encourage me to go, I believe a little bit of encouragement is all I needed and that's what in the end got me there.

So what to do? I am going to start by putting together a presentation for the Fellowship. My first presentation will be brought to an Alano Club which has shown an interest in general service lately. We have a nice film from the General Service Office that shows all the cool stuff at the offices out in New York, I intend to relate the story of Bill W. How he put so much into getting the conference and his trust in us that we as a fellowship would step up to the plate and be the collective conscious that would be the ultimate authority to keep this thing on track and going for many years to come. We will introduce people to the Service Manual and ask them to bring business meetings to their groups and read the 12 Traditions at their meetings.

I will practice a 30 second elevator speech. So when ever I have opportunity when visiting the many meetings I go to I will let them have it, I will also bring the events happening in the General service to the meetings when ever some one asks if there are any announcements.

I will continue to come up with ideas and try them out as I go to do what ever I can to generate interest in service work. If you have ideas or an interest in this I would love to talk to you about it. You can find my contact information in the Northern Light.

I don't think that we overlook the General Service Structure on purpose it just isn't brought to our attention in some cases out of neglect, issues from the past with some of the old timers or any number of reasons. I think if a concerted effort is made to bring this information to the groups and the story of Bill is told and retold it can't hurt and may even help. I will at least try.

Thanks for your time. Mark N. - Area 35 PI Chair - Home Group Sleepy Hollow

Arvhivist Report:
(Editor’s note, the NL Editor missed including our Archivist Report with the other NL submissions for the May/June Issue. I am including it here because of the time it would take to put it where it belongs is considerable. My apologies to Brad and anyone else. JC)

Greetings everyone;

I had the great privilege of bringing part of the Archives display and being the Sunday morning speaker at the Thunder Bay Ontario Round-Up. I got back at 7:50 last night, was at work at 5:30 this morning and am writing this before I leave to speak in Hutchinson tonight. I still need to change clothes and eat something so this will be brief.

The Superior Round-Up display was very well received. I found out the Friday night of the Round-Up that I was going to be on a panel the next day with Area 36 Archivist Paul H., Past Area 35 Delegate and Archivist Scott J. and speaker Mike F. For being almost impromptu, the panel went really well and was very well attended.

There is an Eastern Canada Regional Forum on the 8,9th and 10th of July in there bay that I am seriously considering attending on my own dime. I was highly encouraged to attend by the Area 85 Delegate. I missed Casper last year so I am probably going to go. For those of you in the northern part of the area you might want to consider this forum too if you can cross the border.

I am doing a joint display at Gopher State again this year. Paul and I have both called the Set Up coordinator about the room set and we hope it is done correctly this year. Otherwise we will end up tipping Jaime 20 bucks to find the tables we need.

Yours in service, Brad I.

Upcoming Events in Areas 35 & 36

note: Area 35 events take precedence !

- | | |
|---|--|
| -Gopher State Roundup
May 27 – 29, 2016
DoubleTree Bloomington Hotel, Bloomington, MN | June 24th-26
Camp Hiawatha, Deer River, MN |
| -Area 35 Committee Meeting
Sunday, Jun 5, 2016
Aitkin Alano Club, Aitkin MN | -Delegate’s Report Back
Start scheduling your district’s now! |
| -Founders Day
June 10th-11th, 2016
Duluth Alano | -The Turning Point
June 18th
Sawmill Inn, Grand Rapids, MN |
| -A Weekend With Bill And Lois | -Area 35Committee Meeting
Sunday, August 7th
Aitkin Alano Club |

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 4-13 \$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! **

DISTRICT 8 MAY ROUND ROBIN



The Principles Before Personalities Group

Invites you to their 6 Year
Birthday Celebration



POTLUCK DINNER

&

Speaker Meeting

Saturday, May 28, 2016

6 pm Potluck

7 pm Al-Anon Speaker

8 pm AA

Basement—Fellowship Hall

First Lutheran Church

402 Court Street, Fergus Falls, Minnesota



“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

PARKER BARNES HEATSEALING & ACCOUNTING	
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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.

AREA 35 COMMITTEE MEETING

Agenda

Aitkin, MN June 2016

- _____ 9:00 A.M. Action Chair Committee Meetings
(9:30 a.m. Financial Oversight Committee)

_____ 10:30 A.M. Area Committee Meeting

_____ Call to Order Open With the Serenity Prayer

_____ Recognize Past Delegates

_____ Add to Agenda

_____ Dec 2015 Committee Minutes

OFFICER REPORTS

_____ Delegate – Kelly D.

_____ Alternate Delegate – Roger R.

_____ Chair – Jim S.

_____ Secretary – Rillis E.

_____ Treasurer – Christine G.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND DCM REPORTS

_____ CPC – Jim T.

_____ District 1 – Leslie H.

_____ District 21 – Jeff L.

_____ WEBMASTER - Bob B.

_____ LITERATURE – Skip D.

_____ District 11 - Sharla W.

_____ District 7 – Liz L.

_____ NORTHERN LIGHT – Jake C.

_____ GROUP RECORDS

_____ District 14 – Paul E.

_____ District 6 - Renell P.

_____ TREATMENT – Gayle R.

_____ District 18 – BR Borders

_____ District 12 – Steve E.

_____ ARCHIVIST – Brad I.

_____ ARCHIVES – Steve D.

_____ District 8 – Scott M.

_____ District 4 – Deb S.

_____ CORRECTIONS – Servando M.

_____ District 2 – Myron H.

_____ District 13 – Al K.

_____ District 15 – Melissa A.

_____ PI – Mark N.

_____ District 9 – Cathy R.

_____ District 5 – Jon S.

_____ GRAPEVINE – Paul M.

_____ District 3 – Brian P.

_____ District 16 – Mike F.

12:00 P.M. Lunch

12:45 P.M. Reconvene

OLD BUSINESS

- NEW BUSINESS:

_____ FOC Report

_____ statewide Joint corrections committee

_____ New website.

_____ joint workshop

_____ spring assembly evaluations

_____ Fall assembly

_____ Calendar of Events

_____ Adjourn
- NOTES:
- Mail Area 35 Group contributions to:

NMAA

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